Meet our latest Rhodes Scholar

QUT’s 4th in 5 years
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Award-winning journalist Peter Greste spent 400 days in a three-by-four metre Cairo jail cell before he was finally released in February. The imprisonment of the QUT graduate (who completed his journalism degree in 1986) along with his Al Jazeera colleagues, Mohamed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed, sparked a worldwide campaign calling for their release. The trio, initially detained in December 2013, were sentenced to between seven and 10 years jail, on the charge of spreading ‘false news’ in a move widely condemned as politically motivated.

Their plight highlighted the importance of freedom of the press with the message ‘journalism is not a crime’ reverberating around the world—including QUT. Mr Greste’s mother, Lois, and father, Juris, who lectured at QUT in architecture and urban design for 11 years, addressed first-year QUT journalism students during the campaign.

‘It might have been a sobering experience … but we could look at Peter’s stimulating and valuable career in world journalism, consider its importance in bringing the world home to everybody, and take on some messages about fairness in reporting … We are proud to send out graduates who observe these standards,’ it said.

‘We are distressed and disgusted to ever find those graduates traduced, intimidated and impeded in their work, let alone unjustly punished.’

‘(Mr Greste’s journalism degree) was a grounding in commitment to truth and freedom and media,’ Dr Lee Dufield, a senior lecturer in journalism, said.

Mr Greste, who won a prestigious Peabody Award and has reported for the world’s most reputable news services from across the globe, has called for the release of ‘my brothers’.

At the time of writing Mr Fahmy and Mr Mohamed were on bail awaiting re-trial.

‘I … feel incredible angst about my colleagues, leaving them behind … If it’s right for me to be free, then it’s right for all of them to be freed,’ he told Al Jazeera.

And, in an interview with the ABC, he expressed a desire to return to reporting.

‘I think this job is important. I still think that it has value,’ he said.

‘I still think that it contributes important things to society, and maybe I’m being a little bit idealistic here, but I also really love the job.’

FREEDOM fight

Journalism alumnus Peter Greste has made his own headlines in a battle for freedom of the press.
How to be a Rhodes Scholar

QUT’s Brody Foy proves he has what it takes to receive the world’s most sought-after scholarship.
An honours degree in maths with straight sevens is a good start for earning a postgraduate place in one of the world’s most venerable and prestigious universities.

No surprise, then, that mathematician, tutor, mentor, musician, and sometime dodgeball player Brody Foy was chosen as Queensland’s 2014 Rhodes Scholar, QUT’s fourth in five years.

As joint dux of Maleny State High, the high achiever entered QUT as a Vice-Chancellor’s Scholar which gave him ‘immense opportunities’ and he took every one. VC Scholars join QUT’s College of Excellence and are offered an array of activities for personal and professional development.

‘At QUT I was able to do everything from attending conferences and skills development workshops, to working as a student ambassador and helping plan and run the Enhance conference on social change in 2012,’ Mr Foy said.

‘I organised community and leadership workshops in and out of uni, and did a lot of things I would not otherwise have experienced. I even did a stand-up comedy course. I don’t think I’ve ever been more out of my comfort zone—it taught me to think on my feet.’

And while comedy didn’t quite put him on the stage, Mr Foy has played acoustic guitar for more than 12 years and performs professionally, sometimes at QUT functions. It’s another talent he has used to ensure he fulfills the pact he made with himself to travel overseas every six months.

“They want people who will go on and change the world and the only way to do that is to be aware of the world.”

While maintaining a dynamic schedule, Mr Foy also mentored QUT students and tutored in maths. He was recognised as QUT Student Leader of the Year and QUT Volunteer of the Year.

Leadership workshops honed his natural ability to lead and adopt new ways of thinking to change the world. A chance conversation led him to join Left Right, a think tank where young people learnt to write policy and he eventually became state director.

This experience and a healthy interest in politics and current affairs set him good stead for the Rhodes interview process where he was asked about his views on everything from Australia’s human rights record to economics.

“They (the Rhodes committee) want people who will go on and change the world and the only way to do that is to be aware of the world,” he said.

Through QUT, Mr Foy has already had a hand in helping to change the lives of the traditional owners of a South American gold mine. He recently travelled with a group of fellow QUT students to Colombia where all-too-common mine collapses claim many lives.

The student team undertook an ambitious real-time 3D mapping of the mine in colour using a purpose built computer in a backpack to detect and improve weak or unstable areas.

“We developed a proof-of-concept mapping device made from off-the-shelf equipment that is affordable enough to ensure it could actually be used in developing communities,” Mr Foy said.

His plan now is to join a team at Oxford working on using maths to better predict treatment for lung cancer.

“For example, we could use maths to find out the best time of day or month to deliver chemo. I want to use maths to change and improve things,” he said.

QUT tally grows

We have produced seven Rhodes Scholars since 1998, including four in the last five years. Queensland’s 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015 Rhodes Scholars are graduates of QUT.
International visitors to QUT

In conjunction with the G20 Leaders’ Summit last November, QUT played host to a number of international leaders. Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi toured the Science and Engineering Centre where he unveiled QUT’s latest agricultural robot, declaring, ‘Research is the mother of invention’. The progressive leader inspected The Cube and met with students, staff and visiting school children (pictured). Other G20 visitors to QUT included President of Indonesia Joko Widodo, His Excellency Governor Zhu Xiaodan, Governor of China’s Guangdong province, and Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Mr Angel Gurria.

QUT and China link to clear air on pollution

Top Australian and Chinese experts have teamed up to tackle the global problem of air pollution. QUT is a driving force behind a new transnational research centre that is investigating the science of, and solutions to, all forms of air pollution. The Australia-China Centre for Air Quality Science and Management was launched last December in Beijing.

The centre is a partnership between QUT and more than 20 other universities and government agencies in Australia and China, and is led at QUT by Professor Lidia Morawska.

Prestigious poet

QUT creative writing academic, award-winning poet, editor and critic Sarah Holland-Batt has been invited to join the most prestigious writers’ colony in the United States for a five-week fellowship. The senior lecturer is using her time at Yaddo in New York to commence work on the manuscript of her third book of poems. Collectively, artists who have worked at Yaddo have won 71 Pulitzer Prizes and numerous other literary awards. A former Fulbright Scholar, Ms Holland-Batt has also been awarded $40,000 by the Australia Council and has recently attended the Hawthornden Castle Writers Retreat in Scotland.
The return of Robotronica

QUT’s international robotics festival Robotronica is returning in 2015. The free event, for all ages, will bring together a spectacular array of clever robots at Gardens Point campus on Sunday, 23 August. The lineup will include the popular Nao robot, pictured below, marine robots in the pool, a story-telling robot and, for the little ones, a robot petting zoo. The inaugural Robotronica in 2013 drew more than 17000 people to QUT. Please save the date.

Centre for Robotic Vision launched

When it comes to seeing eye-to-eye with humans, Baxter is a roboticist’s best friend. QUT’s newest robot is helping researchers break down the technological boundaries that stop them from working safely side-by-side with humans.

He was also the star attraction at the recent official launch of the Australian Centre for Robotic Vision at QUT by Australian Minister for Education the Hon. Christopher Pyne MP, pictured right.

Researchers programmed Baxter to use computer vision to play an unbeatable game of Connect Four. Baxter is now being trained to recognise and pick ripe capsicums.

The centre brings together Australia’s top computer vision and robotics researchers, who are creating the next generation of robots that can see and understand complex, real-world environments.

Teaching excellence

QUT is celebrating two awards for Teaching Excellence in the latest Australian Awards for University Teaching.

The awards were presented at Parliament House in Canberra to Associate Professor Rachael Field from the School of Law and Associate Professor Dann Mallet from QUT’s Mathematical Sciences School.
When a surgeon, a roboticist and a biologist collaborate on a shared passion, you can be sure they will create innovative ideas.

Robotic vision creates REAL medical solutions
QUT’s health and medical robotics team, part of the new Australian Centre for Robotic Vision (ACRV), believes the robot would slash patient waiting lists, simplify training for new surgeons and prolong their labour-intensive careers.

The project is just one of several underway as part of a new collaborative research focus for QUT’s Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Institute for Future Environments, Science and Engineering Faculty, Medical Engineering Research Facility and the ACRV.

The team is also developing a low-cost microscope system with predictive learning abilities that can detect malaria in blood samples.

The microscope attaches to a smart phone and compares the stained blood sample to a comprehensive database of images of infected blood samples.

“One surgeon could oversee several robotic arthroscopies at once.”

“This technology will be life-changing for the 3.4 billion people in the world at risk of contracting malaria,” ACRV’s Dr Jaiprakash said.

Rather than healthcare workers sending blood samples to laboratories to be analysed—a lengthy process—this in-field device will be able to tell them on the spot if the parasite is present in the blood, and at what density, so that treatment can begin immediately.

The system requires minimal training and no internet connection—the kits can be shipped to regions suffering outbreaks quickly and cheaply.

Roboticist Professor Jonathan Roberts said the technologies being developed at QUT could be adapted for other diseases and procedures.

“We’re researching a low-cost device to diagnose diabetic retinopathy and a 3-D scanning platform we believe will help surgeons and their pathology colleagues remove bone tumours more accurately,” Professor Roberts said.

The field of robotics is evolving rapidly and we are excited by the prospect of applying QUT’s world-leading robotic vision research to solutions that will improve the lives of people across the world while reducing the cost of healthcare.”

By Kate Haggman

Medical robots today are large, expensive and out of the reach of most health professionals in the developing world.

Orthopaedic surgeon Professor Ross Crawford, robotics expert Professor Jonathan Roberts and biologist Dr Anjali Jaiprakash are tackling key medical issues with affordable, simple robotic devices.

They envision a near future in which cost-effective robotic ‘assistive tools’ take the pressure off busy health professionals.

The researchers are starting with knees but believe their vision can be easily adapted to other minimally invasive surgeries.

‘Knee arthroscopies are both physically and mentally taxing on the surgeon, who spends years just learning how to carefully manoeuvre instruments into the small, confined spaces within the joint,’ Professor Crawford said.

‘We’re developing an affordable robot that will use the latest robotic vision technology to perform those tiny, precision movements under a surgeon’s supervision. In fact, one surgeon could oversee several robotic arthroscopies at once.’
Hospitality entrepreneur and philanthropist Allan English is halfway toward helping one million of the world’s poorest people.

By Rob Kidd

A regularly updated number hangs modestly from a noticeboard at Silver Chef’s West End head office—514 206, at last count.

It’s not a sales target or that month’s profit, but tells you all you need to know about what drives the hospitality equipment firm.

Inspired by founder and philanthropist Allan English, Silver Chef has helped more than half a million of the world’s poorest people out of poverty.

‘We call it a BHAG—Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal. By 2020, we want to fund one million people out of poverty,’ said Mr English, who serves on the advisory board of QUT’s Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies.

As a young entrepreneur in the early 1980s, Mr English capitalised on the pizza home delivery boom with a new franchise business renting out ovens.

By 2000, Mr English was making $50,000 a month.

‘I asked myself a really important question: Why are you trying to make more money?’, he said.

The son of a sheep farmer from rural WA was never interested in fast cars or big boats and instead found his calling in the toughest slums of Manila.

Approached by charity Opportunity International to set up their Queensland office, Mr English took a life-changing trip to see how micro loans were transforming the lives of the poorest women in the Philippines.

Before he knew it he was working full time for the charity.

After visiting one project in East Timor, he was told the aid would move 40,000 people out of poverty in the next five years.

‘I thought: Why not do that every year?’, Mr English said.

‘Now I have a very clear vision about my reason for being an entrepreneur—philanthropy is my silent partner.’

Mr English donated half his shares in Silver Chef, valued at around $18 million at the time and worth substantially more today, to establish the philanthropic English Family Foundation in 2010.

Allan English was named 2014 Philanthropy Leader of the Year by Philanthropy Australia.
By Amanda Weaver

Imagine if the person with the potential to discover a cure for the Ebola virus couldn’t afford to go to university and how the world would lose out as a result.

That’s the thinking behind the establishment of the new Graham Family Learning Potential Fund Scholarship to support students studying at QUT.

‘I read a quote recently which said something like ‘a cure for cancer could be locked away in the mind of a child who cannot afford an education’ and it really struck a chord with me,’ said Michael Graham, who obtained his law degree and a masters at QUT.

Donors make an enormous difference to the lives of less-advantaged QUT students.

‘It’s a hard world if those with the desire and intelligence and drive to discover things critical to humanity are not able to get to university.

‘My family and I wanted to make a contribution that would give back to QUT and provide opportunity to help multiple students. A sum of $25,000 over five years really only amounts to $100 a week.’

Mr Graham, whose daughter Lauren has just begun a fine arts and dance performance degree at QUT, was initially inspired to become a donor after attending Learning Potential Fund breakfasts.

‘I was invited to join a table at a Learning Potential Fund breakfast and I met some amazing students who are recipients of the fund,’ he said.

‘It made me realise the impact the fund can have and my family and I saw the creation of a scholarship as a worthwhile way to help students and contribute to the community at large.

‘The Learning Potential Fund will determine the recipients and I know the money will be used well.’

A Learning Potential Fund Named Scholarship can be established for $25,000 for a five year term, which amounts to approximately $100 per week. All donations of $2 or more are tax deductible in Australia. QUT matches all gifts to the Learning Potential Fund dollar for dollar.

‘... ‘a cure for cancer could be locked away in the mind of a child who cannot afford an education’ and it really struck a chord with me.”

The next Learning Potential Fund Breakfast is on Wednesday 21 October with guest speaker Gino de Pasquale, The Authentic Executive. To book a table call 07 3138 1838 or email learningpotentialfund@qut.edu.au

For more information on donating to the QUT Learning Potential Fund refer to the insert enclosed in this edition of Links.
A car powered by its own body panels could soon be driving on our roads after a breakthrough in nanotechnology research by a QUT team.

Researchers have developed lightweight ‘supercapacitors’ that can be combined with regular batteries to dramatically boost the power of an electric car.

The discovery was made by Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr Jinzhang Liu, Professor Nunzio Motta, and PhD researcher Marco Notarianni, from QUT’s Science and Engineering Faculty and Institute for Future Environments.

The supercapacitors—a ‘sandwich’ of electrolyte between two all-carbon electrodes—were made into a thin and extremely strong film with a high power density.

The film could be embedded in a car’s body panels, roof, doors, bonnet and floor—storing enough energy (after being plugged into electricity mains) to turbocharge an electric car’s battery in just a few minutes.

The findings, published in the Journal of Power Sources and the Nanotechnology journal, mean a car partly powered by its own body panels could be a reality within five years, Mr Notarianni said.

“A car partly powered by its own body panels could be a reality within five years.”

‘Vehicles need an extra energy spurt for acceleration, and this is where supercapacitors come in. They hold a limited amount of charge, but they are able to deliver it very quickly, making them the perfect complement to mass-storage batteries,’ he said.

‘Supercapacitors offer a high power output in a short time, meaning a faster acceleration rate of the car and a charging time of just a few minutes, compared to several hours for a standard electric car battery.’

Dr Liu said currently the ‘energy density’ of a supercapacitor was lower than a standard lithium-ion (Li-Ion) battery, but its ‘high power density’, or ability to release power in a short time, is ‘far beyond’ a conventional battery.

‘In the future, it is hoped the supercapacitor will be developed to store more energy than a Li-Ion battery while retaining the ability to release its energy up to 10 times faster—meaning the car could be entirely powered by the supercapacitors in its body panels,’ he said.
Longer lasting electric cars

QUT researchers are working to develop longer lasting lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles and help wean the world off fossil fuels.

In partnership with Australia’s AutoCRC and the Malaysia Automotive Institute, QUT’s goal is to develop improved methods of manufacturing the advanced materials used in the batteries, that can easily be adopted by Malaysia’s burgeoning electric vehicle industry.

QUT’s Professor Peter Talbot, pictured above, leads the project, which has been funded with $4 million from the AutoCRC.

‘The technology and production processes for electric vehicles must keep improving so that their driving range keeps increasing and their prices keep falling,’ Professor Talbot said. ‘The most important—and most expensive—piece of the puzzle is the battery. The greater the energy density of the battery in an electric vehicle, the further it can travel before it needs recharging.’

Team Arrow shows its solar flair for racing

A QUT team has placed fifth in the inaugural Abu Dhabi Solar Challenge international race. Members Amy Gunnell (fourth-year mechatronics engineering student), Robert Mair and Charlie Lu (third-year electrical engineering students), and Leslie Thang (mechanical engineering graduate) also won the event’s mechanical design award.

The gruelling four-day competition covered a 1200km course through the desert around Abu Dhabi in January. Team Arrow’s car, which is sponsored by QUT and other organisations, cost about $250,000 and runs on less power than a toaster.
Now acting graduates Matt Zeremes (2002) and Guy Edmonds (2004) have wrapped up filming of Super Awesome!—their latest big screen collaboration which has an international sales deal in the pipeline.

The pair wrote, directed and starred in the movie which uses humour to tell the story of two down-on-their-luck mates who receive a large amount of money to create a musical on an issue they know nothing about—gay marriage.

With stellar careers on the stage and in a wide variety of Australian television dramas, Zeremes and Edmonds are partners in the Sydney-based production company Boomshaka Film.

They are also well known for playing gay lovers in multiple theatre productions of the hit play Holding the Man in Sydney and London’s West End.

In making Super Awesome! Mr Zeremes said they didn’t want to preach to the converted. ‘We wanted those who don’t like the idea of marriage equality to see another point of view,’ he said.

‘Our two main characters represent these people. They’re naive to the significance of the theme. However, throughout the course of the film they learn why it’s important.’

The grads name each other as their biggest inspiration and motivators. ‘Together, we dream big and find a way to achieve big things, particularly releasing our feature film. We shot in Sydney and New York and I still marvel that we engineered a way to do that,’ Mr Zeremes said.

The dual directors and best mates have described their film making experience as ‘intense’ and joked that they have become all the closer for having made out more than 300 times on stage.
Happily settling in Surat

QUT teaching graduate Peter Macbeth has swapped a city university of 45,000 students for a bush school with 85 kids. And he couldn’t be happier.

Mr Macbeth has settled into his second year of teaching at Surat State School, five hours west of Brisbane, after graduating from QUT’s Caboolture campus with a Bachelor of Education (Primary) in 2013.

A robotics buff, he returned to his old uni campus in November with five of his Year 5-8 pupils to take part in a FIRST LEGO League robotics tournament for children aged nine to 16.

He said he was loving living and working at Surat and being part of a tight-knit rural community. This year he is also combining his teaching with studying externally for a Masters of Education.

Nailing the Chinese market

Thea Baumann can make your fake nails pop—literally.

The augmented reality entrepreneur and 2002 QUT creative industries alumnus is using $750,000 in angel investment to crack the Chinese market with her company’s nail ‘appcessories’—fashionable fingernails that form striking 3D images when you scan them with a special mobile phone app.

Ms Baumann’s company, Metaverse Makeovers, is targeting 93 million young Chinese women with the fashion nails and companion mobile app.

‘Every street in every city in China is festooned with nail businesses,’ Ms Baumann said. ‘These nail businesses have wifi access and are frequented by young women who are expressive on social media, active game players and mobile consumers.’

Melbourne Angels, QUT Creative Enterprise Australia and private investors in China have backed Ms Baumann’s move on China. Her company already has offices in Melbourne, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Wowing the AI world

QUT university medallist Deanna Hood has claimed first prize in a global artificial intelligence video competition after designing a program to boost children’s handwriting skills by letting them ‘teach’ a robot.

The double degree maths and engineering alumnus (2011) was recognised by the US Association for Advancement of Artificial Intelligence with a ‘Shakey’ award.

The video was made during her two-year Erasmus Mundus European Masters of Computer Vision and Robotics scholarship which she completed at institutions across four countries.

‘Teaching and learning is something I am passionate about and the project seemed a perfect match to use maths and engineering and robotics to solve a problem,’ Ms Hood said.

Ms Hood, who now lives in New York, has also worked on projects including a brain-controlled car which could assist paralysed patients and a digital stethoscope which could be plugged into healthcare workers’ phones in Mozambique.
Children who have daytime naps beyond the age of two may be poorer sleepers at night, QUT researchers have found.

The study, led by Professor Karen Thorpe from the Faculty of Health and Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, reviewed 26 international and Australian studies relating to children under five and found there was overwhelming evidence of unnecessary napping.

The research, titled ‘Napping, development and health from 0-5 years: a systematic review’, has been published in British-based BMJ’s online Archives of Disease in Childhood.

Professor Thorpe said it was widely acknowledged within the childcare sector that napping in pre-school children promoted growth but the research showed it instead had a negative impact on night sleep patterns of children aged three and over.

‘The data indicates napping beyond the age of two lengthens the amount of time it takes for a child to fall asleep at night,’ she said.

"Napping beyond the age of two lengthens the amount of time it takes for a child to fall asleep at night.”

Professor Thorpe said the study investigated the development and health outcomes of children’s sleep in relation to cognition, behaviour, salivary cortisol, obesity and accidents.

‘The evidence for napping and its impact on behaviour, health and development of a child is less clear,’ she said.

Professor Thorpe said a majority of child and day care centres had scheduled sleep times.

Dr Sally Staton, who recently completed her PhD at QUT, is a joint author of the study. Her research investigated sleep practices in early childhood education and care settings in Queensland.

She said that Australian legislation required that childcare services make appropriate provision for sleep and rest, but there was currently little evidence to guide practice.

Her research showed that, in the absence of guidance, ‘childcare services employ a large range of practices from no sleep time at all to a mandatory sleep time of as much as 2.5 hours’.

‘There is a lot of variation in how much daytime sleep an individual child will need and it is important that parents and childcare staff work together to support children’s sleep during this time,’ Dr Staton said.
QUT’s Careers and Employment manager Dr Alan McAlpine said the university built strong connections with employers for mutual benefit but the sooner students started to prepare for careers the better.

‘Employers want graduates who are primed for work,’ he said.

Dr McAlpine said QUT’s strategic but aggressive approach to work integrated learning and career orientation included:

- Career Mentor Scheme, which annually matches around 800 students with employers, and results in one in five students acquiring work.
- Real World Placement Program which has seen 650 students placed in corporations and voluntary settings.
- Real-world international experience which features in many QUT courses.
- Partnerships between QUT and industry for internships and work placements, most recently with Fujitsu and Fairfax Media.
- University-based opportunities for students to develop leadership, communication and teamwork skills through programs such as Student Ambassadors, Campus Life Leaders and QUT Connect.

As a student, Ashleigh Fry took advantage of all QUT had to offer in making her job-ready.

By Rose Trapnell

After graduating from QUT with a double degree in business and IT, Ashleigh Fry has just walked into her dream job—a technology consultant with business giant Deloitte.

It is a step that has come on the back of years of hard work that has seen the delighted new recruit develop skills in leadership, communication, networking and teamwork.

‘Deloitte doesn’t hire on grade point average alone but on leadership experience, proof of hard work and specific work experience so both my co-curricular activities at QUT and my part-time work helped land this job,’ Ms Fry said.

‘As a student QUT Connect volunteer, Women in Technology committee member and Campus Life Leader I’ve gained a wide range of great experiences.’

Involvement as a student leader in campus life saw Ms Fry help run events, such as the QUT Ball and orientation activities, and conduct campus tours.

She credits her part-time job on the IT help-desk at a Brisbane college with providing her with a broader understanding of computer systems and the IT industry.

Employers want graduates who have:

- Worked part time while attending university
- A strong work ethic
- Time management skills
- Good communication skills
- Leadership ability
- A team focus
- Relevant work experience, if possible
Text messages to fight skin cancer

Australians’ love affair with mobile phones could save their lives according to a QUT-led joint study using text messages to improve skin cancer prevention and promote sun protection. Funded by Cancer Australia, the 12-month trial targeted the 18 to 42 age group. The Healthy Text trial tested the impact of receiving messages that promote sun protection and skin self-examination. Lead investigator QUT’s Associate Professor Monika Janda said the study involved more than 500 participants and concluded that SMS-delivered intervention was effective, far-reaching, flexible and individualised. The results of the joint study with Cancer Council Queensland and UQ have been published in international journal Preventative Medicine.

Can honey treat dry, sore eyes?

Honey’s antibacterial benefits are widely recognised but now a QUT team of optometry researchers is conducting clinical trials of the therapeutic effect of the sweet nectar as a remedy for dry, red and sore eyes. Clinical optometrist and researcher Dr Julie Albietz will lead two trials comparing traditional eyelid hygiene and lubricant eye products with honey-based therapies for the management of dry eye symptoms and signs. ‘Dry eye disease is a problem for about 30 per cent of adults,’ she said. Her research has led to Australian company Melcare® developing and commercialising two Therapeutic Goods Administration-licensed honey-based products for eye care, both of which will be included in the clinical trials.

Aircraft ‘sunscreen’ wins top award

PhD student Vanessa Lussini has become the first woman to win a prestigious Aerospace Australia Limited industry innovation award for her work on a project to improve the safety of aircraft and reduce maintenance costs. Her project, being conducted for the Defence Materials Technology Centre, is focussed on using organic compounds to develop sensors to alert maintenance crews when sections of an aircraft need repainting before mechanical strain, direct sunlight and other pressures cause dangerous corrosion resulting in potentially catastrophic failure. ‘Corrosion is like a cancer to metal and paint acts like a sunscreen which needs to be re-applied before the structural integrity of an aircraft is compromised,’ said Ms Lussini.
Sky eye on koalas

Monitoring the movements and populations of koalas, dingos, feral pigs and other wildlife will be a lot easier thanks to a QUT collaboration involving a dynamic blend of high-profile research areas including aerial robots, artificial intelligence and Bayesian statistics. Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital has provided support to the project by allowing test flights with an aerial robot using infrared imaging to assess koala population in surrounding bushland. Project leader Dr Felipe Gonzalez, pictured, said the project would improve the accuracy of population estimates of koalas and other wildlife. ‘A digital camera does not easily or accurately capture the koalas in their habitat but thermal imaging from an airborne vantage point of an unmanned aircraft can better assist in determining how many are in a given space,’ Dr Gonzalez said.

Dance helps people with Parkinson’s

Brisbane researchers have proven that a community dance program can improve the health and wellbeing of people living with Parkinson’s disease. In the first study of its kind in Australia, neuroscientists, psychologists and physiotherapists from QUT and The University of Queensland put Queensland Ballet’s pilot Dance for Parkinson’s program under the microscope to measure the benefits for participants. The program offered a series of 75-minute classes that included structured exercises and creative movement activities accompanied by live music. ‘Overall, the participants saw an improvement in moving their arms and feet simultaneously,’ said QUT’s Professor Graham Kerr, who is also president of Parkinson’s Queensland.
Do batsmen put personal glory before their team?

A study by QUT researchers found cricket batsmen who were close to reaching personal milestones were likely to alter their strategy in a way which seems detrimental to the team.

Professor Lionel Page and PhD researcher Romain Gauriot, from QUT Business School, examined the behaviour of batsmen reaching landmark scores in One Day International (ODI) matches.

The research, to be published in the American Economic Review, found players were likely to bat more conservatively as they approached a half-century or century to maximise their chances of reaching it.

‘We found clear evidence that the behaviour of batsmen is affected by their personal rewards in the game,’ said Professor Page, who collected data on more than 3500 ODI matches between 1971 and 2014.

‘We found players react to individual-specific incentives in ways which can be detrimental to the team as a whole. For example, if a batsman is close to making 50 or 100, he will play more conservatively and hence score at a slower rate.

‘This increases his chances of reaching the landmark score, but at the cost of the team’s winning chances. That is because in ODIs batsmen should adopt a relatively high strike rate, taking the risk of losing their wicket to score more quickly.’

Contrary to the belief batsmen reach the ‘nervous nineties’—the idea they are more likely to be dismissed as they approach a century—the QUT researchers found adopting a conservative style at that stage reduced their chances of dismissal.

Professor Page said the third match of the Australia-South Africa ODI series last year was an example of such a pattern. Hashim Alma (102) and AB de Villiers (52) were both quickly dismissed after reaching their respective milestones on the way to South Africa losing the match.
Business graduate Steve Cranitch is on track to transform the world of running with the Bionic Runner.

By Amanda Weaver

When QUT business alumnus Steve Cranitch and his research partner Dr Henry Thomas ran a crowdfunding campaign via Kickstarter to launch the Bionic Runner in December, they couldn't have asked for a better start to the business.

Their quest to raise $40,000 saw 292 backers sprint to pledge $272,943, with many scoring themselves significant discounts on the first of the bicycle-like Bionic Runners to hit the market.

Mr Cranitch, pictured, said his company, Run4, operates on a manufacturer-to-consumer model so the Bionic Runner would be sold only online to keep costs low. Kickstarter was critical as a means to reach a global market.

Like other crowdfunding platforms, Kickstarter presents a powerful platform for small and start-up companies to engage backers so they can make their product dreams a reality,” Mr Cranitch said.

“The Bionic Runner is unique as the world’s only high-intensity, non-impact, running specific trainer. It mimics the natural gait and timing of running. Our vision is for it to lead to an injury-free running community and it will be particularly useful to people training for an event.”

Sports Medicine Australia says running has one of the largest participation rates and yet 70 per cent of recreational and competitive runners sustain overuse injuries during any 12-month period.

“The Bionic Runner works by substantially minimising injuries to runners by eliminating impact fatigue and joint over-extension,” Mr Cranitch said.

“What we have achieved with the Kickstarter campaign is significant because we have reached out to what are known as ‘innovators’ and they are the people that inspire the ‘early adopters’ who in turn drive popular demand.”

The Bionic Runner was four years in development and is now being used by athletes including Australian ultra-marathon runner and world record holder Kerrie Otto de Grancy.

www.run4.com
The walls of Old Government House are speaking up for a unique school holidays activity that combines history, mystery and fun.

By Niki Widdowson

Hosts of children are using 21st century technology to take a step back into 1890s Queensland at Old Government House on QUT’s Garden Point campus.

Home to the state’s first 11 governors, the House has seen much of Queensland’s early history made within its walls.

A novel and fun school holiday activity sees children aged 9 to 12 exploring the rooms of the House while solving a thrilling mystery.

The Voice in the Walls is a new interactive performance where young participants are guided by the voices of Victor Lamington and Mary, a servant girl, through headphones and wireless devices.

During the 60-minute activity, the children learn about the history of the House and the life and times of all levels of 1890s Queensland society.

Old Government House curator Dr Katie McConnel, who worked with the Brisbane production company Imaginary Theatre to create the play, said The Voice in the Walls takes children to another space and time with music, live performances, sounds and words.

‘It’s a load of fun and the children are totally absorbed in the quest to help two ghostly children from the House’s past,’ Dr McConnel said.

‘The children wear wireless headphones to become immersed in the mystery which they help solve as they find pieces of the puzzle and meet characters from the past who perform live.

‘To my knowledge, this sort of activity for children with wireless devices and headsets hasn’t been done before in an historic house museum.’

The next opportunity for children to take part is in the June holidays. Details will be posted on www.ogh.qut.edu.au

Find bonus content on the tablet edition
Success for QUT in Australia China Alumni Awards

QUT graduates took out two of the eight categories of the 2014 Australia China Alumni Awards which recognise the achievements of graduates of Australian universities currently based in China.

By Amanda Weaver

A China-based researcher into skin repair and wound healing who maintains strong links with QUT has been named the 2014 Young Australia China Alumni of the Year.

Dr Yan Xie, Head of the Tissue Engineering Research Centre and Tissue Organ Bank at the General Hospital of Ningxia Medical University, completed her PhD at QUT in 2008.

Dr Xie continued her research at QUT’s Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI) until she returned to her home town of Ningxia in 2012 to take up her current position which enables her to apply modern medical research and clinical techniques to regional western China.

There she has recruited a team of scientists and researchers who collaborate to explore innovative approaches to applying research to tissue repair and regeneration of skin and bones.

A finalist in the Eureka Awards in 2010, 2011 and 2012, Dr Xie is still connected to IHBI’s Tissue Repair and Regeneration group.

She holds an affiliate appointment at QUT, co-supervises PhD students and visits on an annual basis. Her own former supervisors, Professor Zee Upton and Associate Professor David Leavesley, have reciprocal appointments with General Hospital of Ningxia Medical University.

Dr Xie has facilitated a number of collaborations between QUT and China’s leading research universities, resulting in the establishment of the Australia-China Centre for Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine.

“Studying at QUT and my continued work with the IHBI team has given me an international perspective to my research. I am able to apply my work in two very different worlds and QUT gave me that opportunity,” Dr Xie said.

Another QUT graduate honoured in the awards was Richard David from Proventus Asia and The Bund Capital Investors. Based in Shanghai, he won the Beck Property—Australia China Alumni Award for Corporate Achievement.

“I am able to apply my work in two very different worlds and QUT gave me that opportunity.”

With more than 30 years of experience in real estate including 15 years in senior operational roles in China, Mr David has played an influential role in the burgeoning Chinese real estate market.

In 2008 he received the Shanghai ‘Charity Star’ award for his leadership in charity programs including work to secure funding and capital for reconstruction programs, aid and community health activities, and welfare support for children and the elderly.
Hummingbird House begins

A QUT graduate’s vision to create a ‘home away from home’ for children with life-limiting illnesses and their families moved closer to reality with a sod-turning involving Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

Hummingbird House is the first project for the Queensland Kids charity, which was founded by Executive MBA (EMBA) graduate Paul Quilliam. The charity has two other EMBA alumni on its board and more than 20 graduates involved in the hospice project.

Mr Quilliam, who has fostered high-care children with his wife Gabrielle, said Hummingbird House would give families of seriously ill children specialised medical and emotional respite.

A joint initiative with Wesley Mission Brisbane, Hummingbird House is being built on their Chermside grounds.

www.hummingbirdhouse.org.au

Congratulations to Alumni Board members

We salute our newly elected members to the QUT Alumni Board—Samantha Clark, Brett Gibson, Earle Johnston and Andrew Quinn. Congratulations also to the Vice-Chancellor’s appointees—Revy Bryce-Browning, Kerri McConnel and Jennifer Muller. These members will each serve a two-year term to 2016. A warm welcome too to Vincent Balmes, our 2015 student representative.

Time to talk about men’s business

QUT’s Outstanding Alumnus (2010) Dr Mick Adams, pictured, has launched a new book titled Men’s Business on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men’s sexual and reproductive health.

The book contains the findings and recommendations from Dr Adams’ PhD research at QUT.

Dr Adams has spent most of his working life living and working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia.

“We have found the old knowledge on sexual and reproductive health is not out there, so we had to have a talk with men and educate them on misconceptions around this health issue,” Dr Adams said.

“The data from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men suggest they are more likely than other Australian men to have urinary symptoms that may indicate prostate disease.

“They go to the doctor as often as non-Indigenous men but they are screened for prostate disease (PSA) at only one-third the rate of non-Indigenous men.”

For copies of Men’s Business, contact Dr Adams on michael.adams@aiatsis.gov.au
Register for our online community and win

Congratulations to the winners of our online community graduation competition, Christopher Dunne (Bachelor of Education, Primary) and Stephen Beirne (Bachelor of Business). Christopher and Stephen were drawn from more than 3000 graduates who signed up to the online community at the end of 2014—each taking home a $500 Visa gift card.

Have you joined our online community yet? Register by 15 May to be in the running for our next competition—you could win a $1000 Visa gift card or one of 25 runner-up $100 Visa gift cards prizes. Visit www.qut.edu.au/alumni to register now.

Alumni website update

The QUT Alumni website has undergone a makeover. You can now easily update your details and change your communication preferences (including signing up for our enewsletter) online.

www.qut.edu.au/alumni
alumni@qut.edu.au
+61 7 3138 4778
+61 7 3138 1514
QUT Alumni, GPO Box 2434, Brisbane Q 4001, Australia

Domestic Chapter Planning Day

The annual Domestic Chapter Planning day was held in February at Gardens Point. Representatives from the 14 Australian alumni chapters and the QUT Alumni Board attended and shared ideas for the upcoming year.

Mechatronics engineer awarded Kindler Medal

Professor Gordon Wyeth, Executive Dean, Science and Engineering Faculty, presented new mechatronics engineering graduate James Mount with the 2014 Kindler Medal. The Kindler Medal is awarded for outstanding leadership skills, academic achievement and community involvement. James is the current president of the Engineering Deans Scholars Alumni Chapter at QUT.

Download the full issue FREE for your tablet

Delve further into stories, view short videos from experts and learn more about QUT research through the new tablet version. Search for QUT Links Alumni Magazine.
Chapter news

The Creative Industries alumni chapter would like to welcome the new members of its executive committee—Brendan Graham, Nick Gonsalves, Tyra Gunnis, Ben Hamley, Nick Martoo and Brendan Ross. They look forward to meeting many Creative Industries alumni throughout 2015.

The Canberra alumni chapter would like to congratulate and welcome their new president, Warren Jolly. Warren has been an active member of the chapter since it was founded in 2012.

The Community of Former Staff (CoFS) alumni chapter would like to welcome its newest executive committee member, Bernie Murchison. Bernie retired from QUT in December 2014 from the Science and Engineering Faculty.

The Early Childhood alumni QUT (ECAQ) chapter is looking for new members to join their executive committee. If you are interested, please contact the QUT Alumni team at alumni@qut.edu.au

The Fostering Executive Women (FEW) alumni chapter would like to congratulate Helen Lane as the new chapter president. Helen has been a passionate member of the FEW chapter for a number of years.

Congratulations to the new Melbourne alumni chapter executive committee—Claire Jelinek (president), Mihir Patel (vice-president), Chris Santagiuiana (secretary), Rachel Jones (event coordinator), and members Katie Colvin, Maegan Kerr, Kenneth Kwan, Hasan Panetta and Danny Rose.

An Oodgeroo alumni chapter is being established. Any former students or staff members who have been involved with the Oodgeroo unit are encouraged to contact the QUT Alumni team at alumni@qut.edu.au if you are interested in becoming involved.

Caroline New, president of the Sydney alumni chapter, would like to welcome the new alumni to the chapter executive committee—Julia Barry, Julia Beck, Tammy Bui, Nemo Chong, Claudia Mao, Sushen Mathur, Paul Schaefer and Vivian Wang.

The Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Not-for-Profit Studies (ACPNS) alumni chapter would like to welcome and congratulate their new president, Dyllys Bertelsen.

‘Flash’ campus gets nod from Class of ’75

Forty years ago they took their first tentative steps onto the Gardens Point campus. Now, the class of 1975 Bachelor of Applied Science (Built Environment) include among them the architects, industrial designers, town planners, builders and surveyors who have helped make Brisbane the city it is today. Returning to their old stomping ground to celebrate the anniversary of their entry to QUT/QIT, 23 original class members were impressed by the transformation of the campus.

‘It’s very flash compared to what we had,’ said building designer Doug Pearson, reflecting upon the $230 million Science and Engineering Centre which has replaced the old building where he once studied.

Landscape architecture 50th anniversary

QUT and its predecessor QIT are celebrating the 50th anniversary of landscape architecture education. Whether your involvement has been as a student, lecturer or tutor, examiner or adviser, you are invited to participate in the 50th anniversary celebrations. Visit www.la50qut.zohosites.com for more information or contact George Williams at la50qut@gmail.com

QUT Alumni in Asia

QUT congratulates our newly elected international alumni chapter presidents and their incoming volunteer committees:
- Singapore: Jevan Hah
- Malaysia: Dr Siti Isa
- Indonesia: Eva Armila

Alumni are encouraged to connect with these chapters as well as our active committees in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea. Contact the QUT Alumni team at alumni@qut.edu.au for more information on how you can get involved.

Save the date: Golden Graduates Morning Tea

Each year, QUT holds a Golden Graduates Morning Tea at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre for all graduates from QUT’s predecessor institutions who graduated 50 or more years ago. In 2015, the event will be held on Saturday 14 November. Invitations to this event will be going out later in the year.
In May 2014, the Australian Government announced a set of sweeping reforms to higher education, at the heart of which was a proposal to fully deregulate the sector.

This would involve: allowing all universities to set their own tuition fees; extending government subsidies beyond degree programs at universities to any approved provider of higher education and to sub-degree programs; and continuing to offer such subsidies to any undergraduate student that a university (or other provider) wished to enrol.

To offset the potential increased cost to the public purse, the government proposed to cut the size of its student subsidy by around 20 per cent, transferring that cost to students via increased loans, and also to charge a real interest rate on student debt, including loan debt that had been accrued in the past.

No other jurisdiction in the world has contemplated such extensive deregulation. Even in England, which in 2012 removed public subsidies entirely for non-science subjects, caps on tuition fees remain.

Given Australian experience over the years with sometimes clumsy government intervention and ongoing tight public funding, almost all vice-chancellors in Australia have supported deregulation.

However, it appears that the wider message about whether or not it would benefit students and the nation has failed to gain sufficient traction with the public and, crucially, with the handful of cross-bench Senators whose support was essential for the reforms to be legislated.

At the time of writing it appears that the changes were a case of too much, too fast.

Despite this, it is vital that Australia does not allow higher education and research to fade from view.

In a world of constant change, facing challenges of enormous complexity and breadth, the future well-being of the global community depends fundamentally on our ability to develop and apply knowledge and skills at the highest levels.

This endeavour needs the support of all parties involved, including government, students, alumni, employers and the wider public.

But, in turn, such support must be earned, and universities must show through their actions, not just their words, that they are truly committed to making a difference to the lives of their students, their graduates and the wider public.

They must demonstrate that they operate not for their own ends, or for a select few, but for opening up opportunity, and extending the benefits of knowledge as widely as possible to make the world a better place for current and future generations.

QUT has always enshrined such values as an essential part of our identity. I hope that in the pages of publications such as Links you will find a genuine expression of the value we place on our students, on the many partnerships we are building, and on using knowledge to combat disadvantage and tackle the myriad challenges facing society.

Professor Peter Coaddrake AO
Vice-Chancellor
Stage two of QUT's Creative Industries Precinct will open in 2016. Our growing list of internationally acclaimed graduates include these four Indigenous alumni who are featured in a new QUT video which is available on the tablet edition of *Links*.
“It’s a hard world if those with the desire and intelligence and drive to discover things critical to humanity are not able to get to university.”

It’s that kind of thinking that inspired the Graham family to take an important step; join them now.
The new Graham Family Learning Potential Fund Scholarship supports students studying at QUT. The generous family wanted to make a contribution to help multiple students.

Your gift today will make a lifetime of difference.

Yes! I would like to support students of QUT.

Your donation towards:
1. The QUT Learning Potential Fund provides scholarships for highly motivated but financially struggling students. Donations to the Learning Potential Fund are matched dollar-for-dollar by QUT.
2. The QUT Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI) will support scholarships for student researchers who will become our future scientific and health research leaders.
3. QUT Creative Industries Scholarships will support talented students of the creative arts, communication and design to aspire to world-class achievement.

How to donate

Online  Visit http://bit.do/qut-links-giving
Scan  the QR code
Phone  +61 7 3138 5356, 9am-4.30pm AEST, Monday–Friday
Post  Reply paid mail to: (no stamp required)
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Reply Paid 2434
Brisbane Qld 4001, Australia

I would like to direct my donation towards:
☐ QUT Learning Potential Fund scholarships
☐ QUT’s Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI) research scholarships
☐ QUT Creative Industries Scholarships
☐ Other __________________________

This is a:
☐ One-time gift  ☐ Monthly gift
☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $500
☐ $ ______________________

I am interested in:
☐ Including a gift to QUT in my will
☐ Establishing a named scholarship

I will make my gift by:
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☐ Credit card
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  Card number ______/____/____/____/____
  Expiry ___/___
  Date __________________________
  Signature __________________________

My details are:
Full name __________________________
Street/PO Box address __________________________
Suburb __________________________
State ___________ Postcode ___________
Country __________________________
Email __________________________
Phone __________________________

[Please include country code and area code]

Thank you! Your gift is an investment in the future of QUT students.
All donations of $2 and more are tax deductible in Australia.