



# DONOR IMPACT REPORT 2020





  
**Griffith**  
UNIVERSITY



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Cover image: Supplied by Griffith alumnus and in-kind donor Dr Renata Buziak, as featured in her PhD Medicinal Plant Cycles series. View more of Renata's artwork at [renatabuziak.com](http://renatabuziak.com)





## *Message from the Vice Chancellor*

Over the course of my career, I have never seen a more difficult year for students.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in many challenges for both Griffith and our students as we moved to 'the new normal' of online learning. Students were also faced with losing their part-time work and loss of income, however with the help of many generous donors, we were able to offer students a financial contribution through our 'COVID-19 Bursary'. For many students, receiving a bursary meant the difference between continuing or deferring study indefinitely.

Despite the pandemic and uncertainty 2020 has brought with it, there has also been the opportunity to dig deep, build resilience and realign our priorities.

Our valued donors continued to offer financial support in 2020, which allowed us to secure many education, scholarship and research programs across the University. I'm delighted to share the following stories with you and trust you will find them as positive as I do. Despite adversity and a difficult year there is hope for a better future.

My sincerest thank you for your support.



**Professor Carolyn Evans**  
Vice Chancellor and President







## Your generosity in numbers



**1000+**  
donors



**36%**  
alumni donors



**1,150+**  
active mentors

*Inspiring and guiding the next generation of leaders by sharing expertise and life experience.*

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**~\$15.2 million**  
in funds secured

*Thanks to your generosity, we advanced initiatives that support our students, researchers and educators.*

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**74%** invested  
in research



**22%** invested  
in student support



**4%** invested  
in other services  
and resources

*Investing in our researchers to better understand our world and improve future outcomes for people and the planet.*

*Helping our students reach their potential and achieve a brighter future.*

*Investing in programs and services to support learning and community engagement.*

Note: Figures correct at time of printing.

## Supporting students to grow and prosper

A family passion for rowing and a commitment to supporting community has seen the Bitzios family actively involved with Griffith University for generations.

In fact, almost the entire family have studied at Griffith at one time or another and now support Griffith's Gold Coast campus in traffic and transport engineering through their business, Bitzios Consulting, and have also hosted a series of guest lectures.

The Bitzios family have been instrumental in the planning of much of the transport system around the University with long term involvement in the master planning of the road and public transport scheme in the University Hospital precinct, as well as planning and design work within the campus itself.

"This partnership recently extended to Bitzios Consulting teaming with Griffith University to secure a local cycling tourism planning project which we are very excited about," Griffith alumnus and operations manager of Bitzios Consulting, Sherelle Bitzios said.

Bitzios Consulting is one of Australia's leading specialist traffic engineering and transport planning consultants with offices in Sydney, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. The company undertakes projects throughout Australia and internationally, servicing all levels of government and the private sector. The majority of their staff are Griffith graduates.

"We are very pleased to be able to provide Gold Coasters the opportunity to stay on the Gold Coast and work in highly specialised fields of traffic engineering and transport planning," Sherelle said.

Aside from supporting student employment, the Bitzios family are also actively involved in and support the Griffith University Surfers Paradise Rowing Club.

Sherelle and her daughter Monique, who both completed studies at Griffith, are active members of the Club with Sherelle currently on the committee. Since 2017, the family has donated equipment including oars, two scull boats and a coxes four boat to ensure athletes had the very best opportunities to succeed in their sport.

*"Bitzios Consulting is a proud long-term sponsor of the University's rowing program and seeing the program grow and its athletes succeed nationally and internationally has been enormously rewarding, particularly witnessing some of its athletes being selected for Australian teams and competing at world titles."*

"We recently donated a \$20,000 four-seater rowing boat to the Club as we have always believed in giving something back to the community that has been fundamental to the growth of our business.



Griffith University and its rowing program is an ideal choice for us as it aligns with our business philosophy of supporting young adults on the Gold Coast to grow and prosper; whether that be in business or in sport,” Sherelle said.

Griffith’s Head Rowing Coach, Lincoln Handley says in a competitive environment having access to the same standard of equipment as major competitors assists athletes in achieving their best performance.

*“The reality is that rowing equipment is expensive and like all aquatic equipment has a limited lifespan. The Bitzios family contribution to the club over the years has helped athletes exponentially.”*

“It’s lovely to see a family so involved with the University even after they have graduated from their chosen degrees and gone on to build an exceptional business. Their intent is to pave the way for others to have the same learning experience and give back to their community,” Lincoln said.



## Scholarship empowers student to pursue career in helping others

Dylan Green is pursuing his dream of nursing at Griffith University thanks to the support of a \$6,000 scholarship from SurePark.

SurePark, the company that operates Gold Coast University Hospital Car Park, established the SurePark Nursing Scholarship to support a third-year student enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing degree at Griffith University's Gold Coast campus. To support their diversity program, SurePark gave priority to a student who had to relocate to study at the Gold Coast campus.

Dylan who grew up in the Philippines, where the academic opportunities were limited, moved to Australia with the financial help of family and friends so he could have access to a better academic system and follow his dreams to become a nurse.

"I chose to pursue a career in Nursing because when I was young my family and I were in and out of hospital frequently," Dylan said.

*"The nurses who looked after us were always so smart, funny and had a passionate drive to look after people. They made difficult times less trying."*

Living away from family in a new country means also being away from your support network, which Dylan found challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Whilst I have worked part-time throughout my degree to cover expenses, the SurePark Nursing Scholarship has alleviated so much mental and financial stress, allowing me to fully focus on the final year of my nursing degree," Dylan said.

Professor Ann Bonner, Head of Griffith's School of Nursing and Midwifery says she is delighted that SurePark was willing to support a nursing student in need.

"The nursing profession requires registered nurses from a diversity of backgrounds to care for the most vulnerable in our society.

"It was lovely to note that SurePark recognised that students often relocate to study in the School of Nursing and Midwifery and wanted to support them," Professor Bonner said.



Dylan Green (above)



## *Leaving a lasting legacy*

Many donors who support scholarships do so, not only because they have personally seen the transformational power of a university education, but they wish to honour or remember a family member, friend, colleague or community member.

“At the Southport Rotary Club, we are fortunate to have two past Pro-Vice Chancellors of Griffith University as past presidents of the club. Our current members include Emeritus Professor Graham Jones AM, the foundation Director of the Gold Coast College of Advanced Education which became a Griffith University College in 1990, and Professor Michael Irving, a previous Pro-Vice Chancellor and Director of Griffith,” Southport Rotary President Andrew Middleton said.

Southport Rotary Club created its first Griffith scholarship in 1998, the Cronin Engineering Scholarship, named after Jack Cronin MBE who was a key driver in developing much of the Gold Coast waterways (Hinze Dam), roads and bridges. This scholarship is given annually to the top civil engineering student in their second year and was first presented by Jack at a graduation ceremony just one year before he died.

The second Rotary Scholarship, the Peter and Jenny Hobart Medical Bursary, was established in 2008 and supports outstanding students who could benefit from financial support during their first year of clinical studies. It was named after two club members for their contributions to Rotary, the community, and Griffith University.

Peter Hobart OAM DUNiv was a Rotary member from 1975 until he died in 2016. Peter was the Managing-Director of the Ray White Group in the Southport region and was an advocate for education. In 1985, he was appointed Foundation Chair of the Gold Coast College of Advanced Education prior to it amalgamating with Griffith University. His wife, Jenny Hobart completed her Nursing degree at Griffith and was a prime mover in driving health community support for a medical degree at the University.

“Scholarships encourage students to apply themselves to achieve excellence in their chosen field of study. It also helps promote Rotary’s cause amongst young people”.

“Most importantly, contributing to these scholarships enables us to remember outstanding citizens of the Gold Coast in the hope that we are inspiring future leaders in our community,” Andrew Middleton said.



Left to right: 2020 recipient Larissa Spencer, Jenny Hobart, Andrew Middleton and 2020 recipient Matthew Kent.

## Telling the stories that matter

Griffith Film School (GFS) and the ABC have joined forces with the family of late GFS alumnus Kieran Ricketts to launch a scholarship for aspiring filmmakers.

Up and coming documentary filmmaker Eyasu Church received the inaugural Kieran Ricketts Scholarship in Film and Screen Media, to support him throughout his Bachelor of Film and Screen Media Production degree at Griffith Film School.

It also includes an internship opportunity at the ABC, a place where Kieran made a name for himself as a producer on a host of projects including Q&A, Hungry Beast, Big Ideas and ABC News 24.

Kieran's mother, Ann Ricketts, said the family was pleased the scholarship would honour his passion for storytelling.

"This has been a long time in the making, but we are so pleased that the two organisations Kieran had so much passion for will continue to honour him in the years to come," she said.

"His desire to tell the stories that needed to be told will be carried on by other talented filmmakers."

Griffith Film School senior lecturer Richard Fabb said the scholarship was a fitting tribute to an outstanding alumnus.

"We will work with the Ricketts family to ensure those who benefit from the scholarship emulate Kieran's strong work ethic, creative spirit and innovative mindset," he said.

"Kieran will always be a cherished member of the Griffith film community and have a hand in the work of those who follow in his footsteps."

Kieran studied a Bachelor of Communication in the School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science, before completing his screen production major at Griffith Film School.

ABC News Director Gaven Morris said the scholarship honoured Kieran's desire to make a difference in the world.

"Kieran was an extremely talented and committed journalist, a well-liked and respected colleague, and a lovely bloke," he said.

"He was a highly creative person with huge energy and a passion for storytelling, and his film school background informed and enriched his work.

"From when he was young Kieran said that he wanted to add to the world—he did, and he still does. I think he would be glad that continues through another film school student getting a helping hand in his name."

Inaugural scholarship recipient Eyasu Church said he was over the moon.

*"This is a massive weight off my shoulders and will really allow me to focus on my studies and building my career."*



*“I’m the first male in my family to attend university, so coming to film school is already a big deal. Knowing that I have extra support along the way is a huge comfort.”*

The young filmmaker has had an incredible journey to film school. Born in Ethiopia, Eyasu and two of his siblings were placed in an orphanage after his widowed mother struggled to support the family single-handed. At the age of four, he was adopted by an Australian couple, along with his older brother and sister.

Football became a way for Eyasu to retain ties to his homeland and settle into his adopted country. In high school, the promising athlete created his own YouTube channel posting freestyle football tutorials. Within months, he was collaborating with companies like Adidas and PlayStation and being flown around the country for product launches and events. The aspiring filmmaker wanted to hone his craft and decided to pursue the love of shooting and editing, which he first discovered while creating content for YouTube.

“My YouTube channel allowed me to combine my two great passions—football and filmmaking,” he said. “But I realised I was more interested in being behind the camera, I’d like to make documentaries that tap into my personal history. I have a lot of friends who came to Australia as refugees, and I’m keen to tell their stories,” Eyasu said.

Professor Scott Harrison, Pro Vice Chancellor (Arts, Education and Law) (left) with inaugural scholarship recipient, Eyasu Church (right).



## Scholarship winner to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system

Griffith law student, Victoria Blundell, has been awarded a \$30,000 QIC Indigenous Tertiary Scholarship in her first year at university.

The scholarship could not have come at a better time for Victoria, 18, who embarked on her degree in a year when students were studying off campus and facing a shrinking job market due to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think I screamed when I found out. I was just ecstatic. I couldn't believe my ears. It's such an incredible opportunity," Victoria said.

"The scholarship will drastically change my life as a new university student, positively affecting my mental health, my ability to work harder and in the long run, my career."

A proud Gunditjmara woman, Victoria plans to use her degree to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system and hopes to one day move into human rights and politics.

"I think there needs to be a holistic understanding of Aboriginal culture in our education system and would like to see more cultural awareness and learning introduced in Australian schools," she said.

Victoria's interest in law began when she started competing in high school debating competitions where she discovered her passion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues.

Her success led her to be one of three Australian high school students selected to travel to some of England's most prestigious universities.

"It was a good opportunity to learn how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history in Australia has been told. I was surprised to learn many people did not know much about the history," she said.

The QIC scholarship supports undergraduate students at university and in their careers. It also allocates recipients with a mentor for the duration of their degree and beyond.

"It is an amazing opportunity to have access to a mentor who is also a lawyer. I'm set now and can fully focus on university and my career," she said.

*"The QIC scholarship is not only incredibly generous but it will have a positive impact on my studies and future, and what I plan to do to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The ripple effect is huge."*



Victoria Blundell (above)



## *COVID-19 funding available thanks to bequest*

When COVID-19 reached Australian shores, researchers from the Mucosal Immunology Research Group at the Menzies Health Institute set about the research project, “Characterising the mucosal and systemic inflammatory response to COVID-19 infection.”

\$40,000 was made available for the research through the Deputy Vice Chancellor’s Research Rapid Response Fund, a fund set up for donors and bequestors to contribute to so money is available for important research to commence, which otherwise would be at risk or delayed.

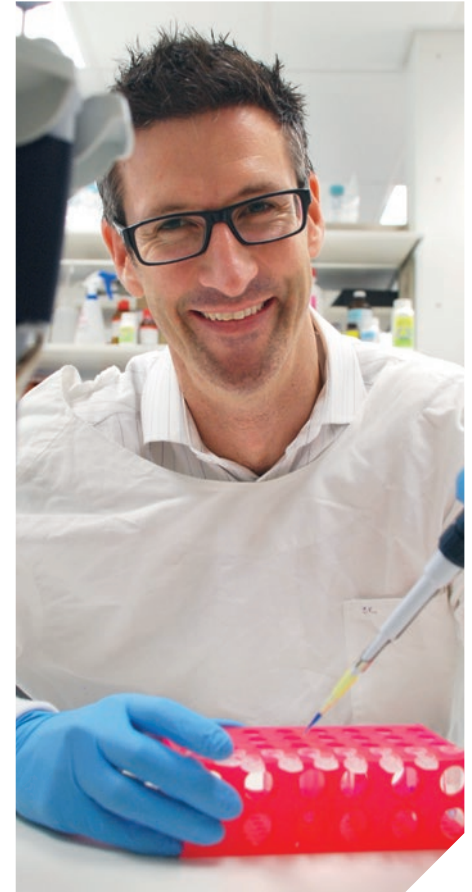
The research led by Dr Nicholas West, aims to understand differences between individuals with severe COVID-19 and individuals with mild or asymptomatic disease.

Results have indicated a more focused anti-viral immune response in those with mild disease compared to those with severe disease in the respiratory tract, where viral control determines the spread of SARS-CoV-2.

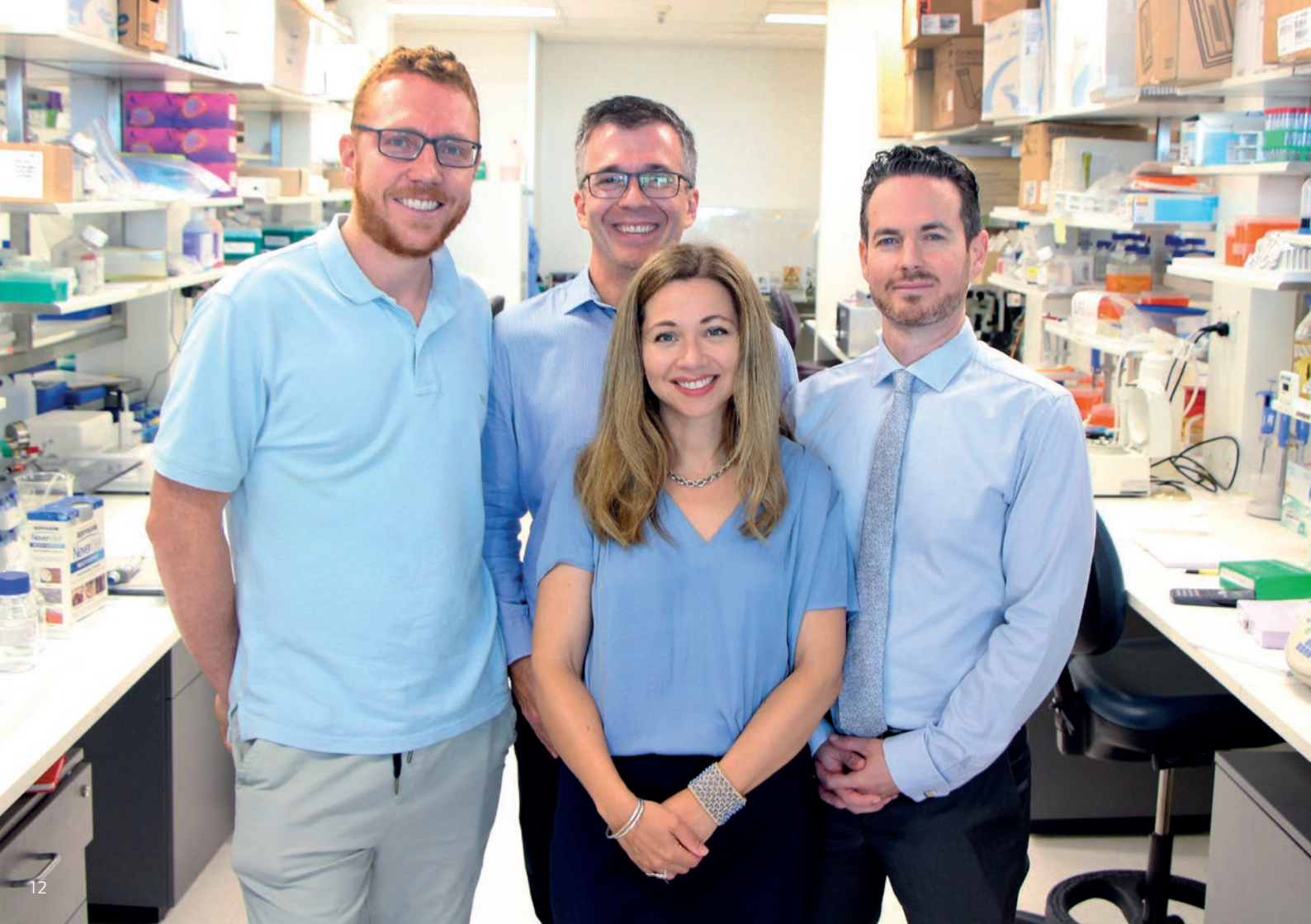
“This data is being used alongside international initiatives to identify patients who may be more likely to have a severe response to COVID-19 and to determine appropriate treatment strategies,” Dr West said.

Whilst donors typically like to contribute to a particular cause, having unrestricted and pooled funds available to action urgent research is incredibly important.

*“These results would not have been found if not for the funding available through the Research Rapid Response Fund and in particular the bequest of Allan James Lane.”*



Dr Nicholas West (above)



## *The Clem Jones Foundation committed to biomedical research*

The Clem Jones Foundation is a Queensland funding organisation based on the philanthropy of the remarkable Brisbane Lord Mayor (1961–1975) who passed away in 2007. Part of Clem’s vision was to fund biomedical research that will have a positive impact on the community and address areas of critical need.

In 2016, the Foundation committed \$1.5 million over six years to establish the Clem Jones Centre for Neurobiology and Stem Cell Research. The Centre co-headed by Associate Professor Jenny Ekberg and Associate Professor James St John is part of both the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD) and Menzies Health Institute Queensland (MHIQ).

Associate Professor Jenny Ekberg said the key to the program successes is the people on our research team.

*“The commitment by the Clem Jones Foundation gave us the ability to appoint key staff who have since made exciting scientific discoveries. These discoveries have directly led to new funding to expand the research program,” Associate Professor Ekberg said.*

From its beginnings in 2016, the Clem Jones Centre has leveraged the \$1.5 million donation from the Clem Jones Foundation to attract more than \$12 million in additional funding from various sources including nationally competitive grants, government and philanthropy.

The Centre now has over 30 researchers, including staff and postgraduate students who are using discovery and translational research to develop cell and drug therapies to treat spinal cord injury, peripheral nerve injury and neurodegeneration.

*“Having highly skilled and imaginative staff who can pursue innovative approaches is the key to success. We are now developing and testing therapies that we had not even imagined were possible a few years ago.”*

“We hope that we can get some of these therapies into the clinic in the near future which wouldn’t be the case if we weren’t supported by the Clem Jones Foundation,” Associate Professor Ekberg said.



## *Composition award leads to ‘Misadventure on a Childhood Tune’*

Queensland Conservatorium students have been given the opportunity to have work commissioned as part of the Silver Harris and Jeff Peck Composition Award.

The annual award is offered to a potential graduand from Bachelor of Music, Master of Music Studies or student majoring in Composition, for exceptional skill and promise in composition.

The most recent winner of the prize, Isabella Gerometta, has had her music performed both nationally and internationally by The Australian Voices at Musica Viva, QSO Current and the Brisbane Powerhouse.

“I was the honoured recipient of the Queensland Conservatorium’s Silver Harris and Jeff Peck Composition Award, which takes the form of a commission. As part of this commission I was fortunate to write for the Queensland Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra and conductor Johannes Fritzsich,” Isabella said.

*“For a young composer, getting a commission for symphony orchestra with a brief of ‘do with it what you please’ is a huge blessing—it meant that I could be as creative as I liked and broadcast myself to a really receptive audience of classical music lovers.”*

“This was also the first original orchestral piece I’ve ever had performed, so an exciting experience all around.”

“Working with Johannes Fritzsich was an absolute pleasure. When composing you take risks, and some ideas work while others don’t. He was always incredibly supportive of my creativity in that regard and offered great solutions for things that didn’t suit the ensemble,” Isabella said.

Isabella’s commission piece, ‘Misadventure on a Childhood Tune,’ is her tribute to the first piece she ever learnt to play on the piano: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. Originally known as ‘Ah, vous dirai-je maman’, this melody has been the subject of interpretation for centuries by the likes of Camille Saint-Saëns, Franz Liszt, Johann Christoph Friedrich Bach and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart among others.

In Misadventure on a Childhood Tune the music is played backwards, inside-out with the note values reversed and with intervals sorted from smallest to largest amongst other transformations. The opening is a chaotic nebula—a cloud of space dust and the birth of our star—on a chord made up of every interval in the tune stacked vertically on top of each other.

“Working on this piece was really special and I’m honoured to have had the opportunity to create it as part of winning the Composition Award,” Isabella said.

The future is bright for Isabella who also studies conducting and has directed performances of The Australian Voices at the Adelaide Fringe Festival and QSO Current for the premiere of a Philip Glass arrangement conducted by Alondra de la Parra.



Isabella Gerometta



## *COVID Bursary supports at risk students*

COVID-19 created a truly tumultuous 2020 and students suffered the impacts greatly. From losing part-time work hours to feeling isolated from family members while studying away from home. Students also had to navigate moving to online study. In a bid to support students, Griffith University created the COVID-19 Student Support Bursary package. The bursary provided up to \$2,000 to assist students under significant financial hardship, providing cover for study and personal expenses such as food, rent and medical needs.

More than 5,000 students were supported with a bursary and the heartfelt thanks from students to donors was overwhelming, with stories of perseverance and resilience a common theme throughout.

Brittany Williams had started her first year of study just weeks before COVID-19 struck. The 26-year-old relocated to the Gold Coast from the Central Coast of NSW by herself, to pursue her dream of studying a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. When Brittany was 17, she was diagnosed with several health issues, which made moving interstate to be more independent even more challenging.

Brittany Williams (left)



"I had just made the big change of moving interstate on my own, to begin my degree at Griffith. As a person with a disability, this was a monumental leap of faith both personally and financially. But I did it, all the while battling carpal tunnel syndrome in both of my wrists, which made it difficult to seek employment in my trade of beauty therapy," Brittany said.

*"When COVID-19 struck, I had little hope of gaining employment and the bills piled up to the point where I had to seriously re-consider my options."*

Determined to continue her studies and stay living on the Gold Coast, Brittany came across the COVID-19 Student Support Bursary and applied immediately.

"When I found out that I had received a bursary I was elated. I was so grateful to the donors and to Griffith University and confident that I could make it through this period of hardship. I also felt reassured that Griffith University is where I belong.

"The bursary I received was the main reason I was able to make it through my first Trimester and it provided me with the financial freedom to stay focused on my degree. I was able to stay at university; I was able to afford my rent. I didn't have to move home, and I didn't have to drop out.

"Most importantly, the bursary I received helped me gain the confidence in realising how capable I actually am," Brittany said.

Brittany, along with thousands of students who received financial support through the bursary have been extremely grateful to the donors and Griffith for supporting them during the pandemic.

"To everyone who donated I would like to thank you for this opportunity and generosity," Brittany said.

*"I have struggled so much, and your support has given me the freedom to keep my dreams at Griffith alive and find the confidence to succeed."*

## *Philanthropy links arms together with researchers on development of early detection test for ovarian cancer*

Idowu Koyenikan once said, “There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests get together to work toward the same goals.”

The Institute for Glycomics has witnessed this power through philanthropy with a funding boost toward their mission for an early detection test for ovarian cancer.

Statistics currently indicate only 45% of all women diagnosed with ovarian cancer are likely to survive past five years. For women diagnosed in the advanced stages of the disease, the survival rate drops to 25%.

Lead project researcher Professor Michael Jennings, who leads a dedicated team of researchers comprising of Dr Lucy Shewell, Dr Christopher Day, and Associate Professor Daniel Kolarich, said, “Despite decades of research, there is no reliable early detection test to diagnose ovarian cancer, which leads to poor survivability rates. With no substantial improvement in survival rates over the past two decades, the key to ovarian cancer survival lies in the development of better diagnostic methods which is what this significant funding will help create. If diagnosed early, over 90% of ovarian cancer patients could be cured. Tumours that are detected early, before they have had a chance to spread, can be completely removed by surgery, effectively curing the patient.”

When Tour de Cure was presented with the current survival rates, the proposed project and the potential impact on the future of ovarian cancer survivability, it was evident that urgent action needed to be taken to reverse these alarming statistics. It was through Tour de Cure’s extensive network that the Bourne Foundation were introduced to the Institute for Glycomics and this research project. The Bourne Foundation has pledged \$300,000 and Tour de Cure have confirmed their funding support, providing this ovarian cancer diagnostic research the boost it so deservedly needed.

Institute for Glycomics Director Professor Mark von Itzstein AO, said he was excited about the potential of the research project.

“The development of an accurate and sensitive early detection test that is easily accessible to women will dramatically improve survivability for ovarian cancer sufferers. It has the potential to save the lives of up to 900 Australian women each year and more than 140,000 women across the globe suffering from this debilitating disease.

“Philanthropy is such an important component in taking bold ideas through initial development. It is through the power of combined philanthropic donations that our research can be fast tracked to bring an end to some of the world’s most devastating cancers and infectious diseases,” he said.

*“Tour de Cure and The Bourne Foundation have joined forces with us to help make this vision a reality. We are truly grateful for their support as we continue to pave the way to a cancer free future.”*



Professor Michael Jennings (right)





## *Bushfire Recovery Project: Science-Informing Forest Response*

The Black Summer bushfires in Australia were unprecedented in their geographic scale and impact on our native forests.

The catastrophic fire season was driven by climate change, which has caused an increase in extreme heatwaves, prolonged and severe winter drought, and lengthening of the fire season. With more climate change in the pipeline, our post-fire forest management responses need to recognise this new norm and be based on a sound scientific understanding of what is needed to promote natural regeneration of forests and wildlife, and future ecological resilience.

A groundswell of community concern and action among local and regional land care, animal welfare groups and Indigenous communities has created demand for reliable science-based information regarding post-fire forest recovery. This 'bottom up' concern is matched by the increased focus from national, state and local government authorities and the need for information that can inform planning, management and related decision-making. With philanthropic support from a Foundation, and significant co-investment from the Griffith Climate Change Response program, the Bushfire Recovery Project was born.

Soft tree fern, *Dicksonia antarctica*, in Monga National Park—sprouting three weeks after the Currowan fire burned through the area. January 2020.  
Credit: Andrew Wong.

Led by project director and co-lead investigator Professor Brendan Mackey, Director of Griffith Climate Change Response, the project provides clear and scientifically backed information on critical forest fire issues along with recommendations and options for forest recovery for distribution to stakeholders. The project was implemented in partnership with Prof David Lindenmayer from The Australian National University and the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative—a community-based conservation NGO—and comprised of three main components:

- Publication of a series of reports based on an assessment of peer reviewed science that addresses key issues concerning bushfires, forests, climate and management.
- A citizen science smart phone app was developed that enables anyone and everyone—bushwalkers, members of land care groups, amateur naturalists, Indigenous rangers—to record observation about the state of forest regrowth, habitat features and wildlife. This data is then automatically uploaded to a web-based interactive map where they can be viewed.
- Satellite data was analysed to map the 2019–2020 Black Summer bushfire footprint, including the fire intensity. The reports, citizen science and satellite data are all made available on the project's website: **[bushfirefacts.org](https://bushfirefacts.org)**

*“The citizen science observations include photographs of wildlife and their habitat, which provide valuable insights into local ecological conditions. In addition, this data is compiled and analysed by the project team to help calibrate and validate the satellite-based monitoring of forest condition and recovery.”*

The impact of this philanthropic support will be felt for years to come by communities around Australia and potentially overseas as more funding is sought to expand the regions covered.

## *Philanthropist profile: Perry Cross and the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation*

One of Griffith's biggest supporters in the field of spinal cord injury research received the Queensland Community Foundation (QCF) Board of Governor's Outstanding Achievement Award for 2020.

Perry Cross AM, through his Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation, has helped raised over \$11 million in the past 10 years for research, kick-starting several major projects which include the Spinal Injury Project (SIP) at the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD) and Menzies Health Institute Queensland (MHIQ).

Associate Professor James St John said it was thanks to the generous support of Perry's Foundation, that SIP was now progressing towards a human clinical trial to treat spinal cord injury using a treatment which was pioneered in 2002 by 2017 Australian of the Year, Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim.

*“This is all thanks to Perry’s vision and his determination to create positive change for people living with spinal cord injury.”*

*“Perry Cross is an inspiring philanthropist and certainly deserves the recognition. It is always a highlight to hear Perry speak to an audience about the impact of spinal cord injury and the need to find a cure.”*

“Spinal cord injury affects 15,000 Australians and Perry's Foundation continues to raise crucial funding,” St John said.

The Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation's most recent philanthropy has supported several research programs at Griffith, including a project led by Associate Professor Jenny Ekberg that is developing a therapy to promote regeneration by removing damaged cells, and a clinical trial led by Associate Professor James St John to test the efficacy of a long-term intensive rehabilitation program for people living with chronic spinal cord injury.





Mr Perry Cross AM

*Your generosity and support help build  
a better future for all. Thank you.*