I am delighted to report that with your support Griffith University has been able to make a difference. This report showcases the impact that your support has enabled in many areas in 2016.

Nearly 800 new supporters, along with our existing donors, believe in the University’s students, research and initiatives. The value of this support is immeasurable and enables discoveries, opens up opportunities, feeds knowledge, inspires ideas and supports passionate and caring people. It changes lives.

Thank you.

Vice Chancellor and President
The Griffith Futures Scholarship is so precious. It means I can continue with my studies, stay at university until I graduate, and support my family.

– Bec Silman, Griffith Futures Scholarship recipient

6. Supporting Students: Based on factors such as academic excellence, athletic achievement, public service and cultural background, Griffith University now offers almost 700 scholarships to help new and continuing students through direct financial support.

7. Law: Donor generosity continues to allow Griffith law students to compete in the prestigious Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, an international event with its annual final in Vienna. The donation supports a Griffith Law School team comprising approximately six students per year to attend and compete. Over 10 years, the donor has made it possible for 64 law students getting to compete and gain practical arbitration experience in an international context, as well as to become part of the Australian and international Vis Moot community and Vis Moot LinkedIn group. This experience and achievement sets up students for a promising career in law.

8. Queensland Conservatorium: Your generosity is aiding Griffith’s commitment to the future of music and the creative and visual arts, producing research and graduates pushing boundaries and changing the arts and cultural landscape. With your support, our students in 2016 were given the opportunity to perform fully staged works, under the expert guidance of international industry leaders – Director Bruce Beresford and Maestro Johannes Frizsch – and to tour overseas and all around Australia. Our Musical Theatre students recently returned from their showcase tour in Sydney and Melbourne. Opportunities like these have a deep impact on our students’ ability to jump straight into the job market with experience under their belts.

9. Logan Together: Griffith University is proudly hosting an Australian-first initiative to improve the early development of children in the city of Logan thanks to philanthropic funding and government grants from local, state and federal governments. This year, 24 projects have been launched across the span of maternity care, education, health and social and emotional wellbeing. This is a REMARKABLE example of community giving with collective impact.

10. First-class teaching facilities: Support from donors helps provide our students with world-class learning experiences in advanced teaching facilities. For example, the Margaret Mittelheuser AM Trading Room, in the Griffith Business School, provides real-time access to global financial markets combined with the sophisticated analytical tools used by investment professionals.

11. Autism: Support for the Autism Centre of Excellence enables researchers to continue their work towards improving the education of children with autism. The ACE fundraising cycle ride was established three years ago by a husband and wife team after they attended a workshop for parents and carers at the Autism Centre of Excellence. In 2016, 44 riders cycled 300km and raised more than $30,000 to provide free workshops for families with children with autism. More than 360 families have benefited from ACE workshops in the past three years. It’s likely every teacher will come into contact with a person affected by an ASD. To be armed with professional and personal insight is invaluable.

– Danielle Ward, Master of Autism Studies

12. Collaborative Impact: Through the medium of combined fundraising efforts and online platforms such as Everydayhero, all levels of support can add up and produce a big impact. As an example, funds raised through this approach have supported the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention (AISRAP), a research, clinical services and training and education centre now in its 20th year of operation. Funding provided for the successful implementation of a World Suicide Prevention Day community seminar in Brisbane in September. A large number of national stakeholders came together to share and learn current and best practices in providing ongoing support for continued suicide research and prevention.

13. First Peoples Education: Your generous donations to First Peoples scholarships recognise the aspirational nature of our commitment to promoting reconciliation, respect, education and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This year, 118 First Peoples students graduated from degrees at Griffith University – more than any other university in Australia.

14. Bequests: Perhaps the most selfless act of all, your bequest is an invaluable legacy that creates a lasting footprint for the future. In 2016, thanks to a bequest from an alumnus, the University launched the Harry Gentle Resource Centre, an online portal dedicated to early Australian history.

15. Australia’s Heritage: Your donations are paving the way to the building of a war memorial in Brisbane’s ANZAC Square. The memorial is dedicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have served in war, including those who have paid the supreme sacrifice for our country.

16. Our Future: Donors are currently supporting two major projects in the Griffith Climate Change Response Program. Cyclone-proof shelters for Vanuatu will be powered by green, mini-power plant systems. These shelters will assist communities in developing more climate change resilient settlements. Further, the benefits of ecosystem-based approaches for climate change are being explored to provide an integrated approach to land, water and resource management for a more sustainable future.
Vale: Griffith University lost four of its most passionate supporters in 2016

Mr Jock McIlwain OAM DUniv passed away in February. Acknowledged as a man who helped shape the modern Gold Coast, Mr McIlwain was a fervent believer in the value and power of education. A former engineer, city councillor and Chamber of Commerce president, Mr McIlwain and his wife Beverly formed a formidable philanthropic partnership over many years, creating and supporting programs covering education, the arts and more to benefit the people and the city of Gold Coast.

Mr Terry Robertson DUniv passed away in September. A member of Griffith University’s Foundation Board, Mr Robertson was pivotal to the establishment of the Institute for Glycomics and leaves behind a rich legacy for the University through his advocacy across a range of initiatives.

Mr Peter Hobart OAM DUniv was instrumental in establishing the Gold Coast campus. The Foundation Chairperson of the Advisory Council of the Gold Coast University College, Mr Hobart passed away in August.

Mr Toshiaki Ogasawara DUniv was a strong supporter of the University. He was Founding Patron of the Griffith University Fund and a significant contributor to the Institute for Glycomics on the Gold Coast campus. The Ogasawara Foundation has also funded a number of University initiatives through the Queensland Development Research Institute. Mr Ogasawara passed away in December.

Donor story: Dr John Kearney

Chair in Rock Art Research at Griffith University, Professor Paul Taçon, is helping to save Australia’s heritage for future generations. He identifies our rock art as “Australia’s crown jewels”, a description that certainly struck a chord with leading Australian ophthalmologist Dr John Kearney, chairman of Griffith University’s Gold Coast Advisory Board and founding principal of the Gold Coast Eye Clinic.

“When I heard Paul speak it just hit home to me how valuable these sites are to the story of our nation,” says Dr Kearney. In 2013, Dr Kearney donated a major gift towards Professor Taçon’s research and he remains a generous supporter.

“I would urge others to support Paul because our cultural heritage is so important. Ways should be found to protect it, celebrate it and still ensure it can be seen.”

Professor Taçon says support such as that provided by Dr Kearney and other donors is helping to advance understanding about Australian history and human evolution.

Giving Circles

Giving Circles represent the coming together of individuals to support projects of their choosing. For example, the Institute for Glycomics Giving Circle at Griffith University was established in 2015 and comprises a group of women collaborating to empower early career female researchers.

In 2016, pooled funding has been divided between Honours projects, travel projects and the purchase of new equipment. Former Griffith Chancellor, The Honourable Ms Leneen Forde AC, is the patron of the Glycomics Giving Circle.

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