Singer songwriter sublime
Our Alumnus of the Year
Versatile, independent, entrepreneurial
Cover story
Our Outstanding Alumnus

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Building creativity

QUT – and our talented alumni – continue to lead in the creative industries.

When Kate Miller-Heidke took to the stage to cap off CreateX, our spectacular inaugural festival to celebrate the multi-million dollar Creative Industries Precinct expansion, she epitomised an industry that has come of age.

In full operatic vocal glory while performing her latest composition, You underestimated me, dude, she left an audience in a collective gasp, in awe of the extensive talents of QUT’s 2016 Alumnus of the Year.

Creative Industries Faculty Executive Dean Professor Mandy Thomas said as the world’s first university to establish a Creative Industries Faculty, QUT was considered an international leader in this sphere.

She said the $88 million precinct expansion, recently opened on the Kelvin Grove campus, provided the university with the most sophisticated and technically advanced creative education and research space in Australia.

Its centrepiece is a six-storey building accommodating dance, drama, music, visual arts, creative writing and animation. The complex, which houses the nation’s only dedicated creative industries R&D lab, pulses with a digital backbone that enables audio, video and data streaming throughout the precinct, to other QUT facilities such as The Cube, and beyond to the world.

Professor Thomas said open and communal design principles were embraced to foster collaboration and spark imaginative works across disciplines.

“While geared towards the future, the complex also pays tribute to Kelvin Grove’s rich Indigenous and military history with four buildings of historical significance, including the Frank Moran Memorial Hall, now a dedicated visual arts gallery, and a 1914 infantry drill hall,” she said.

“The precinct also extends across the heritage-listed Gona Army Barracks site.

“Spaces such as Kulgun Park, named for the Turrbal word meaning path or road, are a mark of respect to the Turrbal people who lived in the area prior to the arrival of Europeans.”

The expansion adds greatly to the university’s original Creative Industries Precinct built in 2004 and ground breaking in its own right.
"QUT’s new complex is fit for the digital revolution now driving creative industries’ growth,” Professor Thomas said. "This facility provides the impetus for an acceleration of research."

Two of the Faculty’s research centres, the Digital Research Media Centre at Kelvin Grove and Design Lab at Gardens Point, pursue a transdisciplinary approach to assist society adapt to digital media technologies and address emerging issues facing our cities, including urban planning and environmental sustainability.

The third research centre, the new Creative Lab, reflects the 21st Century need for greater ability to think creatively, particularly in light of the impact automation and machine learning is having on jobs.

Professor Thomas said research within the new centre would be geared towards better understanding the nature of creativity, enabling the university to build the creative thinking capabilities of students across disciplines and courses.

“QUT’s new complex is fit for the digital revolution now driving creative industries’ growth.”

She said new facilities and research emphasis along with teaching excellence would ensure graduates could not merely take advantage of opportunities but forge their own.

Professor Thomas said students could look to Ms Miller-Heidke, whose career embodied versatility, independence and entrepreneurship, for insight.

Graduating with a Master of Music in 2006, and also classically trained at the Queensland Conservatorium, the high-profile singer-songwriter has performed in operas across the world and composed her own opera, The Rabbits, which won four Helpmann Awards including Best Score and Best New Australian work.

With a successful career in alternative pop music and four studio albums released, Ms Miller-Heidke has also achieved multi-platinum status and eight ARIA nominations. Her albums and singles have appeared in the top 10 charts many times over.
World-class facilities

- A black box R&D studio
- An auditorium-quality music performance and recording studio
- Two acoustically isolated ‘box in box’ recording suites incorporating five control rooms, five live rooms and three sound booths
- Five additional soundproofed music rehearsal studios
- A digital music studio with multiple production workstations
- Two multipurpose studios for theatre and performance
- Seven dance studios
- A gallery housed in the heritage-listed 1928 Frank Moran Memorial Hall
- A construction workshop
- Two studios dedicated to visual arts
- An animation and digital visual studio
- A community hub and exhibition space
- Social learning and collaborative zones.

"An inspiration to our students as well as current and aspiring artists, Ms Miller-Heidke, is also our Creative Industries Outstanding Alumnus of the Year," Professor Thomas said.

"She has forged an independent path, breaking crowd-funding records with her latest album *O Vertigo!* which debuted at number four on the Australian album charts."

Professor Thomas said whatever discipline a career of tomorrow was based upon, success would call for creative and entrepreneurial thought, digital capability and an independent spirit.

"We believe QUT will be in the best possible position to deliver on this ambition," she said.
CreateX, Queensland’s first technology-infused festival of creativity, was the public launch of our Creative Industries Precinct expansion. A collision of creativity and technology, more than 60 interactive performances and events were held in August, featuring immersive interactive games, virtual reality, films, robots, workshops, talks, music and fashion parades.

Elise May in Shifting Lenses, a live dance and interactive digital performance.

Indigenous students and alumni fashion showcase.
The crowd was treated to a spectacular finale featuring Carita Farrer (front), and Naomi Price (rear) as well as Our Alumnus of the Year Kate Miller-Heidke.

Throughout CreateX the Creative Industries Precinct was flooded with sound.

The Museum of Colliding Dimensions enabled visitors to experience an alien world.

Kombucha: homegrown vegan apparel.
Australia’s first robotic hip operation

Australia’s first robotically assisted hip replacement operation has been performed in Brisbane under the leadership of QUT’s Professor of Orthopaedic Research, Ross Crawford.

The operation was carried out on a patient at Brisbane’s Holy Spirit Northside Hospital. With more than 43,000 total hip replacements carried out in Australia last year, Professor Crawford said the robotic assisted surgery is expected to become popular. He said the technology being used was very mature and predicted it won’t be long before the technology was advanced enough to perform far more of the operation.

Rankings success

QUT has achieved a 201-300 world ranking in the 2016 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) coordinated by Shanghai University.

The ARWU ranks excellence of world-class universities. QUT recorded the largest annual position gain of any Australian university, improving from the 401-500 band achieved in the ranking last year.

Awarding service

Alumnus, journalist, public speaker and long-standing Learning Potential Fund supporter Tracey Spicer has been named the 2016 Alumni Service Award winner.

The Alumni Service Award was introduced in 2005 to recognise outstanding voluntary leadership and advocacy of the interests of alumni and the broader QUT community.

Awarded to only the most outstanding supporters, Ms Spicer (pictured with QUT Chancellor Tim Fairfax AC) was recognised primarily for her advocacy for the QUT Learning Potential Fund, which provides scholarships to students whose financial circumstances might prevent them from pursuing higher education.
Industry backs pulses PhD

The Australian Mungbean Association is joining forces with QUT and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) on new research to stop halo blight disease, which can cost the mungbean industry millions of dollars annually. The industry, worth $180 million last season, is one of the fastest growing agricultural industries in Australia. The Australian Mungbean Association is co-funding a four-year PhD scholarship under the direction of Professor Sagadevan Mundree, pictured.

MIT Bootcamp

QUT has been selected to host the MIT Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp at Gardens Point campus, March 26-31, 2017. The highly selective camp condenses a one year MIT course into a week-long, action-based learning experience for budding entrepreneurs picked from across the world. Applications open in January 2017. More information: bootcamp.mit.edu

The MIT Bootcamp is a precursor to the Times Higher Education Young Universities Summit which will be held at QUT April 5-7, 2017.

Smoke-free QUT

All QUT campuses and off-site research facilities are now smoke-free, making it easier, particularly for young adults, to say no to smoking. A recent survey identified smoking on campus as one of the top five concerns of staff.
Outstanding Alumni

AWARDS 2016

Richard Eastes

Science and Engineering Faculty Outstanding Alumni Award
Bachelor of Information Technology 2002

IT guru Richard Eastes was integral in growing the car rental comparison site VroomVroomVroom from a small start-up company into a multi-national organisation with an annual turnover of $60 million and has become a high-profile innovator in Brisbane. His latest endeavour is GreenSocks, an online business that applies an Uber model to gardening services.

Caitlin Wilson

QUT Business School Outstanding Alumni Award
Bachelor of Business (Management) 1992

Humanitarian Caitlin Wilson has dedicated her career to improving security in conflict-affected countries. She has 23 years of international experience spanning foreign policy, international development and strategic defence and is Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations based in New York.

Maryanne Walsh

Faculty of Education Outstanding Alumni Award
Bachelor of Education (Primary/Secondary) 1983

Maryanne Walsh is the inspirational principal of Centenary Heights State School in Toowoomba. In addition to its mainstream campus, the school also has a vocational TAFE program and includes an award-winning Flexi School, catering to at-risk youth who have become disenfranchised with mainstream education.

Greg Dower

Faculty of Health Outstanding Alumni Award
Special Excellence Award for Achievements in Podiatry
Bachelor of Applied Science (Podiatry) 1993

Greg Dower is a pioneer in the field of podiatry. He co-founded Australia’s largest podiatry group, myFootDr, and has led the way in computer-aided design and manufacture of orthotic devices. He has advanced podiatric technologies that have been adopted worldwide including leading the development of laser nail surgery and co-developing the world’s first rotational 3D foot scanner for complex medical grade footwear.

Roman Quaedvlieg

Faculty of Law Outstanding Alumni Award
Bachelor of Arts (Justice Studies) 1997

Roman Quaedvlieg was appointed Australia’s first Australian Border Force Commissioner, a key agency charged with targeting threats against national security. His appointment follows a career in law enforcement, for which he was awarded an Australian Police Medal in 2011. He has led investigations into major criminal activities such as drug trafficking.
Jessa Rogers

QUT Young Alumnus of the Year
Bachelor of Education (Secondary) and Bachelor of Creative Industries (Drama) 2008

Jessa Rogers was founding principal of an exceptional boarding school for Indigenous teenage mothers and their children, the Cape York Girl Academy, near Cairns. Fostering an ethos of an Indigenous sisterhood at the school, students learn literacy and numeracy, as well as parenting and life skills.

Ms Rogers is now undertaking a PhD in Indigenous Reconciliation at ANU.

Dr Lim Su Lin

Special Excellence Award for Contributions to the Nutrition Profession
PhD 2014

Singaporean Dr Lim Su Lin is best known for designing the 3-Minute Nutrition Screening tool to help identify those at risk of malnutrition leading to improved health services at many hospitals.

As one of the first dietetic practitioners in Singapore to undertake a PhD, Dr Lim completed her QUT doctoral studies as an external student in conjunction with her role as chief dietitian and senior assistant director of the Dietetics Department at the National University Hospital in Singapore.

Paul Quilliam

QUT Business School Special Excellence Award for Service to the Community
Executive MBA 2010

It’s a place built for children’s laughter, where magic happens and memories are made. But it’s a place parents hope never to have to enter. Such is the paradox of Hummingbird House, Queensland’s only children’s hospice.

Hummingbird House is a ‘home away from home’ for children with a life-limiting illness and their families to gain respite, support and end-of-life care.

It was founded by Paul Quilliam, who with his wife Gabrielle, has spent the past five and a half years bringing this sanctuary to fruition.

Drawing upon his business expertise Mr Quilliam built connections across faculties, gained bi-partisan political support and secured sponsorship to build a world-class hospice which welcomed its first families in July this year.
Communitainment – creating a revolution in entertainment industries.

The future of entertainment is being driven by YouTube stars once considered rank amateurs and policy makers should take note, according to QUT Distinguished Professor Stuart Cunningham.

“Two million-plus people worldwide are creating careers for themselves making YouTube content on subjects like beauty, style, cooking, unboxing and games as well as so-called serious subjects such as science communication. They fascinate and enthral viewers,” said Professor Cunningham who last year completed a Fulbright Senior Scholarship at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles examining this new ecology and has also been awarded a federal government $535,000 ARC Discovery Project Grant.

“The most influential are the vloggers [video bloggers] who use their personalities to create a huge following and therefore are in demand as brand ambassadors.

“The biggest style vlogger in the world is Michelle Phan who at 29 is a multi-millionaire entrepreneur. Her Facebook page has more than three million likes while her YouTube channel has attracted more than 8.3 million followers and more than a billion views.

“Many Australians are in on the act. Zoe Foster Blake for one; she has more than 372,000 Instagram followers. Nicole Warne has 1.5 million Instagram followers and has been signed up by Qantas to create content for the airline. These people have a reach far beyond traditional channels and the people that follow them like and share those posts ad infinitum.

“Brisbane-based beauty blogger Shani Grimmond is only 19 but has 662,000 followers on Instagram. A recent post she made on makeup mistakes to avoid had well over one million views.

“This is not some fly-by-night trend. There has been a steady growth over the last seven years towards what I call ‘communitainment’ which combines communication and commercialism to create a new form of entertainment.”

Professor Cunningham said we were witnessing a revolution in entertainment industries and the organisations that control the distribution of entertainment products and, as a result, the profits.

He said what was happening in the US entertainment industry had important implications for the rest of the world, including Australian policy, consumers and the production industry.

“The number of new participants, the professionalisation of amateur film makers, the commercialisation of content and the shift in advertising to online being seen in the US will be mirrored here and Australia needs to ... ‘communitainment’ ...

... combines communication and commercialism to create a new form of entertainment.”
Creating influence

The creation of influencers is generating massive marketing opportunities and a new business for QUT graduates Victoria Harrison and Tara Kingi.

In July 2015 the entrepreneurial pair created The Exposure Co, after realising what had started as a hobby the previous year, was a new form of marketing with as yet untapped potential. The company is one of Australia’s first Instagram influencer marketing services.

Victoria Harrison (pictured) said Instagrammers and vloggers were in demand to promote products, brands and events through social media, but businesses generally have no idea how to attract the attention of an influencer or how to do business with them.

“We create influencer marketing strategies for businesses, connecting them with relevant influencers to promote their product or service,” said Ms Harrison.

“Some of our influencers have more than one million followers but often it’s the influencers with smaller, intimate audiences that prove to be more successful for brands.”

The Hamilton-based The Exposure Co now has 1100 influencers on their books with a combined reach of more than 50 million followers.

capture more of these opportunities for our industry,” he said.

Professor Cunningham said online distribution giants like Netflix and Amazon were creating and commissioning their own content in addition to distributing Hollywood’s traditional film and television products while YouTube had spawned an ever-growing number of multi-channel networks.

The YouTube scale metrics are extraordinary: more than one billion users, revenue estimated in 2015 at US$4 billion per annum, four billion videos watched per day, and viewing now comes 50 per cent from mobile devices.

“This is not the future of entertainment; it is already the main form of entertainment for a great many young people.”

YouTube partnership

QUT is at the forefront of developing YouTube talent as a partner in the Queensland Creative Entrepreneurship Program.

The program’s Creator Original Awards provide cash grants to leading creators each year to help them develop their digital content for YouTube and expand their global presence.

Creator Days gather YouTube experts, entrepreneurs, producers, content creators and industry partners to bring projects to life; while Top Creator Visits see globally successful content creators come to Queensland.

The program also involves Trade and Investment Queensland, Screen Queensland, Griffith University and Brisbane Marketing and is backed by funding over three years from the Advance Queensland initiative.
The maturity of QUT’s research is seeing our health and robotics researchers receiving accolades from the nation’s chief scientists.

Our Tall Poppies

QUT microbiologist Dr Makrina Totsika is joint Queensland Young Tall Poppy Scientist of the Year.

Childhood sleep researcher Dr Sally Staton and cancer nurse specialist Associate Professor Raymond Chan were honoured as finalists.

Dr Totsika is at the forefront of research to develop new therapies to beat multi-drug resistant bacteria.

“My work aims to understand how superbugs cause disease and design new drugs against them,” she said.

“Through a unique approach of disarming rather than killing superbugs, we are now developing a new class of drugs that can treat antibiotic-resistant infections.”

Dr Totsika aims to develop novel anti-adhesion therapeutics that can block bacterial adherence and be used to treat infections.

With the support of two ongoing National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) project grants and collaboration with leading experts in Australia and the US, Dr Totsika’s research is expected to lead to next-generation antimicrobials that will be tailored to each patient’s infection.

Cancer care researcher Associate Professor Raymond Chan has dedicated his career to improving the outcomes of people diagnosed with cancer.

“The focus of my research is on nurse-led research that aims to improve patient outcomes during and after they complete their cancer treatment,” Professor Chan said.

“Nurses practise in a bio-psycho-social model to care for and achieve the best outcomes for our patients so we are best placed to develop the science in all these three aspects.”

Professor Chan is the current President of Cancer Nurses Society of Australia, the peak professional body that represents over 1200 cancer nurses in Australia.

The impact of Dr Sally Staton’s research on children of mandated daytime sleep and the lack of proper practices in childcare centres has been immediate and extensive.

She found day-sleep reduces the duration of night-sleep in pre-school children, even when children no longer went to childcare and that practices in childcare did not align with evidence from sleep science nor with legislation of the National Quality Framework.

Her findings have resulted in a professional development package for the early education and care sector.

Our Eureka moments

QUT roboticists were finalists in this year’s prestigious Eureka Prizes.

The finalists were all members of the Australian Centre for Robotic Vision with Associate Professor Michael Milford a finalist for the Eureka Prize for Outstanding Early Career Researcher while the crown-of-thorns starfish robot (COTSbot) team of Drs Matt Dunbabin and Feras Dayoub, and centre director Professor Peter Corke were finalists for Environmental Science prize.

Professor Michael Milford was named a finalist for his work in robotic vision navigation systems for robotics of all types, and for his work where he blends the two fields of neuroscience and robotics.

He says his passion is to understand intelligence.

“I think the things that robots do, like navigation, and helping us out with tasks, are a great way to leapfrog to really understanding what intelligence is, and how we can replicate it.”

The COTSbot robot is designed to help target a very real threat to the Great Barrier Reef – the crown-of-thorns starfish, or COTS.

Dr Matt Dunbabin designed the robot to be a first responder system to beef up the existing program that uses divers to hunt for COTS while Dr Feras Dayoub, trained the COTSbot to pick out the pest from other sea life. In other words it can think for itself using a visual recognition system made possible by algorithms to identify COTS in the visually challenging environment of the Great Barrier Reef.
Enter business alumnus Debbie Siepel’s Brisbane café, Club Sosay and you won’t see people sitting with their faces buried in mobile phones and iPads, or thumbs and fingers going ten to the dozen sending text messages and emails. Club Sosay is about conversation the old fashioned way. A strong desire to unite people on a face to face basis was the driving force behind the establishment of this Paddington board game cafe.

“A board game provides a great way to start a conversation,” Ms Siepel said. There are more than 300 board games from which to choose, from age-old favourites like Monopoly and Scrabble to new ones like BurgerUp, developed by successful software developers alumnus Alistair Kearney and former QUT student Allen Chang. The pair, who have also branched into board games, launched their new card matching puzzle game about the art of burger making at Club Sosay.

“Board games bring people of all walks of life and ages together and that is what community is about, everyone coming together enjoying themselves,” Ms Siepel said. And Sosay all of us!

Renee’s NY success

Business graduate Renee Robbie is the co-founder of LookBooker, one of New York’s hottest apps and a popular hair and beauty booking service.

Ms Robbie established the business with fellow Australian Giorgia Rossi while they were working on rural Australian mines for a global management consulting firm.

They shared a passion for “innovative startups, great design and six-weekly haircuts” and were sick of having to ring around salons to book appointments, when just about every aspect of their life could be organised online.

And where better to launch their business than New York City? Ms Robbie’s success has been profiled in the university’s latest TV and online ‘real world graduate’ commercials.
Wi-Fi sharing

QUT PhD student and software engineer David Poxon is the Brisbane entrepreneur who wants to do to telcos what Uber has done to taxis.

His start-up company Velvet allows people to sell their unused internet data to other nearby people via Wi-Fi.

Sellers add a small modem-like device called a Velvet Hotshot to their existing internet connection and can then share their data with neighbours or passers-by – and get paid for it.

“We all want or need to be online, but different people have different data needs at different times,” Mr Poxon said.

“Velvet will allow you to buy only the data you need for what you want to do online. We think it will be particularly good for light users who don’t want to be locked into a contract, and for people who are travelling.”

Mr Poxon said the Velvet network would take time to grow, but that he hoped people would one day be able to walk down streets in cities all over the world and tap into Velvet Wi-Fi.

Poet serves up comfort food

Creative Industries graduate Ellen van Neerven is a young award-winning Indigenous Australian writer who is continuing to build her reputation with the launch of her second book, a collection of poetry, Comfort Food (UQP, 2016).

Her first book of fiction, Heat and Light (UQP, 2014), won a swag of awards including the David Unaipon Award, the Dobbie Literary Award and the NSW Premier’s Literary Awards Indigenous Writers Prize, and was shortlisted for the prestigious The Stella Prize.

Soon to set off to promote Comfort Food, Ms van Neerven will appear at literary festivals in Bali and Perth and will take up a writing residency in the Philippines.

Moving between places and cultures, her new collection of poetry explores identity, sovereignty and the restless quest for love. Using food as her inspiration, she offers a cross-cultural vision of the exotic and the familiar.

I also saw those spirit dogs and poetry travelled with me like rivers
I didn’t ever eat alone ‘Goan Fish Curry’
Advancing Queensland

Key QUT researchers have been awarded nearly $3.4 million from the State Government under the Advance Queensland Innovation Partnerships program.

Associate Professor Robert Speight ($894,704) to establish Australia’s first biomanufacturing platform to develop animal feed supplements.

Professor Sagadevan Mundree ($750,000) to develop new nutritionally-rich foods based on tropical pulses, such as lentils, chickpeas and mungbeans.

Professor Dietmar Hutmacher ($705,000) to develop world-first 3D technology around breast scaffolds for reconstructive surgery.

Professor Ken Beagley ($600,000) to enhance the genetic diversity of local koala populations by producing disease-free koalas for release into the wild.

Roboticist, Associate Professor Michael Milford ($428,240) to automate underground mining vehicles overcoming the difficulties of navigating through a maze of tunnels in tough terrain.

Supermarket savings

A family of four could save $1000 to $1700 on their weekly grocery shop each year by using unit pricing, a world-first study by Associate Professor Gary Mortimer and Dr Clinton Weeks has found.

Their study, conducted with 400 shoppers across Australia was the first to demonstrate that consumer education on unit pricing could lead to real savings.

“Unit pricing makes price comparison easy by removing the need to calculate price differences across similar products sold in packages of varying shape and size, giving shoppers a ready reckoner for getting the best value for money,” Professor Mortimer said.

“Shoppers who received unit pricing information every fortnight for 10 weeks saved 17 per cent by week six and then returned to a consistent 11 per cent a week saving.”
Bio-energy pact with US

A research partnership between QUT and a US National laboratory aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop new ways of creating bio-energy from plant material.

The memorandum of understanding is with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and at QUT the project will be led by Professor Ian O’Hara.

QUT brings skills in plant biotechnology and bioprocess engineering while PNNL brings expertise in systems and computational biology as well as genomics and proteomics.

Both QUT and PNNL work in advanced thermochemical conversion of biomass to create biofuels, plant-derived chemicals and other bioproducts.

The State Government also recently appointed Professor O’Hara as Queensland Biofutures Industry Envoy where he will attract domestic and international investment to the new industry and provide expert technical advice.

Coral bleaching captured on video

Research by Brett Lewis and Dr Luke Nothdurft has for the first time shown people what happens when individual Heliofungia actiniformis corals bleach. Watch the video at Links online: www.links.qut.edu.au

To simulate rising sea surface temperatures, researchers placed solitary corals into controlled aquaria, before heating the water.

Researchers recorded detailed time-lapse videos of a coral species’ physical reaction to heat stress, showing evidence for the first time that it employs pulsed inflation.

Mr Brett Lewis said the resulting videos show the unhappy corals belching Symbiodinium, tiny algae cells that live within coral tissue and give corals their vibrant colours.

Massive diabetic foot disease costs

Senior Research Fellow Peter Lazzarini has led an Australian-first study published in BMJ Open that found one in every 22 patients in our hospitals have active diabetic foot disease. This equates to 27,600 hospitalisations with an annual direct cost of $350 million, much higher than previously thought.

Mr Lazzarini, who is also co-chair of Diabetic Foot Australia, said diabetic foot disease didn’t stop with hospitalisation. It also caused 4,400 amputations and nearly 1,700 deaths in Australia annually.

He is advocating for a national multi-disciplinary approach to help end avoidable hospitalisations and amputations from diabetic foot disease.
QUT is changing the lives of people with a mental illness.

QUT staff, students and alumni have thrown their support behind a housing project that is changing the lives of people with mental illness by providing a roof over their head and a care plan that is giving them back their independence.

Fourteen purpose-built apartments in Mitchelton today offer safe and supported accommodation to people living with a severe or enduring mental illness, thanks to a partnership between not-for-profit charity Mantle Housing, Wesley Mission Queensland and a group of parents.

QUT Executive Dean of Health Professor Ross Young, who is also chair of the board of Mantle Housing, described Clear Breeze Apartments, named by its residents, as an unparalleled success.

“This project started because a group of parents asked the question, ‘what will happen to my child when I am gone?’, and the answer frightened them,” Professor Young said.

“There is a significant unmet need for high-quality community-based housing for people with mental illness in this country.”

A number of QUT staff and alumni are involved as active board members, and social work students from the Faculty of Health participate through integrated learning placements.

Professor Young was introduced to Mantle Housing by graduate Mickael Blanc, who helped develop a business plan for the project as part of his MBA.

“In many different areas QUT is involved,” Professor Young said.

“It’s a grassroots movement and it’s real. It hasn’t been created by academia; we are providing the expertise but we are also advocating on behalf of the residents,” he said.

“The lives of vulnerable individuals living with persistent and enduring mental illness, are undermined by a lack of consistent, coordinated and ongoing support.

“When it comes to the dollars and cents, it makes sense to invest in a care model which encourages people with a mental illness to go forward and flourish and live independent lives with dignity.”

Professor Young said one of the successes of the project came from encouraging the residents to be involved in the design of the apartments, which incorporate high standards of sound-proofing, providing a sense of tranquility for residents.

To support Mantle Housing through donations, or for more information visit, www.mantle.org.au

“The lives of vulnerable individuals living with persistent and enduring mental illness, are undermined by a lack of consistent, coordinated and ongoing support.”
Creative gift

The 2016 Jennifer Blockridge Memorial Fund Award was recently awarded to third-year acting student, Tom Yaxley.

The award is made possible by generous donors and is named in honour of the renowned former director of the La Boite Theatre Company. Awarded annually to the most outstanding acting student to enable them to pursue professional development opportunities, Tom was selected to receive the award after pitching his idea for creating a self-tape studio.

Self-taping is an audition method that requires actors to record themselves performing a script which is then sent onto their agent or casting directors. However, the self-taping method often presents a challenge for actors who struggle to give their best performance while simultaneously ensuring the production quality of their audition.

The new self-tape studio will provide a fully equipped space for acting graduates to prepare self-tape auditions, greatly increasing the production value of their tape and the level of their performance.

Tom said he took great pride in knowing those who support the award are so devoted to the future of creative arts.

“Thank you to the Blocksidge family and other supporters of this award – not just for your donations – but for your belief in me and my project,” Tom said.

“The donors who give to this award make a real investment in the future.”

To support the Jennifer Blockridge Memorial Fund Award, please see the insert enclosed with this edition of Links or visit bit.do/qut-links-giving

Treating TB in East Timor

Dr Juliao Dos Reis is on a mission to rid his homeland East Timor of a disease he says should by now be extinct.

Instead, tuberculosis (TB) is prevalent, not only in East Timor but throughout many under-developed countries, killing 1.5 million globally in 2014.

Recently awarded a PhD in Public Health, Dr Dos Reis said even though the anti-TB drug is free in East Timor a large number of patients don’t complete the medication program.

His research found that people were too poor to make daily visits to a clinic over a six-month period and to buy the extra vitamins needed, and they received poor treatment from health service providers.

Dr Dos Reis said a strong belief in traditional healers and a belief that health is controlled by chance, luck or other external power were also factors.

“They expect the traditional healer to cast the sickness away and while they wait for it to go they are infecting other people and delaying their chances of getting an early diagnosis,” he said.

Dr Dos Reis said health workers and professionals needed to work with traditional healers.

“Patients have so much faith in traditional healers that it would be best if they could be trained to screen for suspected TB, give referrals and dispense treatment,” he said.

“Providing education on TB, financial support and enough well-trained health workers to service the population would go a long way to help combat this ancient disease.”
Happy STEM campers

High-tech quests for the bionic ear, robot surgery and invisibility cloaks were among the challenges that attracted 160 of Queensland’s brightest teenagers to Brisbane during their school holidays for the annual QUT Vice-Chancellor’s STEM Camp.

The five-day QUT funded camp at Gardens Point campus made the most of the university’s advanced STEM facilities at the Science and Engineering Centre, including the The Cube.

The teenagers worked side by side with QUT researchers and students to tackle real-world research projects including using forensic science to solve a cold case, designing and calibrating the ‘Ambulance Drone’ to deliver emergency medical supplies, and create their own virtual reality applications.

QUT STEM Camp
- 160 Queensland Year 11 students
- 80 places for regional and coastal students, which included travel expenses, accommodation and meals
- 80 places for non-boarding (Brisbane) students, including meals
- Fully funded by QUT
- Boarding accommodation at Somerville House
- 10 QUT academic-led research projects
- 97 schools in total
- 48 Brisbane schools
- 32 Regional schools
- 17 Coastal and Caboolture schools

In the words of our happy STEM campers...

“It was a fantastic experience that I would recommend to everyone. It taught me many things and was a great way to meet people who had the same interests as me. Everyone was friendly and I really enjoyed myself.”

“Thanks for such an amazing week!”

“It was honestly the best 5 days of my life as I met the nicest people there and now I’m confident the future looks bright for us.”

“These friends didn’t only include fellow campers, but also the student ambassadors and academics too.”
Alumni Student Leader of the Year

Nicholas Johnson, a dual mathematics and economics student, saw that charities needed help in measuring and communicating their impact in society to potential funders and supporters.

So in 2014 he founded Pro Bono Econos, a non-profit to help charities calculate and communicate the value they create in the community. They currently have close to 600 people on the ground in south east Queensland, Canberra, Melbourne, Taiwan and Japan.

“A current project is with the newly established Australian Refugee and Migrant Care Services which provides support for new migrants and refugees to help them integrate into their new community,” Mr Johnson said.

“We did an economic impact assessment to evaluate a volunteers’ work and the money they save the community by, for example, driving a new refugee to the hospital if they get sick and helping them understand medication instructions for the first time so they can avoid any complications down the track.”

International alumni leaders return to QUT

The QUT Alumni and Development Office recently welcomed back some of our international alumni for the biannual International Alumni Leaders’ Conference at the end of July.

The five-day conference involved 13 delegates from seven countries, each participating wholeheartedly in the program, which included signature QUT events.

In between strategic planning for the future of international alumni programs, delegates attended the QUT Open Day on both campuses and the Outstanding Alumni Awards Breakfast at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

QUT Alumni Manager Ken Gideon said the delegates particularly enjoyed being back on campus, with many visiting for the first time since their own graduation.

“For alumni who studied as international students, their time at QUT is representative of so much more than the hard work they put into their studies – it represents the adventure they undertook when they chose to leave the comfort of their home country to live and learn in Australia,” Mr Gideon said.

If you’re interested in joining an international alumni chapter, please visit: bit.do/qut-alumni-chapters
Proud QUT family

The Kwok family are certainly not afraid to put their academic minds to the test. With 14 QUT qualifications (including one PhD and two Masters) between the seven family members, two more QUT degrees in progress and two family members having worked for the university, they’re a group passionate about learning and proud of their connections to QUT.

Father, Tom, and his wife, Pat, first studied in the 70s at QIT (Queensland Institute of Technology)/QUT’s predecessor institution. Since then, their family has collected degrees of varying levels from across four faculties, with Tom and daughter, Joon-Yee, also spending time as QUT academics.

Despite their aligned choices in institution, Tom said their children were only ever encouraged to make their selection in tertiary study based on passion.

“We had never insisted on our children to study at QUT and left it to them to decide. However, we did insist they select a course which they would enjoy doing,” said Tom.

“Perhaps, Pat and I being graduates from QUT/QIT had some influence on the choice which they had made.”

Regardless of the motivation, the Kwoks’ decisions have served them all well. Tom retired in 2011 from a long and successful career as a contract administrator, consultant and academic in the building industry, while Pat will retire at the end of this year after running her own accountancy and tax agency for thirty years.

Their oldest daughter, Joon-Yee, is currently undertaking a PhD and their youngest son, Ho-Doug, a Master of Business. Sons Hing-Wah and Gee-Wai and daughter Wai-Ming are pursuing careers at Defence Science and Technology Group, Telstra and Brisbane Catholic Education respectively.

If you’re from a family of QUT graduates, the QUT Alumni team would love to hear from you. Please email alumni@qut.edu.au.

Coming to a phone near you...

Our Learning Potential Fund Scholarship recipients will be making calls from mid-November to mid-December to invite alumni to update their details and become involved in the QUT Learning Potential Fund. Be sure to listen out for a call from one of our wonderful recipients – they’d love to speak with you!

If you don’t receive a call but still wish to update your details, please visit: http://bit.do/update-my-details, or to learn more about the QUT Learning Potential Fund, visit: www.qut.edu.au/giving/learning-potential-fund
Online community winners

Congratulations to the winners of our online community graduation competition. Sacha Roberson received a bonus graduation gift of a $500 Visa gift card, and runners up Sandra Marx, Fiona Barnes, Regan Jefcoate, Sue Khoo and Sebastian Basile each received a $100 Visa gift card when they were drawn from the more than 1,000 graduates who logged in to the online alumni community following their graduation in July.

You can use our online community to keep us informed of your contact details, communications preferences, and even to search for classmates. Visit: http://bit.do/alumni-community

Authors showcase

A group of 15 talented QUT alumni authors gathered at the newly upgraded Gardens Point Library to discuss their work as part of the inaugural Alumni Authors Showcase.

The event was opened by author and screenwriter Benjamin Law and his presentation The Family Law – From Page to Screen, giving insight into the process he faced in transforming his beloved novel into the SBS television series, which is currently in production for its second season. Authors also took part in panel discussions on entering the industry and getting published, and were available for one-on-one discussions with guests and book signings.

Chapter news

LPF Friends and Alumni

A new chapter has been established for alumni recipients, donors and friends of the QUT Learning Potential Fund, which supports students facing financial disadvantage. Alumni, students, donors and advocates for the Learning Potential Fund are all welcome to join. To find out more and register your interest, please email alumni@qut.edu.au

QUT Business Alumni

Formerly known as the Brisbane Executive Club (BEC), the QUT Business Alumni chapter has a new name after undergoing a recent expansion to include graduates from all levels of study (undergraduate, postgraduate and research). If you’re a QUT Business School graduate interested in becoming a part of the QUT Business Alumni chapter, please email alumni@qut.edu.au

Early Childhood Alumni QUT (ECAQ)

The ECAQ chapter hosted the fifteenth annual Jean Ferguson Memorial Lecture on 6 September, on the topic “Teachers as Researchers.” The panel discussion provided an insight into the practice of early childhood teachers who undertake research in their classrooms to inform and improve teaching practice. If you’d like to join the ECAQ chapter to take part in future lectures and chapter networking activities, please email ecaq.alumni@qut.edu.au

Science Engineering Alumni Dean’s Scholars (SEADS)

The Engineering Dean’s Scholars Alumni Chapter (EDSA) has been renamed Science Engineering Alumni Dean’s Scholars (SEADS). The chapter brings together Dean’s Scholars of QUT’s Science and Engineering Faculty to offer exclusive opportunities for networking with fellow scholars, faculty and industry partners and celebrated its 10 year anniversary as an official Alumni Chapter at the year’s Alumni AGM held on 18 October. If you’re a Science and Engineering Faculty Dean’s Scholars Program graduate or current student and would like to join SEADS, please email alumni@qut.edu.au

Community of Former Staff (CoFS)

The Community of Former Staff (CoFS) recently held the 20 Year Club and CoFS Dinner, recognising QUT staff attaining 20 and 25 years of service in 2016. This year 83 staff were welcomed to the 20 Year Club, with a further 56 reaching a milestone of 25 years at QUT.

The authors featured at the inaugural Alumni Authors Showcase. Front row: Dr Tim Baker, Katie Rowney, Brett Michael Orr, Michelle Saltich, David Bobis and Cass Moriarty. Back row: Margot De Groot, Benjamin Law, Richard Carroll, Gordon Clarke, Andrew Bird, David Gillespie, Robyn Osborne, Melina Mallos and Sarah Ridout.
QUT donor and student named Philanthropists of the Year

The philanthropic leadership of QUT donor and former Deputy Chancellor, the late Dr Bill Siganto AM, and QUT Law student Kate Donnelly, were honoured at the Queensland Community Foundation’s (QCF) 2016 Philanthropist of the Year Awards in June.

Dr Siganto and Kate were recognised as the 2016 Community Philanthropist of the Year, and 2016 Young Philanthropist of the Year respectively.

QCF Acting Chair, Glenn Poole, said the Philanthropy Awards recognised outstanding individuals and organisations who assist community, voluntary and charity groups in Queensland, with the winners chosen from over 40 nominees.

QUT Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development), Professor Scott Sheppard, said QUT was proud to nominate Dr Siganto and Kate as exceptional role models, philanthropic leaders and great friends of QUT.

“Their actions benefit all of us and inspire others to donate their time and money to improving lives and saving our planet,” he said.

“Philanthropy is a tremendous gift that unlocks knowledge and service that benefit our students, communities and nation.”

Dr Siganto, a QUT Honorary Doctorate, former QUT Council Member and Deputy Chancellor, was known for shaping vocational education in Queensland and Australia. In 2011 Dr Siganto and his wife, Dr Marie Siganto AM, collaborated with QUT to create the Siganto Foundation Medal as a major award for talented QUT Engineering PhD graduates.

QUT law student Kate Donnelly was recognised for her commitment to supporting others through philanthropy and volunteer leadership, and her passionate advocacy for climate change, community outreach and refugees.

In 2015 Kate co-founded the QUT campus advocacy for refugees, which supports existing action groups.

Kate also volunteers and serves as a Service Learning Coordinator for QUT’s Big Lift which fosters a culture of volunteering and support for regional Queensland and has volunteered with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, where she helped raise thousands of dollars to promote positive action on climate change.

Vale

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of our ‘oldest ever’ graduate, Dr Geoffrey Swan OAM. Geoffrey was a former school teacher and inspector, and completed a PhD and three masters degrees – most recently his Masters of Arts (Research) from QUT, which he completed in 2014, aged 87.

He was also an active QUT alumnus, and served on many Department of Education Boards and Councils – many for Special Education. In 1987 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to children with special needs. Geoffrey’s friendship, enthusiasm and humour will be missed.
Fifteen years ago QUT became the first university in the world to establish a Creative Industries Faculty. While the inspiration for this move came largely from developments in the United Kingdom, the concept was adapted and extended for an Australian context by our own leaders in the area, in particular Distinguished Professor Stuart Cunningham and foundation dean Distinguished Professor John Hartley.

Their key insight was that cultural, economic, social and scientific development are intertwined, and better understanding of the structure and dynamics of these relationships is important and useful.

Those of us who backed the idea noticed some initial scepticism. Some saw it as just a rebranding of performing arts and cultural studies, others took umbrage at what they saw as appropriation of the term “creative”. In the early days of this endeavour some engineers asked, perhaps only partly in jest, who was more creative, the engineers who designed and built an aircraft or the artists who decorated it? A debate framed around this question was held at a senior staff conference, and it helped to deepen our understanding of the issues involved.

Today there are few, if any, who hold such reservations. Academics from creative industries work alongside those from science and technology fields, as they do with colleagues from business, education and indeed all areas of QUT. As a university we are proud to model the many ways that technology and creativity are mutual enablers, and to showcase productive and exciting interactions between art and science to the public through events such as Robotronica and facilities such as The Cube. The most recent such event is of course highlighted in this edition of Links, namely the CreateX festival which featured demonstrations of virtual reality, augmented reality, hybrid performance, design, fashion, film and interactive and visual media, and was held to celebrate and accompany the opening of QUT’s $88 million Creative Industries Precinct expansion.

The links between creativity, technology and the future of work and employment are also at the forefront of our thinking about the future of QUT. We have now finalised the fifth iteration of our overarching strategic plan, the QUT Blueprint, and it acknowledges the fundamental importance of fostering human creativity for advancing innovation and enabling graduates not only to adapt to a fast changing world of work, but also to help lead and shape the future. One can only be optimistic about that future when witnessing the enthusiasm and skill which students and staff at QUT invest in events such as CreateX and knowing that this is only a small part of the outstanding work that goes on every day around QUT.

The Creative Industries have stood the test of time at QUT. This is testimony not only to the enduring relevance of the concept which links performance and understanding of the creative arts to the wider world, but also to the depth of our commitment to bringing these ideas to fruition. The Precinct expansion opens a new chapter in this story, one which will cultivate the talents of new generations and help to make all our lives richer.

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Professor Peter Coaldrake AO
Vice-Chancellor
Float through space in **The Physics Observatory**, the latest attraction at QUT’s The Cube. Located in the Science and Engineering Centre, at Gardens Point campus, The Cube, soaring two storeys high is one of the world’s largest digital interactive learning and display spaces. The Physics Observatory is a game-like environment where children and adults of all ages can play and learn about physics, all driven by touch interaction on the screens, and is one of several programs available on a rotational basis at The Cube, open daily from 10am to 4pm.

[www.thecube.qut.edu.au](http://www.thecube.qut.edu.au)