Dr Barry Kirby AO – Griffith University Outstanding Alumnus 2019

Dr Barry Kirby AO was a carpenter in Papua New Guinea (PNG) when he witnessed the death of a woman in child birth. That inspired him to make a difference and at the age of 40, enrolled at Griffith to begin his journey to become a doctor. He’s since dedicated his career and life focus to improving the lives of mothers and babies in PNG through his not-for-profit organisation, The Hands Of Rescue (THOR). In 2018, he was awarded an AO for his services to Australian-PNG relations.

Key Issues for Reporting

In this report I provide a brief overview of several matters upon which I will elaborate at the meeting:

- 2019 Griffith University Outstanding Alumni Awards
- Recruitment of senior staff
- Commonwealth Government Relations
- Selected highlights – Research, Learning and Teaching, and People.

I will also provide Council with an update on a confidential ruling by the Fair Work Commission.
2019 Griffith University Outstanding Alumni Awards

Griffith values were well on display at the 2019 Outstanding Alumni Awards held in September on the Gold Coast. Take the moving story of Dr Barry Kirby AO, our Outstanding Alumnus for 2019, who became a doctor at the age of 52, driven by a desire to improve maternal health outcomes in Papua New Guinea. Dr Kirby’s commitment, and above all his compassion, to improving the lives of women in remote regions in desperate need of better healthcare provided one of several moving moments on the evening. Everybody in the room would have felt pride in what Griffith stands for as Barry discussed his gratitude to Griffith for giving him the break to pursue his second career.

Equally inspiring were our other three major winners:

Dr Elizabeth Hamilton, Outstanding Young Alumnus Winner

Dr Hamilton is committed to global health equality and has contributed to the organisation of international health aid projects in her previous role as Director, Ubuntu Through Health. Armed with a goal to contribute to global health, she has interned at regional hospitals, written award-winning essays and presented at international health conferences. In 2018, she was awarded the Queensland Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University.

Dr Hum Gurung, Outstanding International Alumnus Award Winner

Nepalese-born Dr Hum Gurung is the third person from his home village, to receive a university doctorate degree. He has dedicated his professional life to promoting environmental conservation and has become a respected ambassador for conservation between Nepal and Australia. His continuous efforts to ensure conservation is for, of and by the people, have brought a great sense of community achievement to the Nepal Himalayas.

Dr Kerry Bodle, Outstanding First Peoples Alumnus Award Winner

Dr Bodle began her tertiary education journey at age 38. Since then, she’s completed a PhD and is using her business expertise to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples participation in business education, research, engagement and employment. She is a well-respected educator and mentor and has recently been appointed as the Griffith Business School Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Academic Director.
Recruitment of senior staff

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research)

As members are aware the University has announced the appointment of Professor Mario Pinto as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) commencing in the role in February 2020. Professor Pinto is an internationally respected chemical biologist who joins Griffith’s leadership team after serving as President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Chair of the Global Research Council, and Vice President Research and Chair of Chemistry at Simon Fraser University.

A recipient of numerous awards recognising the quality and impact of his research, including a Fellowship in the Royal Society of Canada, Professor Pinto boasts an enviable record in brokering partnerships with industry and commercialising entities, government departments, community organisations and international partners.

Recruitment to other senior positions

At the time of writing the University had not made announcements about progress in filling the key positions of Pro Vice Chancellor (Arts, Education and Law) and Pro Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning). I will provide an update about both positions at the meeting.

Recruitment of PVC (Indigenous)

One of the commitments of the new Strategic Plan is to strengthen our First Peoples leadership structures. With that in mind I am delighted to announce that recruitment is now underway for the position of Pro Vice Chancellor (Indigenous). Council approved the position description for this position at its meeting in June. The PVC (Indigenous), advertised on-line and in The Australian Higher Education Supplement, will be the University’s executive leader and significant influencer and enabler of University activity and initiatives in Indigenous education, community engagement, research and innovation.

Times HE World University Rankings 2020

The University achieved another excellent outcome in mid-September, breaking into the Top 201-250 band for the first time on the influential Times HE World University Rankings 2020. This result is notable for several reasons, including that the University improved its scores on all five main indicators – teaching, research, citations, industry, and international. Moreover, 2019 stands as the first year in which Griffith has improved its position on the four major world rankings – the Times HE rankings, the Academic Ranking of World Universities, the Leiden Ranking, and the QS World University Rankings.

Rankings outcomes such as this are more than just a number and reflect across-the-board improvement by Griffith and further recognition of its standing as a major global university. A Top 250 world ranking strengthens Griffith’s ability to attract outstanding staff and
students who will in turn do their part to raise academic standards further. The University will leverage off these rankings in planned reputation-building promotions in 2020 and beyond.

That concludes the major rankings announcements for 2019 with several less well-known ones to follow including the US News Global University Rankings where Griffith was ranked 240th in 2018 and the University Rankings by Academic Performance (279th in 2018).

**Sir Zelman Centenary commemorations**

It was a privilege to be a part of the Sir Zelman Cowen Centenary commemorations as Vice Chancellor of one of the universities upon which Sir Zelman Cowen made his mark. These included the universities of Melbourne, Oxford, New England, Queensland, Griffith and Victoria.

Held in late August at the Sir Zelman Cowen Centre in Melbourne, the event included a Vice-Chancellor’s panel session which invited those present to share reflections about Sir Zelman’s contributions to their respective universities. In Griffith’s case this entailed sharing details about Sir Zelman’s enormous contributions to the establishment of the Griffith Law School. The event was followed in the afternoon by a Symposium and Roundtable on the 'Role of Universities in the 2020s'.

*Pictured left – right at the Sir Zelman Cowen Centenary commemorations, Professor Glyn Davis AC (Ramsay Foundation), Professor Carolyn Evans (Griffith), Minister for Education The Honourable Dan Tehan MP, Professor Peter Dawkins AO (VictoriaU), Professor Annabelle Duncan PSM (UNE), Professor Duncan Maskell (UMelb), Professor Peter Høj AC (UQld).*
Commonwealth Government Relations

The University has hosted several Federal Ministerial visits over the past two months:

- The Hon. Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women who met with several Griffith New Colombo Plan scholars at the Gold Coast campus.
- The Hon. Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health who visited the Institute for Glycomics and ADaPT 1.0.
- The Hon. Stuart Robert MP, Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Minister for Government Services and Member for Fadden – visit to the Spinal Injury Project and subsequent meeting with Griffith staff and representative from the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation (11 October).

It is important to mention that two of these visits were facilitated by Angie Bell MP, Federal Member for Moncrieff.

I have also met with the following Federal Members of Parliament and Senator in their electorate offices:

- The Hon. Karen Andrews MP, Minister for Industry, Science and Technology and Federal Member for McPherson
- Bert van Manen MP, Federal Member for Forde
- Terri Butler MP, Federal Member for Griffith
- Trevor Evans MP, Federal Member for Brisbane
- Senator Larissa Waters, Senator for Queensland
- I have also met with Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner

Over the course of two days in Canberra on 10-11 September, I also carried out meetings with Federal politicians including:

- The Hon. Brendan O’Connor MP, Shadow Minister for Small and Family Business
- The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Shadow Minister for Education and Training
- The Hon. Dr Jim Chalmers MP, Shadow Treasurer and Member for Rankin
- Graham Perrett MP, Federal Member for Moreton
- Julian Leeser, MP, Chair, Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs and Migration
- The Hon. Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure
- The Hon. Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Education
- The Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC MP, Shadow Minister for Constitutional Reform

Additional meetings were held with senior departmental officers – Departments of Education and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.
**Update on the Performance-based Funding Model**

The Minister for Education the Honourable Dan Tehan MP has released details of the performance-based funding model which will provide additional funding from 2020 through the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) in line with the population growth of the 18-64 year old cohort.

Performance will be assessed across four measures: graduate employment outcomes, student success, student experience, and participation of Indigenous, low socio-economic status, and regional and remote students. Graduate employment outcomes will account for 40 per cent of funding, with the other three measures weighted at 20 per cent each.

Starting in 2020, performance-based funding will determine more than $80 million in CGS funding, growing over following years to 7.5 per cent of CGS for domestic non-medical bachelor level students at public universities. Where a university does not meet its performance target it will be supported to improve their performance allowing the Government to adjust the national distribution of places and priorities over time.

**Gold Coast Bulletin Op-ed Piece – Gold Coast as a regional city**

An op-ed piece published in the Gold Coast Bulletin, addressing the exclusion of the Gold Coast from a number of Commonwealth programs, received excellent local television and radio coverage along with follow-up articles in the Bulletin. The piece drew attention to:

- The Skilled Regional Visa Scheme which will allocate 23,000 skilled regional visas to people choosing to live in regional centres;
- The Temporary Graduate visas enabling international students who have studied at a regional campus to access a third year of post-study working visa rights; and
- The Destination Australia package, which provides regional institutions access to government funding for scholarships for both domestic and international students.

The op-ed highlighted the work done by Study Gold Coast and its member institutions in attract international students to the city and the implications of its exclusion which is at odds with the inclusion of the state capitals of Adelaide, Darwin and Hobart, along with Canberra.

Discussion following this publication has been robust and has positioned Griffith University as an institution fighting for the rights of the Gold Coast. I will brief Council on any follow-up arising from this article.
Research and Innovation

All research articles produced by Griffith University can be found at: https://app.secure.griffith.edu.au/news/category/research/

Some of the highlights include:

Griffith’s leading researchers recognised nationally
Griffith University’s research excellence is once again recognised nationally making the list of leading research institutions in The Australian newspaper’s special Research supplement. The research leaders’ list is based on analysis of publicly available up-to-date data for all Australian researchers. Griffith is listed as Lead institution in fourteen fields of research, five of our researchers are listed as Field leaders, and two Griffith researchers are among the ‘Rising Stars’, Australia’s top 40 researchers who are less than 10 years into their careers. https://news.griffith.edu.au/2019/09/25/griffith-research-nationally-recognised/

Gold Coast Biobank
The new Gold Coast Biobank established by the Menzies Health Institute Queensland was officially opened in August 2019. Biobank is a purpose-built, bio-storage facility key for translational clinical research storing up to 100,000 samples including sample donations for research into cures for chronic diseases. https://news.griffith.edu.au/2019/08/14/biobank-boosts-medical-research-in-queensland%e2%80%af/

Griffith to share in $4.59M Queensland Government Research Infrastructure Co-investment Fund
Griffith University’s Queensland Micro- and Nanotechnology Centre (QMNC) will share in $4.59 million in Queensland Government Research Infrastructure Co-investment Fund (RICF) funding for its research and industry projects such as clean energy technology and sensors for harsh environments. https://news.griffith.edu.au/2019/08/16/funding-to-maintain-queenslands-innovation-in-research/

MAIC Biospine $2M project
The Motor Accident Insurance Commission awarded $2M to the project “Development and testing of a novel neural restoration technology for people with spinal cord injury (SCI)” led by Professor David Lloyd. The project dubbed BioSpine will apply Digital Twin technology through an EEG interface combined with virtual reality and biosensors to restore interrupted motor and sensory connections in the spine. Combined with safe, off the shelf drugs Biospine could dramatically enhance rehabilitation and recovery resulting in enhanced independence of individuals with SCI over time, including the potential to return to free movement without assistive devices.
Major Nationally Competitive Research Grant Success

The University has continued to secure major research grants through several different schemes. [https://news.griffith.edu.au/2019/08/29/griffith-medical-research-to-benefit-from-5m-funding/](https://news.griffith.edu.au/2019/08/29/griffith-medical-research-to-benefit-from-5m-funding/)

Grants with a total dollar value exceeding $500,000 each are:

- Dr Lauren Ball from the Menzies Health Institute Queensland was awarded $1,526,912 for her Emerging Leadership Level 2 Fellowship NHMRC Investigator Grant titled “Capitalising on the Potential of the Primary Care Setting to Facilitate Healthy Eating in the Australian Population”.

- Professor Michael Good from the Institute for Glycomics was awarded $1,501,595 for his Leadership Level 3 Fellowship NHMRC Investigator Grant titled “Novel Vaccine Technology to Translate Knowledge of Immuno-Pathogenesis into Vaccines and Therapeutics”.

- Associate Professor Dianne Shanley, Professor Melanie Gimmer-Zembeck, Professor Sheena Reilly, Professor Robert Ware, Associate Professor Joshua Byrnes, Professor Sharyn Rundle-Thiele and Professor Amanda Wheeler, Menzies Health Institute Queensland were awarded $1,070,761 for a NHMRC Investigator Grant titled “A Tiered Approach to the Diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in Remote Indigenous Primary Care Settings”.

- Professor Suresh Mahalingam and Dr Adam Taylor, Menzies Health Institute Queensland were awarded $1,068,696 for a NHMRC Development Grant titled “A New Vaccine to Protect Against Chikungunya Virus (and Similar Other Viruses) Causing Chronic Musculoskeletal Diseases”.

- Associate Professor Caroline Donovan, Associate Professor Lara Farrell, Professor Sue Spence, and Professor Allison Waters from School of Applied Psychology with researchers from the University of Southern Queensland were awarded $1,129,476 for the NHMRC MRFF Million Minds Mission grant titled “Translating Evidence-Based Interventions into Population-Level Digital Models of Care for Child and Adolescent Mental Health” administered by the University of Southern Queensland.

- Professor Mark von Itzstein, Institute for Glycomics, and researchers from the University of Queensland were awarded $1,067,778 for the NHMRC Development grant titled “Breaking Antibiotic Resistance in High Priority Gram-Negative Sepsis Pathogens” administered by the University of Queensland.

- Professor Jean Palutikof, Dr Fahim Tonmoy (NCCARF) and Dr Shannon Rutherford (School of Medicine) with a team of researchers from the University of Sydney, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, and Chittagong University were awarded $879,256 by the Wellcome Trust’s Climate Change and Health program for the project “Managing heat stress among Bangladesh ready-made clothing industry workers”.

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Research Commercialisation Activity
Commercial activity at Griffith University to mid-September 2019 is $25.93 million (compared to $19.75 million for the same period last year), with 374 executed engagements to date for this year. In 2019, Griffith University has more than 35% of its research-active staff involved in delivering solutions for organisations. Other stories available at https://app.secure.griffith.edu.au/news/category/research/griffith-enterprise/.

Griffith Awards for Excellence in Teaching
The following winners of the 2019 Griffith Awards for Excellence in Teaching will receive their awards at the Vice Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Awards to be held on Wednesday, 23 October at the Gold Coast. The announcement of the recipients of the overall Griffith University Teacher of the Year and Education Leader of the Year will also be made on the night. Congratulations to all staff who were nominated by their students and peers, in recognition of their commitment to enhancing the quality of the student experience.

Excellence in Teaching – Group Excellence in Teaching Awards
Arts, Education and Law
Dr Lisbeth Kitson, School of Education and Professional Studies
Griffith Business School
Dr Tommy Soesmanto, Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics
Highly Commended:
Dr Julienne Senyard, Department of Business Strategy and Innovation
Associate Professor Stephanie Schleimer, Department of Business Strategy and Innovation
Griffith Health
Dr Leanne Kenway, School of Medical Science
Highly Commended: Dr Armin Ariana, School of Medicine
Griffith Sciences
Dr Ivan Gratchev, School of Engineering and Built Environment

Excellence in Teaching – Group Educational Leadership Awards
Professor Ruth McPhail, Department of Employment Relations and Human Resources

Excellence in Teaching – Group Active Learning Awards
Teaching Team: Denise Hope and Associate Professor Gary Grant, School of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
Jointly with Melanie Roberts, School of Allied Health Sciences
Highly Commended: Dr Abdullah Karaksha, School of Medical Science
Excellence in Teaching – Priority Area Awards
Sessional Academic: Tim Newans, School of Allied Health Sciences
Highly Commended:
Nina Ginsberg, Griffith English Language Institute
Bronwyn Reid O'Connor, School of Education and Professional Studies
Early Career: Dr Lacey Schaefer, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Programs and Teams that Enhance Learning Awards
The Kungullanji Program
Program Lead: Jennifer Campbell, Griffith Graduate Research School
Program Team: Bronwyn Wolski and Samantha de Lore, Indigenous Research Unit
Leah Henderson and Eden Little, Indigenous Research Unit/Kungullanji
Learning Assistance Officers, GUMURRII Student Support Unit

Highly Commended:
Master of Training and Development
Program Lead: Associate Professor Sarojni Choy, School of Education and Professional Studies
Program Team: Professor Stephen Billett, Dr Ray Smith, Dr Mark Tyler and Dr Steven Hodge, School of Education and Professional Studies
Health Group Foundation First Year Team
Program Leads: Dr Natalie Colson and Dr Helen Naug, School of Medical Science
Program Team: Associate Professor Roselyn Rose'meyer, Dr Abdullah Karaksha, Dr Avinash Kundur, Dr Leanne Kenway and Victoria Wheeler, School of Medical Science
Georgina Sanger, Mary-Ann Shuker, Ganeshan Rao, Office of the Dean (Learning and Teaching), Health
People

John Mulvaney Fellowship from the Australian Academy of the Humanities

Dr Harry van Issum, School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science, received the first John Mulvaney Fellowship from the Australian Academy of the Humanities. The fellowship funds work undertaken by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander early career researcher. Dr van Issum will travel to the United Kingdom to assist in the repatriation of skeletal remain of Woppaburra people now in London’s Natural History Museum. https://news.griffith.edu.au/2019/08/23/indigenous-lecturer-awarded-john-mulvaney-fellowship/

Stanner Award

Debbie Bargallie, Griffith Institute for Educational Research won the Stanner Award for an analysis of racism in the Australian Public Service. The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies issues the biennial award for best manuscript by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander scholar. https://news.griffith.edu.au/2019/08/16/first-nations-scholar-wins-prestigious-award/

Queensland Award for Excellence in Experimental Music


Churchill Fellowships 2019

Four Griffith graduates have been awarded Churchill Fellowships to explore some of the country's most pressing and emerging challenges.

Master of Environment 2011 graduate Clytie Binder will use the award to explore education methods and partnership models to support community composting, and travel to the US, Canada and Cuba for her studies.

Petah Chapman, who completed a Bachelor of Music in 2015, will head to the UK and Denmark to pursue excellence in opera and build international relationships with cultures in which opera thrives.

Bachelor of Physiotherapy and Bachelor of Exercise Science 2006 grad Sian Spencer will use the fellowship to develop and prepare Australian athletes for international paraclimbing competitions by undertaking research in the US, Austria, France and the UK.

Paediatrician Dr Billy Garvey, who graduated from Griffith with a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery in 2009, is looking to improve child health and development using technology to support evidence-based parenting practice in the US, the UK and Sweden.
**Professorial Commencements (August/September 2019)**

There is one professorial commencement and three departures to report since the August meeting of Council:

**Commencement:**

**Professor Paulo de Souza - School of Information and Communication Technology**

Commenced 4 September 2019

Prior to his appointment to Griffith University, Professor de Souza was Chief Scientist – Cybernetics, Office of the Chief Executive Science Leader, CSIRO Data61. Professor de Souza’s particular expertise is in building systems, software and databases particularly in the area of miniaturisation including leading a recent project ‘bees with backpacks’. Professor de Souza also is a Collaborator Scientist with NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Professor de Souza’s passion is translating science into meaningful outcomes.

**Departing Professors:**

**Professor Andreas Leibbrandt – Department of Accounting Finance and Economics**

Professor Leibbrandt departed on 20 September after accepting a position at Monash University.

**Professor Stan Grant - School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science**

Professor Grant resigned effective 23 September 2019.

**Professor Geoff Alpert – School of Criminology and Criminal Justice**

Expiration of fixed term contract effective 8 August 2019.