

REAL WORLD. REAL THANKS.
HOW YOUR GIFT HAS HELPED.
2018



**a university for
the real world**



THANK YOU

As the Vice-Chancellor and President of QUT I have the pleasure and privilege of witnessing the outcome of donors' generosity each year. From empowering students through education, innovation in medical research and expanding our community outreach, the influence of donors like you can be seen everywhere.

During the past 12 months, we have reached numerous significant milestones. These include our first and second annual #QUTGivingDay, the 20th anniversary of the Learning Potential Fund, 30 years of QUT as an institution, and so much more. This impact report is testament to the commitment and vision of our donors, supporters and friends.

Thank you for partnering with us to change the world we live in for the better.

Professor Margaret Sheil AO
Vice-Chancellor and President





SAVING THE GREAT BARRIER REEF THROUGH #QUTGivingDay



HOW QUT'S FIRST GIVING DAY IS HELPING TO SAVE ONE OF OUR GREATEST ENVIRONMENTAL TREASURES.

Last year, QUT's inaugural Giving Day inspired hundreds of new donors to support vital research and education programs across the university.

During a 24-hour fundraising campaign, staff, students, alumni and friends of the university came together to raise in excess of \$1.6 million for more than 20 vital programs at QUT. Of the 1899 donors who gave, over 220 chose to support QUT's reef research programs.

Professor Kerrie Wilson, Executive Director of QUT's Institute for Future Environments, has thanked donors for their outstanding generosity.

"Donor support has been instrumental in driving a range of QUT programs that are developing disruptive technology, innovation and artificial intelligence in a race against time to save the reef from marine pests, pollution and the effects of climate change," said Professor Wilson.

"The urgency to save the reef has increased significantly in the past two years with coral loss occurring at unprecedented rates."

RangerBot, an autonomous drone designed specifically for coral reef environments, is one of the many projects that has been propelled forward since Giving Day.

Professor Matthew Dunbabin developed the RangerBot in collaboration with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation in 2016 after winning the Google Impact People's Choice prize. While initially deployed to manage Crown-of-thorns starfish populations across the reef, the RangerBot technology is now at the centre of the largest coral regeneration project ever attempted.

In looking to reverse the effects of coral bleaching, Professor Dunbabin has joined forces with Southern Cross University's Professor Peter Harrison to transform the RangerBot into 'LarvalBot'.

In November 2018, the project team harvested millions of spawn off the coast of Cairns using giant collection nets on the water's surface. The spawn were then transferred to smaller floating enclosures and, once they'd grown into mature larvae, were loaded into a custom deployment system attached to the RangerBot, which sprinkled the larvae onto nearby damaged reefs.

Professor Dunbabin said there was a real need to scale up this restoration work to make a lasting difference to reefs around the world, and robotics could provide the extra eyes, hands, and speed to get there.

"While coral larvae were maturing in the floating nurseries, RangerBot was out mapping the seafloor and coral cays to find suitable resettling sites around areas badly hit by the 2017 bleaching."

As part of this project, Professors Dunbabin and Harrison will construct 'mega' spawn catchers to massively upscale larvae capture and reef restoration. They will then use LarvalBots to precision deploy the larvae on other damaged reefs.

Over the coming months and years, researchers and RangerBots will monitor the new coral colonies to measure success.

QUT's Great Barrier Reef programs show just how philanthropically funded research can help spark innovative solutions to global problems.

LarvalBot builds on the development of the RangerBot and its predecessor, the COTSbot (Crown-of-thorns starfish robot), both of which were generously supported through gifts from QUT donors and partnerships with the Dalio Foundation, Eldon and Anne Foote Trust, and Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

Pictured above: A sea turtle navigating a coral reef on the Great Barrier Reef. Image by Sota Yamaguchi, underwater photographer for tour operator Passions of Paradise.



#QUTGivingDay RESULTS



2018



GOAL
500
DONORS



RESULT
1899
DONORS



1144 FIRST-TIME
DONORS



889 ALUMNI



413 QUT STAFF



597 STUDENTS
AND FRIENDS



TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

\$1 637 738

*Total funds raised includes \$1 000 000 gift from challenge donor and QUT alumnus, Greg Creed.





SNAPSHOT OF YOUR IMPACT IN 2018



1381
ALUMNI
DONORS



1283
NON-ALUMNI
DONORS



107
CORPORATE
PARTNERS



550
STAFF GIVING
PAYROLL DONORS



27%
INCREASE IN GIFTS
IN WILLS



LARGEST GIFTS



\$1 000 000
TO THE LEARNING
POTENTIAL FUND



\$254 210
BEQUEST TO THE SCIENCE
AND ENGINEERING FACULTY
(BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND
MEDICAL DEVICE TECHNOLOGY)



TOP 5 AREAS SUPPORTED BY NUMBER OF DONATIONS

LEARNING
POTENTIAL FUND
3362

SAVE THE GREAT
BARRIER REEF
159

QUT STAFF COMMUNITY
WELFARE FUND
347

PROSTATE CANCER
RESEARCH
174

INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
AND BIOMEDICAL INNOVATION
158



LOCATION OF DONORS



AUSTRALIA
2579
DONORS



OTHER
85
DONORS



TOTAL
DONATIONS
21118



NUMBER OF
NEW DONORS
1232



NUMBER OF
RETURNING
DONORS
1432

A GIFT FROM THE HEART

HOW A GIFT LEFT IN A WILL HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SAVE COUNTLESS LIVES

When a failing heart can't move blood on its own, a pump can help keep it flowing. However, powering these devices requires a cable running from the heart pump through the skin to a battery, with risk factors including infection. A new wireless heart pump, with the potential to save countless lives, is the first beneficiary of the Roland Bishop bequest to QUT.

Thanks to Roland Bishop's generosity, QUT Professor Mahinda Vilathgamuwa and his team have begun working on a promising solution for the thousands of patients who require mechanical heart-support devices. Such devices help patients' hearts to keep pumping while they wait for a transplant or recover from cardiac surgery.

Professor Vilathgamuwa's research closely aligns with the passion of the donor behind this generous bequest.

Having graduated in 1968 as an electrician from QUT's predecessor institution, the Central Technical College, Roland Bishop championed the development of medical device technology for critically ill heart patients and led the Prince Charles Hospital's Medical Electronics Division.

Randal Bishop, Roland's son, expressed his delight about the impact created through the gift his father bequeathed to QUT.

"My father would be so proud of what will be achieved as much as we are so proud of him," said Mr Bishop.

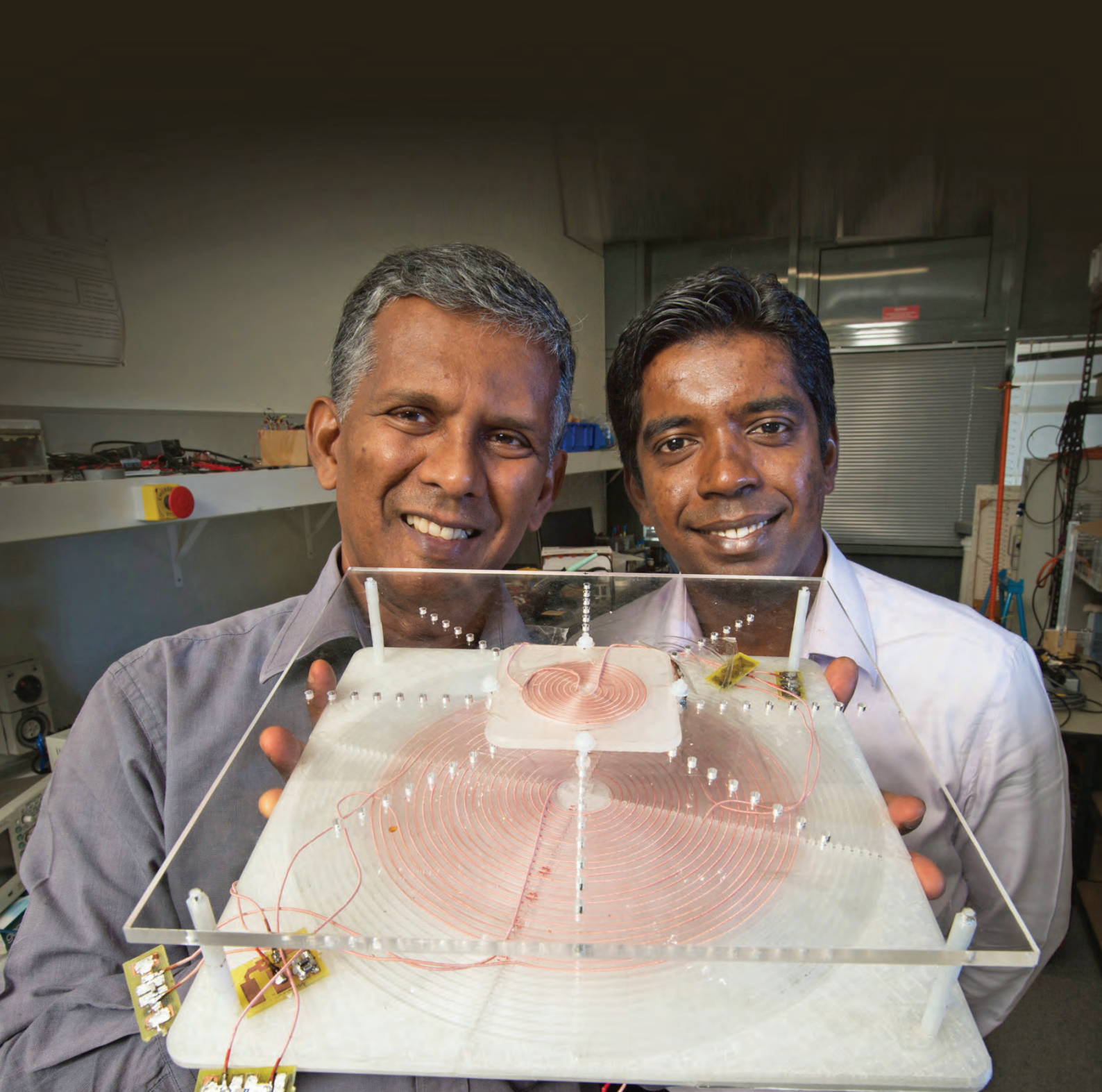
A gift in a Will has the power to unlock knowledge that benefits both our nation and the world around us.

When you leave a bequest to a QUT research project, you enable passionate research teams to progress their findings and ideas to clinical trials. Your gift helps turn their ideas into a reality.

As a bequestor, you can stipulate that your gift be directed to programs that are most meaningful for you, and align with your vision for the difference you would like to make in the world.

For more information on how to create a lasting legacy and include QUT in your Will, please contact Heath Mackay, Senior Development Officer (Donor Relations and Bequests), on +61 7 3138 7525 or at heath.mackay@qut.edu.au





Professor Mahinda Vilathgamuwa, left, and Prasad Jayathurathnage, with a prototype of their wireless powered ventricular assist device

CHANGING THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DEBILITATING SPINE DEFORMITIES

When 10-year-old Chelsy Jones needed a lengthy operation to correct a serious spinal deformity that was beginning to harm her spinal cord, her surgeon enlisted the help of QUT biomedical engineer at Biomechanics & Spine Research Group (BSRG), Dr Paige Little, to custom design a novel support mattress.

Chelsy's unique body shape meant she could not safely lie flat on her stomach and chest on the operating table for the 8-hour surgery she needed to stabilise her spine.

"When lying for a long time in one position, such as during a lengthy surgical procedure, a patient needs to be protected from areas of high pressure that result in damage to the skin and underlying muscles," Dr Little said.

"Chelsy's chest and spine anatomy called for something custom made to fit her exact shape in 3D to avoid the development of pressure areas on her skin during the surgery.

"Without this special support mattress, Chelsy would not have been able to undergo the operation on her neck and back, which was vital for her to maintain her mobility."

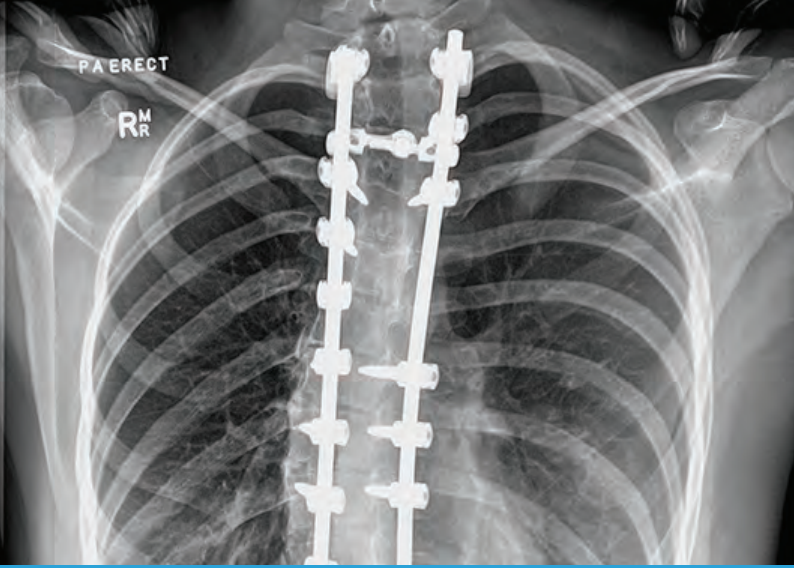
Thanks to our donors' generosity and the financial support from a recent bequest gift, BSRG researchers are working on creating new biomechanical techniques and technologies that will better inform how the spine works and what causes deformities to develop. This work will help more children like Chelsy and find ways to prevent painful and invasive surgery.

The work of BSRG continues on from the vision of the former Research Director, the late Professor Clayton Adam, who dedicated his life to helping children with spinal disorders, and to improving treatment outcomes for patients who undergo spinal surgery.

Donors and university partners have come together to support this important work. Professor Adam's work is able to continue through the BSRG team because of a significant gift left by QUT supporter Florence Wilson in her Will, as well as the continued generosity of QUT's donor community.

Chelsy Jones happy to be recovering from spinal surgery with mum by her side





SPINE SURGERY STATISTICS

**SPINE DEFORMITIES HAVE STARK
IMPACT ON CHILDREN
AS THEY GROW**

**200+ SCOLIOSIS SURGERIES
ARE PERFORMED AT QUEENSLAND
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL EACH YEAR**

**TREATMENT IS DIFFICULT, AND
SURGERY IS INVASIVE
AND PAINFUL**

**50+ CHILDREN/TEENAGERS
ATTEND THE SPINE DISORDERS CLINIC
FOR CARE EACH WEEK**

**BY THE AGE OF 10,
80% OF THE SPINE IS ALREADY GROWN**

QUT biomedical engineer, Dr Paige Little



SAVING LIVES NOW IN SIGHT

THANKS TO LEARNING POTENTIAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP

With aspirations for a career in photojournalism, music, or health, Sacha had always planned to go to university but wasn't sure which area to pursue until he started studying biomedical science at QUT.

"I've always had a passion and interest in the underlying mechanisms of the human body. I started at QUT with a double degree in Business and Biomedical Science but soon transferred straight to biomedicine and haven't looked back. Each class is still so interesting," said Sacha.

Now thanks to the generous donations from the QUT community to the Learning Potential Fund, Sacha is on the path of his 'dream job' as an emergency department doctor.

Like many students, Sacha discovered just how expensive life can be when trying to study full time and pay the bills.

"I had already completed my first year at university before applying for a Learning Potential Fund scholarship. I'd just moved into a new apartment and due to being around the Christmas period, which always comes with additional expenses, my finances took a significant hit."

"I started semester one of my second year with just \$15 in my pocket. The Learning Potential Fund assisted with my financial stress and allowed me to focus on my studies."

"My scholarship really helped me get back on my feet at the beginning of my second year. Not only did it help with buying groceries, but it also helped me buy lab books, textbooks, notebooks, and stationery."

At the end of 2019 Sacha will complete his Bachelor of Biomedical Science and take some time off, before sitting the Graduate Admissions Medical Test (GAMSAT) in 2021.

"My dream job is to be a doctor in a hospital emergency department. After graduation this year I hope to take a year off to travel and work more before hopefully beginning medical school."

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Sacha can dream big.

Scholarship recipient and Bachelor of Biomedical Science student, Sacha Alexiou



QUT LEARNING POTENTIAL FUND

The Learning Potential Fund (LPF) has dispersed more than 20,000 scholarships since its inception in 1998. The LPF was designed to be a sustainable generator of scholarship funds for successive generations of financially struggling students far into the future. Under the stewardship of the QUT Council and Learning Potential Fund Committee, funds are invested through the Queensland Investment Corporation and the interest earned finances a portfolio of annual scholarships. Many recipients are the first in their family to attend university. It is the largest fund of its kind in Australia and QUT is very proud of its donors, alumni, staff and students who have enabled the LPF to be where it is today.



2018 SNAPSHOT

2252
STUDENTS
SUPPORTED IN 2018

65%
OF \$100M GOAL
REACHED

98% OF RECIPIENTS
SAID THEIR SCHOLARSHIP
HELPED THEM STAY AT
UNIVERSITY

20000
STUDENTS SUPPORTED
IN 20 YEARS



FINANCE EXPERT NOEL WHITTAKER KNOWS LIFE-CHANGING RETURN OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

As an international best-selling finance and investment author, radio broadcaster, and mentor, Noel Whittaker knows a well-invested dollar can lead to a lifetime of return.

It's a core reason why Noel and his wife Geraldine give to the QUT Learning Potential Fund (LPF). As a key priority for the university, QUT matches every gift to the Fund dollar-for-dollar.

Noel and Geraldine not only support student scholarships at QUT, but also give generously to QIMR Berghofer, Queensland Library Foundation, Children's Hospital Foundations Australia and Second Chance Women's Homelessness. Last year they established their own charitable foundation with a contribution of \$400,000, aiming to increase it to \$5 million by 2028 to support education.

When asked why he gives to QUT's Learning Potential Fund, Noel answers humbly.

"I'm a great believer in sharing the goodness that life has bestowed upon us. I am so grateful to the people I have met, and being in the right place at the right time on some occasions. I can think of no better charity than giving people from underprivileged backgrounds the opportunity to make the most of their talents," said Noel. He encourages others to "get aboard" and cannot think of a better way to make a donation.

Generosity is a theme that is interwoven through Noel's life—from growing up in Kingston, where his father managed the Kingston pig farm, to a career as a leading financial educator helping everyday Australians.

"My father always said if you give away a dollar you get two dollars back."

Valuing integrity above all else, Noel has always been meticulous and passionate about taking complex financial matters and translating them into advice for ordinary people—a reason why he's recognised as one of Australia's leading, and most trusted experts on personal finance. For the past 30 years he has contributed a weekly column to major newspapers all

over Australia and written 22 bestselling books that have sold two million copies around the world. His book *Making Money Made Simple* set sales records across the country and was recently named in the top 100 of the most influential books of the last century.

His achievements as an author are thematic to a career that's changed how many Australians see wealth. In 2003 he was awarded an Australian Centenary medal for his services to education in the financial services industry. In 2011 Noel was made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to the community—honoured for his efforts to raise awareness of personal responsibility in matters of superannuation, household budgeting and estate planning.

If you have the chance to speak to Noel about his life experiences, you'll find that he doesn't hesitate to share some of the difficulties he's faced along the way to carving out a successful career in financial education.

"I have enjoyed good health all my life, but the biggest financial low was getting mixed up in a shopping centre development in 1985 in which I lost half of my assets."

Notwithstanding his career as an author, Noel gives tirelessly of his time to mentor and educate young and old Australians on financial literacy, and has presented hundreds of seminars on a pro bono basis to audiences ranging from high school students to retirees. For more than 10 years Noel also volunteered his time and expertise to the QUT Business School where he presented guest lectures, conducted career seminars for students and graduates, and gave executive education seminars for QUT's Graduate School of Business.

While there are many accolades that crown his career as one of the world's foremost authorities on personal finance, Noel's pride and joy is his family.

"I am blessed with having a wonderful wife and we've been together for 41 years. This has in turn produced three wonderful children, and 10 grandchildren. That's about as good as it gets."



Bestselling author, journalist, finance expert and donor, Noel Whittaker AM

AN INVESTMENT BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Every fortnight, hundreds of staff from across QUT give to support student scholarships, enable ground-breaking research, and improve our communities through the QUT Staff Giving Program.

Dr Craig Cowled, a lecturer in the Science and Engineering Faculty, has been a member of the Staff Giving community since 2014, supporting the QUT Learning Potential Fund (LPF) through regular pre-tax payroll donations.

The LPF helps students from financially tough backgrounds stay at university and create a better life for themselves—a cause to which Craig can relate.

Born in Papua New Guinea to parents who were Christian missionary teachers, he recalls memories of his grandfather—affectionately known as Pop—who was an elder of the Worimi nation.

“Whenever we visited him while on furlough, he would show me some of the special places and tell me stories of the old folk and our connection to country,” remembers Craig.

He explains that his grandfather cemented the importance of education in his family from an early age.

“Pop placed a lot of value on higher education because it had been denied to him. The Aboriginal mission at Karuah, where he grew up, only taught up to primary school equivalent. Pop made sure that my mum, aunty and uncle all got a university education. It was one of the best things he could have done for his family.”

Craig moved to Australia when he was 14 years old and, upon graduating high school, chose to follow his literary passion to study art and philosophy at university.

“Some years later, I found myself working in the timber frame and truss industry in Brisbane and raising a young boy as a single parent. I was fascinated by structures and resolved to begin studying a Bachelor of Civil Engineering at QUT.”

He remembers telling his uncle he would enrol in the course once he had paid off all his debts, but his uncle encouraged him not to wait.

“He told me if I made debt my excuse for not studying engineering then I may never get started, because debts have a habit of piling up.”

“He encouraged me to enrol in one or two subjects at a time and, by the time my debts were paid off, I would already be on the path towards an engineering qualification. His advice to me was, in hindsight, the best I have ever received.”

In 2007 Craig graduated with first class honours, working full time and completing his engineering degree in just 5 years. He went on to work as a lecturer and, in 2018, achieved a PhD in structural engineering.

“I know from experience that money can be a real barrier to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and I want that barrier eliminated,” says Craig.

This experience, and his passion for seeing students flourish, comes to fruition as a donor to the LPF.

“When you donate some of your salary to the Learning Potential Fund, you will make a real difference in somebody’s life.”



Civil Engineering lecturer and donor, Dr Craig Cowled

LOOKING FORWARD

As a donor and friend of QUT, your support and vision ensures that people in our community, country and across the world will wake up to a better tomorrow.

I sincerely thank you for partnering with us and hope you have enjoyed reading how you're making a lasting impact on the lives of scholarship recipients, researchers and other beneficiaries of your generosity.

As QUT embarks on its new strategic plan—Blueprint 6—we build on established foundations of philanthropy, with a focus on entrepreneurship, Indigenous education, health, environment and scholarships for students in need including the award-winning QUT Learning Potential Fund. Together we can create a brighter future for all.

We truly value your investment and I look forward to updating you on the amazing outcomes you make possible as, together, we imagine what's next.

Margo Powell

Executive Director, Advancement







Underwater photographer Trev Smith takes reef photos for Virtual Reef Diver. Image by Sota Yamaguchi, underwater photographer for tour operator Passions of Paradise.