



THE REAL WORLD EFFECT

HOW YOUR GIVING IS TRANSFORMING LIVES AT



HOW YOUR GENEROSITY IS **SHAPING THE FUTURE**

I've been privileged to witness many extraordinary advances made at QUT in recent years.

Stunning breakthroughs in biotechnology, medical research, food security, environmental protection, social justice, and more.

Much of this work is underpinned by a long-term vision, where the focus is on harnessing our potential to kickstart broad and lasting societal change. In turn, we're setting out to address some of the most pressing socio-political, economic and environmental issues of our time.

Increasingly, universities are places visionary people can rely on to deliver sustainable solutions to these challenges.

At QUT, we believe education is the key to changing lives. Part of what we like to call 'the real world effect'.

Much of our progress has only been possible because of the support of generous donors like you.

We value and celebrate the contribution of every member of our philanthropic community.

Some give a few dollars a week. Others make large donations to establish scholarships, or fund major research or infrastructure projects. Our staff too, have distinguished themselves by being the most

avid and committed supporters of equity and social justice of any university in the country. They stand up for what they believe in, and are helping perpetuate our life-changing work.

As such, we take our responsibility seriously, with a careful approach to philanthropy that ensures your donation has the greatest possible impact.

The recent bestowing of the prestigious CASE Asia-Pacific Leadership Award upon our outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Coaldrake AO, is not just acknowledgement of his outstanding leadership, but well-deserved recognition of the wonderful culture of giving that lives and breathes in every part of the QUT community.

Most rewarding for me, is being able to personally connect donors with recipients. Researchers who have changed lives, and students whose lives have been transformed through the power of giving.

In these pages, we tell just a few of these stories. I hope that you, as I do, feel proud to be part of them.

Simone Garske
Director, Alumni and Development





‘LITTLE ACTS OF KINDNESS’ GIVE RISE TO A GREAT FUTURE.

A story of hopelessness and hope. Of loss and a quiet determination to succeed. Of self-belief and the power of having someone who believes in you.

This is the story of the remarkable rise of QUT student Daniel, and his triumph over the desperation of a childhood few of us can conceive.

He and his family suffered years of torment living in a household fraught with domestic violence. Yet throughout it all, Daniel exhibited extraordinary fortitude, his inner strength and true potential finally given free rein after experiencing the generosity of the QUT community, through the Learning Potential Fund.

Daniel was awarded a Tim Fairfax AC Learning Potential Fund Scholarship in 2015. Designed to help financially disadvantaged but academically inclined young people to study at QUT, the scholarship was a life-changing boost for Daniel after many years’ struggle in the face of adversity.

From a young age, Daniel’s life was severely affected by physical and emotional abuse. As Daniel says, ‘We were in constant fear. We lived like this until one day, when things got particularly bad, we were forced to flee our house.’

‘We had nowhere to go because the domestic violence shelter was only for females, but we were lucky to find a garage to sleep in. But we lost all of our belongings in the process.’

At the same time, Daniel was in Year 12 at school. Despite the stress of protracted court proceedings, he worked tirelessly at his studies, even with no internet access, becoming school captain and eventually gaining an OP7.

‘I didn’t want to fall into a victimhood mentality,’ he said.

With their last remaining money, Daniel’s mother flew him to Brisbane to find a place to stay as he prepared to begin studying a Bachelor of Pharmacy. With only \$60 left, he seriously

considered deferring his studies, but at the eleventh hour, discovered he'd been successful in gaining a scholarship.

'Every day I'd wake up thinking 'What next?'. Wondering how I'd buy food and pay rent. When the email came through from the Learning Potential Fund (LPF), it was a sort of miracle. And then when I met the LPF team, I realised that it was about so much more than the money. I'd become part of a community.

'I realised the funds were just a small part of what I was gaining. I actually received much-needed rehabilitation and healing'.

I gained confidence and a beautiful network of supportive friends in my fellow students. It's amazing what little acts of kindness can do to restore your self-assurance'.

Daniel credits the Learning Potential Fund with giving him countless opportunities, a way to rise above an impossible situation, and the chance to give back to the community in a life-changing way.

'I feel I have a duty to try my hardest and graduate for everyone who believed in me and helped me along the way. Without the support I received, I can honestly say I wouldn't be doing what I love, instead always asking 'What if?'



MORE THAN **50%**
of Learning Potential Fund recipients are the first in their family to go to university

5000
students apply for financial hardship support each year

Gifts to the Learning Potential Fund in 2017 totalled
\$3 200 475

CANCER RESEARCH: AN END IN SIGHT TO PAIN AND SUFFERING?

When a loved one suffers, the natural instinct is to help ease their pain.

When a loved one suffers from cancer, there can be an extra burden: the treatment is sometimes almost as painful as the disease itself.

QUT's Derek Richard is seeking to change this, and with his team of scientists, oncologists and surgeons at the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI), is devoting himself to finding new, less toxic treatment for cancer patients.

The Associate Professor, who is also QUT's Chenhall Research Scientist, is investigating cancer treatment in a completely new way.

Derek's quest began with the identification of a protein linked to the growth of cancer cells. In the extreme environment of an Icelandic volcano, he discovered micro-organisms called Archaea, which use a specific protein to protect themselves from genetic damage.

The team then isolated the same protein in the human genetic code. But while the protein does have protective qualities, in humans, it's responsible for the growth of cancer cells and the body's resistance to anti-cancer drugs.

By developing a new drug which kills the protein, the cancer cells themselves rapidly die.

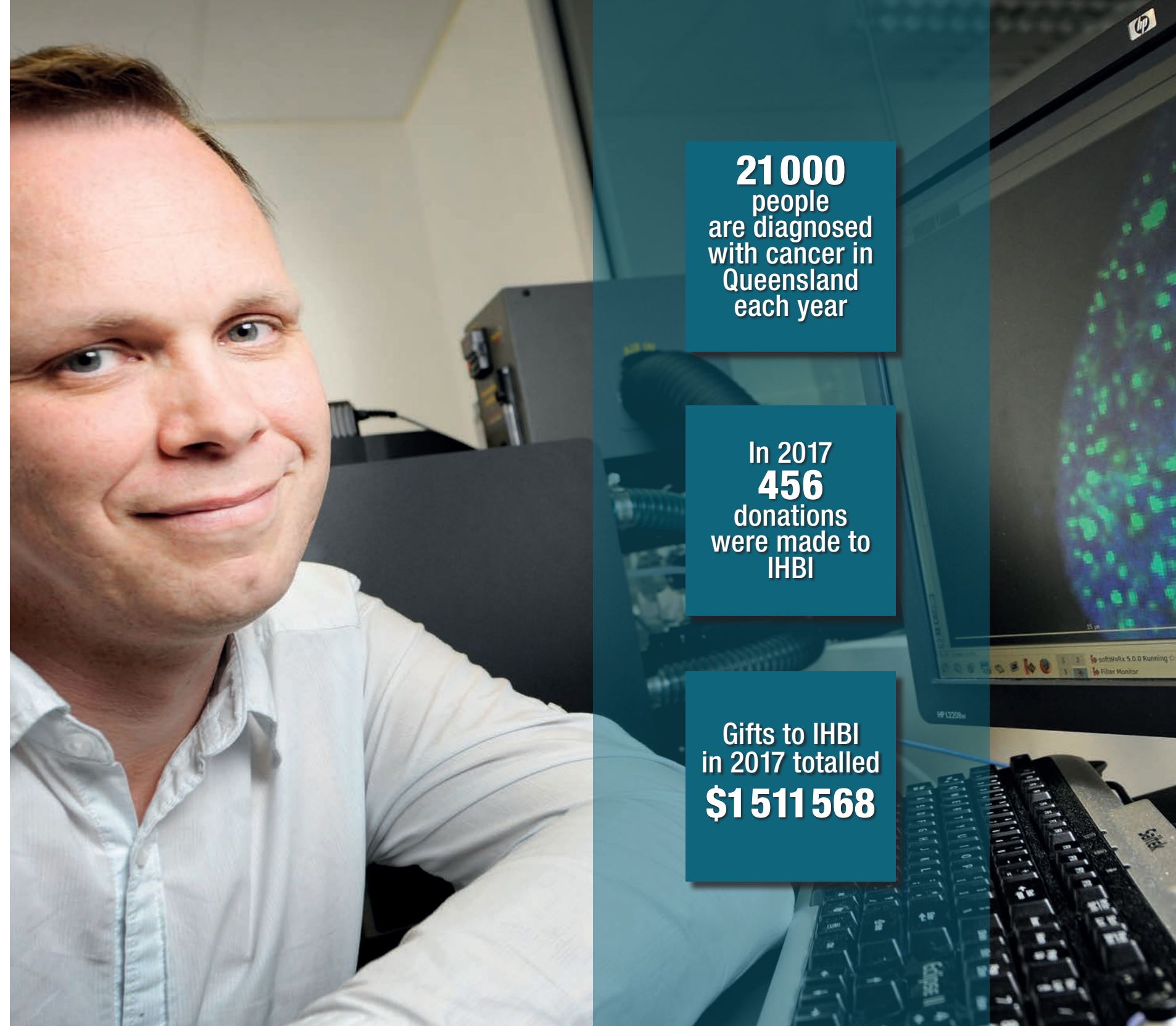
It's potentially life-changing. The early signs: hugely promising.

The team is also working on developing a test to determine which patients respond to particular treatments, so that unsuitable patients won't have to undergo the unnecessary suffering of chemotherapy.

They're also developing what could become a universal blood test for cancer, and a drug which could reduce the risk of developing cancer and other ageing-related conditions like Alzheimer's Disease.

Ground-breaking research like this is only possible with the financial support of forward-thinking philanthropists. In Derek Richard's case, the William and Hilde Chenhall Research Trust has been a major contributor. The late William and Hilde Chenhall, from Queensland's Sunshine Coast, left their estate to a range of cancer research institutions, part of which has funded a Chair in Cancer Research at QUT.

Their generosity will continue as a legacy to tackle one of the gravest health issues of our time.



21 000
people
are diagnosed
with cancer in
Queensland
each year

In 2017
456
donations
were made to
IHBI

Gifts to IHBI
in 2017 totalled
\$1 511 568

VISIONARY SUPPORTERS HELP QUT TAKE AUSTRALIAN ARTISTRY TO THE WORLD



Artist and QUT alumnus William Robinson AO sits in the William Robinson Gallery at Old Government House on the QUT Gardens Point campus.

With an artistic heritage stretching back to 1849, QUT has inspired generations of young artistic students.

Now – thanks to the extraordinary support of visionary donors – a major international exhibition is set to make a significant contribution to the enrichment of Australia's cultural life.

Genesis, featuring the works of William Robinson AO, is set to travel overseas for the first time, exposing international audiences to the genius of one of Australia's greatest ever landscape painters. At the same time, the exhibition will raise the profile of QUT as hugely committed to arts teaching and research in Australia.

The collection comes from QUT's renowned William Robinson Gallery, which unlike any other in Australia, is dedicated solely to the permanent exhibition of work by a living artist.

Robinson is one of the most lauded and successful Australian artists of his generation, having won the Archibald Prize for portraiture in 1987 and 1995

and the Wynne prize for landscape painting in 1990 and 1996. He also has an unbreakable bond with QUT, having studied and taught here for much of his career.

Genesis travelled to Washington D.C. in November 2017 and Paris in January 2018.

Such an important tour – testament to the significance of Robinson's work within Australian art history – has only become possible with the generous contributions of visionary supporters of the arts.

At QUT, we've long acknowledged that the arts play a pivotal role in learning, strongly influencing how people in every sphere perceive and think.

The development of our Creative Industries Faculty more than 20 years ago, made QUT the first to formalise the link between creative thinking and successful enterprise.

With your support, we're able to continue to reshape the creative landscape.

EXTREME ENGAGEMENT, INSPIRING FUTURE SCIENCE HIGH-FLYERS

Within the first few minutes, the children's eyes grow wide. The classroom hubbub quickly dies down.

As the presenter makes her first bold statement, kids lean forward in their chairs, transfixed by a new way of looking at science. Many have never seen it presented in such an exciting way.

Almost every day of the school year, this plays out as QUT's Extreme Science Van takes its message of what can be achieved by studying science to Queensland schools.

The free workshops are led by QUT student ambassadors who also act as role models for young students. Since it was launched in 2001, our Extreme Science Van program has become a 'sellout' success of QUT's future-shaping schools outreach program. The program is so valued by teachers that each year the Van is fully booked out by February for the rest of the year.

It kick starts a real interest in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), among students from prep to Year 12, and gives teachers extra tools they can use to motivate their students to embrace STEM subjects, which are quickly becoming essential life skills.

Importantly, the Extreme Science Van program focuses on schools in economically challenged areas and on disadvantaged students. Several of the QUT ambassadors who lead the workshops are former students from areas visited by the Van. They're able to relate easily to the young kids, pointing to themselves as living, breathing examples of people who have been unable to see themselves attending university, but then finding a way to pursue their dreams and make good on their potential.

Last year alone, 11 500 primary and secondary students attended 430 Extreme Science Van workshops.

Teachers respond avidly. A teacher at Tullawong State High School near Caboolture told our presenters: **'You have just presented to the really hard, high-needs class, and I have never seen them sit quietly, let alone so captivated. You had them in the palm of your hand for the full 60 minutes.'**

Students too are genuinely excited. 'What I learnt about what uni can do for you has made me now want to go to uni and expand my choices', wrote one 13 year old after a session.



Students from Banksia Beach State School taking part in the Extreme Science Van program.

While the ongoing support of individual donors has made this remarkable program possible, it still needs a sizeable injection of funding to enable vital equipment upgrades and to keep the Van on the road in the long term. Demand for the program outstrips supply but with more support we can take the Extreme Science Van to regions where schools aren't currently able to access university programs that inspire students with determination, talent and curiosity to go further.

The real impact is felt by the students who experienced the program in years gone by and, against the odds, are now working and studying in STEM-related careers.

One student from a disrupted family background, whose father was unemployed long-term, participated in an Extreme Science Van workshop just a few years ago. It encouraged him to work hard at school and gain entry to mathematics at QUT, where he now works as an ambassador while concurrently being the main income earner and primary carer for his young siblings.

There are many stories as inspiring. The continued support of our wonderful donors will bring more of them to light.

**The Extreme
Science Van
program has been
on the road since
2001**

MORE THAN
17900
students and community
members attended
Extreme Science Van
engagements
in 2017

83 gifts
were made to
STEM outreach
in 2017

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF

**THE
REAL WORLD
EFFECT**

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Or visit: www.qut.edu.au/giving

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