

# DONOR IMPACT

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*Changing lives through  
education and research*







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Griffith Futures Scholarship recipients at the Gold Coast



## *Thank you for helping us achieve the remarkable*

As a valued Griffith University donor, I want to thank you for your unwavering support of research excellence and outstanding scholarship at the University.

Your belief gave our brightest students access to a world-class education, regardless of their personal circumstances.

Your support has advanced research to find cures for debilitating illnesses and helped to implement new innovations with the potential to improve the lives of others for years to come.

My sincerest thanks to you and all our generous supporters for investing in Griffith University to make this a better world for everyone.



**Professor Carolyn Evans**  
Vice Chancellor and President





*Donor community in numbers*

Changing lives through education and research

## Record breaking generosity

**\$13M+** in donations had a huge impact



**\$10M+**  
research



**\$800,000**  
other programs



**\$2M+**  
scholarships

**850+** generous donors made a difference



**30%**  
were alumni



**826+**  
Australian donors



**24**  
international  
donors

## Remembering First Australians

A ground swell of support for a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander war memorial in Brisbane's Anzac Square has helped accelerate plans for its construction.

Honouring First Australian servicemen and women, the memorial will symbolise their service and sacrifice.

Griffith University is a principal partner of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dedicated Memorial Queensland Incorporated (ATSIDMQI), a volunteer group overseeing the creation of the memorial.

ATSIDMQI president and war veteran Lorraine Hatton OAM said community support and a significant gift from a local philanthropist were instrumental in ensuring this important historical legacy became a reality.

"We are so grateful to our passionate and dedicated supporters," she said.

"With their help, we are designing and building a monument that will honour the sacrifices and contributions of Indigenous men and women who served, and ensure their stories are remembered.

*"Together, we are acknowledging our past and creating a richer understanding of Australian history for the future."*



Studio portrait of Aboriginal servicewoman QF267190  
Lance Corporal Kathleen Jean Mary (Kath) Walker





Memorial sculpture by  
Liam Hardy, Sculpt Studios

## *Parkinson's researchers making a mark*

Researchers are optimistic about a project to develop biomarker tests to help identify early signs of Parkinson's disease (PD) and its progression.

If successful, the biomarker tests would allow researchers to measure the disease process in PD patients and pinpoint unique indicators of the disease, similar to a blood sugar test for people with diabetes.

The academic lead of the Queensland Parkinson's Project (QPP) Professor George Mellick (pictured below) said early detection was vital in the search for a cure and he hoped the biomarker tests would soon be ready for clinical trials.



"It is now accepted that PD has been progressing in patients for five to 10 years, or longer, before clinical diagnosis," he said.

"At present, there is no way to identify PD patients in these crucial pre-symptomatic stages, the time window which would allow the best response to protective interventions.

"In the next few years we intend to take our biomarker tests into clinical trials for people with Parkinson's disease, which is an amazing step forward."

More than 80,000 Australians are living with Parkinson's, a neurological disorder affecting a person's body, mind and quality of life. While traditionally thought of as a disorder of movement (with characteristic tremor, slowness and rigidity), it is becoming clearer that non-motor symptoms like depression, anxiety, sleep problems and loss of the sense of smell can be significant and may appear years before a Parkinson's diagnosis.

Support from organisations like Parkinson's Queensland, AEGIUM Foundation, the Clem Jones Foundation and a large, Gold Coast-based private donor have been instrumental in advancing QPP research.

*"Our hope to solve the complex puzzle of Parkinson's disease relies on a global coordinated research effort, one we cannot do alone," Professor Mellick said.*

## *Fellowships boost chronic fatigue research*

World-leading research into the treatment of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS)/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) has intensified at the National Centre for Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases (NCNED), giving patients fresh hope of finding a universal treatment.


The research effort into the debilitating illness was given a boost when the Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation announced it would fund two Professorial Fellowships over the next four years at NCNED, embedded within the Menzies Health Institute Queensland.

NCNED lead researchers Professors Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik and Donald Staines were awarded the fellowships for their work into biomedical and clinical treatments of CFS/ME.

“The whole NCNED team is proud and delighted at the recognition of our achievements in this way. We are immensely grateful to the Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation for their foresight in creating these fellowships,” Professor Marshall-Gradisnik said.

The NCNED specialises in CFS/ME preventative medicine, social and clinical care and improved public health outcomes.

Generous support from the Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation, the Mason Foundation and the McCusker Foundation has accelerated this research.



NCNED lead researchers Professors Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik and Donald Staines

*“With this generous and ongoing support, we have achieved significant research results and understanding behind the pathology of CFS/ME and are now focusing on using these discoveries to find pharmaco-therapeutic interventions for patients.”*

## Artistic gift

Griffith University Art Museum added four notable works to its collection following a generous donation from Australian contemporary artist Davida Allen.

The works on paper, which have never been seen before, were part of a survey exhibition *Davida Allen: In the Moment* revealing Ms Allen's expressive style and brutally honest depiction of domestic life in Australia.

A full colour publication of the exhibition, funded through a donation from Philip Bacon AM DUniv, was also released in conjunction with a range of public program collaborations.

Exhibition curator and Director of Griffith University Art Museum Angela Goddard said the program's success was thanks to the generosity of Ms Allen and like-minded people who believe in the value of art in society.

"Davida kindly gifted the University some extraordinary, compelling works and allowed us access to her life and memories with enthusiasm and commitment," she said.



*“Her generosity along with that of our supporters was an inspiring force and played a vital role in helping us deliver a world-class exhibition.”*

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Left page, left: *Drawing #1* 1982. Griffith University Art Collection.

Donated by the artist through the Australian Government’s Cultural Gifts Program, 2017.


Left page, middle: *An Actor* 1986. From the *Sam Neill Suite*. Griffith University Art Collection.

Donated by the artist through the Australian Government’s Cultural Gifts Program, 2007.

Left page, right: *Death of My Father with Halo* c.1983. From the series *Death of My Father*.

Griffith University Art Collection. Donated by the artist through the Australian Government’s Cultural Gifts Program, 1999.

Below: *The Orange Flowering Tree* 2016. Griffith University Art Collection. Purchased 2016.



**Davida Allen**  
Renowned Australian artist and  
Griffith University Art Museum donor

## *Scholarships empower students*

The Griffith community gave generously to the Students' Future Fund in 2018, distributing a record **\$730,000** and creating **146** life-changing scholarships.

Supported through Griffith's Annual Appeal, Staff Giving and the Abedian Foundation scholarships program, the fund empowers students to pursue their dreams, investing in their education and future.

### *Zakarye's story*

Griffith Futures Scholarship recipient Zakarye Dib (pictured right) reflected on the gift of education and starting a new career at a global engineering and design company.

Zak said the scholarship provided him with invaluable support and led him to become a scholarship donor.

"The impact goes so much further than anyone knows, it was a great help to me and changed my future," he said.

"It came at a time when I needed it and I'm so very grateful.

*"I know what a difference a scholarship can make and hope my support will help a student complete their degree too."*



## *Bloomberg gift sees student dividends*

A donation to equip Griffith Business School students with state-of-the-art finance software five years ago has led to the launch of Queensland's biggest Student Investment Fund (the Fund) at Griffith University.

The \$250,000 Fund gives eligible students the opportunity to invest in socially responsible ASX listed companies using Griffith Business School's Trading Rooms.

Fitted with 24 Bloomberg terminals, the Trading Rooms provide real-time access to global financial markets combined with the sophisticated analytical tools allowing students to observe and study global market movement and behaviour.

Named in honour of Australia's first female stockbroker, Margaret Mittelheuser AM DUniv, the Trading Rooms are supported through a financial gift from Ms Mittelheuser's sister, Dr Cathryn Mittelheuser.

Professor of Finance Dr Robert Bianchi said the Trading Rooms were an invaluable education resource and led to other learning opportunities through University initiatives such as the Fund.

*"Thanks to our wonderful supporters we are finding new ways to invest in our students and the future," he said.*

"Margaret Mittelheuser was a role model for women in the finance industry and her family's generosity will ensure she continues to inspire the next generation of future business leaders."

All dividends from the Fund are reinvested into supporting scholarships for Griffith Business School students.



## *Griffith researchers to save waterways*

A \$1m donation from the Ian Potter Foundation has advanced Australian Rivers Institute (ARI) research efforts to better protect catchments and river systems from the impact of extreme weather events.

The *Catchment Resilience* project will develop state-of-the-art digital tools to guide on-ground investment to reduce flood damage and associated sediment and nutrient pollution in South East Queensland, with plans to expand the project globally.

Finding cost-effective community solutions to sustainable water management relies on strong community partnerships and key support from government, industry and philanthropic organisations.

ARI Director Professor Stuart Bunn said it was crucial communities and key stakeholders worked together to identify options for improved land and water management practices, and reduce risks to the environment and livelihoods in the future.

“These complex problems can only be addressed if you bring people along with you and we are incredibly grateful to all our supporters for working with us to address this challenge,” he said.

“The Ian Potter Foundation has been the catalyst for co-investment in these game-changing catchment management tools.

*“Together, we can find clever ways to protect our precious waterways both here and overseas.”*









Oliver Boyd in Queensland Conservatorium's Dry River Run  
Photo: Christian Tiger

## *Master of music goes international*

A music scholarship has led talented Queensland baritone Oliver Boyd to the prestigious halls of Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin, where he is studying his Masters of Voice.

“My journey to get to this point has taken a little bit of time,” Oliver said.

“It has really encompassed years of private tuition and years of studying at the Queensland Conservatorium.

“I feel like my whole life has been leading up to me studying music overseas.”

Oliver’s hard work and talent was recognised when he was awarded the Joyce Campbell Lloyd Scholarship.

In its 25th year, the scholarship has supported dozens of Australian musicians to train and perform internationally.

*“The support for young and emerging artists overseas is so important,” Oliver said.*

“It allows students to experience new ways of thinking and enriches the cultural landscape in Australia when they return.

“For me, studying overseas was a pipe dream; something I wanted to do but wasn’t sure how.

*“Winning this scholarship has turned my dream into a reality and given me the best chance of singing professionally.”*

## *Education is the foundation for opportunity*

Griffith was a university on the rise when Karl Morris AO was a Bachelor of Commerce student in the late eighties. Now, Mr Morris is giving back to the University that helped launch his career, ensuring it continues to soar in his capacity as a scholarship provider.

“In my era the University was in its infancy with less than 5,000 students. I’ve been amazed to see it grow to become a first-class institution,” he said.

After graduating with his Griffith degree, Mr Morris quickly found a talent for stockbroking and finance, establishing a career as a leading Australian businessman.

He is chair of Ord Minnett and QSuper but is more widely known for his role as chair of rugby league’s Brisbane Broncos.

“I have a very strong work ethic and have always been committed to doing the best job I can,” he said.

*“It’s also been a joy for me to continually learn throughout my career through higher education, I’ve always felt it’s one of the best investments you can make.”*

Karl Morris AO  
Griffith Alumnus



Given his commitment to making a difference in the lives of others, Mr Morris has chosen to make an impact on the next generation of globally responsible business leaders. Through the creation of the Karl Morris Scholarship he is helping those students who demonstrate the talent, but are financially disadvantaged, to realise their full potential.

“You reach a certain point where you want to give back and for me education is absolutely key. It fixes many social ills and teaches people how to be open, thoughtful, critical thinkers,” he said.

“I get satisfaction thinking someone is getting the same opportunity I did.”

Mr Morris has a passion for all areas of philanthropy and has seen first-hand the impact it has on advancing education and research through his different roles at the University. He believes more can be achieved at Griffith through the support of its alumni community.

“We have all had the benefit of a great education, which now puts us in a position where we can give back,” he said.

*“Imagine what a difference we could make if all our alumni community became donors of their money, time or expertise.”*

“In the USA, university alumni are tribal in their support. I hope that culture grows within our own alumni community.”



2018 Karl Morris Scholarship recipients Mary Ann Almasan and Lloyd Priest

## *A family legacy*

Sowing the seeds for the next generation of Australians is deeply embedded in the psyche of Queensland sugar mill owner and family patriarch, Bill Heck OAM DUniv.

A proud fourth generation Gold Coaster, Mr Heck has spent a lifetime investing in community.

“Philanthropy is in its infancy in Australia but it’s terribly important successful people do what they can to help and invest in this country’s future,” he said.

A long-term supporter of Griffith, Mr Heck played a key role in bringing the University to the city and plans to continue his passionate support for education through a bequest.

“We know from meeting students and researchers that philanthropy really can change lives. We can help shape the future,” he said.

“Griffith is critically important to the development of the Gold Coast and education, and the development of local businesses.”

*“The University has done so much for the area through its research and infrastructure, but it can’t stand alone, there needs to be an ongoing partnership between the University and community.”*



Queensland philanthropists Bill and Pat Heck

## *Philanthropy makes music at Griffith*

A musical legacy stretching back to a famous artistic family in Austria, has been passed onto the next generation of pianists through the creation of a Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University scholarship.

The Emily Reinhardt Piano Scholarship, made possible through a \$1 million bequest from the estate of Emily and Peter Reinhardt, will ensure their wish to invest in the future of young, talented musicians lives on.

Mrs Reinhardt's husband Peter came from a famous artistic family in Austria, whose stunning home provided the setting for the iconic film, *The Sound of Music*.

Like many people of Jewish descent, Peter was forced to flee Austria during WWII finding refuge in the Netherlands, where he met Emily, who was involved in the Dutch Resistance.

In 1950 the couple immigrated to the Gold Coast to start a new life and following the fall of the Berlin Wall, the German government compensated the Reinhardt family. Emily and Peter decided to gift their share of the inheritance to help nurture the careers of young musicians.

Queensland Conservatorium Director Professor Scott Harrison said the gift would be 'life-changing.'

Emily and Peter Reinhardt

*“Music played an incredibly important role in Emily Reinhardt’s life. Her generous gift will have a very real impact on our students—this scholarship has the power to change lives.”*



*A heartfelt thank you to our valued  
supporters for joining us on this journey.  
You make a difference.*