



2014

# impact

Your gifts. Real impact.



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Creative Industries scholarship student Katie O'Hagan pictured at the Brisbane Powerhouse (see full story on page 8)

**impact** is an annual publication designed to acknowledge and celebrate the stories of QUT's donors and funding recipients, and to report on the outcome of gifts to QUT.

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# Welcome

**2014 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of QIT becoming QUT. Twenty-five years is a significant milestone in the life of any institution and much of the progress we have made as a university can be directly traced back to the generosity of our donors.**

From the first staff donors contributing a tuppence to the Teachers College in the 1950s, to the landmark gifts from Chuck Feeney's The Atlantic Philanthropies, whether it is gifts of art and land or gifts of time and expertise, the landscape of QUT has been forever altered by philanthropy. These changes are reflected not only in the new buildings and facilities, but also in the way we teach, learn and engage with the community.

As we look back on the previous twelve months, it is heartening to see how much we have accomplished again this year with your help. We would like to convey our sincerest thanks to our alumni, friends, industry partners, staff and the broader community for the invaluable support you have provided to QUT and our extended community.

Your gifts sponsored more than 2000 student scholarships and helped our research in areas such as vision improvement, health services, educational teaching for disadvantaged students, and philanthropy through our own unique Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Non Profit Studies.

Thanks to our donors, we continue to lead the sector in providing support for students in financial need through QUT's Learning Potential Fund scholarship program. The need for this kind of student aid is growing each year with more than two million Australians living below the poverty line.

The mission of the QUT Learning Potential Fund is to provide support to every student facing financial hardship through a perpetual endowment fund. Established in 1999, the Fund now sits at \$32 million, past the halfway mark of its goal of \$50 million by 2020.

Earlier this year consummate fundraiser and Director of Development at McMaster University in Canada, Lorna Somers, spoke to QUT's executive board about trust and worthiness being the key to success in the philanthropic sphere.

Universities in the United States attract 70 per cent of all philanthropic giving in their country and now Australian universities have begun to attract donations on a progressively larger scale.

It is pleasing to see that universities are increasingly being recognised for philanthropic investments, given their status as worthy and stable places of learning and research, steadfastly seeking answers to society's problems.

As institutions, universities are enduring places devoted to the betterment of communities on a local and global scale. When you give to a university you are not just giving to a problem, you are contributing to long-term solutions.

Whether you give to students, research, or cultural and creative arts programs you can trust QUT to safeguard your gift and maximise its impact now and into the future. Thank you for your continued support.



*Tim Fairfax*

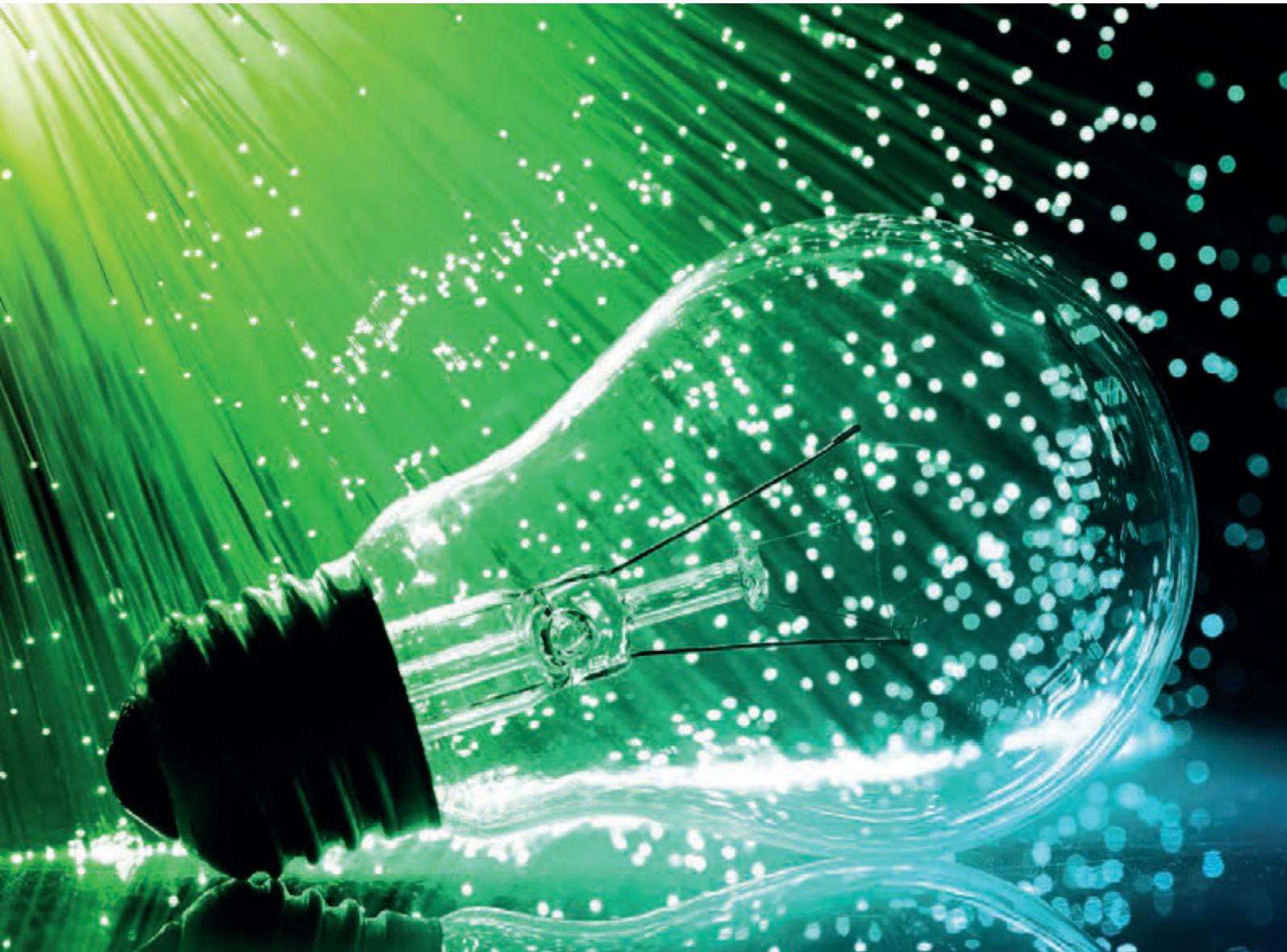
Tim Fairfax AC  
QUT Chancellor

*Peter Coaldrake*

Professor Peter Coaldrake AO  
QUT Vice-Chancellor

# Real-world solutions

The twenty-first century brings with it challenges across science, technology and innovation. QUT has positioned itself to meet these challenges through both an education program for its students and research initiatives to solve the grand challenges of our time.



Two new facilities established in 2012 to meet these challenges are the Institute for Future Environments and the Science and Engineering Faculty. Together the new institute and the faculty bring the best minds and technology to collaborate on solutions that help make our world more sustainable, secure and resilient in order to help face those challenges and ultimately, shape the future of the planet.

QUT's Institute for Future Environments (IFE) is at the forefront of a shift to interdisciplinary integration and collaboration, bringing experts from a diverse range of fields—from microbiology and robotics to information technology and property law. With the helping hand of generous donors and supporters, the institute is able to continue to support innovation and be at the forefront of change in the real world.

The institute has benefitted from philanthropy through the John and Gay Hull Energy Transformation Top-Up Scholarship, which offers a high-level PhD candidate the opportunity to pursue research in the broad field of energy transformation.

John and Gay Hull said that in a world where sustainability and the importance of advancement in environmental sciences impact not only on the future but also on our everyday lives, it is becoming increasingly important to invest in research and innovation.

'We hope our gift will enable QUT's Institute for Future Environments to attract and support a high-calibre student who has a real interest in this important and exciting field to make a real difference.'

The importance of encouraging innovation has also been recognised by Kris Tayler, the benefactor of the inaugural Bob Tayler Award.

This award enables a small group of individuals to establish their business idea within a viable framework. It will be presented to the highest performing team participating in the final stages of the inaugural QUTbluebox Accelerator program. Bluebox, founded in 2006, is a wholly owned

subsidiary of QUT, dedicated to teaming with QUT researchers to identify, evaluate, protect and transfer QUT intellectual property to the real world.

Kris Tayler hopes that the Bob Tayler Award, which is given in honour of her father, could help be a catalyst for groundbreaking innovation, and bring opportunity to those who need it most.

'I hope the gift allows for the recipient's idea to lead to an innovative, commercial opportunity or a start-up company that ultimately helps make a difference to our ever-changing world,' says Kris.

**'My belief is that the award will positively impact on QUT's research and ingenuity for the benefit of QUT, its staff, students, and importantly the community, in solving problems now and into the future.'**

With philanthropy inherently linked to achieving change and making the world a better place for others, those who donate to the Institute for Future Environments, bluebox, and the Science and Engineering Faculty are supporting QUT's goal to be a leader in the development of courses and research in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

# THE JEWEL in the Crown

One of Australia's greatest living artists, William Robinson AO, is also one of QUT's most renowned alumni and philanthropists.

The nation's most revered landscape artist retired from teaching at QUT in 1989—just after the institution changed its name from QIT—but has remained a constant part of the university's cultural psyche for the past 25 years.

While Robinson is based in the greater Brisbane region, his works can be seen in locations ranging from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York to the Vatican City, Rome.

Robinson and his art are so admired that QUT honoured him in 2009 by establishing the William Robinson Gallery in Old Government House on the university's Gardens Point campus. In the same year, he was awarded our highest alumni honour—the Outstanding Alumnus Award.

In 2014, the William Robinson Gallery's opened *Infinite Sphere*, which includes works from his early career to those produced in recent years. The exhibition explores the literal and metaphorical concerns that underpin Robinson's work through rarely seen paintings and drawings from the 1970s, dramatic landscapes from the late 1990s and 2000s, through to his return in recent years to still life and domestic interiors. *Infinite Sphere* features *Dome of space and time* (2003–04), the final work of the

artist's most significant series, the *Creation Landscape Series*. This extremely significant painting has been generously donated by the artist and his family and now forms the cornerstone of the QUT Art Collection. Along with this painting, visitors to the gallery will also delight in Robinson's most recent multi-panel work—one of extraordinary scale and vision—*The garden* (2013), which depicts the artist's private garden in bloom over the four seasons.

Robinson's talent as a portrait artist was recognised when he won the nation's most coveted prize, The Archibald Prize for Portraiture in 1989 and 1995 with his playful and somewhat controversial self-portraits *Equestrian self-portrait* and *Self-portrait with stunned mullet*. Robinson, along with Brett Whitely, are the only artists to be dual Archibald recipients with self-portrait paintings. In 2011, Robinson donated both of these winning portraits, along with five other Archibald Prize entry works, to the QUT Art Collection.

His bond with QUT began in the 1950s when Robinson was studying to be an art teacher at the Central Technical College (a predecessor institution of QUT). After graduating he worked as an arts educator through the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s before retiring from QUT in 1989 to be a full-time artist.

Robinson, who married former Queensland Technical College student Shirley Rees in 1958 and raised a family, has received accolades for his services to Australian art including an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2007 and a QUT Honorary Doctorate in 1998.

QUT Executive Director, Precincts, Professor Sue Street AO said she believes the William Robinson Gallery is the only single-artist gallery in the world dedicated to a living artist. 'It is the jewel in the crown of QUT. I can't tell you how wonderful it is when Bill and Shirley visit to see a new acquisition or newly installed exhibition. So few artists get to see their life's work brought back together and displayed in such a beautiful location,' said Professor Street.

Professor Street added that the works on display at the gallery are changed each year, chosen from private collections and the university's continually growing collection of more than 165 key Robinson works. 'This is an extraordinary achievement for a major state or national institution, let alone a university.'



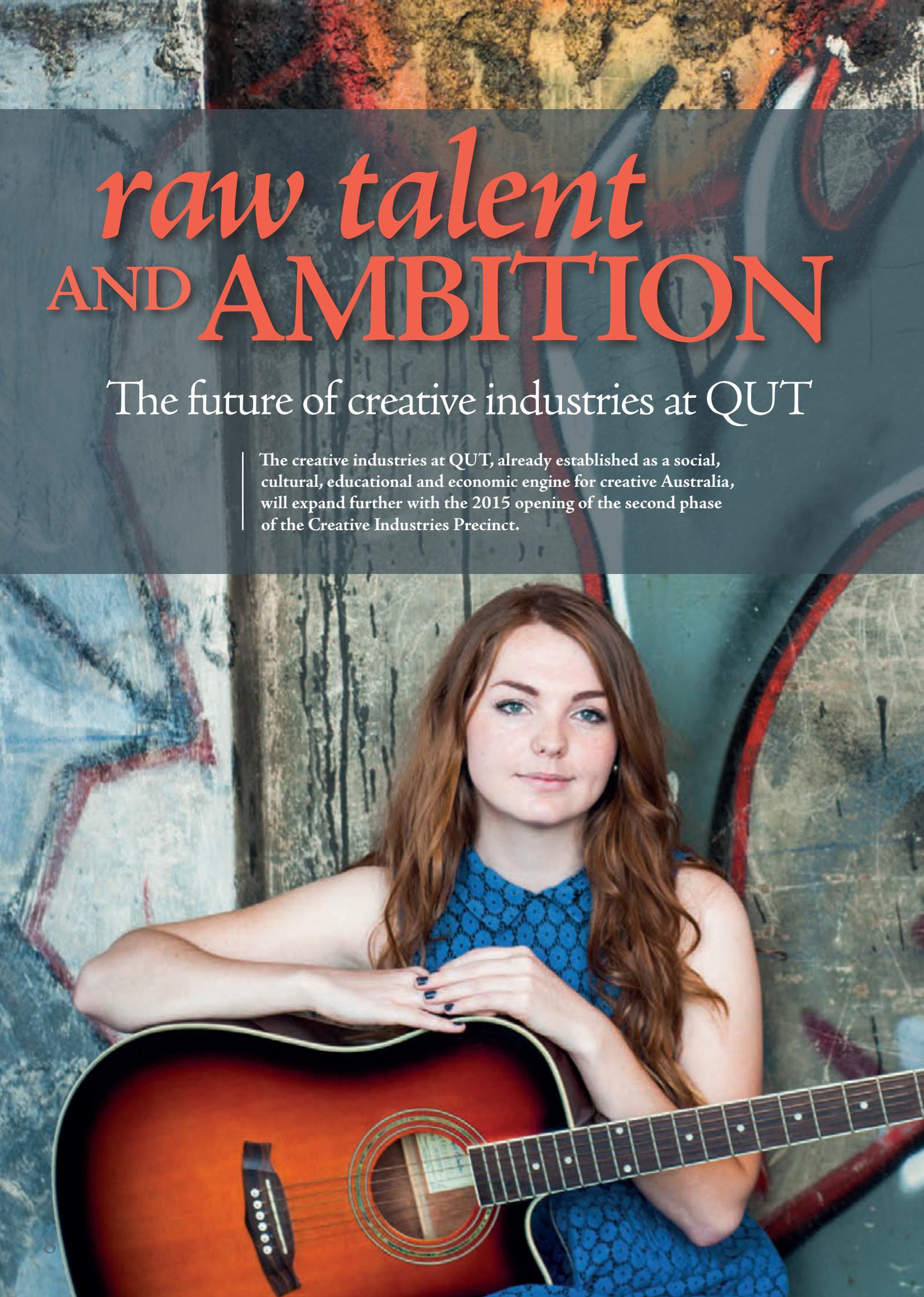
In September 2014, QUT hosted the inaugural 'Friends of William Robinson Dinner'. The dinner brought together a group of William Robinson's supporters from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne who share the ambitions of the gallery and QUT's interest in acquiring key works through artwork donation, long-term loan, bequest and financial gifts.

Explaining the focus of the event, Professor Street said, 'We want to showcase our care for the William Robinson Gallery and the trust that has been placed in us to develop the collection. Universities are increasingly seen as worthy and stable places of learning and research and are enduring institutions for the development of a good society of which the arts are so important. This is why at QUT we invest in both artist training and in sharing our significant cultural assets with the community.'

New philanthropic developments for the gallery include a donation from Philip Bacon, which funded the commissioning of a publicist to promote Robinson's work as a must-see for local, national, and international visitors. Additionally the William Robinson Gallery has begun a two-year research project in partnership with the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art that will look at the painting materials and methods of William Robinson and will inform best practice for collection management, not only for QUT but also for other collecting institutions around Australia.

Professor Street said 'The William Robinson Gallery has been made possible due to the generosity of our donors, in particular that of William and Shirley Robinson and I wish to thank them for their generosity and vision, and in particular the trust they have placed in us. It is an honour to be the guardian of such an important collection of Australian art.'

The William Robinson Gallery, The Cube, Old Government House and the Art Museum are open to the public six days a week for 50 weeks of the year. Entry to all venues is free of charge.



# *raw talent* AND **AMBITION**

The future of creative industries at QUT

The creative industries at QUT, already established as a social, cultural, educational and economic engine for creative Australia, will expand further with the 2015 opening of the second phase of the Creative Industries Precinct.

For more than 150 years, QUT and its predecessor institutions have been an integral part of Australia's creative culture, generating ideas and talent for the creative arts, entertainment, media and design. The young people who receive awards and financial support while studying within QUT's Creative Industries Faculty have the raw talent to create their futures and ours as leaders and innovators in creative arts, entertainment, media and design.

Katie O'Hagan (pictured left) has just completed her second year of a Bachelor of Entertainment Industries degree and feels grateful every day that she is on her way to a career in film and theatre.

In primary school she lost her older sister Emma to cancer. 'I was 10 when she passed away,' says Katie. 'I spent a lot of my holidays through primary school in hospital with her.'

Emma was a beautiful pianist and Katie plays the guitar and sings. Having always dreamed of working in entertainment, Katie gained practice performing for children in the hospital where Emma was being treated.

When she learned about the Amy Clough scholarship for Creative Industries students whose lives had been affected by cancer, Katie was stunned to think such an opportunity existed. Reflecting on the doors it has opened to her, she said: 'I'm really amazed by how much the scholarship has assisted me. I'm just so thankful.'

QUT's Creative Industries provides an education that assists students to shine in their chosen fields. The faculty has strong ties with industry and work experience is a central part of studies. The chance to put their academic knowledge into practice means students graduate with 'real-world' proficiency.

This strong grounding will only increase in relevance and impact in 2015 with the launch of the exciting new \$80 million second phase of the Creative Industries Precinct with studio space for drama, dance, music and visual art.

'We want these new buildings to be just the starting point for us to expand the reach and impact of the Creative Industries at QUT and the support we give to our students, equipping them for success in their careers,' said Professor Mandy Thomas, Executive Dean, Creative Industries.

'We believe this new precinct is well positioned to become a powerhouse for the creative arts in Brisbane,' said Professor Thomas. 'It has a role to produce the very best talent for the industry. The precinct's physical proximity to the creative arts sector means that we will be able to effectively reach out to creative industries contributors.'



The 2014 winner of the Jennifer Blocksidge Award, QUT Acting student Chenoa Deemal (pictured left), is another Creative Industries student with talent and ambition. Named in honour of the renowned former Director of the La Boite theatre company in Brisbane, the Jennifer

Blocksidge Award is given to the most outstanding Creative Industries Faculty acting student each year to assist them in pursuing professional development activities following their graduation from QUT.

Chenoa is an Indigenous emerging actress from North Queensland. She grew up in a small mining town called Cape Flattery Silica Sand Mine.

'My mother is from Coen in Cape York; her people are Kaanju. My father is from Hopevale; his language group is Guugu Yimithirr and his people are Thiithaar Warra,' Chenoa says of her Indigenous roots.

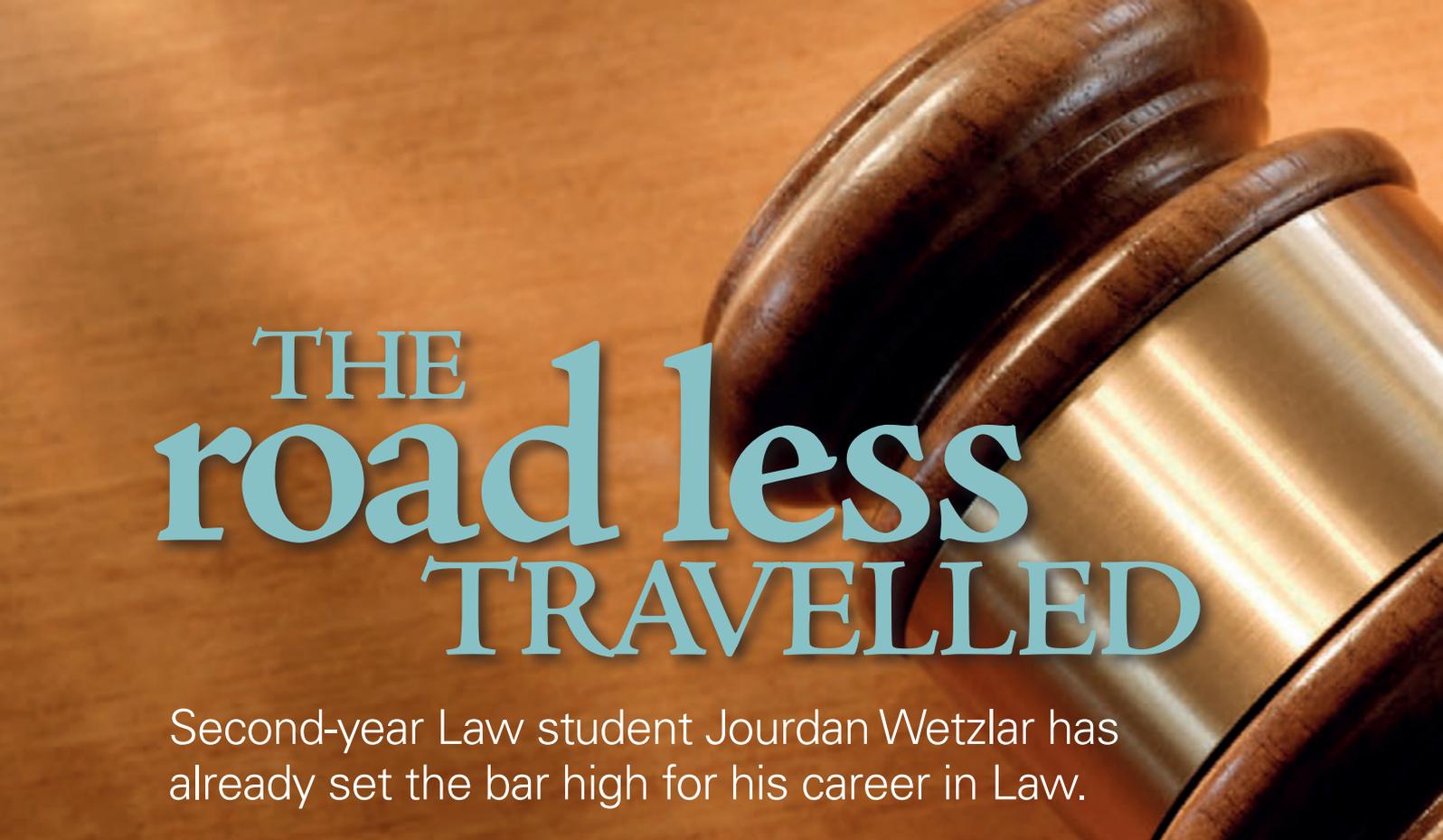
She has performed in a multitude of professional productions since 2009 including *Rainbow's End* for the Riverside Theatre Company in Sydney.

Since beginning her training at QUT's acting program, Chenoa has travelled to New York City to attend the Bova Actors' Workshop, 'For seven weeks I delved deeper into the Eric Morris acting technique with an amazing teacher, Anthony Bova who trained with Eric Morris,' said Chenoa.

She won a coveted role last year playing Katrin in the Queensland Theatre Company production of *Mother Courage and Her Children* by Bertolt Brecht and in 2015 Chenoa will also star in the Queensland Theatre Company's one-woman show, *Seven Stages of Grieving*.

Donor support to the Creative Industries can help students accomplish their goals in the real world.

'We are educating tomorrow's creative leaders, like Chenoa and Katie, and enriching our communities by enhancing work with Indigenous and regional communities and making the performing and visual arts more accessible,' said Professor Thomas.



# THE road less TRAVELLED

Second-year Law student Jourdan Wetzlar has already set the bar high for his career in Law.

At just 20, Jourdan is one of the youngest recipients of the HopgoodGanim QUT Faculty of Law Founders' Scholarship. While his path has not been stereotypical of a high-achieving Law student, his determination and dynamism have seen him lay the foundation for an outstanding career.

Attending seven different high schools and leaving education half way through Year 11, Jourdan says it was the few years following this decision that inspired him to take on education once again.

'I dropped out of school to be an actor—I thought I'd be Johnny Depp by now but that didn't quite work out ...' Jourdan jokes.

'I had a regular gig on a television show but then the show got cancelled. I was thinking – "what do I do from here?"'

Jourdan soon found himself bartending, and decided he wanted more—and getting back to school was the way to get there.

'I wanted a solid career, so I went to TAFE for a year and got Honours in Human Movement and

Environmental Science. I did basic Maths, basic English. Then I went to study Law.'

When Jourdan received the QUT Faculty of Law Founders' Scholarship in 2013, he found his studies were enhanced in a multitude of ways. He was able to cut back the hours he needed to dedicate to working, and allocate that time to study and building connections in the industry. Jourdan is just one of more than 50 students who have been awarded a QUT Faculty of Law Founders' Scholarship since 2000. This year there were five scholarships given to first-year law students experiencing financial hardship, and four law firms came on board as sponsors—HopgoodGanim, King & Wood Mallesons, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, and Gadens.

The level of gratitude Jourdan feels towards HopgoodGanim shines through as he explains.

'From there, I was meeting Luke Mountford (Partner at HopgoodGanim) for coffee on a monthly basis. He gave me a clerkship over the winter,

which is ridiculous. Four hundred people applied for 17 spots. They only take final-year students and I had started second year and I was lucky enough to get that. I must have done an okay job because they got me to come back and work two days a week for them.'

**'The fact that I'm working there has given me confidence to know there is light at the end of the tunnel; I'm not just going to finish my Law degree and be lost.'**

Far from 'lost', Jourdan has already identified an area of interest in the legal industry, having had the opportunity to work in different areas of the firm during his time there.

'I was a registered real estate agent, so I knew the basics and when they asked me to do the clerkship, I thought I'd do corporate law because that sounded interesting, and I'd do property law just because I know it,' explains Jourdan.



# Deadly Health:

## QUT helps close the gap in Indigenous health care

In 2013 QUT Health Clinics Manager Allison Vautin was awarded a QUT Engagement Innovation Grant for her *Murri School Wellness Pilot Project: 'Deadly Health'*. Through this project Mrs Vautin developed a wellness program that raises awareness of health issues in Indigenous health care. The program delivers an innovative range of health initiatives and screenings in the areas of podiatry and optometry, aiming for early detection and intervention in the Indigenous population.

Mrs Vautin said the project is assisting the community to close the gap in Indigenous health care, which has become a crisis for the indigenous community.

'We've been able to work closely with the Murri School to implement initiatives that incorporate education and resourcing to assist the school in making practical changes in areas like the tuckshop, but also to help the students understand the importance of health and how they can maintain it.

'Closing the gap in Indigenous health is of critical importance and working with children in a school environment is a truly unique and rewarding opportunity for all involved. The QUT students involved with the project found it at times challenging, but immensely valuable,' said Mrs Vautin.

Recognising the need for sustainable change and diet and nutritional awareness, the project provided resources and education to the school tuckshop and teachers around healthy eating and focused on raising awareness around the risks of too much sugar and soft drinks.

Mrs Vautin and her team also facilitated fun, hands-on activities for students, visits from QUT Health Clinic podiatrists and optometrists, and the development of educational resources so teachers could easily implement future programs.

The costs associated with using allied health services such as podiatry and optometry can be a major deterrent to accessing much needed services, particularly in low socioeconomic areas and Indigenous communities such as Murri School. Early detection of vision and foot/biomechanical conditions is critical.

The project has so far been hugely successful, and is a powerful embodiment of the Engagement Innovation Grants' mission to foster collaborations between QUT and external partners in order to positively influence the community. Grants of up to \$30 000 are awarded to staff through a competitive application process. Recipients then use the grant as 'seed funding' to commence innovative projects that advance QUT's engagement with industry and the broader community. In the case of *Deadly Health*, Mrs Vautin's dedication and resourcefulness has enabled the project to be extended another year beyond the grant term.

'We're looking forward to where *Deadly Health* might take us, and look forward to seeing the long-term impact of the project,' said Mrs Vautin.

'I thought—"I won't enjoy it but I know it already from real estate." But once I got into it... I don't know why—but I really enjoyed it!'

Looking into the future, one thing Jourdan's sure of is that he wants to be an achiever. We asked him where he sees himself in five years.

'I feel like saying "Partner"? Got to aim high! I've still got two years of uni left so hopefully by then I'll be admitted for a year and just working full time.'

'I would also like a house. My mum doesn't even own a house. She rents, so I would like to have one, and help my mum out. That's my ultimate goal, to have a house and then think about having a family.'

# Happy to give

## Positive culture inspires staff giving

New research by the Australian Charities Fund and the Centre for Social Impact has found a correlation between workplace giving and being happy at work.



This doesn't come as much of a surprise to QUT as the university not only boasts one of the largest staff giving programs among Australian universities, but also has some of the happiest staff, according to the 2014 QUT Staff Survey.

The workplace giving research, published by the Australian Charities Fund and the Centre for Social Impact, included a survey of 4100 people from some of Australia's biggest employers and discovered workplace donors are more highly engaged and proud of their employers.

In releasing the report's findings Australian Charities Fund CEO Edward Kerr said, 'The engagement of employees is a critical topic for employers. Workplace giving programs are a 'must-have' if you want to engage and keep employees and deliver better results.'

With its vibrant, inspiring and caring environment, QUT has earned a reputation as an outstanding place to work for both academic and professional staff. The positive staff culture that exists at QUT has been recognised by top results in workplace surveys and awards, including QUT's status as the best Australian university to work for (*awarded by the Uni Jobs website in 2013 based on survey feedback*).

Additionally, the 2014 QUT Staff Opinion Survey, showed a high level of employee engagement (82 per cent) and passion (>80 per cent), with QUT ranking second in Australia of 35 universities on the level of engagement.

Both the 2013 award and the 2014 survey results are significant achievements for QUT, with a workforce of more than 7000, representing a dynamic mix of experience, longevity, and youth.

QUT's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, International and Development, Professor Scott Sheppard said that the survey results, research, and staff giving program reflect the value of QUT's investment in its people.

'With the recent research showing a correlation between workplace giving and being happy at work, we are proud of the efforts of QUT to create a happy workplace and believe that the positivity of our staff underpins their commitment to QUT's staff giving program, which is regarded as one of the most heavily supported in Australian higher education,' said Professor Sheppard.

While QUT has had a culture of staff giving for more than 65 years, the program has grown exponentially since the formation of a dedicated Staff Giving Program and Committee seven years ago. It now has more than 600 fortnightly payroll donors. 2014 Staff Giving Committee Chair and Executive Dean of Health, Professor Ross Young, said the QUT Staff Giving program united staff across QUT through the common goal of helping others.

'The tremendous growth in the number of payroll donors demonstrates the commitment of staff to supporting our students and making a real difference to the broader community through our research and community outreach programs.

'Activities like the annual QUT Cup, Staff Giving Thank You Morning Tea, and attention-grabbing Staff Giving promotions at the Vice-Chancellor's end-of-year celebration bring together our staff community and build valuable connections between colleagues,' said Professor Young.

Late last year 108 staff donors and students performed in a Staff Giving Flash Mob in front of 1500 QUT staff at the university's end-of-year celebration. The surprise dance served to demonstrate the donors' commitment to QUT, thank those who give and spread awareness about the Staff Giving program. To watch a video of the flashmob scan the QR link below.



This staff initiative led the Staff Giving Committee to reflect on how the QUT culture has grown from the original tuppence a day donations in the 1950s. This year, the Staff Giving Committee formally recognised staff who have been giving for from five to more than 20 years. Professor Young said staff gifts make a valuable statement to students and the community about the faith QUT staff have in the university.

**'Staff at QUT are so passionate about supporting students and improving our communities through research that they're not only making gifts regularly, but have also committed to doing so on a long-term basis—nearly 23 per cent of QUT's payroll donors have been giving for five years or more,' said Professor Young.**

The majority of staff donors support disadvantaged students through the QUT Learning Potential Fund, while others donate to research through the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, faculty-based scholarships and bursaries, and the ongoing restoration of Old Government House.

With its commitment to providing a happy and positive culture for staff, undoubtedly QUT will continue to be a leader in Australian staff giving for years to come.



# Kids FROM THE bush

## Tim Fairfax AC Learning Potential Fund Scholarships

The QUT Learning Potential Fund provides scholarships for students experiencing hardship during their time at university. It also provides an opportunity for philanthropists to create scholarships within the fund, dedicating these named scholarships to areas they are most passionate about. QUT Chancellor, Mr Tim Fairfax AC through his philanthropic support for scholarships chooses to assist kids from the bush. QUT nursing student and goal umpire Stephanie Moller is one of 24 inspiring young people to be awarded QUT's inaugural Tim Fairfax AC Learning Potential Fund Scholarship.

Stephanie, 17, from Childers, has just finished the first year of her nursing degree at QUT and hopes to also study paramedic science in 2015. She combines her studies with part-time work as an Australian Rules umpire in the North-East Australian Football League and the Queensland Australian Football League.

Her ultimate sports dream is to be a national league umpire and to umpire an AFL grand final with her role model, QUT Journalism alumnus Chelsea Roffey. In 2012 Ms Roffey became the first woman to be an umpire at an AFL grand final.

Stephanie said receiving the scholarship has made a huge difference in her life.

'It's amazing—receiving the scholarship has been a blessing,' she said.

**'Moving from a quiet little bush town to the city is a big adjustment in itself. My family isn't wealthy and getting the scholarship means I can breathe a bit easier. Going to university would have been a lot harder and a lot more stressful without it.'**

At a special awards ceremony in May this year, Mr Fairfax met the recipients and shared his motivation for providing these scholarships now, and into the future.

'Our family spent 20 years living and working on a cattle property in rural Queensland. It is important to me that rural and regional Queenslanders and those people in the Northern Territory are afforded opportunities equal to their metropolitan counterparts,' he said.

Pictured above: Stephanie's proud parents, Sharon and Matthew Moller, drove to Brisbane from Childers earlier this year to attend the scholarship presentation ceremony at Old Government House on QUT's Gardens Point campus.

# GIVING sparks a bright future

When leading Australian businesswoman, Rosemary Vilgan, decided to establish a scholarship through the QUT Learning Potential Fund, her parents were just as much in her mind as the female students who will benefit from her gift.

Rosemary Vilgan, 2013 Telstra Australian Businesswoman of The Year and QSuper CEO, has dedicated the new scholarship to the memory of her parents, Carmel and Alwyn Smith, in tribute to the strong community values they gave her and her four sisters.

The alumnus, long-serving QUT Council member and former Deputy Chancellor relishes the opportunity to pass those values on. 'I see these students, they have a spark ... and I want to invest in that spark,' Rosemary said. 'They will go on to make a positive contribution to the world. I love helping them invest in that future.'

According to QUT philanthropy researcher, Dr Wendy Scaife, Ms Vilgan is not alone in her motivation. The Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies research fellow's work shows approaches to giving are changing and people want more personal reasons to give. They also want to see direct outcomes from their gifts.

Ms Vilgan was just 33 when she became CEO of one of the largest superannuation funds in Australia 16 years ago. The self-effacing corporate leader personally added to the award money from her Telstra honour to create the perpetual Rosemary Vilgan Learning Potential Fund Scholarship.

The \$32 million QUT fund is supported by the university and donations from staff and the wider community, with QUT matching gifts dollar for dollar up to \$500,000 annually. It provides around 2000 scholarships and bursaries every

year and is the biggest fund of its kind in Australia for students suffering financial hardship.

'I value education enormously, it's the way society improves,' said Ms Vilgan, who studied business and marketing through a QUT predecessor institution at Kedron Park.

The seeds of her philanthropy were sown in a large, less than wealthy Brisbane family, where benevolent giving and caring was part of life. 'My dad always gave to charity, and he impressed the importance of that on us, even though we didn't have a lot,' she said.

Figures from the 2013 World Giving Index show over the past five years, Australians are ranked second in the world for donating money, with 71 per cent giving. Dr Scaife said Australians were becoming more discerning about their charity dollars. 'It's a very personal thing, giving—it's as much about the giver as it is the project,' she said.

'Some philanthropists like to pilot and springboard innovation. They might also see a worthy project that would enable them to create a legacy and to make a real difference.' She said it was important for donors such as Ms Vilgan to speak up about the reasons they give to charity.

'That's one of the key reasons people give—because they have followed the example of someone else giving.'





# *when determination* MEETS **INSPIRATION...♦♦♦**

It is beyond belief what QUT students can rise above when determination meets inspiration.

Every year almost 2000 students who face financial hardship receive a scholarship through the QUT Learning Potential Fund. For these students, the Learning Potential Fund is a rock on which they can rely. They are inspired by the strangers who care enough about them to invest in their futures.

Ezekiel Nimpaye (pictured above) is studying for a Bachelor of Engineering at QUT and came to Australia as a refugee from Africa.

'My brother and I can't go back to our country because of the war. When we left the refugee camp and came to Australia, I worked really hard to learn English. With the help of the QUT Learning Potential Fund, I am able to study engineering without worrying about financial pressures,' says Ezekiel.

'Now we are Australian citizens, and I love my new country. I can't wait to graduate and start building houses!'

Dr Ray Weekes, Chair of the Learning Potential Fund knows first hand the difference that a scholarship can make.

**'I come from a single parent family, and while my mother always tried to give me the best life possible, we struggled financially. Receiving a scholarship to attend university has been the foundation for where I am today,' says Ray.**

Samantha Boardman is a final-year Bachelor of Laws/ Bachelor of Justice student, and for her, while the scholarship money alleviates financial pressures, the real gift is that supporters of the Fund recognised her potential and believed in her.

'That's far more important than the money,' she said.

This is a common theme that has been reported by scholarship recipients for the 15 years of the Fund's existence. The scholarship and the intrinsic messages associated with receiving it inspire self-belief and support students through adversity and change their lives. Dr Weekes said that it is his understanding of the impact of a scholarship and meeting the students who benefit from the Learning Potential Fund that fires his passion to be involved and contribute to the Fund: students like Zac Van Haaften, a third-year Bachelor of Business student, and the first in his immediate family on the way to graduating from university.

'My folks always encouraged me to chase my dreams, but sometimes money was tight; being the second oldest of nine kids,' says Zac.

**'After my management degree, I want to start a couple of businesses. I want to be able to give back to my community and I want to do some research in education. Most importantly, I want to be there for my family as well.'**

With most scholarship recipients being the first in their family to undertake tertiary study, they become powerful role models for their brothers and sisters or—in the case of mature-age students—for their own children.

'I am happy to be setting a positive example for my siblings. They see me succeed, and it reinforces that they can achieve anything they set their minds to,' said Zac.

The Learning Potential Fund has provided more than 22 000 scholarships since its inception in 1999. Each year between 4000 and 5000 students apply for scholarships and bursaries ranging in value from \$1000 to \$5000. On average, funding is only available to around 2000 students annually. QUT aims to grow the endowment fund to \$50 million by 2020, a target that will help to increase the number and value of scholarships awarded.

As a Learning Potential Fund recipient, Samantha's words are incredibly powerful. 'The Learning Potential Fund gives motivated students the opportunity to turn great potential into greatness—it is an investment in the spark that each of us have inside ... I am so grateful for the opportunities provided to me and the faith that others have in my ability.'

Samantha's, Zac's and Ezekiel's stories can be seen online at [www.qut.edu.au/giving](http://www.qut.edu.au/giving) or by scanning the QR code below.



# GIVING to EDUCATION

## Celebrating 100 years of Queensland Teachers Training College

2014 marks 100 years since the doors to the Queensland Teachers Training College were opened in January 1914.

From humble beginnings and just 57 students, roll on 100 years and the institution has transformed into one of the largest education faculties in Australia with more than 4500 QUT students currently enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate education programs.

In a state where distance was clearly a major force shaping lives, Queensland was perhaps more conservative and slower than the other states to implement change within education. Formal teacher training developed gradually and the pupil-teacher technique, which had been the fundamental method of enlisting and training teachers, was changed when the college brought in a revolutionary new style of teacher preparation across Queensland in 1914.

From its original location in Brisbane City, the college eventually moved to Kelvin Grove in 1942, and adopted the Latin motto *'Meliora Petamus'* (Let us seek better things). Here, 676 students studied, 72 of whom were enlisted as mature students to meet shortages of teachers during the war.

The college later became known as the Senior Teachers Training College in 1944, and then in 1950 it was renamed The Queensland Teachers College. 1950 was

also the year state secondary schooling expanded and student numbers naturally increased.

The expansion of teaching was reflected in the opening of a second teachers college in 1961 at Kedron Park. The Kedron Park Teachers College had a two-year primary program identical to the one at Kelvin Grove Teachers College.

In the early 1980s, four Brisbane teaching colleges were combined to form the new Brisbane College of Advanced Education. This then merged with QUT in 1990 and the QUT Faculty of Education was born.

Today, the QUT Faculty of Education continues to be at the forefront of influencing change within education in Australia. The Exceptional Teachers for Disadvantaged Schools program, a highly successful QUT initiative that prepares outstanding education students to work in some of Queensland's most disadvantaged schools, has been rolled out across Australia, beginning in November 2013. The concept for this program was developed in 2009, with a QUT Engagement Innovation Grant enabling it to take off in 2010. Since then, the project has seen significant growth—from a starting point of three school partners to approximately 40 in 2013—in large part thanks to a \$2 million grant from the Origin Foundation and Social Ventures Australia.

The generosity of philanthropic alumni donors to education is also providing opportunities for continued innovation with scholarships and awards such as the newly established **Jean Ferguson OAM Memorial Award** for Early Childhood Education. The award honours Miss Jean Ferguson OAM who, during a distinguished career spanning more than six decades, dedicated herself to the advancement of early childhood research, training and policy formation. The inaugural award will be presented in 2015 and then given annually, assisting a postgraduate student or early-career researcher in the field of early childhood education.

Donors also choose to give generously to the Remote Practicum Bursaries program, which enables education students to experience teaching in rural and remote communities. Students find these placements incredibly rewarding and often seek similar positions after graduation, fulfilling an urgent need for skilled teachers in remote communities.

Executive Dean of Education, Professor Wendy Patton, commended the staff, students and alumni who have been influential in changing the face of education over the past century for their contributions to education and the community and said their efforts have made a lasting impact, of which we should be proud.

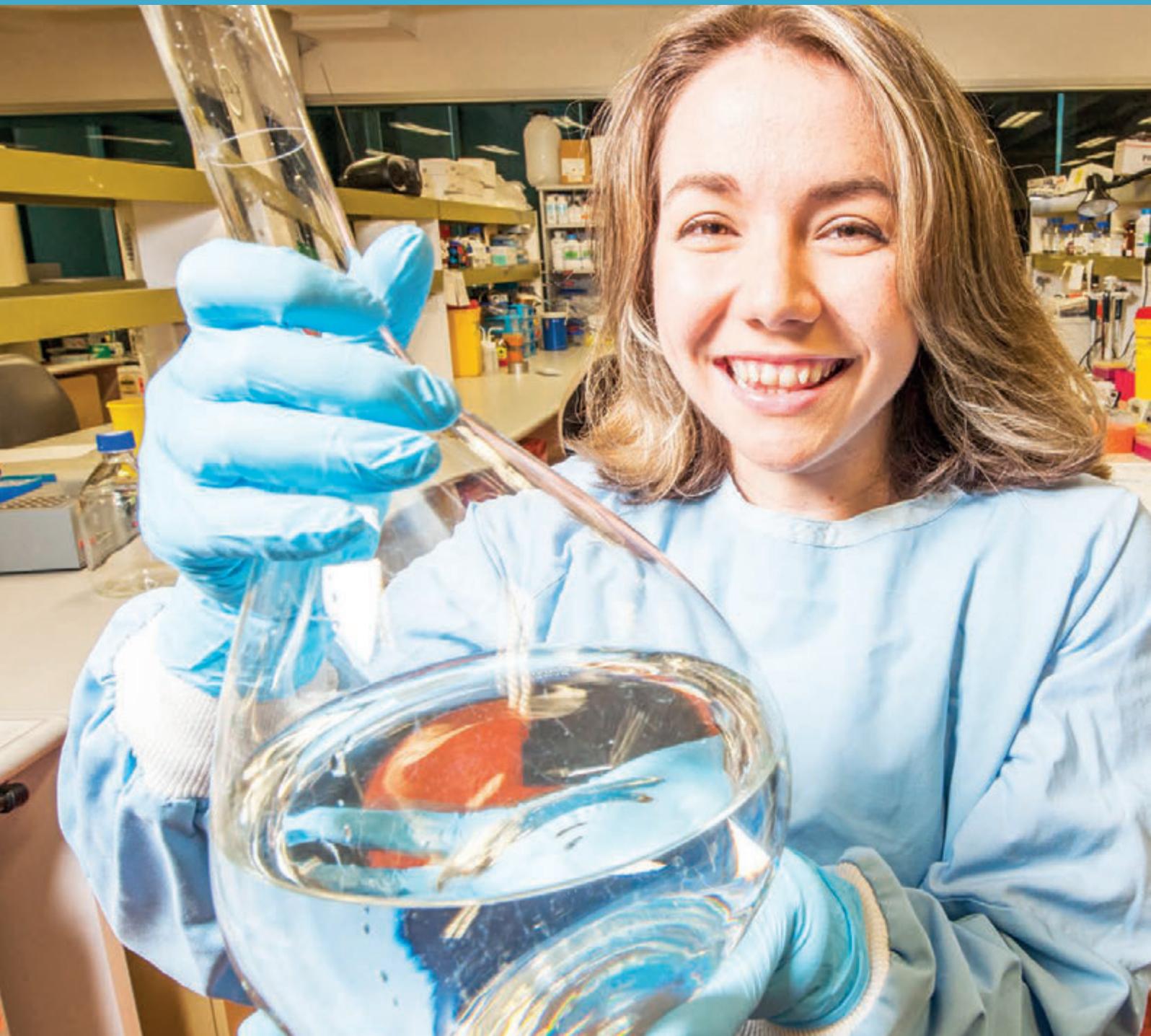


‘There are many milestones which mark the journey of a century-old organisation. However we acknowledge that these milestones are reflective of the journey of hundreds of thousands of former staff, students and alumni—it is a history that we can all celebrate with pride and one that will continue to grow with our continued dedication to educational opportunity and through the generosity of our donors,’ Professor Patton said.

# *personal . connections:*

## *Legacy gifts to prostate cancer research*

At just 25, QUT PhD student and scholarship recipient Ruth Fuhrman-Luck has already made a significant contribution to finding better treatments for prostate cancer, which will affect 267 000 Australian men by 2017.



With prostate cancer one of the most common cancers globally, the Prostate Cancer Research Program at QUT's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI) aims to understand more clearly the molecular and cellular basis for the development, progression, and metastasis of this cancer, which is increasingly affecting more men.

Ruth expects to complete her PhD at the end of 2014 and is one of the youngest members of IHBI's cancer research team.

Scholarships have enabled Ruth to learn from QUT's team of world-leading cancer researchers including Cancer Research Program Director, Distinguished Professor Judith Clements. Professor Clements along with Professor Colleen Nelson have established the internationally recognised Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland located at Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital. This is one of only two Australian interdisciplinary and collaborative centres providing a crucial link between laboratory research and clinical practice. Students, researchers and medical practitioners work together to investigate the origins, progress and therapeutic treatment of this disease, which affects one in six Australian men in their lifetimes.

'We are working on a 3D cell culture model that will enhance the analysis of cancer cell growth and response to drug treatment,' said Ruth.

'Along with my fellow IHBI researchers, the scholarship facilitates collaborations with world-leading scientists internationally, which is crucial to making breakthroughs in our work.'

IHBI is an Australian leader in multidisciplinary health and biomedical research, and is making a vital contribution to finding better ways to treat and prevent a range of life-threatening and debilitating conditions.

IHBI Executive Director, Professor Lyn Griffiths, said philanthropy provides scholarships for exceptional students like Ruth.

**'There is a pressing need for donations to support talented researchers in solving the great health challenges of our time,' said Professor Griffiths.**

Currently studying with the assistance of an Australian Postgraduate Award scholarship, Ruth has been the recipient of a number of scholarships including a QUT Dean's Scholarship and Queensland Smart State Award.

In addition to the scholarships that allow young researchers like Ruth to help make breakthroughs in medical science, bequests to QUT have had a significant impact upon IHBI's cancer program.

In 2014 alone, generous gifts from the estates of Paul Anderson and Richard Roberts will not only fund increased research into diseases such as prostate cancer, but also bring an element of personal connection to the scientific search for diagnostic tests and improved treatments.

Paul Anderson, who passed away aged 85 in 2013, chose to leave a proportion of his estate to support QUT's Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland.

Similarly, Richard Roberts and his wife Yvonne both passed away in 2013, and wanted to leave a legacy of hope for others. Richard had expressed a wish to leave a donation to prostate cancer research and \$10,000 from their estate went to the QUT Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland.

These legacy gifts to prostate cancer research will be used to support the work of both established researchers and also the career development of younger researchers like Ruth—who will be leaders of the future. QUT is committed to ensuring such thoughtful gifts will assist real people doing important work.

Other bequests to QUT prostate cancer research have supported international collaborative projects such as that of Dr Jyotsna Batra, an early-career geneticist. Dr Batra was one of only 30 scientists across the globe to receive a Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Samman award for her innovative research into identifying men who are predisposed to developing prostate cancer.

'The work being undertaken by IHBI researchers like Ruth and Jyotsna and the collaborations worldwide that their scholarships allow, is crucial to us developing more effective treatments and ultimately preventing or reducing the development of prostate cancer,' said Professor Griffiths.

'As crucial as the financial support of donors such as Mr Anderson and Mr Roberts is to IHBI, it is the faith they convey through gift-in-will in the work we are doing, which is very rewarding, for which we thank them.'



# The new philanthropy

**The Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies (ACPNS) aims to maintain its position at the forefront of philanthropy through its research efforts in the nonprofit sector with the announcement of the ACPNS Donor Circle.**

The Donor Circle is a unique community that enables greater impact through collective giving to ensure that each year a significant gift will be received by ACPNS to directly assist its students. While the Donor Circle seemingly embraces a new trend in giving, in actuality giving circles have a foundation that goes back hundreds of years.

Referred to in the past as mutual aid societies, these groups were prolific in eighteenth-century France and England and although they were not often philanthropically centred, their primary characteristic was that a group of individuals made regular payments into a common fund in order to provide for themselves in times of trouble.

Giving circles in their current manifestation are a form of participatory philanthropy where groups of individuals donate their own money or time to a pooled fund, decide together on whether to give these to

charity or community projects and, in doing so, seek to increase their awareness of and engagement in the issues covered by the charity or community project. Many circles, in addition to donating their money, also contribute their time and skills to support local causes.

The structure of the circles can be informal or formal. Informally, circles may vote and choose an organisation to support and each member writes an individual check. Formal circles may have their money housed at a local community foundation and have staff who support the work of the circle. Giving circles can range in size from a handful of members to several hundred.

The ACPNS Donor Circle was conceptualised from the work of Lesley Ray, a QUT alumnus and philanthropic expert. Ms Ray wrote a thesis on giving circles titled 'The emergence of giving circles and their relationships with nonprofit organisations: A case study.' The thesis examined a giving circle called *Impact Austin* based in the US.

‘The larger and more formal giving circles have unambiguous views about how they want to be treated by nonprofits; that is, they wish to be involved in the organisations they choose to support, have a say in the projects they fund, and often volunteer for the recipient organisations.’

In a 2007 study, the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers’ New Ventures in Philanthropy initiative identified approximately 400 giving circles in the United States, more than double the number from two years earlier.

A survey of 160 circles, published in 2008, found they had leveraged nearly \$100 million. Nearly 12,000 people took part in the 160 giving circles surveyed.

Another study conducted in 2005 by Angela M. Eikenberry, an associate professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, found that giving circles generally bring both long-time and new philanthropists to organised philanthropy. For both groups, participation seems to increase levels of giving while bringing ‘new money’ to the nonprofit sector; especially to small and locally based organisations.

In 2009 Eikenberry extended her research with fellow University of Nebraska, Omaha professor Jessica Bearman. This research, largely based on a survey of giving circle members compared to a control group, found that giving circles influence members to give more and to give more strategically. Their members give to a wide array of organisations and are highly engaged in the community. Giving circles increase members’ knowledge about philanthropy, nonprofits,

and the community. Level of engagement, length of engagement, and size of the giving circle seem to matter most, when it comes to understanding giving circles’ effects on members.

ACPNS Donor Circle founding member and ACPNS Alumni Chapter President, Helen Styles, says the circle enables alumni to contribute with stronger impact than individual gifts.

**‘Not only are we able to have a powerful impact as a group, but the sense of community that comes from working together to identify an area for our annual gift is rewarding,’ says Ms Styles.**

‘As ACPNS alumni we are passionate advocates of philanthropy. The ACPNS Donor Circle gives us an opportunity for the fulfilling engagement we seek with our causes and fellow donors.’

**‘Giving circles are known as one type of the “new philanthropy” —giving that embraces concepts of accountability and entrepreneurship,’ says Ms Ray in her thesis.**

# Philanthropists OF THE future



**In June this year, QUT Business student Thomas Davies was named Queensland's 2014 Young Philanthropist of the Year by the Queensland Community Foundation. This prestigious award celebrates Queenslanders who make outstanding contributions to their communities.**

QUT nominated Tom for the award in recognition of his fundraising work for The Black Dog Institute, which undertakes research and offers educational programs on mood disorders and mental health. Tom was motivated to raise funds and awareness of The Black Dog Institute through personal tragedy in 2007 when his brother, Josh, committed suicide.

This tragic event motivated Tom and his family to educate others and raise awareness about mental health, bipolar disorder and depression.

At the age of 19, Tom, with the help of his family, hosted the first Josh Davies Memorial Golf Day in honour of his brother who was also a QUT student. The event raised \$9700. Since that first event, the Davies family and their team have started the JED Project at QUT and have raised an additional \$60300 through a variety of events including golf days and auction events. These funds have been donated to The Black Dog Institute to further the research and awareness raising around mental health and mood disorders.

Suicide is thought by experts to be the culmination of complex interactions between biological, social, economic, cultural and psychological factors operating at individual, community and societal levels.

Research conducted at the Hunter Institute of Mental Health found that due to stigma, discrimination, fear and ignorance the topic of suicide has been commonly considered taboo. Most western cultures have been socialised to avoid the topic of suicide and our discomfort and lack of knowledge perpetuates the situation. The research ultimately revealed that starting conversations around suicide is a hugely important part of prevention.

Tom emphasised these findings saying the awareness he and his family are raising around suicide prevention is just as important as the funds themselves. 'A large focus of our work is centred on raising awareness and stimulating conversation for youth suicide prevention, which is equally as important as the money,' said Tom.

Inspired by the philanthropic drive of students like Tom and the importance of educating students with a philosophy of contributing to their communities, the QUT Alumni and Development Office is launching a project to raise student awareness of the value of philanthropy.

The project aims to harness the energy of students and direct it towards programs that will allow them to focus their philanthropic pursuits for the greater good. Funded by a QUT Engagement Innovation Grant, the project will show students how they already

benefit from philanthropy at QUT, the value of philanthropy to them, and how they can be 'young philanthropists' and play a greater part in the university and the community's long-term sustainability.

Director of Alumni and Development at QUT, Simone Garske said the project will generate and nurture student-led efforts to develop a culture of philanthropy among QUT students and promote an appreciation of the positive impact fundraising can have.

'Not only will students be educated on the importance of being part of their broader communities through philanthropy, they will also have the opportunity to connect with alumni, staff and industry professionals through the creation of a Student Giving Council. Our long-term goal is to unite our students with our alumni through a tradition of giving back, whether that be through time, expertise or money or a combination of all,' said Ms Garske.

Through the project QUT hopes that its graduates will be socially minded leaders who strive to give back to their communities, and who value the work of students like Thomas Davies, an exemplary community leader.

If you or anyone you know is struggling with mental illness, phone Lifeline on 13 11 14.

# 25 years of philanthropy



## Simone Garske Director, Alumni and Development

At QUT we know the interests of our donors are varied and we respect this diversity through our determination to safeguard each gift, to maximise its benefit and to honour its intended purpose. Every day we see the impact your gifts are making. Whether you give to students, research or our cultural and arts programs, you are making a difference in our shared community and we cannot thank you enough.

2014 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of QIT's transformation to QUT, as we celebrate 25 years of giving to QUT through the sixth edition of our donor thank you magazine, *impact*.

During my time at QUT, I have been proud to see this university grow into an international leader in countless fields and disciplines. In a changing world, we have reimagined courses, opened two major research institutes (Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation and Institute for Future Environments), developed two new precincts in the fields of science and engineering, and creative industries, established one of the largest equity scholarship programs in Australia, and deepened our commitment to remaining relevant and connected in a digital age.

Philanthropy has made this extraordinary transformation possible and will continue to play a vital role in the next 25 years at QUT. Thank you for all that you have done to support QUT over the past 25 years and thank you for being a part of our bright future.

Your generosity has resulted in a perpetual scholarship fund worth more than \$32 million which has awarded scholarships to more than 22 000 students who might not otherwise have undertaken or finished their degree. It has supported research seeking solutions to devastating diseases and to facilities that allow QUT to provide the pathways to a better world.

You have trusted us with your gift, to maximise its benefits, and honour its purpose and for that we are incredibly grateful. You are helping us safeguard the future. With your support, our students will be able to reach their full potential to make positive and profound contributions to our world.

It is due to your passion and dedication that QUT has become the powerhouse it is today: a university for the real world with an unwavering commitment to helping students, researchers, staff and the community as a whole.

We are tremendously appreciative to you for investing in the university's vision and a shared sense of values, identity and purpose. I look forward to our continued partnership for the next 25 years and I hope you enjoy the stories that show the impact of your generosity.

