

GRIFFITH MAGAZINE

2017
EDITION

A remarkable year

Australian of the Year
Professor Emeritus
Alan Mackay-Sim

GRIFFITH AT THE GAMES
Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth
Games feature inside

GRIFFITH FILM SCHOOL
STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT
Claire Randall's first film
wins international acclaim



 **Griffith**
UNIVERSITY

Griffith
UNIVERSITY
PROF. ALAN MACKAY-SIM

COVER STORY

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Alan Mackay-Sim **PAGES 4–5**

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

People are at the heart of Griffith University and, as affirmed by the stories that follow, the past year has seen our alumni, students and staff striving for and achieving remarkable success.

Consider the breakthroughs in medical science emanating from the Institute for Glycomics and the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery; the environmental endeavours pursued by the likes of ecologist Emma Dale in remote Mongolia or, closer to home, marine scientist Erin Wyatt and her role in the University's new research partnership with Sea World.

Further inspiration is found in law graduate Joshua Creamer's commitment to First Peoples justice, the creative genius of international fashion artist Megan Hess, and the wonderful story of Dinesh Palipana, who, despite being rendered quadriplegic in a car accident, defied the odds to achieve his dream of becoming a doctor.

Our partnership with the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games is a reminder of Griffith's commitment and contribution to our community. Through student internships, scholarships, staff secondments and graduate roles, Griffith is playing a major part in what will be the biggest event in Australia this decade.

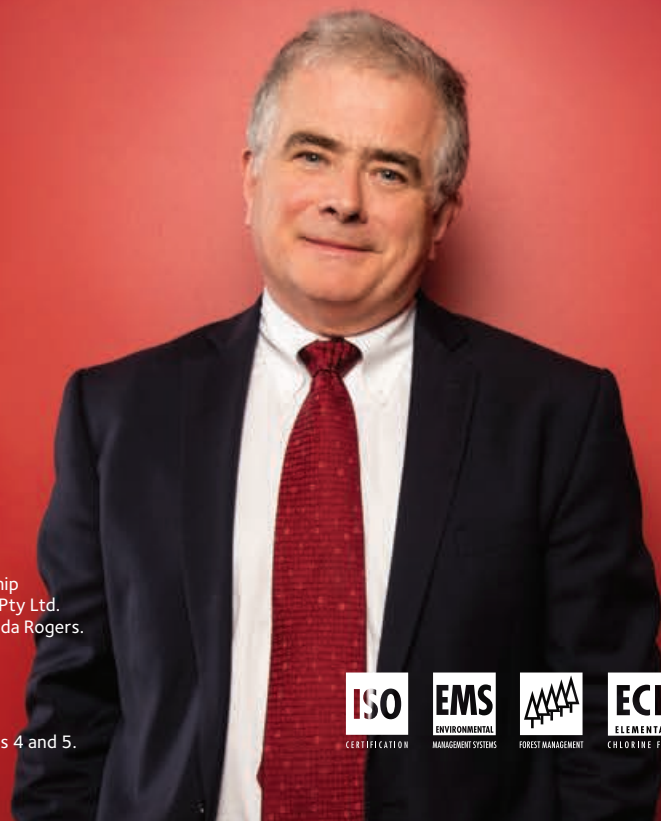
I am delighted to report that in the past year Griffith's programs, performance and outcomes have continued to be acknowledged by the most respected of the world's university rankings systems.

And what a year it has been for Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim. After being named 2017 Australian of the Year in January, Alan has travelled far and wide to promote the causes of science and scientific research.

Finally, one of the most exciting developments of the past year has been the sharing of our stories through the University's new brand campaign, Remarkable.

I invite you to read and enjoy the stories in this magazine, and join me in celebrating the Remarkable through Griffith people who are embracing opportunity, making a difference and changing society and the world for the better.

Professor Ian O'Connor AC
Vice Chancellor and President



Griffith Magazine is published by the Office of Marketing and Communications in partnership with the Office of Development and Alumni. Magazine compiled and edited by Very Media Pty Ltd. Editorial contributions from Stephen O'Grady, Stephanie Bedo, Michael Jacobson and Melinda Rogers.

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COVER IMAGE: 2017 Australian of the Year Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim. See pages 4 and 5.



ALL RHODES LEAD TO GRIFFITH

A desire to help the less fortunate has always been with her, but studying a medicine degree at Griffith emboldened Beth Hamilton's unshakeable commitment to assisting others.



Dr Beth Hamilton with Queensland Rhodes Scholarship Deputy Chair Dr Andrew Stumer after receiving her scholarship to study at Oxford University

Griffith University's second-ever Rhodes Scholarship recipient, Dr Beth Hamilton, wants to continue to learn so she can make a difference to marginalised and vulnerable communities in need of greater medical services.

Dr Hamilton graduated with First Class Honours and a University Medal from the Griffith School of Medicine in 2016, and intends to pursue a Master of Science in Global Health Science and Epidemiology at Oxford University.

Her goal is to make an impact working in global health and be part of an entity such as the World Health Organisation.

'Through my study at Oxford, I want to become an integral part of the change needed to make a meaningful and sustainable impact on people's lives and live out a dream of improving the human condition by reducing health inequality,' Dr Hamilton said.

'I'm so excited to go to Oxford and be learning in that kind of diverse environment with so much history. I want to bring the skills and knowledge that I gain there back here to my communities.'

After graduating from All Hallows' School in 2010, Beth chose the Griffith medical program because it offered a tangible point of difference with its inclusive and community-first engagement.

'I'm completely overwhelmed and very excited to have this incredible opportunity, and so thankful to my family, friends, many teachers and professors at Griffith, particularly within the medical school, for their unwavering support,' she said.

'I am really proud to represent them as a Queensland Rhodes Scholar. The Griffith University medical school is truly first class and I loved every minute of my time there, and it's a privilege to have received my education at Griffith.'

The Head of Medicine at Griffith, Professor David Ellwood, said Beth's achievement casts a wonderful reflection on the University's medical program.

'This is fantastic news for us,' Professor Ellwood said. 'We are always proud of our graduates, and Beth is one of those truly remarkable people who has done so much at such a young age.'

Completing her internship at Townsville Base Hospital, Dr Hamilton has also been, for the past four years, a director of Ubuntu Through Health, which delivers aid projects in South Africa, Ghana, Kenya and Timor-Leste (East Timor).

In Timor-Leste, she helped establish a partnership with a local clinic to support midwife training, tuberculosis diagnoses and treatment, and life-saving paediatric surgery.

She has presented Ubuntu's projects at two global health conferences, winning Best International Health Project of the Year.

'My involvement in Ubuntu and other volunteering roles has cemented principles of compassion and integrity, and my sense of responsibility, as a privileged global citizen, to serve others,' she said.

Among her many awards, Dr Hamilton presented at the 2017 International Balint Federation Congress in Oxford this year as part of the first prize in an international essay competition for medical students. Her essay was subsequently published.

She has tutored medical students and is an advocate for junior doctors for the Council of Doctors in Training, as well as an associate lecturer at Griffith's School of Medicine.

She represented Queensland in water polo in high school and also played representative netball for eight years, and is an umpire and coach.

Dr Hamilton is Griffith's first Queensland Rhodes Scholarship recipient and joins Law School graduate Lauren Dancer, who received an Australian-at-Large Scholarship in 2012.

'The Griffith Uni medical school is truly first class and I loved every minute of my time there.'

EMMA GOES FOR GLORY

With the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games fast approaching, Emma McKeon is ready to perform when it matters.

There is something special about watching athletes at the peak of their powers. In swimming, Australia has been blessed with many superb performers whose successes have added to the nation's sporting pantheon.

Among them is Emma McKeon (below), Australia's best-credentialed swimmer of recent years after stellar performances dating back to the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, through to the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympic Games and the 2017 FINA world swimming titles in Hungary.



The next big event in Emma's sights just happens to be the biggest event in Australia this decade—the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games in April—which will not only see Emma swimming in front of a home crowd, but also spending plenty of time at Griffith University in the lead-up.

As well as studying a Bachelor of Public Health at Griffith, Emma is a member of high-profile swim coach Michael Bohl's high-performance squad that is now training out of the new aquatic centre on Griffith's Gold Coast campus.

Wollongong-born Emma says the move of training base from Brisbane will enable her to focus on the two most important parts of her life: swimming and study.

'I'm halfway through my degree and I haven't been able to physically attend class as much as I'd like. Now this will be much easier,' she says.

'For me, studying gives me something to take my mind off the pool, and it's important to focus on having qualifications for when I finish swimming competitively.'

Speaking of competition, the next few years loom as massive for freestyle and butterfly specialist Emma, firstly with the Commonwealth Games and onward to Tokyo for the 2020 Olympic Games.

Having won four gold and two bronze medals in Glasgow, Emma returned from the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio with the most medals of any Australian athlete, including gold and a world record as a member of Australia's 4x100 m relay team.

In recognition of her achievements, Emma received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2017 Australia Day Honours list.

She was one of a number of Griffith University students and alumni so recognised. Fellow Rio gold medallists Madison Wilson (swimming, Nursing), Shannon Parry (rugby sevens, Education) and Katie Kelly (paralympic triathlon, Arts) also received the OAM.

In July 2017, Emma competed at the world swimming championships in Budapest, where she became the first Australian woman to claim six medals at the titles.

Ironically, as much as Emma has a competitive spirit, she doesn't feel pressured to succeed.

'In myself, I always want to perform well, whether it is in my home town or overseas,' she says. 'A change of environment is always good, so having a new training facility on the Gold Coast is motivating and fresh. Training on the Gold Coast and studying at Griffith will make it all the more exciting as the Commonwealth Games arrive.'

Emma McKeon competition highlights

Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games:

Gold: 200 m freestyle, 4x100 m freestyle, 4x200 m freestyle, 4x100 m medley

Bronze: 100 m freestyle, 100 m butterfly

Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympic Games:

Gold: 4x100 m freestyle

Silver: 4x200 m freestyle, 4x100 m medley

Bronze: 200 m freestyle

Budapest 2017 World Swimming Championships:

Silver: 200 m freestyle, 100 m butterfly, 4x100 m freestyle, 4x100 m medley

Bronze: 4x200 m freestyle, 4x100 m medley



A GHOST WHO WALKS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Griffith Film School animation lecturer Dr Paul Mason is taking a new approach to a comic book classic with his character Kid Phantom.

Move over, Spider-Man and Captain America—there's a new superhero in town and his name is Kid Phantom.

Griffith Film School animation lecturer Dr Paul Mason grew up devouring comic books. Now the talented illustrator has been chosen by Frew Comics to reboot the adventures of legendary character The Phantom.

Kid Phantom is *The Phantom's* first spin-off in its 81-year history, and Paul admits it was daunting to re-imagine the so-called "Ghost Who Walks".

'I was very nervous about tackling such an iconic character. There are people out there who are big fans and real traditionalists who have been reading *The Phantom* for years,' he says.

'There is a real, nostalgic connection to this character and taking it on has been such a learning curve. It's great that a company like Frew has embraced local creators and is passionate about creating new stories.'

The Queensland College of Art alumnus says the reaction so far has been positive, with parents posting images on social media of their children engrossed in the first issue of *Kid Phantom*.

'I see *Kid Phantom* as the unofficial Pixar version—it tells the story of The Phantom as a kid and is designed to introduce the character to a whole new generation of fans,' says Paul.

'We have produced smaller, digest-size books in full colour that are perfect for younger readers. And we are digging deep into The Phantom's origins, telling the stories that have never been told before. It's a chance to see how The Phantom became a hero.'



Dr Paul Mason shows his illustrations of the Kid Phantom character

As a child, a chance discovery of a stash of old Phantom comics at a friend's place sparked Paul's lifelong love affair with the comic book medium.

'*The Phantom* was the first comic I ever read. I absorbed a lot of the lore and was heavily influenced by the style of the illustrator, Jack Kirby,' says Paul. 'I grew up drawing The Phantom in the margins of my books at school.'

After Paul graduated with a Bachelor of Animation in 2009, he was offered a scholarship to return to Griffith, completing a Doctor of Visual Arts in 2015.

He now teaches animation pre-production, art direction, visual storytelling and sequential art at Griffith Film School: 'It's a fantastic privilege to help students develop their ideas and get their vision up on screen.'

'The Phantom was the first comic I ever read... I grew up drawing The Phantom in the margins of my books at school.'

IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE



Being named 2017 Australian of the Year has allowed Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim to celebrate and advocate for science. Here he reflects on what has been the most remarkable year, and looks ahead with a message for the future.

From everyone I meet—on the street, at conferences and in boardrooms—there is clear agreement that having a scientist as 2017 Australian of the Year has been great, both to stimulate interest in science and to celebrate the achievements of our often unacknowledged scientists.

Science, technology, maths and engineering (STEM) will be the jobs of the future. Research indicates that 75 per cent of the fastest-growing occupations now require STEM skills. This is what I've been busy advocating for all year, as well as sharing the story of my life in science.

It was a shock to receive this accolade. The other finalists are fine Australians doing extraordinary things for the community. And some of that shock was in realising what I was in for, and just how much time and energy was involved. I had already talked to 2006 honoree Professor Ian Frazer and knew just how many events and functions he attended. I am just as busy!

I average about three speeches a week, from five to 50 minutes long, and make presentations to schoolkids and teachers, at community functions, at fundraisers for leukaemia and neuroscience research. I also give keynote addresses at conferences and functions throughout Australia.

I've had the pleasure of talking to science teachers and seeing and hearing how they are so highly motivated. When they take a selfie with me, they say their kids want to see them with this "celebrity scientist".

If kids can find celebrity in a scientist, that's terrific. Hopefully, it means they'll want to emulate being a scientist.

But if that's to occur, we need to lift our game. That's why I'm adding my voice to the national discussion for better training for science teachers, and for better science training for all teachers. Well-trained primary teachers should have a broad understanding of science: not just how it works, but the real facts about the science of the world we live in.

'As a society, we need to understand how science and technology will change our future so our children and communities can benefit.'

The reality is that people don't understand science, which means they can't make it part of an explanation of the world to kids.

We live in a technology-dependent world. As a society, we need to understand how science and technology will change our future so our children and communities can benefit. Hence STEM education is essential.

We also live in a crowded world and this is leading to climate change, pollution and loss of food production. The solutions will depend on scientific discoveries and their application.

And we live in an ageing world. The future health of Australians must be ensured by new and affordable developments in biomedical science and their translation from the lab to the clinic.

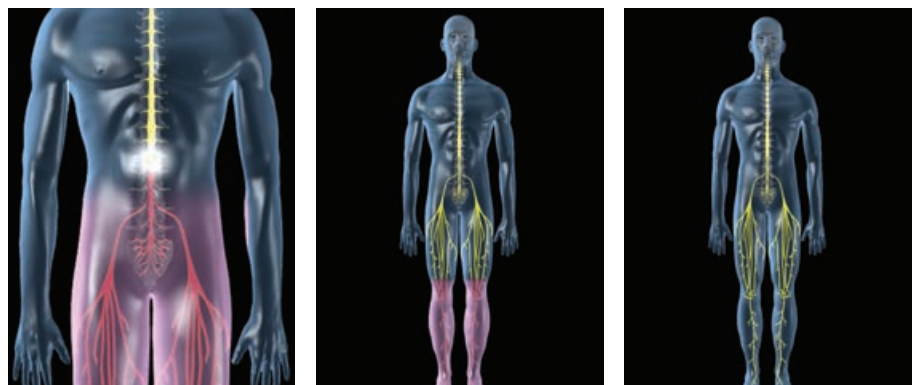
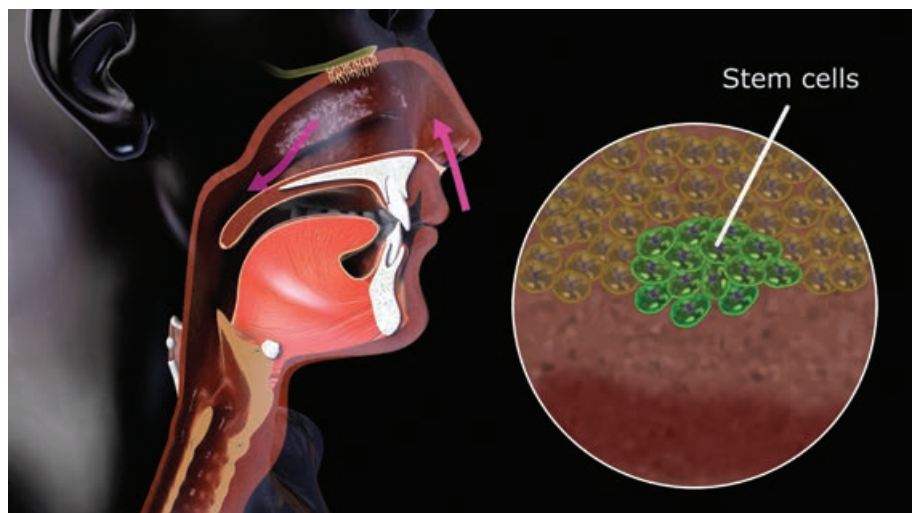
So, what's next for me? Well, right now I'm still looking for private investment to translate our exciting cell transplantation to repair the injured spinal cord.

We know it works. We also know it needs millions of dollars to take our research to the next stage.

I also am using stem cells from the nose from people with different brain diseases, firstly to understand the biology of the diseases; then to find the drugs to treat them. In this work there are exciting collaborations in the fields of schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease and Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia.

Australians can't relax. We can't be complacent. We will live the future we earn. Accordingly, we must decide whether we will be in the forefront of these changes or be left behind. We have a choice and it's time to make it.

Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim
2017 Australian of the Year



Stem cells can be taken from the nose and transplanted to repair an injured spinal cord

GOOD AS GOLD: GRIFFITH AT THE GOLD COAST 2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

EMBLEMS OF ACHIEVEMENT

When 6,600 international athletes and team officials move into the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Village, they will be greeted by an emblem with a proud connection to Griffith University.

The work of graphic design student Janet Turner, the emblem was unveiled in October 2017 when the Queensland Premier, The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, officially handed the Parklands Development to The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation. 'The emblem design was inspired by the Gold Coast's natural beauty, promoting a fun and relaxed environment for athletes,' said the Premier.

'It is also inspired by the Village itself, with the central water feature drawing together the six residential zones, represented as a meeting place.'

Meanwhile, Griffith University graduate Elise Appleton's design work has been on display across the world after it was chosen as the emblem for the Queen's Baton Relay. 'I drew inspiration from flight paths and used these to represent the connection and unity of people and places from around the world,' says Elise, who works in Griffith's Office of Marketing and Communications.

The record-breaking Relay will span 388 days and travel 230,000 kilometres engaging with all Commonwealth nations and territories before the Queen's Baton arrives on the Gold Coast.



'We're putting everything into ensuring a superb experience for the athletes, officials, fans and clients. We're also very conscious of creating a legacy.'



Heptathlete and Griffith business student Casidhe Crane-Simmons



OFFICIAL PARTNER

As Griffith students and alumni fulfil internships and employment roles with the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC), we've asked some to talk about their experience working on the biggest event in Australia this decade.



Jeremy Pitt
Bachelor of International Business

Jeremy's internship saw him working on the Chefs de Mission Seminar, a vital pre-Games information seminar for which he planned the layouts of the trade booths, completed a plan for the numbers and use of radios, laptops and printers, and assisted in volunteer recruitment. 'To learn skills beyond those from university and any other internship is such an accomplishment. I am proud to have been part of the program and encourage others to embrace any and all opportunities.'



Rachael Saw
Bachelor of Business (Marketing)

Rachael's internship with GOLDOC's Human Resource Operations has awakened a desire to work in recruitment and HR. 'I was meeting candidates, booking and attending interviews, and doing up offers. I get such a kick out of talking with candidates, especially when they are so excited about the prospect of working for the Games. My advice is: don't sit back and wait for things to be given to you; take the initiative. It sounds cliché, but this has been the best experience of my life.'



Ashleigh Edwards
Bachelor of Business (Event Management and Marketing)

In 2010, after graduating from Griffith University, Ashleigh joined the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Company striving to secure hosting rights for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. Seven years later, Ashleigh is GOLDOC's Lead Venue Planner. During the Games, Ashleigh will support the integration and coordination of GOLDOC's Functional Areas at the venue level, to ultimately enhance the Games experience for GOLDOC's clients and partners. 'We're putting everything into ensuring a superb experience for the athletes, officials, fans and clients. We're also very conscious of creating a legacy from which the Gold Coast will benefit for years to come.'



Adam Jarrett
Bachelor of Urban and Environmental Town Planning

As soon as the Gold Coast won the right to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games, Adam Jarrett wanted to be part of the big event. Initially selected for an internship, today Adam is GOLDOC's Venue Transport Manager, with responsibilities including integrated planning and decision-making, transportation administration, streamlining communications with partners, and making presentations to stakeholders such as City of Gold Coast and Transport and Main Roads. 'I went to the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 and I felt the pride that emanated from that event,' says Adam. 'Studying at Griffith was great preparation for me, especially with the development of professional skills, coping mechanisms, and finding different ways to approach different scenarios for better outcomes.'


6,600
ATHLETES AND
TEAM OFFICIALS


18
COMPETITION
VENUES


18
SPORTS
WITH 7
PARA-SPORTS

AT THE GOLD COAST 2018
COMMONWEALTH GAMES VILLAGE


27,000
MEALS SERVED DAILY


275
GOLD
MEDALS


\$4.6b
ECONOMIC
IMPACT


1.5 MILLION
SPECTATORS


800,000
PIECES OF FRUIT SERVED

QUEEN'S BATON RELAY

70  **288 DAYS**
INTERNATIONALLY
NATIONS AND
TERRITORIES  **100 DAYS**
AROUND AUSTRALIA


WEIGHT | LENGTH
1.4 KGS | **650 MM**



OVER 55%
OF TICKETS
PRICED **\$40**
OR BELOW

AUSTRALIA WON
137 MEDALS
IN GLASGOW
49 GOLD



GRIFFITH STUDENTS

UP TO 250 
STUDENTS WILL UNDERTAKE A
12-WEEK INTENSIVE
INTERNSHIP WITH GOLDOC

UP TO 150 
STUDENTS WILL UNDERTAKE
AN INTERNSHIP
DURING GAMES TIME

SKYE HIGH AND AIMING FOR GOLD

It's a delicate balance for Skye Nicolson as she 'nurses' two major ambitions—a Commonwealth Games boxing gold medal and the desire to excel in her studies.

It's been a year of firsts for champion boxer Skye Nicolson.

The Gold Coaster started a Bachelor of Midwifery at Griffith University in 2017. By November her dream of representing Australia at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018) became a reality when she qualified in the featherweight 57 kg class.

Skye's study ambitions received a significant boost early in the year when she was awarded a Griffith University and Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Scholarship.

A GC2018 ambassador, Skye is hoping to emulate the achievement of her brother, Jamie, who competed at the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland where he won bronze in boxing.

Skye never got to know Jamie, who died in a tragic car accident at the age of 22, but her brother remains a constant inspiration for the latest boxing champion to come out of the Nicolson family.

'Jamie has continued to motivate me, especially throughout 2017 when my focus has been on the Commonwealth Games,' she says. 'I always feel like I've got him in my corner.'

A hectic schedule has taken the 22-year-old world championship bronze medalist around Australia and the globe during the year as she homes in on a medal challenge in April 2018.

Skye's remarkable progress on the sporting front has meant her university studies have been carefully managed through 2017, with the guidance and support of the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Griffith Sports College.

POOL OF TALENT FOR NEW AQUATIC CENTRE

It didn't take long for Griffith University's new swimming pool and fitness complex on the Gold Coast to attract the very best in coaching and athletic talent, including Olympic gold medallist and Griffith student Emma McKeon.

The Gold Coast Aquatic Centre opened early in 2017, with Swimming Australia's Mr Michael Bohl OAM announcing in August that he would relocate his high-performance swim squad from Brisbane to the university campus ahead of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

As the newly appointed Head Swimming Coach at Griffith, Mr Bohl says the decision acknowledges Griffith's outstanding reputation in sports servicing and sport research.

'This facility is a one-stop shop for an athlete to train, recover, study, receive treatment and be surrounded by other high-performance disciplines of nutrition, physiology, biomechanics, physiotherapy and more.'



Gold Coast Aquatic Centre – Griffith University



Olympic gold medallist Libby Trickett OAM with Griffith University Vice Chancellor and President Professor Ian O'Connor AC

RESEARCHERS MAKING BREAKTHROUGHS IN UNLOCKING CFS RIDDLE



Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), and the related Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), is a misunderstood yet prevalent illness, estimated to affect 1.2 per cent of the population.

In a world first earlier this year, researchers from Griffith's National Centre of Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases (NCNED) made an important breakthrough in understanding the cause of CFS, by revealing strong evidence that the condition is associated with a dysfunctional immune system.

The team, led by Professor Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik (above left) and Professor Don Staines (above right), identified a dysfunctional cell receptor in the immune system.



'This discovery is great news for all people living with CFS and ME, as it confirms what people with these conditions have long known: that it is a 'real' illness, not a psychological issue,' Professor Marshall-Gradisnik said.

The NCNED team has been working on two main areas of research: the immunological investigations regarding how the white blood cells function, and the neuroinflammation aspects which look at MRI imaging of the brain.

'There is a particular receptor type that is found in all cells in all parts of the body and there are certain genetic indicators on these which are unique to patients with CFS,' Professor Marshall-Gradisnik said.

'We have looked at how these are expressed on the cell. Importantly, when we stimulate these receptors we have

identified that they lack the ability to bring calcium into the cell, something which is crucially important to all cells.'

Professor Marshall-Gradisnik said that the research shows that the key symptoms of CFS are cardiac dysfunction, immune dysfunction, gastrointestinal dysfunction and neuroinflammation.

'As medical researchers, we have been able to show that there is a biological origin of CFS and now there is a real drive for further understanding of the illness based on these key features,' she said.

'It's difficult to say precisely when we will see a commercially available diagnostic tool but we are certainly becoming more advanced with things every day.'

Professor Staines said that Queensland Government funding had been critical in progressing the research.

'The Queensland Government has funded NCNED continuously since 2008, totalling about \$1.6 million all up, enabling the research centre to be a world leader in chronic fatigue research,' Professor Staines said. 'This is the largest direct contribution of any government anywhere in the world to Chronic Fatigue Syndrome research.'

OPEN DOORS PAVES WAY FOR BETTER REPORTING ON DISABILITY



Project coordinator Faith Valencia-Forrester

Griffith University journalism students are at the forefront of a campaign to improve the media representation of people with a disability.

Project Open Doors, which aims to develop positive media reporting around people with a disability, was launched earlier this year by the Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Alastair McEwin.

Project coordinator and journalism lecturer Faith Valencia-Forrester says the goal of the project is to change the way people with a disability—and their families, carers and support workers—are represented in the media.

'The common media stereotypes of reporting of people with a disability can be to portray them as victims or villains,' Ms Valencia-Forrester said. 'Often, reporting is patronising and deficiency-based. People are cast as 'others', if they are even noticed at all.'

As one in five Australians has a disability—be it physical, sensory, psychosocial or cognitive—Ms Valencia-Forrester said there is a real need to challenge the perception of disability as 'suffering' and promote an understanding of people as individuals with

a voice, not to mention hopes and ambitions, who are just living everyday lives.

'The media has an important responsibility to represent the reality of people's lives, not some imagined reality,' she said.

'Project Open Doors will work closely with people who have lived experience of disability, providing not only a voice, but an avenue to actively guide and develop positive media coverage.'

Project Open Doors partners include the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Commission, Endeavour Foundation, Queenslanders with Disability Network, Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association, SUFY, Deaf Services Queensland and WWILD. projectopendoors.org



Aloysious Ssemaganda is helping to fight malaria in his homeland of Uganda

A QUEST OUT OF AFRICA

The fight against malaria has a distinctly personal connection for Uganda-born Aloysious Ssemaganda, who knows the disease only too well.

They didn't quite cross paths during Professor Michael Good's tour of the Uganda Virus Research Institute in 2013, but Aloysious Ssemaganda quickly became aware that a world-renowned researcher in the fight against malaria had been to his place of work.

He discovered that Professor Good, from Griffith University's Institute for Glycomics, was in Africa searching for a site to conduct malaria vaccine field trials.

His online search also revealed an academic whose unflappable faith in his work had been demonstrated by him being the first person to receive the vaccine he developed.

Soon afterwards, Aloysious emailed Professor Good to inquire about studying a PhD under his supervision. The response was both prompt and encouraging.

In April 2014, having bid an emotional but temporary farewell to his wife and three young children, Aloysious moved to Queensland and immediately thrived in the unique research environment that the Institute for Glycomics offered.

'Michael gives you the bigger picture and you have to work through the finer details of your project. He's a fantastic mentor. He gives you the opportunity to think through your project,' he says.

The appetite for science began in high school in Uganda and led Aloysious to complete a master's degree in molecular biology and biotechnology at Makerere University in Kampala.

'I grew up just a stone's throw from the Uganda Virus Research Institute, so I knew a career in research was an option,' he says.

Driven by a passion for the fight against infectious diseases, Aloysious eventually took up a long-term full-time position with the Institute's HIV vaccine program. Then, one day in 2013, Michael Good walked into the same building and changed the course of his life.

In Africa, one child dies from malaria every two minutes. Each of Aloysious' three children—now aged 11, 9 and 5—have had malaria.

FROM RESEARCH ADVANCES TO ROYAL VISITS

The international reputation of Griffith University's Institute for Glycomics has continued to grow during a year of many highlights.

Royal visit by the Duke of York

His Royal Highness The Duke of York KG observed the life-saving and groundbreaking work of the Gold Coast-based Institute for Glycomics when he visited in September 2017.

As part of a short tour taking in venues for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games and educational facilities in the city, the Duke met with Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor AC, Institute Director Professor Mark von Itzstein and dedicated researchers to learn about breakthroughs in malaria and cancer.

Australian Centre for Cancer Glycomics

Established in 2017 and the only one of its kind in Australia, the Australian Centre for Cancer Glycomics is challenging traditional approaches to cancer testing and treatments.

Researchers based at the Institute for Glycomics are pushing the boundaries of biomedical research towards the discovery of new cancer diagnostics, drugs and vaccines which will have global impact.

The Centre is also partnering with other national and international institutions, including the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, which is providing access to vital patient data and thousands of stored cancer tissue samples.

'It's all about gathering as much clinical data as we can, as a rich knowledge base will help analyse, understand and subsequently treat poorly addressed cancers,' says Professor Mark von Itzstein.

Malaria vaccine human trials

Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) officially launched the Malaria Vaccine Project in March 2017. The Vice Regal visit followed news that human clinical trials of a malaria vaccine developed by the Institute for Glycomics were a success.

Researchers have shown the world-first whole blood-stage malaria parasite vaccine PlasProtect®, tested in collaboration with the Gold Coast University Hospital, is safe and induces an immune response in humans.

The Governor-General was on hand to launch an international fundraising campaign to enable further evaluation of the vaccine in clinical trials, before researchers shift their focus to malaria-endemic countries.

Sir Peter said the work represented Australian science and innovation at its very best: 'This is what will make a difference, a better world and save lives. It is being done in our corner of the world, for the world.'

Professor Michael Good has so much faith in a vaccine that could save millions of people that he was the first person to receive it.

'I wouldn't ask people to do what I wouldn't be prepared to do, and we couldn't do this without the volunteers who give their time to us knowing they are helping further work towards a cure,' he said.

'In our country, there are drugs to cure malaria, but people cannot access them because of limited access to health facilities,' he says. 'In some areas, people can't afford to pay for the drugs. If we could come up with a vaccine at Griffith University and roll it out to people, this would be the greatest achievement of my career.'

Aloysious recently returned to Uganda for PhD data collection and, while invigorating, there were emotional challenges: 'My five-year-old son asked me, 'Dad, when will we be together like a real family?' That hit me hard because he has never experienced me at home. I left when he was two. He was just a baby.'

Coming back to the Gold Coast after such a testing personal exchange was understandably difficult, but a supportive research environment at Griffith—plus weekend downtime with the Ugandan community in Queensland—helps keep his focus on the end goal.



FROM POLITICAL REFUGEE TO A CAREER OF CARING

Eva Ballai's commitment to helping others is also a 'thank you' to Australia for giving her a second chance at life.

Eva Ballai fled war-torn Yugoslavia with just two suitcases—one filled with clothes, the other with nursing books.

The registered nurse came to Australia in 1992 as a political refugee. Just 25 and already heartbroken at leaving her parents behind, further torment ensued when Eva learned her nursing qualifications were not recognised in Australia.

Add limited English skills and Eva had no idea how she was to begin, let alone build, a new life.

While some may have succumbed beneath such obstacles, Eva set to work building the skills, qualifications and commitment that are the hallmarks of both the life she has made for herself and, most tellingly, her dedication to helping others.

'I first came to the Gold Coast in 1992 because my uncle and aunt lived here,' says Eva. 'When my father died the following year, I couldn't even go home to bury him because I was afraid something would happen because I was a political refugee. It wasn't easy.'

Eva enrolled at TAFE to improve her English skills, quickly moving from student to teacher as she was enlisted to help a class of prisoners to complete their Year 12 certificates.

It didn't take long for Eva to find a job as a nursing assistant at a local nursing home. Then she enrolled in a Bachelor of Nursing at Griffith University.

Today Eva has a successful nursing career in which she proudly fulfils three professional roles—Operations Manager for Sydney-based aged care group Synovum Care; a Commissioned Nursing Officer in the Australian Defence Force; and volunteer Director of the Australian Foundation for Disability Board.

Eva cares for some of society's most disadvantaged and vulnerable citizens. She says it's her way of saying "thank you" to Australia.



Eva Ballai is a commissioned nursing officer with the Australian Defence Force

'I know it sounds cheesy and I'd like to say joining the Australian Army at 40 was a mid-life crisis, but it wasn't,' she says. 'I think I was ready to give back and I just wanted to say thank you to Australia for giving me a second chance in life.'

Eva spent many years working in acute care settings at the Gold Coast Hospital, Pindara Private Hospital and Allamanda Private Hospital.

'When I was working at Gold Coast Hospital I was the only non-English speaking nurse at the time,' she says. 'Society has come a long way since then.'

She returned to Griffith to study a Master of Business Administration Advanced (Health Care Services Management and Marketing).

In 2001, she was proud to be the first female student at Griffith to complete this course and says it has proved fundamental to her success in running aged-care facilities in Queensland and NSW.

Eva's commitment to nursing remains strong: 'When I need a little motivation or a reminder of why I became a nurse, I read my favourite poem, *What it takes to be a Nurse*,' she says. 'Nursing is my life and it's my character—I just like helping people.'

IN SEARCH OF SCOOPS

One of the most significant reforms in Queensland's parole and probation system might never have occurred were it not for a series of exposés led by journalist and Griffith University graduate Chris McMahon (right).

As crime reporter at the *Townsville Bulletin* newspaper, Chris petitioned the State Government to review the system following the 2016 murder of 81-year-old Beth Kippin, who was allegedly killed by a man released on parole just hours earlier.

It was Chris who made the initial discovery about the suspect's parole conditions, with the ensuing review leading to the implementation of 88 recommendations, including the new No Body No Parole law.

Chris, 31, says the process and outcome was all about keeping people honest and supporting the community.

His ethical and quality reporting saw him named New Journalist of the Year at the 2017 Queensland Clarion Awards.

'It was never about me, but it is good to see the *Townsville Bulletin* having that kind of effect and keeping people honest,' says Chris. 'That's why we're in this job, to make sure we're showing things for what they really are.'

Chris was 24 when he started a Bachelor of Journalism (Public Relations, Film and Screen) at Griffith University.

'Once I was finished travelling, I thought why not become a sports journalist because I spent my life surrounded by sport,' he says. 'It was during my study that I developed an interest in crime and human interest news.'

Graduating in 2013, Chris was awarded a cadetship at *The Courier-Mail* in Brisbane before becoming a crime reporter for the *Townsville Bulletin*. He is now chief of staff there, overseeing a newsroom of 12 journalists and five photographers.

Though he says it was a leap of faith moving his life to Townsville to work at a regional newspaper, Chris now can't picture himself doing anything else.

'I just love journalism and the thrill of the chase for a story,' he says. 'I don't think I could ever give that up now.'

'You just never know what your day will look like; it can be both incredible and scary at the same time.'



NANCE MAKES WAVES IN THE BIG APPLE



Griffith University journalist-in-residence Nance Haxton (left) has a habit of making headlines in the pursuit of her stories.

Adding to an impressive list of accolades gathered during her career, Nance took out the Bronze Award at the New York Festival's World's Best Radio Programs Awards for her documentary about the future of Stradbroke Island.

The New York awards acknowledge programming and promotions from radio stations, networks and independent producers from around the globe.

Produced for ABC Radio National's *PM* program, *A New Chapter* for Stradbroke Island recounts the end of sand mining

on North Stradbroke Island after the Queensland Government passed legislation to phase it out by 2019.

'The story is an important one as thousands of Australians have enjoyed Stradbroke as a tourism destination for so many years,' says Nance.

'The demise of sand mining will launch it into another era, one that's welcomed by its traditional owners, the Quandamooka people.'

A two-time winner of Australia's esteemed Walkley Award for journalism, Nance is attached to the School of Humanities at Griffith.

ON THE TRAIL OF THE RED PANDA

Science graduate Emma Dale's work in Nepal and Mongolia is having a positive impact in preserving and protecting endangered wildlife.

Griffith University alumnus Emma Dale knows a thing or two about the magical beasts of Mongolia and where to find them. Wolves, marmots, wild horses and bears are among the wonders lurking on the forested border with Russia.

Based in her 10th-floor apartment on the outskirts of the capital Ulaanbaatar — where the outside temperature could plummet to -30°C and the air was hazy with the pollution from coal fires — Emma felt completely at home.

And when the time came to trade the comforts of the apartment for the rigours of Hustai National Park and accommodation in a felt-covered tent known as a ger, Emma was equally content.

The question is: how did this young woman from the Gold Coast end up in Mongolia?

After travelling to Nepal in 2013, Emma founded the Red Panda Trust, a non-profit charity based in Kathmandu and which connects research to conservation for the red panda.

Emma, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Ecology and Conservation Biology) in 2014, has led three research teams in Nepal and remains the Trust's CEO.

'I had always wanted to see red pandas in the wild, so the opportunity to work on projects concerning the red panda and other endangered Asian mammals has been rewarding,' she says.

Then in May 2016, Emma joined the Steppe Forward Program in Mongolia as an ecologist and conservation support officer.

She spent the next year working to preserve and protect the wildlife of this truly enigmatic land. She also monitored the impact of climate change and human influence.

'Mongolia has the lowest population density on the planet, but the human footprint is both growing and visible in factors such as the mining industry, deforestation and poaching.

'It's been such an amazing experience living and working in Mongolia and Nepal. An emotional one too.

'I read an article recently reporting that red pandas and their habitat are disappearing from the district that I used to live in, Taplejung, in far eastern Nepal.

'Those forests are where I first learnt how to scramble up moss-drenched trees to find panda scat; where I first heard red pandas scarp over territories from my goat shed bedroom; where I first saw a panda trapped in a snare.

'Obviously, it's a place close to me emotionally, but it's also the home of many thousands of people who rely on roads and infrastructure to survive.

'It's important to focus our energy on the animal species that have such a key role in preserving the world's biodiversity, but it's just as important to care for the people of these cloud forests,' says Emma.

Currently back in Australia and seeking new challenges—including the possibility of a PhD in Tasmania—Emma continues to embrace her career path, wherever it might take her in the world.

'It's important to focus our energy on the animal species that have such a key role in preserving the world's biodiversity.'



Emma Dale, Bachelor of Science graduate

EUREKA MOMENT FOR REEF RESEARCH



Associate Professor Andrew Brooks

For their work dedicated to protecting and preserving the Great Barrier Reef, Griffith University researchers won the prestigious 2017 Australian Museum Eureka Prize.

Announced in August, the team is led by Associate Professor Andrew Brooks, of the Griffith Centre for Coastal Management, and includes members from the Australian Rivers Institute.

In the first study of its kind, scientists traced the path of fine sediment from its origin in the Normanby catchment in Cape York—the fourth-largest catchment draining to the reef—through to its ultimate destination in the northern reef lagoon.

On average, enough dirt to fill around 900,000 dump trucks flows out to the Great Barrier Reef every year. Next to climate change, sediment and associated nutrient run-off are among the most significant threats to Australia's natural wonder.

Furthermore, sunlight limitation caused by dirty water in flood plumes can kill coral and seagrass, the effect of which extends after floods when sediment is remobilised by wind and currents. Sediment also contains nutrients that promote the growth of damaging Crown of Thorns starfish colonies.

The Griffith research, funded through the Australian Government's Reef Rescue program, set out to build a catchment model from the ground up. It combined a range of innovative field and remote sensing techniques to quantify sediment sources and sinks across a 24,500-square kilometre catchment.

'This research completely changed our understanding of where the sediment was coming from,' says Associate Professor Brooks. 'We now know that aggregations of gully erosion—or gully hotspots—concentrated in a few per cent of a catchment's land area, can be the source of 40 per cent of its sediment output.'

'Now we can much more effectively target our rehabilitation resources and get on with the urgent task of improving reef water quality.'

'Our research also showed how such gullies can be remediated, and what is required in terms of resources and effort to achieve the required sediment and nutrient reduction targets for the Great Barrier Reef.'

On average, enough dirt to fill around 900,000 dump trucks flows out to the Great Barrier Reef every year.

A GROWING CONCERN

As our cities and urban populations continue to grow, Griffith University's Cities Research Institute is bringing considerable expertise to a challenging issue.

Previously the Urban Research Program, the Cities Research Institute launched in May 2017 and is capitalising on knowledge and experience from several disciplines.

With around 70 academic members, 35-plus adjunct members and more than 120 PhD scholars, the research team is focused on four key themes:

- intelligent infrastructure
- quality places and changing communities
- smart cities and coastal resilience
- urban water.

Institute Director, Professor Paul Burton, says that by tapping into the expertise of transport and land use planners, civil engineers, system modellers, environmental scientists, economic and social researchers, coastal engineers, geographers and architects, ensuing research projects are designed to bring real benefits to cities.

Projects so far have explored issues connected to the Gold Coast light rail system, CityCat ferry systems, green infrastructure for cities, safe and secure housing, disaster resilience, and climate change.

'We know that as our cities grow, they face increasingly complex problems that require more sophisticated and collaborative research if those problems are to be solved,' says Professor Burton.

'A lot of our work is focused on the Gold Coast, Brisbane and South-East Queensland in general, but we have collaborations with other countries, community groups, governments, industry and universities all around the world.'





Biomedical science student Sora Fallaha

HERITAGE, HURDLES AND HOPE

Sora Fallaha's journey from the Middle East to medical research excellence at Griffith University is an inspirational story of achievement in the face of adversity.

When Sora Fallaha completed her medical analysis degree in Jordan, a postgraduate degree in medical science loomed as the obvious next step for the gifted young student.

However, that next step wasn't easy.

To understand why is to understand Sora's heritage, beginning with her father's move from Syria to Jordan at the age of 18 to pursue a successful career in computers and information technology. There, he met his beloved wife and they raised four children.

Sora was born and raised in Jordan, but true to her ancestry carried a Syrian passport. This proved a major hurdle when she approached teaching hospitals to gain the experience required to study a master's degree abroad.

'I even paid to work so I could get the experience. Still, for many hospitals this was still not accepted,' she says.

An alternative arose when Sora met Griffith representatives at an international expo in Jordan. By July 2012, she was enrolled in a Master of Medical Research (Biomedical Science) at Griffith's Gold Coast campus.

By the end of the year, however, the escalating conflict in Syria had affected her father's ability to support Sora's studies in Australia.

Fortunately, she secured a scholarship and her strong performance led to her receiving the Vice Chancellor's Academic Excellence Award for 2012-2013.

She also supported herself by working as a research assistant at the School of Medical Science.

After completing her degree in mid-2013, Sora's academic attentions turned to a PhD at Griffith.

'My parents have never stopped motivating me to persevere and follow my dreams, yet financially their main priority at this time was helping family members to flee crisis-ridden Syria,' she says.

While her two brothers would ultimately leave Jordan and seek asylum in Sweden, Sora chose not to apply for refugee status in Australia.

'Had I done so, my family would not be able to visit (while the application is being processed). My father has been here three times to see me and I didn't want to lose that,' she says.

Despite everything, Sora has flourished in the university environment, saying: 'Griffith has been a haven during times of hell, a home in a foreign place, a place that warms my heart and looks after me. Griffith gave me a new life. It made me feel alive.'

'I am looking into mentoring others in similar circumstances, including refugees, locals, Indigenous Australians and international students alike. I am a big believer in paying it forward.'

In June 2017, Sora submitted her PhD on replacing chemotherapy with targeted therapeutic treatments that improve the quality of life for cervical cancer patients.

'My ultimate goal on the academic level is to develop therapeutic approaches to help cancer patients across the world,' she says.

'I am looking into mentoring others in similar circumstances, including refugees... I am a big believer in paying it forward.'

BUILDING A BRIDGE FOR SPINAL REPAIR

The Queensland Government has invested \$5 million in a Griffith University pre-clinical trial to prove that a "nerve bridge" across a damaged spinal cord may be the answer to otherwise permanent paralysis.

In a science and health collaboration, the project—led by Dr James St John, Head of the Clem Jones Centre for Neurobiology and Stem Cell Research—will be conducted across two of the University's leading research institutes: the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD) and the Menzies Health Institute Queensland.

The pre-clinical trial will expand on the work pioneered by 2017 Australian of the Year and GRIDD biomedical scientist Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim, who showed that transplanting olfactory cells from the nose into the spinal cord was safe in humans.

The newly funded work will use modern scientific approaches to produce a three-dimensional nerve bridge that can be transplanted into the spinal cord to promote regeneration across the injury site.

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

'I'm delighted to be providing this \$5 million funding over the next three years to continue to support the pioneering work being undertaken by a great Queensland-based team of researchers and clinicians.'

DREAM FULFILLED FOR DR DINESH

It was the end of one journey and the beginning of another when the inspirational Dinesh Palipana (right) graduated from his Griffith University medical degree.

Though rendered quadriplegic in a car accident in 2010, Dinesh never lost sight of his dream to become a doctor. That dream reached fruition with his graduation in December 2016.

Still, what he describes as an agonising wait followed until, on 6 January 2017, the telephone rang with the news he was waiting for: 'You start on Monday.'

As Queensland Health's first quadriplegic medical intern, Dinesh—or Dr Palipana to be precise—is based at the Gold Coast University Hospital and hopes to specialise in radiology.

'Just because you have a physical impairment doesn't mean things are cut off, so I hope we've shown what is possible,' he says.



SHOWMAN TO THE STARS

From Adele to Elton John, the Bathurst 1000 to the Battle of Brisbane, and Bruce Springsteen to the Commonwealth Games, when it comes to major events, Andrew Stone is the man the promoters call.



Adele performs at Melbourne's Etihad Stadium in 2017

During a hectic four-month stint leading up to April 2017, Andrew Stone criss-crossed the world, battled sleep deprivation and enjoyed a grand total of two days off. Of course, that's the kind of commitment required when you're preparing for an Australian tour by Adele.

While the British superstar songstress was the biggest act to reach our shores in 2017, Griffith University business alumnus Andrew is no less dedicated in his efforts for other tours and events. His reputation has been built on, and counts on, attention to every detail.

'Adele had never done that type of production before, but when someone of her calibre goes 'Wow!', then that's fantastic. Still, it can be a little like torture sometimes. I learned fairly early in my career that events management is crisis management.'

'It is hard work, but I love the atmosphere. I love stepping back and seeing other people revelling in a great experience. That's my reward.'

Andrew graduated with a Bachelor of Business from Griffith in 2003, having pursued a degree after a back injury ended his dream of becoming a professional golfer.

The combination of sport management and business in his studies has ideally complemented a career that is internationally acknowledged and has moved between fields as diverse as motorsport, golf, boxing and rock and roll.

'Events management is such a dynamic industry and if I've learnt one thing that I might pass on to others, it's this: if you say you're going to do something; then do it.'



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EVENTS

LAST FINANCIAL YEAR

SIXTEEN
STADIUM
SHOWS

REACHING 1 MILLION
PEOPLE IN 3 WEEKS FOR
ADELE AND JUSTIN BIEBER

190 SEMI-TRAILER
LOADS OF EQUIPMENT



OVER SIX WEEKS



Griffith Film School student Claire Randall (centre), with graduates Lachlan Morton and Shannen Tunnicliffe at the Berlin International Film Festival

WOLFE WOWS INTERNATIONAL FILM SET

Griffith Film School student Claire Randall was in the spotlight when her first film won international acclaim during a whirlwind year on the festival circuit.

It began as a simple university assignment, a short documentary about a young man coping with mental health issues during his journey through adolescence.

But an application to the Berlin International Film Festival changed the course of Claire Randall's third year of study at the Griffith Film School in an extraordinary way.

With Griffith graduates Lachlan Morton and Shannen Tunnicliffe, Claire travelled to Berlin in February 2017 to premiere their documentary, *Wolfe*.

Excited just for their film to be shown, elation soon followed when *Wolfe* won a prestigious Crystal Bear award for Best Short Film in the Generation14plus category. This is the same category that previously featured Aussie films such as *Red Dog*, *Girl Asleep* and *Bran Nue Dae*.

The win paved the way for a whirlwind year, with *Wolfe* screening at 11 other film festivals, including Cannes and Sydney.

The Griffith filmmakers also shared the red carpet with actors Hugh Jackman and Sir Patrick Stewart and, most importantly, raised awareness around mental health.

'My goal was to present a film about mental illness from the perception of the person experiencing it. I used a very personal story, so for it to resonate with audiences around the world is amazing,' says Claire.

The young filmmaker was informed by her own experience with depression and anxiety, and it has inspired her to study counselling after she graduates from a Bachelor of Film and Screen Media in 2018.

'I want to focus on mental health issues and making documentaries has made me realise how beneficial it would be to know how to talk to people from a professional understanding and point of view.'

Claire says support from Griffith enabled her to showcase *Wolfe* on the festival circuit, while Lachlan Morton has secured funding from a production company for his next project.

The *Wolfe* crew also included illustrator Jacob Duroux, sound recordist Malcolm Bothma, sound designers Damon Sheridan, Shannen Tunnicliffe and Michael Laverty, co-editor Liam Keogh and original music by Jacob de Weger.

WOLFE

To watch the trailer go to: vimeo.com/189091930



A FAIR GO FOR FIRST PEOPLES

Fighting for what's right comes naturally for Aboriginal Australian barrister and award-winning Griffith University alumnus Joshua Creamer.

The didgeridoos in Joshua Creamer's (pictured left) 18th-floor office are far from ornamental. They are a proud link to the heritage of this Waanyi and Kalkadoon man.

Joshua's Brisbane legal office is also a far cry from his early childhood in Mt Isa and later Yeppoon, where each day after school and at weekends he worked at the local butcher shop, later completing an apprenticeship.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Laws from Griffith in 2009, today Joshua is one of only a dozen or so Aboriginal barristers practising in Australia. His practice areas include Native Title, Mining Law and Human Rights.

'There's a satisfying feeling in being an Indigenous person acting for other Indigenous people,' he says. 'There have been a couple of occasions where I've had contact with members of native title claim groups and there's a real appreciation, a real satisfaction on their behalf to see a young Indigenous guy being part of their legal process.'

Among those processes, the Griffith law graduate is part of a legal team heading up a class action against the Queensland Government to recover 'stolen wages'—money that went either unpaid or underpaid from 1900 to the 1970s. Joshua has also been an outspoken critic of the youth detention system.

In the early stages of his law career, Joshua served three years as a delegate at the esteemed Oxfam International Youth Parliament. It was an important and informative experience, particularly regarding his commitment to social justice.

'I remember one young man, for example, who was educating women in Afghanistan in the face of the Taliban. And there was another in Pakistan who had taken \$20 and turned it into a sustainable farm project for the community. These were inspirational people to be around,' he says.

Social justice is a hallmark of Joshua's family. His mother Sandra is also a lawyer, completing her degree after Joshua had graduated from Griffith: 'She is a human rights lawyer and has done a lot of work, particularly internationally,' he says.

Furthermore, in visits to Mt Isa as he worked on the Indigenous wages case, Joshua met with aunts and uncles and gained a better understanding of his family unit: 'There is a strong focus on social justice, a strong focus on work and success. There is just a strength within the family. For me, my mother was a huge part of that; instilling those values onto us all as children.'

A role model for Indigenous youth, in 2008 Joshua was awarded Griffith University's Rubin Hurricane Carter Award for Commitment to Social Justice. He is also a member of the Australian Rugby League Indigenous Council, a former president of the Indigenous Lawyers Association of Queensland, and an organiser of the World Indigenous Legal Conference.

'It's interesting to be Indigenous and working in Native Title; understanding the complexities of the law, knowing the limitations of the law and contrasting that with the expectations of Indigenous groups,' says Joshua.

'I want to be able to contribute towards improving the situation of Indigenous people; that's an important goal for me.'

'There's a satisfying feeling in being an Indigenous person acting for other Indigenous people.'

CLOSING THE GAP ON HEALTH

Closing the gap in health outcomes for Australia's First Peoples is the aim of the Griffith Health First Peoples Health Plan 2016–2022.

Launched in March 2017—coinciding with national Close the Gap Day—one priority of the plan is to increase the number of First Peoples health graduates.

'The vision is for Griffith Health to be an influential leader valuing collective knowledge towards better health outcomes for Australia's First Peoples,' says Professor Roianne West, from Griffith's First Peoples Health Unit.

'Major strategies include positioning Griffith Health as a faculty of choice for future undergraduate and postgraduate First Peoples students, and an employer of choice for First Peoples health staff.'

Griffith has welcomed an increase in First Peoples health students, with Dean of Learning and Teaching Professor Nick Buys saying the plan demonstrates how fully committed Griffith Health is to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Professor Roianne West





MEGAN DRAWS ON THE ART OF FASHION

*Megan Hess was on the verge of giving up her dreams of becoming a fashion illustrator. That's when a commission for the author of *Sex and the City* turned everything around.*

The client list of international fashion artist Megan Hess speaks volumes for her success on the world stage.

Since 2008, when an early morning telephone call changed Megan's life and led to her illustrating for Candace Bushnell—best-selling author of *Sex and the City*—Megan's creativity has adorned and elevated one impressive project after another.

Some of the world's most prestigious fashion designers, luxury brands and corporate giants—Disney, Dior, Fendi, Prada, Louis Vuitton, Cartier, Montblanc, Givenchy, Valentino, Balmain, Jimmy Choo and Tiffany & Co—have benefited from Megan's illustrative talents. Former US First Lady Michelle Obama is another.

Megan's much-feted original pieces range from the size of a postage stamp to the expanse of an entire building.

Her work has appeared on the bottom of luxury swimming pools in Dubai, in bespoke homes in Paris and New York, and on the walls of the most coveted fashion houses.

It's been quite a journey for Megan, who graduated from Griffith University's Queensland College of Art in 1996 with a Bachelor of Visual Arts.

Although she always believed in her ability, Megan has also always followed a path of self-discovery. There was a time, however, when the lack of truly creative inspiration—exemplified by one assignment that required a seemingly endless stream of illustrations of pizza toppings—came close to soul-destroying.

That was when the telephone rang and Candace Bushnell's publisher was on the end of the line with the opportunity that secured a career catharsis.

As highly sought as she is these days, Megan's fundamental love for the creative process keeps her grounded. It was a lesson affirmed during her time at Griffith University.

'Even on the first day at Griffith, I felt that finally I was on the path to what I really wanted to do,' she says.

'Being among a world of other people who had hopes and dreams without a direct career path laid out, it felt like a place where we could work it out; where we could encourage each other, be inspired, and really do what we were good at.'

Megan continues to balance major commissions with personal projects. The author of four best-selling books, she illustrates all her work with a bespoke Montblanc pen, affectionately named Monty. She adds a note of advice for others on their own paths.

'Be open to criticism, be able to work with others and listen to other people's ideas. Above all, find what you are passionate about, really focus on it and never give up. Success is a symptom of hard work.'

'[Griffith] felt like a place... where we could encourage each other [and] be inspired.'

STEM TRAILBLAZER

She's one of Australia's leading scientists, has been honoured by the Duke of York, and is internationally renowned in her field and as a woman in STEM.

Professor Jennifer Martin's accolades are endless, and this year has been no different; the recognition continues to roll in for the Director of the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD), who was one of 21 scientists to earn the rare and esteemed honour of being elected to the Australian Academy of Science for their outstanding contributions to science.

Professor Martin has made seminal discoveries in bacterial redox biochemistry, such as revealing how the DsbA enzyme assembles bacterial 'weapons', and validating DsbA as a target for novel antibacterials that are now being developed.

Through her role as a founding member of the Science and Gender Equity (SAGE) Steering Committee, Professor Martin helped implement the Athena SWAN pilot to address gender equity in science.

Professor Martin was also the second woman to receive the prestigious Wunderly Oration Medal in its 27-year history, for her work promoting women in science.

HRH Prince Andrew Duke of York recently honoured Professor Martin as a Bragg Member with the Royal Institute of Australia, which recognises excellence in scientific achievement and commitment to science communication.

Professor Martin has held several nationally competitive Fellowships during her career, including an inaugural ARC Australian Laureate Fellowship. Other awards include the ASBMB Roche Medal, the Queensland Smart Women Smart State Research Scientist Award and the Women in Biotechnology Outstanding Achievement Award.

She is also the President of the Asian Crystallographic Association, a former President of the Society of Crystallographers in Australia and New Zealand, and a former chair of the National Committee for Crystallography of the Australian Academy of Science.



Professor Jennifer Martin

GRIDD tackles devastating diseases through new drug discovery, using the unique Compounds Australia and Nature Bank resources, and an extensive global network of partners.

AWARDS RECOGNISE FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

The achievements of a group of female Griffith University alumni were recognised in the prestigious Cosmopolitan 2017 Women of the Year Awards.

Announced in October, Sabo Skirt founders Yiota and Thessy Kouzoukas took out the Fashion Designer of the Year award, a huge honour for the Griffith business graduates.

Fellow Griffith Business School graduates Sarah Schoeller and Marissa Bowden, founders of the now-iconic The Village Markets at Burleigh Heads, were nominated in the category of Entrepreneur of the Year.

In speaking about the origins of the markets nine years ago, Sarah says: 'Marissa and I worked together for a finance company in marketing and we used to talk about how the Gold Coast didn't have a great fashion market.

'When we were made redundant (during the Global Financial Crisis), we had some time on our hands. We'd been to some great markets in London and Sydney, so we decided to put our own flair on it and focused on local designers, live music and street food.'

Since then, the markets have been a huge success in their own right, while designers among the earliest stallholders have also gone on to enjoy business success.

'Peony Swimwear sold their first bikini at The Village Markets and brands like F+H Jewellery are doing so well,' says Sarah.

Also nominated for Entrepreneur of the Year were Griffith University communications graduate Alanna Bastin-Byrne and her business partner, Jade Collins.

Alanna and Jade are founders of start-up company Femeconomy!, which showcases brands that have women in leadership roles, including on boards and as company owners.



Sabo Skirt founders Yiota and Thessy Kouzoukas

ANSWERING THE CALL OF THE OCEAN

A new marine research partnership between Griffith University and Sea World is a perfect fit for science graduate and sea jelly expert Erin Wyatt.

As Marine Education Supervisor at Sea World on the Gold Coast, Erin Wyatt (below) oversees all aspects of the marine park's educational initiatives and programs.

Those initiatives are about to expand thanks to a new partnership between Sea World and Griffith University, one giving researchers access to Sea World's resources to conduct vital marine science projects and contribute to conservation programs.

The partnership will be led by the *Sea Jellies Illuminated* exhibit to open in April 2018 and which will feature a variety of local Australian species, including *Cyanea* (the Lion's Mane), *Catostylus* (the Blue Blubber), *Cassiopea* (Upside Down) jellies and *Irukanji*.

Visitors will be taken on a journey providing spectacular vision, species information and insights into broader

environmental issues and research projects in this first-of-its-kind laboratory.

Erin, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology, Honours) in 2006, is excited about the potential for the new partnership.

'Sea World has so much to do and see, but if you ask anyone who works here you'll discover that our driving force is to care for animals and create awareness so everyone can contribute to preserving natural habitats and marine areas,' she says.

'This partnership will open that up so much more. People can see the research we're doing.'

Completing her Honours under Griffith's renowned sea jelly researcher, Associate Professor Kylie Pitt, Erin conducted initial testing for her project at Sea World.

Before joining Sea World full-time, she worked as a scientific operations officer, a high school teacher, a laboratory researcher for marine environmental specialist group FRC Environmental, and an environmental education officer for the Redland City Council. Erin also conducted aerial marine mammal surveys for government and tertiary education, including surveys of dolphin and dugong off Queensland and Western Australia.

'In this field, there are so many paths you can take, so the range of subjects I was exposed to at Griffith really equips you to figure out what resonates with you and your passions,' she says.

'So much of the knowledge I acquired at Griffith has been exactly relevant to what I'm doing now and has set me on this career path.'



GRIFFITH CENTRE STEPS BACK IN TIME



From Morocco to Indonesia and the teeth of orangutans, Griffith University's Australian Research Centre of Human Evolution (ARCHE) has been making all sorts of amazing discoveries.

The team boasts several *Nature* papers, the most recent belonging to Director Professor Rainer Grün.

The geochronologist's state-of-the-art dating methods pushed back the origins of our species by an unprecedented 100,000

years, uncovering the oldest modern human and our deep biological history in Africa.

Professor Grün was among an international research team that dated fossils discovered at the archaeological site of Jebel Irhoud, Morocco.

The finds—also reported on the front page of *The New York Times*—are dated to about 300,000 years ago and represent the oldest securely aged fossil evidence of our own species.

Adding to the discoveries, Associate Professor Adam Brumm and Dr Michelle Langley (pictured) were part of a joint Indonesian-Australian team that unearthed a rare collection of prehistoric art and 'jewellery' objects from the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, in some instances dating to as early as 30,000 years ago.

In another *Nature* paper for the team, three members of ARCHE found new evidence that not only suggests that modern humans were present in South-East Asia 20,000 years earlier than previously thought, but that they were colonising dense rainforests at earlier ages as well.

Professor Grün also helped discover *Homo naledi's* surprisingly young age, opening up more questions on where we come from.

Findings published in journal *eLife* show that *Homo naledi*, the hominin that was discovered by a large team of international researchers in 2013, was alive sometime between 335,000 and 236,000 years ago.

Associate Professor Brumm said Australia's contribution to human origins was making revolutionary insights into where we came from as a species.

'We're all equally fascinated by the human past, and trying to make more inroads into unravelling that story is what's motivating us,' he said.

'There's few more profound things you can work on, really, than the origins of the most bizarre creature that has ever inhabited the planet, and that's us.'



ALEX'S PLANNING APP IS HOT PROPERTY



Alex Steffan says Griffith made him ready to take on some big career responsibilities

An app that offers an instant and comprehensive overview of properties in South-East Queensland is proving a coup for its developer, Griffith University planning alumnus Alex Steffan.

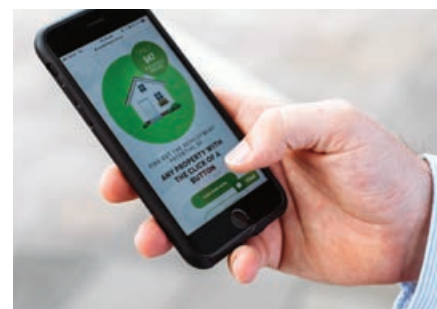
Based in Brisbane, Alex launched his company Steffan Town Planning after graduating in 2008 with a Bachelor of Urban and Environmental Planning.

Starting with a small client base and small projects—'gaining approvals for carports, decks, sheds, conversions and the like,' he says—Alex's creation of an online property assessment service soon opened the way to broader professional horizons.

The service in question, DevQld, delivered fast summary reports on the provisions, protocols and development potential of properties. Then, in 2017, Alex launched

PropertEASE, a revolutionary app that details a property's development potential and requirements with the click of a button.

'The information provided through PropertEASE is immediate and comprehensive,' says Alex, who was highly commended in the 2017 Griffith Sciences Outstanding Alumnus Awards.



REMARKABLE RANKINGS CONTINUE FOR GRIFFITH

Griffith has continued to distinguish itself as one of Australia's leading comprehensive research and teaching universities in 2017.

A series of prestigious global university rankings have recognised the excellence that has been achieved at Griffith in teaching, research and reputation.

Griffith's reputation as a leading university was further enhanced in 2017 with the results of the Times Higher Education (Times HE) World University Rankings and US News Best Global Universities list, which placed it in the world's top 300 universities.

Griffith also had its most successful year in terms of subject rankings, highlighted by the Shanghai Ranking Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2017, in which 30 subjects were world-ranked, and the QS World University Subject Rankings 2017, with 28 world-ranked subjects.

'A strong ranking performance on a number of fronts has seen Griffith distinguish itself as one of Australia's most comprehensive research and teaching universities,' Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor AC said.

'We are now ranked across a full suite of academic subjects,' he said.

'While social sciences have traditionally been, and continue to be, a ranking strength for Griffith, we are now consistently ranking strongly in health, medicine, science and engineering.

'These strengths are reflected in the quality of teaching, leading programs and remarkable student experience on offer at Griffith University.'

Among the notable ranking achievements in 2017 was Griffith's position in the world's top 300 universities in the Times HE World University Rankings for the third year in a row. In retaining its position in the 251–300 range, Griffith consolidated its place among the top 3 per cent of universities in the world.

In the Shanghai Ranking Global Ranking of Academic Subjects, Griffith placed second for Hospitality and Tourism Management, and ranked in the Top 50 for Law, Nursing and Midwifery, and Marine/Ocean Engineering. With 30 subjects mentioned in total, Griffith ranked 119th in the world, ninth in Australia and second in Queensland.



Gold Coast campus

THE GRIFFITH GRADS SHAKING UP THE INTERNATIONAL ART WORLD

Queensland College of Art Indigenous alumni Dale Harding and Gordon Hookey are enjoying a remarkable year.



Dale Harding installing his artwork



Gordon Hookey. Photographed by Mick Richards

Both artists were invited to show their work at documenta 14, an exhibition held in Athens and Kassel that has previously been dubbed the 'art Olympics'.

QCA Director Professor Derrick Cherrie said their selection for documenta 14 was 'a major coup'.

'To be selected for an event like documenta is an outstanding achievement, and is recognition on the global stage of the unique artistic voices emerging from Australia,' he said.

The blockbuster show is held every five years and features the best contemporary artists from around the world. It attracts more than a million visitors, including collectors, curators and media, over 100 days.

Dale said presenting his work at documenta was 'an amazing experience'.

'While I was over in Kassel, I became aware of the significance of the event,' he said. 'But there was no pressure; making art is a great joy, a constant joy.'

Dale was born in the Central Queensland town of Moranbah

and is a descendant of the Bidjara, Ghungalu and Garingbal people.

For documenta, Dale spent 18 months cataloguing Carnarvon's famed rock art, reinterpreting certain motifs using modern materials like silicon and gold leaf.

'I spent a lot of time out at Carnarvon growing up, and I still go out there at least five or six times a year,' he said. 'I feel a connection to the country and a sense of responsibility.'

'I was passionate about interacting with the history, of taking the art and seeing how I could use it to tell my perspective.'

Dale is a graduate of the QCA's unique Bachelor of Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art, graduating with honours in 2013, and he credits the course with connecting him to the contemporary Indigenous art scene.

'I have been creating art since I was a kid, but the course helped me formalise a lot of the processes, and introduced me to great artists like Richard Bell, Gordon Bennett and Judy Watson,' he said.

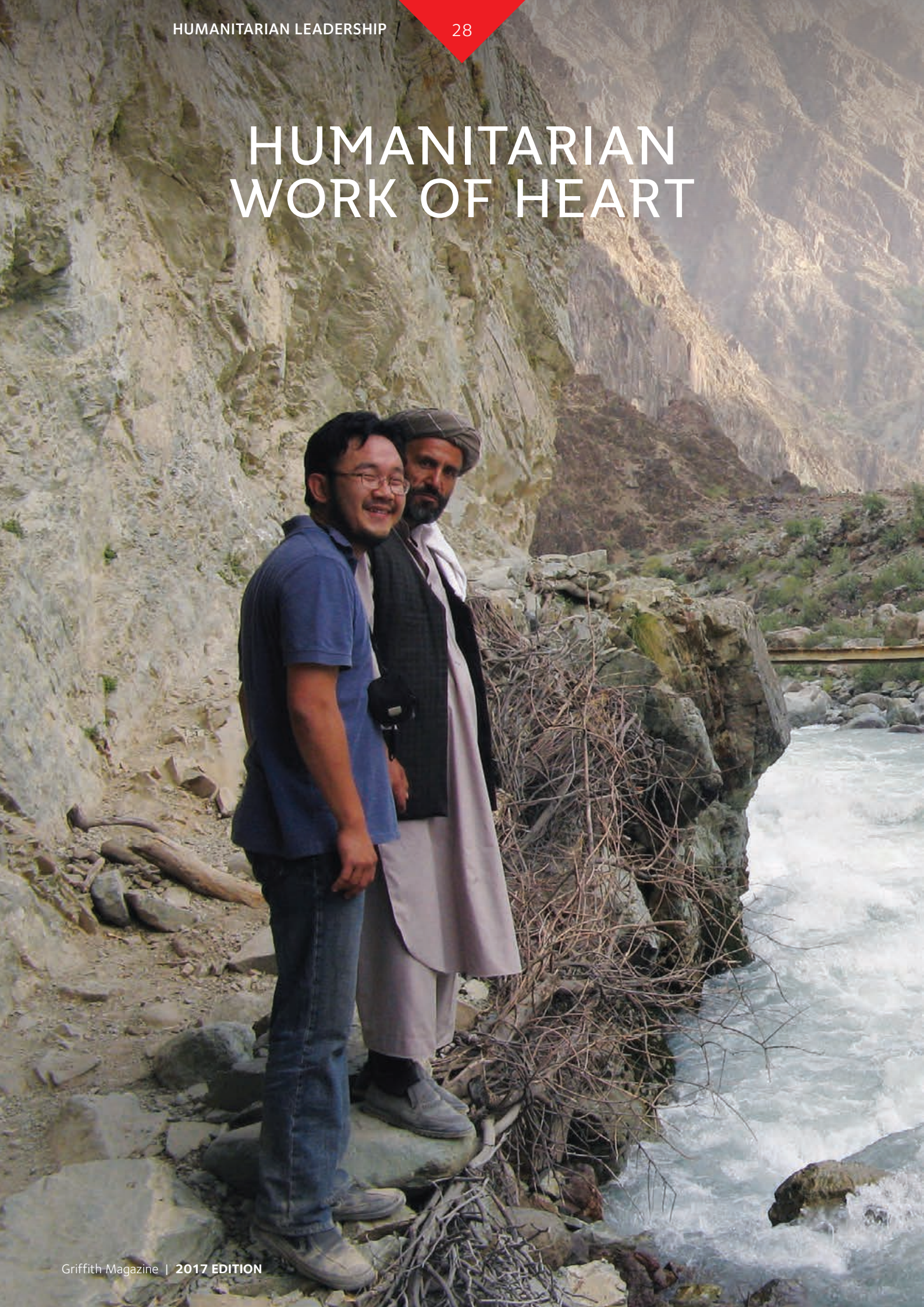
Gordon, Dale's fellow QCA graduate, was recognised as the 2017 Arts, Education and Law Alumnus of the Year, and Griffith University collaborated on a new book about his work, *Gordon Hookey: Summoning Time; Painting & Politick Transition in MURRLAND!*

Born in Cloncurry and a descendant of the Waanyi people, Gordon is one of the leading Australian artists of his generation and is known for politically charged work that explores the intersections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures.

Since graduating from a Master of Visual Arts at the Queensland College of Art in 2012, his works have been acquired for public and private collections around the world, including the National Gallery of Australia, Queensland's Gallery of Modern Art, and the Osaka Museum of Ethnology in Japan.

This year, his art has hung in *The National 2017: New Australian Art* and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, and he was chosen to create a unique installation at the State Library of Queensland for the Brisbane Writers Festival.

HUMANITARIAN WORK OF HEART



In conflict zones and places where poverty prevails, Cipta Setiawan has forged a career bringing humanitarian leadership where it is most needed.

Cipta Setiawan's (pictured left) humanitarian leadership took shape as a teenager in his homeland of Indonesia.

Initially manifesting through church, charity and community projects, then later via pro bono work in child protection and poverty reduction, the qualified psychologist and Griffith University alumnus has forged a career bringing sound strategies and positive outcomes to people and in places where these qualities are most needed.

This includes Cipta's participation in the relief and reconstruction effort in the wake of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, his stint as Senior Human Resources Manager for Save the Children in Indonesia, and his humanitarian and development work in international conflict zones such as Afghanistan.

In fact, it was in Afghanistan that Cipta decided to pursue a Master of Communications through Griffith University.

From 2007–11, Cipta was based in Kabul as Human Resources Director for the Aga Khan Foundation, contributing to the nation's efforts in improving its infrastructure, education, health, energy, civil and social sectors, including in parts of the country that were highly remote and had limited accessibility.

'I felt I needed to bolster my qualifications, particularly in communications,' says Cipta. 'The irony was that I was trying to do so in a country where communications were unreliable at the best of times and shut down completely at others.'

'In Afghanistan, downloading material for my Griffith degree could take hours because the electricity only operated for around four hours every other day.'

'I'm happy to say that persistence paid off. I received my Master of Communications in 2011 and was able to put the qualification to work in Afghanistan and elsewhere since.'

Education has been important in Cipta's varied career, most notably in the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan, where

he served as the Human Resources Director for the University of Central Asia, the world's first internationally chartered institution of higher education, founded in 2000.

'I was there for a year between 2011–12,' says Cipta. 'As well as forming coherent management strategies and systems, my role was to mitigate institutional and operational risks across the diverse environments where the university operates—the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan.'

From February 2013 to December 2015, Cipta was Jakarta-based Head of Human Resources for the Australian Government's DFAT-funded Poverty Reduction Support Facility, working with groups including the Indonesian Government to improve the implementation of poverty reduction programs, improve living standards and reduce inequality.

'The passion that took hold of me when I was younger is still with me,' says Cipta. 'No matter the challenges—and there are many, especially in conflict zones and places where the need for development is widespread—that's where help is most needed, and where I most want to be.'

'In Afghanistan, downloading material for my Griffith degree could take hours because the electricity only operated for around four hours every other day.'



SERIOUSLY FUNNY

A successful comedian has uncovered the healing power of laughter through his Griffith University studies.

As a performer, Mark McConville is one of the most experienced and in-demand comedians on the Australian professional circuit. Comedy has been his full-time career for more than 15 years.

As a Griffith University graduate and researcher into suicide, Mark's work has informed an innovative response to an issue that has become an epidemic in society.

Through his The Laughter Clinic series of workshops and presentations, Mark has developed an engaging, entertaining and profound experience for participants. Tailored to the individual, the aim of this one-on-one therapy is to help people rediscover the laughter in their lives.

In 2015, more than 3000 Australians took their own lives. And for every death, as many as 30 others try to end their lives, translating to more than 65,000 suicide attempts annually.

The impetus for Mark's involvement in suicidology came unexpectedly, during a stint performing aboard a cruise ship.

'A passenger approached me after a show and said it was the first time in three years that her husband had laughed out loud,' he recalls.

'It turns out he was an Afghanistan veteran. On one mission, a booby trap had exploded and the injuries among his team, and the ensuing psychological trauma, were devastating.

Comedian Mark McConville



'He was on medication for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and really hadn't laughed since that day. It was such a moving moment and later, as I absorbed it further, I came to realise how laughter is a powerful tool for good, and for healing.

'I'm not reinventing the wheel here. But the more I thought about it, the more I believed that as a comedian I might be able to do more than just tell jokes.'

In 2015, Mark was 45 when he began studying at Griffith. Initially anxious—'after all, I left school at 14 and worked in everything from welding to sales until I tried comedy'—he was encouraged by Professor Emeritus Diego De Leo AO from the Griffith-based and globally esteemed Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention.

Mark completed a Graduate Certificate in Suicide Prevention and has been studying a Master of Suicidology.

'Mark McConville the comedian and Mark McConville the researcher are two very different entities, but one overriding truth connects them both. You can never underestimate the power of laughter,' he says.

'There is no 'one size fits all' solution to treating depression, and that is why The Laughter Clinic is about the individual. We all need laughter. It makes us happy, restores hope and eases tensions. It is a light in the darkness. Sometimes a little light makes all the difference.'

'Laughter is a powerful tool for good, and for healing. I'm not reinventing the wheel here.'

NOBEL LAUREATE DELIVERS GRIFFITH LECTURE

Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus delivered the annual Griffith Lecture in April 2017 and inspected a new business centre established in his name at the Nathan campus.

Since receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, the Bangladeshi economist and micro-finance pioneer has been on a mission to educate the world on the benefits of social business.

The 76-year-old captivated the audience with the tale of how he used his innovative social business model to eventually provide solar energy to nearly two million Bangladeshi homes previously reliant on kerosene oil.

Professor Yunus has been establishing Yunus Social Business Centres at universities around the world and has now done likewise at Griffith University.

Pro Vice Chancellor (Business) Professor David Grant says entering into a partnership with Professor Yunus is a natural extension of Griffith's commitment to producing the next generation of responsible leaders.

'This is a wonderful initiative which will help students gain a deeper insight into responsible and sustainable business practices and social entrepreneurship values which are perfectly aligned with our core values,' says Professor Grant.

Professor Muhammad Yunus



GIVING THE GIFT OF SECOND SIGHT

Among Philip Reiler's duties as Head of Public Relations for the Norwegian arm of optical retail chain Specsavers, he leads the company's annual Give Sight to Tanzania project.

Each year, Philip and a team of optometrists and support staff travel to the East African nation, where eye health in rural areas is a critical and ongoing issue.

Beneath the spectacular backdrop of Mount Kilimanjaro, the team creates its own spectacle by conducting eye tests and matching prescription glasses—all donated by Specsavers customers—to needy recipients.

'We bring about 5,000 pairs of glasses with us, although not all are handed out,' says Philip, who graduated with a Bachelor of Business from Griffith University in 2004, preceding completion of a Master of Arts (Journalism and Mass Communication) in 2006.

'In terms of optical health, the damaging intensity of the Tanzanian sun is exacerbated by limited resources for eye health, optometry and even something as simple as sunglasses.

'This means the early stages of eye disease tend to go untreated, and so optical problems escalate over time.

'Through this project, however, we are bringing something practical, purposeful and positive to the people of Tanzania. It's wonderful to be a part of it.'

After several years in journalism, Philip landed the Specsavers role in his homeland of Norway in 2015. The company complements its business performance with international philanthropic projects, including Give Sight to Tanzania.

'All over the world there are millions of pairs of glasses just lying around gathering dust. Recycling is a great outcome because these glasses have the ability to change people's lives,' says Philip.

'The positive impacts are many: helping schoolchildren who haven't been able to follow classroom lessons because of poor eyesight; making it possible for adults to learn a craft or new skills because suddenly they can see clearly; protecting eyes to prevent future problems.

'To see the smiles on the people's faces is such a rewarding experience. It creates a strong sense of pride in being part of a company that takes its social responsibility very seriously.'

LAB PRIMED FOR CRIME ANALYSIS

Griffith University researchers are analysing more than one million Queensland crimes to forecast the likely location of future crime hotspots.

The research is made possible by the Australian-first, \$1 million Social Analytics Lab, which was launched in June 2017 by the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, The Honourable Mark Ryan MP, and Queensland Police Service Commissioner Ian Stewart APM.

The custom-built research facility combines high-performance computing facilities with industry standard security and allows the storage and study of sensitive, de-identified data.

For example, researchers are using data recorded over the past 10 years to identify patterns in burglary and car crime that could inform operational policing.

Predictive policing expert Dr Daniel Birks, from Griffith's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, says these crimes affect many people and cost the Queensland community around \$2.5 billion annually.

'Building on recent international studies, our research explores the use of mathematical models that use previous crime patterns to forecast locations and times of future crime risk,' says Dr Birks.

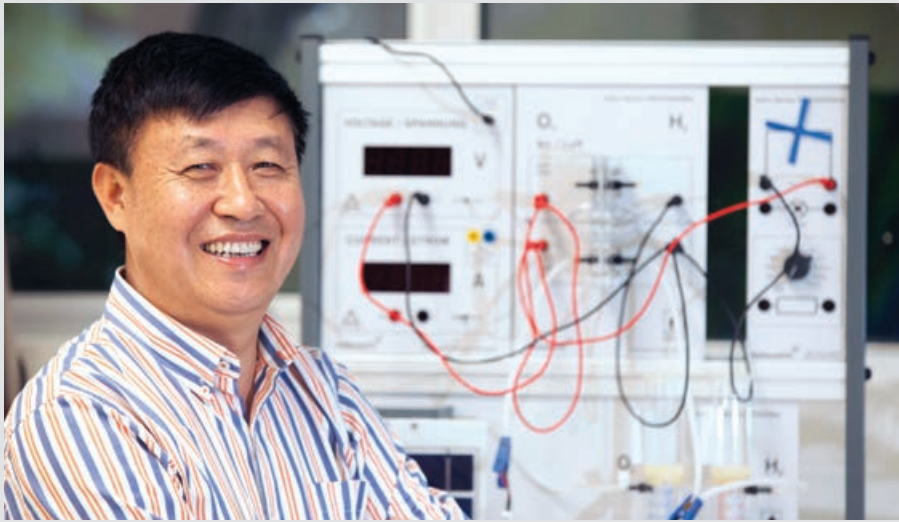
The Social Analytics Lab also connects Griffith research to international facilities at the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science at University College, London, and the Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies at Canada's Simon Fraser University.



From left: QPS Deputy Commissioner Steve Gollschewski, Professor Paul Mazerolle – Griffith University Pro Vice Chancellor (Arts, Education & Law), QPS Commissioner Ian Stewart and Deputy Commissioner Peter Martin at the launch of the Social Analytics Lab at Mt Gravatt campus

THE WINDOW TO A MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT WORLD

The future of energy saving could lie with a 'smart window' being developed by Griffith University researchers.



The \$1 million project, led by Professor Huijun Zhao (above), the director of Griffith's Centre for Clean Environment and Energy, will see the creation of a window that contains a glass that is able to change its colour and moderate the amount of light or heat it transmits.

Funded by the Australian Government through the Australian Research Council's Linkage Projects scheme, and with support from partner organisation Confirmation Australia Pty Ltd, the team will develop low-cost and scalable synthesis of functional nanomaterials that make smart windows work.

Professor Zhao said windows played an important role in the energy efficiency of offices, schools and homes, and the new smart windows promised significant energy savings by reducing reliance on air conditioning, heating and artificial lighting.

'Besides residential buildings, this is particularly important for office buildings, hotels, and schools where the energy consumption for heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) and lighting are more than 70 per cent of the total energy consumption,' he said.

'The ease of energy exchange through conventional windows can be almost ten times that of insulated walls, and this energy wastage can account for more than 50 per cent of the energy consumed for HVAC, especially during the summer and winter.'

The research project will also facilitate the commercialisation of the new windows by investigating how the new materials can be integrated into the glass manufacturing process to assist Australia's manufacturing industry and environmental sustainability.

JACQUI HAS THE GOOD OIL ON HEALTH



Internationally renowned chef Maria Loi presents Healthiest Extra Virgin Olive Oil award to Cobram Estate's Jacqui Plozza

Jacqui Plozza started her career as a medical scientist, but a burning desire to study nutrition and dietetics led her to the career she has today.

As the Nutrition Strategy and Education Manager at Cobram Estate, Jacqui is developing, executing, monitoring and evaluating a robust, multi-faceted health education strategy and program to key health professionals across Australia.

Jacqui says her medical science degree has been a great addition to her new career focus: 'I always had an interest in nutrition and dietetics as I grew up.'

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science from Monash University and working for four years as a medical scientist, Jacqui started a Master of Nutrition and Dietetics (Public Health) at Griffith University in 2008.

'Griffith was the only university I applied to because of its reputation. It was very supportive and provided practical skills that you can apply in a real environment setting.'

Jacqui worked in the healthcare industry before landing her dream job at award-winning olive oil company Cobram Estate in March last year.

A GALA TO REMEMBER AS THE CON TURNS 60



The Queensland Conservatorium has cemented its place as a major cultural institution over the past six decades

With musicians commanding leading places in every Australian state orchestra, along with a host of Grammy and ARIA Award winners among its alumni, the Queensland Conservatorium has had every reason to celebrate a remarkable six decades of peerless music education.

The Conservatorium opened its doors on 18 February 1957. Based at the South Brisbane Town Hall, it welcomed just 13 full-time students. Moving to Gardens Point through the 1970s and '80s, it relocated to its home in the heart of South Bank's cultural precinct in 1996.

The Conservatorium became part of Griffith University in 1991.

Queensland Conservatorium Director Professor Scott Harrison, himself a graduate of the Con, says the Queensland

Conservatorium has carved out a place as a major cultural institution.

'Thousands of talented students have graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium, which remains the dream destination for aspiring young musicians,' he says.

'This institution has made an enormous contribution to Australia's musical landscape across a variety of genres, from classical and jazz to musical theatre and popular music.'

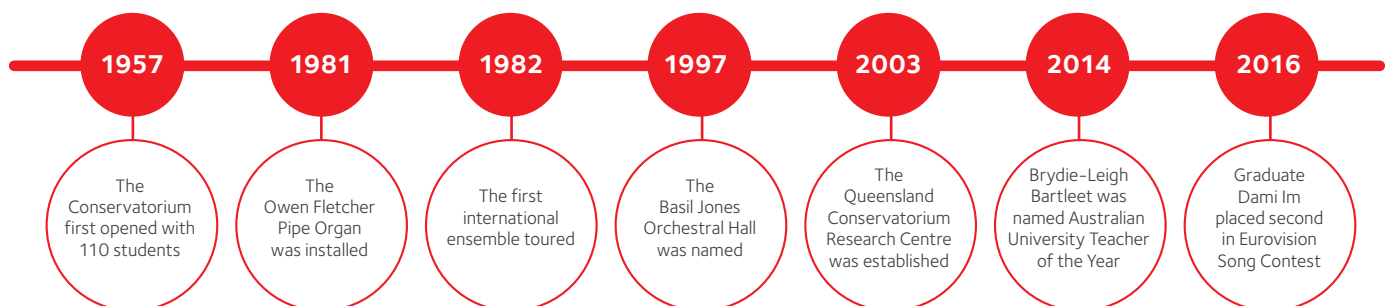
Highlights of a blockbuster and celebratory 60th year included a season of the musical *West Side Story*—which itself debuted on Broadway 60 years ago—featuring a triple cast comprising the entire musical theatre school accompanied by the Queensland Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra.

There was also a special 60th-anniversary gala featuring students, faculty and alumni, including Katie Noonan fronting an all-star big band.

Rounding out the program for 2017 was Griffith Opera on the Beach—a spectacular new production of Verdi's *Aida*, staged with Opera Australia at Coolangatta in September.

Con alumni

Dami Im, Jayson Gillham, Katie Noonan, Piers Lane, Megan Washington, Kate Miller-Heidke, Lisa Gasteen, Kang Wang, Brett Dean and Mirusia Louwerse.



MOVING MOMENTS REVEAL THE POWER OF GIVING

The generosity of our donors led to some remarkable outcomes in 2017. Thank you for enabling talented students to continue striving towards their career dreams.

Bec Silman and Angus Burkitt remain inspired and humbled by the act of generosity that changed their lives.

Both recipients of Griffith Futures Scholarships—which help those who are excelling in their studies in the face of personal or financial hardship—the pair had no idea of what was to unfold when they shared their stories at the launch of the Abedian Foundation Griffith Futures Scholarships in October 2016.

Yet so moved were Gold Coast developer Dr Soheil Abedian and his wife, Anne, they responded with a further gesture of support for Nursing student Bec and Sport Development student Angus.

Anyone fortunate enough to have been there that day will attest to the uplifting emotional moment as Mr Abedian pledged to pay for Angus to undergo a much-needed hip operation in a private hospital, and to provide crucial financial support for Bec until her graduation at the end of 2017.

A year later, it's wonderful to see Bec and Angus so happy, healthy and stress-free.

'This past year has been beyond a dream,' says Bec. 'The support I received from the Griffith Futures Scholarships and the Abedians meant I could stay in my degree. It meant we weren't going to be homeless.'

Bec's ambition is to work in a neonatal care unit, a goal ever closer after a recent placement at the Gold Coast University Hospital.

Angus, too, is thriving after his successful operation. What hasn't changed is his career aspiration: 'My goal is to work with people with disabilities and to help them experience the many benefits of sport and physical activity.'

Krystal clear about impact

In 2014, Krystal Flynn received a Griffith Futures Scholarship to help her through the final year of her education degree. Krystal says the scholarship did much more: 'It gave me the future.'

Three years on, her journey from financially struggling student to award-winning teacher is an inspiring demonstration of the importance of donor support.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Education (Primary), Krystal launched her teaching career at Tagai State College on

Saibai Island, one of Queensland's most remote communities, situated just four kilometres from Papua New Guinea and 150 kilometres north of Cape York.

Krystal flourished at Kadhego Ngurpay Lag (Saibai Island Campus), ultimately receiving an Excellence in Beginning to Teach Award from the Queensland College of Teachers.

'I believe I was meant to teach and I love doing it to the best of my ability. The scholarship gave me the opportunity to do what I wanted to do and be what I wanted to be,' she says.



Krystal Flynn and her class on Saibai Island

STAY CONNECTED

Griffith University's alumni are found throughout the world and are succeeding in all areas of life.

Maintaining connections with our alumni, students, industry partners and many other friends affirms that university degrees are not just an education, but are the foundation of a partnership that continues for life.

Each year Griffith University hosts alumni networking events to engage with graduates, staff and friends across the world. In recent times we have visited cities including Jakarta, Singapore, Los Angeles, Hong Kong, Beijing, Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra.

Through the Development and Alumni Office, we encourage you to update your details to ensure you stay in touch, and stay connected, with Griffith University.

There are several convenient communications options:

E alumni@griffith.edu.au

W griffith.edu.au/development-alumni

f facebook.com/griffithalumni

t twitter.com/griffithalumni

@ instagram.com/griffithalumni

in linkedin.com/groups/104312

For more information about providing a tax deductible gift to Griffith, visit griffith.edu.au/development-alumni, email giving@griffith.edu.au or call one of our Development Managers for a confidential conversation during business hours on +61 7 5552 7218.

FULL STEM AHEAD FOR ROISIN



Dr Roisin McMahon

It's official: Dr Roisin McMahon of the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD) is a superstar.

In July 2017, the early-career researcher was among 30 young women in the country recognised by Science & Technology Australia as the first Superstars of STEM.

Ready to smash stereotypes and forge a new generation of role models for young women and girls, Dr McMahon is joining her fellow recipients to receive training and development for social media, TV, radio and public speaking opportunities. The aim is to carve out a more diverse face for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

At GRIDD, Dr McMahon is investigating new antimicrobial drug targets and identifying chemicals to block their activity.

With antibiotic resistance a looming health catastrophe, undermining routine medical procedures and increasing the risk posed by common infections, Dr McMahon's research seeks to disrupt the ability of bacteria to assemble the weapons needed to cause disease.

'It is a terrific opportunity. I feel privileged to work in STEM,' says Roisin. 'Throughout my career it has been my mentors, frequently women, who have inspired me to develop and progress.'

'Through the Superstars program, I am excited to meet and work with other like-minded individuals to support, champion, and inspire women to pursue careers in STEM.'

Dr McMahon previously worked at The University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience (2011–2016) and attended the University of Oxford, where she was awarded a DPhil in 2010. She has already taken on a leadership role as the equity and diversity champion at GRIDD.

Furthermore, young female scientists should look no further for career inspiration than the example of GRIDD's Director, Professor Jenny Martin. In September 2017, Professor Martin was honoured by His Royal Highness The Duke of York KG as a Bragg Member with the Royal Institute of Australia.

Named after pioneering scientists Sir William Henry Bragg and Sir William Lawrence Bragg, membership recognises excellence in scientific achievement and commitment to science communication.

The honour capped a stellar year for Professor Martin in which she was also awarded the prestigious Wunderly Oration Medal and was elected to the Australian Academy of Science.

'Throughout my career it has been my mentors, frequently women, who have inspired me to develop and progress.'

NEW NAME ON THE GRIDD

With a new name, purpose and vision, the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD) was unveiled in 2017 by Queensland Premier The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP.

GRIDD's name change, from the Eskitis Institute for Drug Discovery, refines its mission to be a highly networked facility dedicated to developing innovative solutions towards saving lives.

Ms Palaszczuk said for more than 20 years the Institute had been at the forefront of drug research, leading new discoveries and making inroads in the global biotechnology sector.

She also affirmed the Queensland Government's commitment to the Institute: 'Since 2003, the Queensland Government has provided more than \$20.9 million in funding in the form of grants and loans to help support new discoveries and drive innovation.'

GRIDD tackles devastating problems such as cancer, drug resistance, infectious diseases and Parkinson's disease. Its work is buoyed by access to the resources within the unique Compounds Australia and Nature Bank facilities, as well as a global network of partners.

Key supporters include the Clem Jones Foundation, Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation, Aegium, Parkinson's Queensland, as well as the Queensland and Australian governments.

SUPPORT TOWARDS SUCCESS



Professor Martin Betts, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement)

I trust you have enjoyed the stories in this magazine and can appreciate, as I am so fortunate to do every day, the remarkable experience that drives Griffith University.

This manifests in many ways and in many fields of endeavour, including:

- Internationally recognised research being conducted for the benefit of our community, country and the world.
- Finding the very best teachers who are dedicated to ensuring our students can also aspire to be the very best in their lives and careers.
- Providing leadership in reconciliation, education and engagement with Australia's First Peoples.
- Long-standing dedication to gender equality through initiatives to support the success of students and staff.
- Our commitment to sustainability.

I see these and many other examples in action as I visit our campuses, talk to staff and students and engage with our alumni, industry partners, stakeholders and many other friends and supporters of Griffith University.

One of the qualities I find most remarkable is the spirit of generosity that creates such positive outcomes for those students challenged by financial or personal disadvantage.

For example, in the past year the response from staff to our payroll giving program has allowed the University to make a large increase to the number of Griffith Futures Scholarships to outstanding students who are supported to succeed.

Furthermore, the generosity of our donors has meant that the University has raised more than \$7 million to date in 2017, including a record-breaking Annual Appeal campaign.

It's so humbling, yet also so exciting, to know that our staff and supporters share the University's belief in the importance of education and our guiding principle to ensure all students receive every opportunity to achieve their potential.

In closing, once again I have enjoyed meeting so many of our alumni and friends at events during the past year. I look forward to meeting many more of you in what I am sure will be an even more remarkable year to come.

Professor Martin Betts
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement)

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOUR FOR VICE CHANCELLOR

Griffith University Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Ian O'Connor, was recognised for his contributions to the community in the Queen's Birthday 2017 Honours List.

Professor O'Connor was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) when Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove announced the honours in June.

'I am not only surprised but extremely humbled and honoured at receiving this award,' said Professor O'Connor.

'I am immensely proud of what we all have achieved at Griffith University and this award is recognition for all the dedicated staff who have made such a difference to the lives of our students.'

'The growth of our University to stretch to five campuses in the south-east has ensured there are now more opportunities and options for those wanting to access higher education.'

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- Justin Burke, *The Australian*

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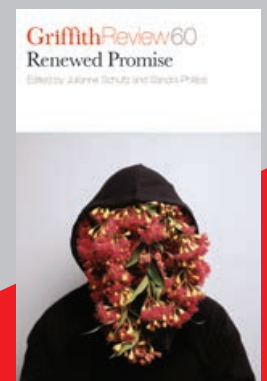
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