



**CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AS A UNIVERSITY FOR THE REAL WORLD 1989–2014**



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# Foreword

**Twenty-five** years is a significant milestone in the life of any institution and provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on the progress QUT has made.

Looking back, the most conspicuous characteristic has been QUT's unwavering commitment to remaining relevant and connected; living up to our promise to be a university for the real world.

We have reinvented courses, faculties and academic disciplines to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the digital revolution. This is nowhere more evident than in our pioneering work in the creative industries.

Our campuses have been transformed to respond to the needs of a new generation of connected learners. We have reimagined our campuses not just as environments for our staff and students but as sites for public engagement with research and cultural pursuits.

Our research has benefited from a deliberate strategy of selectivity and concentration, targeting our efforts where we are strongest and where the results can have the greatest impact. This has seen the emergence of two flagship research institutes in Health and Biomedical Innovation and in Future Environments. They are emblematic of our deep commitment to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), the disciplines that will underpin the quality of life globally now and into the future.

We have been immensely proud to see graduates from all faculties take their place in the world. We now number six Rhodes Scholars among our alumni. For more than 20 years we have celebrated the achievements of our outstanding alumni with annual awards for individuals at the top of their fields in Australia, and now globally.

While it is heartening to take stock and celebrate our achievements, our focus is squarely on the next 25 years. We have an ambitious strategic plan, the QUT Blueprint, that will see the university go forward with purpose and confidence to remain a university for the real world.



*Tim Fairfax*

Tim Fairfax AC  
QUT Chancellor

*Peter Coaldrake*

Professor Peter Coaldrake AO  
QUT Vice-Chancellor

# 25

A COMMEMORATIVE LOOK AT QUT'S  
FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS



# Our Journey

When QIT transformed to QUT 25 years ago, the changing of that one little letter triggered an enormous wave of new energy.

## CHANCELLORS

Mr Vic Pullar AO (1989–1994)  
 Dr Cherrell Hirst AO (1994–2004)  
 Major General (Ret'd) Peter Arnison AC, CVO (2004–2012)  
 Mr Tim Fairfax AC (2012–present)

## VICE-CHANCELLORS AND THEIR DEPUTIES

Emeritus Professor Dennis Gibson AO Vice-Chancellor (1989–2003)  
 Professor Peter Coaldrake AO Vice-Chancellor (2003–present)

Professor Tom Dixon (1989–1994)  
 Professor Peter Coaldrake AO (1994–2003)  
 Professor David Gardiner AM (2003–2009)  
 Emeritus Professor Ken Bowman AM (2009–2012)  
 Professor Carol Dickenson (2012–present)

We had a proud history as the Queensland Institute of Technology, but as the Queensland University of Technology we embraced a new era as 'a university for the real world'.

That pledge forms the very heart of QUT: We are characterised by our real-world teaching, excellent employment outcomes, applied research and close links with industry.

Our relative youth in the Australian tertiary sector means we bring vitality and innovation to all our endeavours and achievements.

QUT's 25th anniversary in 2014 commemorates the passing of the Queensland University of Technology Act in November 1988 and the approval of QIT's new university status to operate as QUT from January 1989.

Our predecessor institutions date back 165 years and include the Brisbane School of Arts (established 1849), Kedron Park and Kelvin Grove teachers colleges (1961), Brisbane Kindergarten Training College (1911), QIT (1965), and Brisbane College of Advanced Education (1982).

Looking back over the past 25 years, the university has grown in infrastructure and research reputation.

We were named the top Australian university under 50 years of age by the global Times Higher Education Top 100 Under 50 in 2013.

We now have two major research institutes – the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation and Institute for Future Environments as well as faculties and research centres across the fields of health, law, education, creative industries, business, science and engineering.

QUT is one of the nation's leading universities in national competitive grants for education, creative industries, applied mathematics/statistics, information technology, and robotics, avionics and automation.

In the vital health arena, we have strengths in nursing, wound healing, optometry, prostate cancer, and biomedical engineering.

Two major precincts have been developed in the past 25 years. Ten years ago the Creative Industries Precinct opened within the Kelvin Grove Village, and last year the Science and Engineering Centre breathed new life into Gardens Point campus.

In 2014, we have more than 43,000 students (including 7000 international) and 7000 staff, spread across three campuses – Gardens Point in the Brisbane central business district, Kelvin Grove in the city's inner north-west, and Caboolture in the growing northern corridor.

The lectures they experience are very different to 25 years ago: they learn in open-plan collaborative environments on campus, or through a burgeoning online – and often mobile – environment.

Whichever way their education is delivered, they have the benefit of world-class educators who are recognised every year by the Australian Awards for University Teaching.

More than 170,000 students have graduated from QUT in the past 25 years, many of whom remain linked with the university through QUT Alumni.

The university's future is in good hands thanks to our financial stability, our commitment to environmental sustainability, the dedication and talents of a regenerated workforce and the ongoing drive and enthusiasm of our students and staff.



QUT's first Vice-Chancellor Emeritus Professor Dennis Gibson AO.

# Science and Engineering Centre

**QUT's** ongoing drive to strengthen its STEM teaching and research (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) hit new heights in 2013 when the \$230 million Science and Engineering Centre opened at Gardens Point campus.

The two high-rise glass towers next to the Brisbane River provide an impressive new landmark for the city's CBD and a new technology-rich hub for the campus.

In addition to benefiting students, teachers and researchers, the centre's world-best digital technology has also drawn in the general public, thanks to The Cube.

The Cube is one of the world's largest digital interactive learning and display spaces, with massive screens soaring two storeys high inside the centre.

Its advanced technology comprises 190 square metres of high-definition screens, including 48 touch panels, which integrate with 14 high-definition projectors to reach a massive 115-megapixel resolution.

Those immense screen walls are equally at home showing the aquatic – and interactive – wonders of a virtual reef, or being used by researchers to display, analyse and visualise complex data and work.

The Science and Engineering Centre's laboratories and research areas are complemented by a plethora of open plan gathering areas that blur the line between study and social spaces with their intriguing interior design and retro furnishing.

The precinct-style redevelopment of the south-east area of Gardens Point campus also includes university and community facilities such as a 50m indoor pool, gym, cafes, function spaces and retail outlets.

The push to boost our STEM capabilities over the past decade has been closely tied to our key strategic planning document, the QUT Blueprint, and the Commonwealth Government's focus on increasing the study of STEM subjects in schools and at universities.

QUT announced plans for the centre in 2008, followed by a five-year design and building program that included the gradual demolition of five existing buildings – N Block in 2008, P Block in 2009, the I Block pool and Y block refectory and bar in 2010 and the university's traditional home of engineering, L Block, in 2010–11.

The Cube alone is a unique technical accomplishment that took QUT developers more than two years to build.

A certified 5-star Green Star-rated building, the Science and Engineering Centre is a sustainability showpiece – so green that it is even powered by rooftop 'solar trees' that are programmed to follow the sun and draw maximum energy.

Fittingly, the centre is also home to the university's newest institute, the Institute for Future Environments. More than 300 scholars in science, engineering, mathematics, business, creative industries and law work together to seek solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems, ranging from global food security to managing scarce natural resources.

The Science and Engineering Centre was opened in 2013 by former prime minister Julia Gillard and Queensland premier Campbell Newman and was jointly funded by the Commonwealth Government (\$75 million), Queensland Government (\$35 million), The Atlantic Philanthropies (\$25 million) and QUT (\$95 million).

**“THE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED BY QUT WILL TRANSFORM THE WAY PEOPLE THINK ABOUT SCIENCE; THE SPECTACULAR PUBLIC SPACES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES HAVE TRANSFORMED GARDENS POINT CAMPUS; AND THE CENTRE ITSELF TRANSFORMS THE GATEWAY TO BRISBANE.”**

**Professor Peter Coaldrake AO**  
QUT Vice-Chancellor



# Campuses engaged with the community

From robots, virtual science displays and massive open days to showcasing Queensland's heritage and new student talent – one of QUT's greatest strengths is its community engagement.

Cultural facilities, technological attractions, health services, pools and gyms, dining and retail environments and student accommodation have all evolved over the past 25 years.

In addition to benefiting more than 50,000 students and staff members, they have given the wider community even more reason to engage with the university.

The excellent locations of our campuses have aided this engagement enormously – and been strengthened by the strategic purchase of more freehold sites at Kelvin Grove and in the CBD over the past decade.

Our Gardens Point campus sits within the CBD and has been linked with South Bank via the Goodwill Bridge since 2001. Kelvin Grove campus has become part of the thriving inner-city Kelvin Grove Village development, and the Caboolture campus is located in greater Brisbane's fast-growing northern corridor.

QUT's cultural precinct at Gardens Point now includes the Gardens Theatre, which opened in 1998 to showcase student shows and professional productions, and the QUT Art Museum which joined Brisbane's gallery list in 2003.

In June 2009, the newly restored home of Queensland's first 11 governors – Old Government House – opened to the public and attracted a staggering 90,000 visitors in its first 12 months.

That same year the William Robinson Gallery opened in Old Government House to provide the first permanent exhibition of works by the renowned landscape artist and QUT alumnus.

The 2013 opening of the new QUT Science and Engineering Centre took our community engagement in a new direction with the marvels of The Cube (pictured) – a stunning two-storey virtual display that has become a major education attraction for the general public and thousands of high school students who visit in school groups and take part in national curriculum-linked workshops.

The centre also hosted QUT's Robotronica during its opening year, which attracted 17,000 people in one day to see robots from around the world.

Kelvin Grove's transformation over the past 12 years has been even more dramatic and has included the development of two 'academic-community precincts'.

The vacant hill that previously sat below the campus (and formerly housed the Gona Army Barracks) is now the Kelvin Grove Village – a mixed-use retail, recreational, residential and educational development.

QUT's \$140 million Creative Industries Precinct (stage one 2004 and stage two 2015) and \$70 million Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (2006) were built within this lower village on QUT land, the former including gallery and performance spaces and the public La Boite theatre.

The \$70 million Australian Red Cross Blood Service Building was also built in the village on QUT land (2007) and contains public facilities such as a gym, pool, and the QUT Health Clinics (public clinics including optometry, podiatry and nutrition).

Caboolture campus has also entwined itself with the northern suburbs since welcoming its first students in 2002.

School-linked competitions and events in areas including business, creative industries and robotics have proved particularly successful in involving the community.

The Caboolture campus has also furthered our former Carseldine campus's role of helping develop educational aspirations and attainment for people living between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast.





# Creative economy



“THE CONCEPT OF THE CREATIVE ECONOMY TAKES THE ORIGINAL IDEA OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND BROADENS THE FOCUS TO INCLUDE THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT PEOPLE IN CREATIVE OCCUPATIONS, AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AS ENTERPRISES, MAKE TO THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE.”

Distinguished Professor Stuart Cunningham

When QUT established Australia's first Creative Industries Faculty in the year 2000, it was a strategic move of remarkable foresight.

The opening of the \$60 million Creative Industries Precinct in the Kelvin Grove Village in 2004 was just as sagacious.

A decade ago our society was only just poised on the edge of the digital communication juggernaut which has engulfed us all so thoroughly.

Now, QUT's pioneering work in researching and teaching creative industries disciplines continues to lead the way with forward-looking courses, world-class research and a proven track record in growing the creative economy.

The Creative Industries Precinct has provided amazing spaces and sophisticated digital facilities for QUT's young creators and performers since 2004, and has been a platform for innovation in areas including media and communication, interactive and visual design and entertainment industries.

The six-building complex mixes theatres, performance areas, teaching spaces and studios with the real-world influence of QUT Creative Enterprise Australia (business enterprise centre) and La Boite's Roundhouse Theatre.



top left: Creative Industries Precinct stage one. above: Artist's rendering of Creative Industries Precinct stage two.

In 2015, the Creative Industries Precinct will enter a new phase once stage two of the development is complete.

This \$80 million six-storey project is expanding facilities for the faculty's 2500 students to include world-class studio spaces for dance, drama, music, visual arts and design.

The university's research strengths in creative industries fields have grown steadily during this period of development, with a focus on three key areas: digital media, communication and culture; innovation in the performing and digital arts; and sustainability and innovation in design.

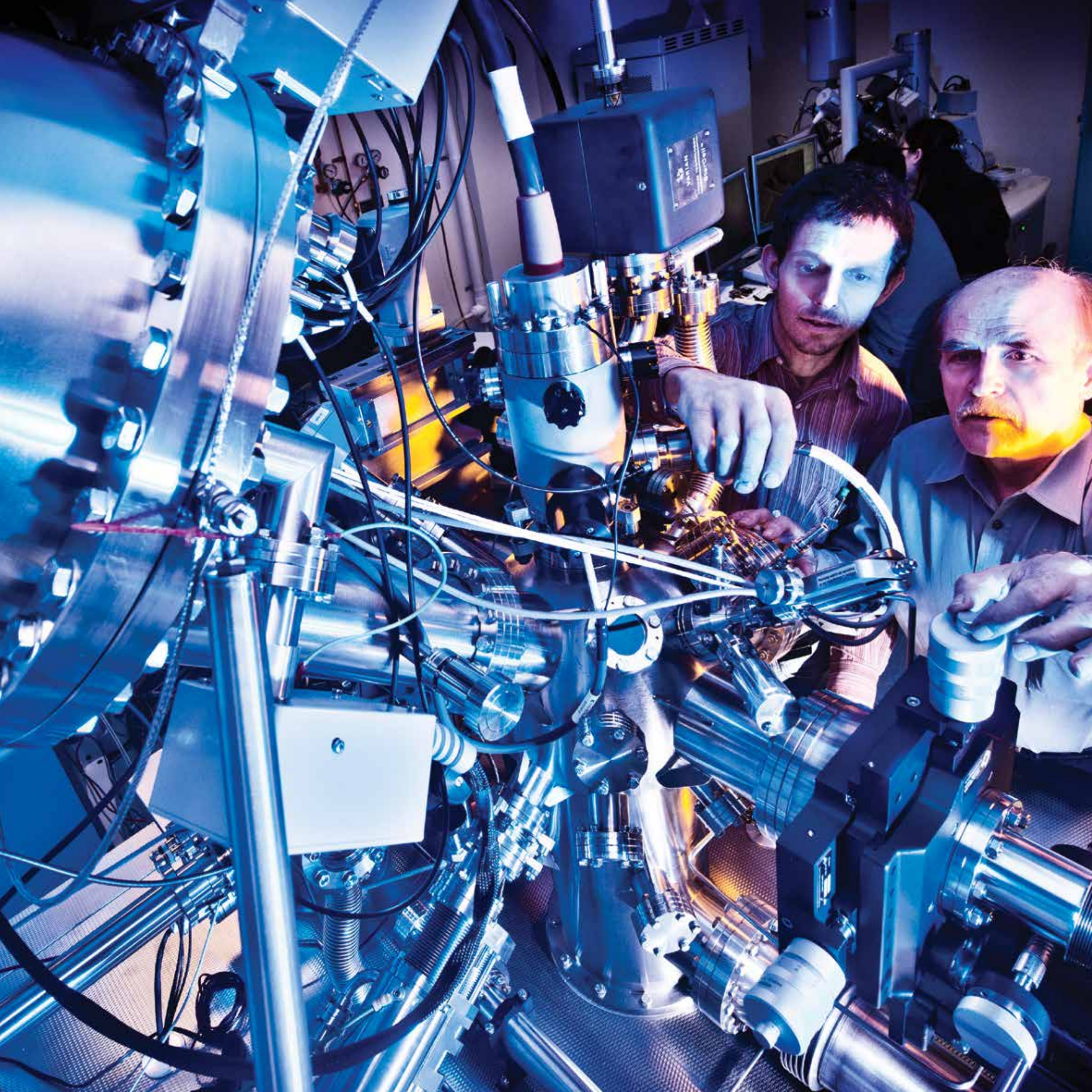
Much of this research was led by the QUT-based ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation (CCI), which was established in 2005.

QUT has become an internationally networked hub of creative enterprise and knowledge for Queensland and regularly brings together Australian and world experts for conferences, symposiums and forums.

These include the annual Creative3 International Forum, which unites world-class design, media, arts and financial experts each year at the Creative Industries Precinct.

The QUT Creative Industries Artist in Residence Program was also established in 2010 by the Rainbow Reid Endowment Fund, with the first guests being well-known actors Gyton Grantley (a QUT acting graduate) and Diane Cilento.





# Research resources

Some of the most powerful nanotechnology microscopes on the planet have become potent symbols of QUT's expanding research technology.

These amazing devices include the Omicron ultra-high-vacuum scanning tunnelling microscope (pictured left), which is being used for research including the development of efficient and cheap plastic solar cells to charge laptops and mobile phones.

The microscope was a Queensland-first when it arrived at QUT in 2011. Its tiny metallic tip can see individual atoms, allowing precision greater than a hundredth of a nanometre.

Another remarkable microscope, the Zeiss Orion NanoFab Plus, was an Australian-first when it was installed at QUT's Science and Engineering Centre in 2013. By increasing the microscope beam current, researchers are able to etch away material to create patterns or structures with features of only a few nanometres: imagine *War and Peace* etched on the head of a pin – 200 times over.

The microscopes, which are part of QUT's Central Analytical Research Facility, are just two of the high-end tools and systems enabling QUT researchers to do their amazing work.

At Kelvin Grove campus, our world-leading researchers at the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety – Queensland (CARRS-Q) have access to technology including an impressive full-sized driving simulator.

Also on the northside, the Banyo Pilot Plant Precinct features two giant warehouses of structural and mechanical testing equipment, including a cyclone simulator and a 1000 degree furnace.

At the nearby Brisbane Airport precinct, QUT's Australian Research Centre for Aerospace Automation (ARCAA) is an international leader investigating all aspects of aviation automation, with a particular research focus on autonomous technologies and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).

The centre's purpose-built headquarters includes an aircraft simulation and testing laboratory, indoor flying area, and a vision-based motion capture system used for experiments with micro UAS. Field testing equipment includes a Cessna 172R aircraft which has been custom-modified into a sophisticated, low-cost, and flexible flying laboratory to study airborne systems.

QUT's world-class capabilities in automation and robotics also have their feet – or wheels – firmly on the ground.

The university's AgBot prototype is a light-weight, driverless farm vehicle that can reduce the environmental impact of weeding by using low-cost sensors to target and spray very young weeds.

Another invention, the Guiabot, is an autonomous robot that is part of our persistent robotic navigation research. Dubbed 'Casper', it has spent lengthy periods 'wandering' the S Block Level 11 foyer and QUT Bookshop at Gardens Point campus on an experimental mission to learn how its environment changes over time and how to maintain stable navigation.

Medical engineering is another of our research strengths which has been boosted by increased technology access over the past decade.

The Medical Engineering Research Facility at The Prince Charles Hospital opened in 2008 to lead orthopaedic and artificial organ research and provide a comprehensive suite of research and training facilities at the one location.

Advances in 3D printing have opened new doors for biofabrication research – an amazing collusion of chemistry, physics, biology, medicine, robotics and computer science where scientists

strive to print replacement body parts such as bone and breast tissue. At QUT's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, research is well advanced in printing 3D custom-made scaffolds infused with cells and growth hormones to enable the body to grow a new breast following a mastectomy.

The university is also a partner in the Translational Research Institute – Australia's most comprehensive medical research and biopharmaceutical facility, which opened on the Princess Alexandra Hospital campus in Brisbane in 2012.

Further north, the Mackay Renewable Biocommodities Pilot Plant, run by QUT's Centre for Tropical Crops and Biocommodities, is a pilot-scale research and development biorefinery for the conversion of cellulosic biomass into bioethanol and high-value biocommodities.

Funding support for many QUT projects has been provided by the Australian Government, including their agencies the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council, and the Queensland Government.

The commercial opportunities that come hand in hand with some of QUT's biggest research innovations are overseen by a specific QUT innovation and knowledge transfer company, bluebox, which was founded in 2006 to identify, evaluate, protect and transfer QUT intellectual property to the real world.

# Digital direction

**QUT's** biggest area of change in the past 25 years is without a doubt our digital journey.

The instant knowledge we now have literally at our fingertips – wherever and whenever we like – was practically science fiction at QUT's formation.

Back in 1991 – the year after the new QUT merged with Brisbane College of Advanced Education – the most pressing technological issues were developing multicampus phone and fax communications and merging systems to support the dramatically larger institution.

Students attended tutorials on campus armed with boxes of floppy disks for programs, there was no such thing as student email, and assignments were still handed in on paper.

But QUT's foundation year, 1989, was also the year of the birth of internet access in Australia.

The first lucky few to be able to access this new online resource were university academics through the Australian Academic and Research Network.

Today, QUT's students and staff live an online existence dominated by mobile devices.

The physical lecture theatres and offices are still here, but are now open-plan, technology-driven spaces backed by virtual learning environments.

The university's central learning management system is an online space called QUT Blackboard, where students access course resources, communicate with lecturers and each other, and submit assignments.

Another portal, the QUT Virtual intranet, provides everything from administration and parking information, to booklist portlets and ePortfolios, and won a global Intranet Innovation Awards commendation in 2013.

Free wireless internet has been available on campus since 2005, and in 2011 QUT became the first university in Queensland to launch a free mobile app with campus maps, staff directory, news and other features.

Students have access to more than 300,000 ebooks through the QUT Library, can get assistance 24/7 from the AskQUT service, and follow the university through its Facebook and Twitter accounts.

The university has also received international acclaim for The Cube (pictured) – the world's largest digital interactive learning and display space – in the new Science and Engineering Centre. In early 2014 The Cube won the global Gold Apex Award for education digital signage at the 5th annual Apex Awards in Las Vegas.

QUT has also become a global leader in the push for open access to its research outputs and was the world's first university to mandate open public access to all its scholarly work in 2003.

This access is through the ePrints digital repository, which contains more than 20,000 full-text research articles and is Australia's top repository. In 2013, ePrints notched up its 10-millionth full-text download, most external to QUT.

The university pioneered the Creative Commons movement in Australia in 2004 and a decade later the flexible, tiered copyright licence system has become an integral part of the internet's infrastructure, enabling millions of people around the world to share and reuse creative content.

Similarly, QUT has partnered with not-for-profit organisation Cambia on The Lens – a free web resource containing patent information for inventions from almost 100 million documents in 90 countries, making the world of patents, science and technology vastly more accessible.

We maintain strong links with global companies such as Cisco, Microsoft, SAP, Oracle and Infosys, and our researchers have established an international reputation for IT research excellence, particularly in information systems and business process management.

Our students are also IT leaders. QUT has produced more award-winning doctoral students in the field than any other Australian university.



facing page: The Chem World interaction display at The Cube.

# Distinguished professors



From helping the world's starving populations and pursuing new cancer treatments, to pioneering Australia's cultural policy debate and leading the world's first Creative Industry Faculty – meet QUT's distinguished professors.

The distinguished professor title is the ultimate accolade the university can bestow upon an academic and has been handed out just four times in QUT's history thus far.

The honour reflects the university's commitment to promoting intellectual and high impact research and scholarship, and recipients have significant international influence and recognition.

Distinguished Professor James Dale (pictured on page 20) is working in the global arena to help boost the nutritional value of cooking bananas – a staple food for west African nations where up to 670,000 children die each year and a further 300,000 suffer blindness due to vitamin A deficiency.

The research is a flagship project for his team at QUT's Centre for Tropical Plants and Biocommodities, which has received almost \$10 million in funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation under their Grand Challenges in Global Health program.

The Government of India is now also partnering with Professor Dale to develop iron-enriched bananas to provide better nutrition to poor, vegetarian communities and help stem the number of women hemorrhaging to death in childbirth due to iron deficiency.

Professor Dale has been involved in biotechnology research for more than 25 years. In addition to the biofortification of bananas, his molecular farming work includes modifying sugarcane for better ethanol production.

Distinguished Professor Judith Clements is also making a positive impact on global health, in the vital area of cancer research.

As leader of the cancer research program at QUT's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, she is responsible for research into several hormone dependent cancers, including prostate cancer, ovarian cancer and breast cancer.

Her team's research aims to improve patient treatment and outcomes by understanding more clearly how cancer spreads and why some forms can become resistant to chemotherapy treatment.

Professor Clements is also the scientific director of the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland (APCRC-Q), which is based at Queensland's new Translational Research Institute on the Princess Alexandra Hospital campus.

Along with APCRC-Q executive director Professor Colleen Nelson, she has attracted more than \$13 million in Australian Government funding for the centre, along with a \$4.25 million Movember Foundation grant in 2014.

Distinguished Professor Stuart Cunningham is a professor of media and communications at QUT and headed the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation (CCI).

Over a 35-year career, including almost 25 at QUT, he has become internationally known for his work in demonstrating the relevance of media, communications and cultural studies to industry practice and government policy.

Under his stewardship, CCI gained an international reputation for research into Australia's creative innovation system to maximise the economic and cultural potential of the digital revolution.

Professor Cunningham pioneered the introduction of policy focus into cultural and media studies, provoking the 'cultural policy debate' in Australia which has reverberated internationally for two decades.

His most recent honours include admission into the United Kingdom-based Academy of Social Sciences in 2013 and the award of a Fulbright Senior Scholarship for 2014–15.

QUT's first distinguished professorship was announced in 2005 and awarded to the foundation dean of Australia's first Creative Industries Faculty, Distinguished Professor John Hartley.

Now at Cardiff University and Curtin University, his honours include being made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's Birthday honours list in 2009 for his contribution to education in the field of journalism, culture and media studies.



top: Professor John Hartley.  
above: Professor Stuart Cunningham.  
facing page: Professor Judith Clements.

# Research growth

**QUT's** central value of being a 'university for the real world' has been evident in its teaching since its inception but over the past decade our applied, real-world research has really come to the fore.

Back in 1991 the new university's research income was \$5.1 million. In 2013 that figure stood at a record \$92 million.

Our strong growth in research income and outcomes has been largely due to major investments in the infrastructure that is critical to our researchers' work, as well as the recruitment of more research capacity-building professors from around the globe and an increase in higher degree research students.

The \$70 million Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation opened in 2006 in the Kelvin Grove Village to provide a multi-disciplinary facility for 800 QUT researchers working to solve real-world health problems.

It includes four levels of technologically advanced laboratories and physically houses 400 QUT researchers and links them with another 400 institute members in other locations.

In 2013, the \$230 million Science and Engineering Centre opened at Gardens Point campus to provide more world-class facilities for researchers in those fields. More than 360 staff, researchers, higher degree research students and external groups have now settled into the two high-rise towers.

**“ QUT's key ambition in research and innovation is to undertake high-impact research in selected areas to secure significant public, commercial and practical benefits for the community and for our partners.”** QUT Blueprint

Also in 2013, QUT was ranked ninth in Australia (just behind the Group of Eight universities) for Federal Government research block grant funding.

We now lead nationally endorsed research centres including: the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Centre of Research Excellence in Reducing Healthcare Associated Infections; NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Sun and Health; NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence for End-of-Life Care; Wound Management Innovation Cooperative Research Centre (CRC); the ARC Centre of Excellence in Robotic Vision; and the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland.

QUT is also a key participant in the new \$20 million ARC Centre of Excellence for Mathematical and Statistical Frontiers of Big Data, Big Models, New Insights.

We are also a partner in the major new CRC for Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), which will receive more than \$104 million over its eight-year lifespan.

# Indigenous knowledges

**QUT's** Reconciliation commitment covers a broad range of areas including a formal Reconciliation Statement, scholarships to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and leading the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network.

We have more than 560 Indigenous students, including 70 postgraduates, with about 67 per cent coming from metropolitan Brisbane.

Each year, students have access to support initiatives including at least 13 Indigenous scholarship programs, and staff and services at the QUT Oodgeroo Unit.

Previously known as the QUT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support Unit, the Oodgeroo Unit was renamed in 2006 in recognition of Queensland poet and activist Oodgeroo Noonuccal.

QUT also runs pre-orientation programs for Indigenous students, including the Faculty of Law's pre-law and justice program which debuted in 2013 with more than 100 first-year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

The annual QUT Indigenous Law and Justice Dinner also unites the faculty's students and staff with local elders, Indigenous and government organisations, and law firms that demonstrate a commitment to developing and maintaining career pathways for Indigenous people.

In June 2014 the university also hosted the World Indigenous Legal Conference.

QUT's widening participation strategy and our Explore Uni program aim to increase the number of Indigenous students, with the QUT Blueprint setting a goal of 1.7 per cent of our student population by 2016.

School students can explore QUT through events such as the myth-busting 'Go Further! QUT Experience' camp, and the Science and Infrastructure Development (SID) Winter School for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth.

The QUT Indigenous Education Projects Unit also aims to help schools and communities 'close the gap' for Indigenous Australians by implementing actions outlined in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan.

In 2002, the university implemented an Indigenous Employment Strategy to foster and increase the employment, career development and participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff. The next staff goal is set at 1.5 per cent of our workforce by 2016.

Some of Australia's most highly-regarded Indigenous research is carried out at QUT.

The university leads the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN), which was founded in 2013 with \$3.2 million funding from the Australian Research Council.

NIRAKN is an inclusive, multidisciplinary hub and spokes model network of researchers at various stages of their careers.

The QUT Reconciliation Statement and Indigenous Education Strategy make explicit our commitment to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and addressing Indigenous issues in teaching and research.

They formally recognise the particular responsibility of educational institutions to redress disadvantage and to overcome prejudice.



QUT's 2014 Student Leader of the Year Jji Lawton.



Facing page: (main image) Third-year justice/law students Corey Curran and Allison Boland in QUT's Law Moot Court. Inset images: (left to right) Exercise and movement science graduate Dennis Conlon, QUT's first Doctor of Creative Industries Dr Grace Sarra, ARC Postgraduate Award winner in education research Todd Phillips, Bangarra dancer Yolande Brown and singer-songwriter Robbie Miller.

# Expert engagement

Some of the world's greatest leaders and thinkers have been guests of QUT over the past 25 years.

Guest lectures, seminars and other special events have seen a range of high-level professionals share their knowledge with the wider community, as well as the university's staff and students.

One of the highest-profile public events is the QUT Business Leaders' Forum.

Held four times a year, the series has proved an outstanding success since its debut in 1999 and has linked world-class influential leaders with Brisbane.

They have included Virgin founder Sir Richard Branson (2011), former New Zealand prime minister Helen Clark (2013), current New Zealand prime minister John Key (2009), anti-poverty crusader Bob Geldof (2007), scientist Dr David Suzuki (2005), Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak (2012), former Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd (2008), and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (2002).

The QUT Business School's global real-world connections are one of the keys to this growing A-list.

The school has secured an enviable spot among Australia's top business faculties and earned 'triple crown' accreditation from the world's three leading accrediting bodies: the Association of MBAs (AMBA); the European Foundation for Management Development (EQUIS); and the US-based Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, International (AACSB). Fewer than one per cent of all business schools globally have achieved this triple accreditation, placing QUT in a distinguished group.

The QUT Business School has also featured in two prestigious world rankings by *UK Financial Times* (FT). In 2013 and 2014 our Master of Business (Applied Finance) program was the only Australian program to make the FT's global list, ranking 40th in the world both years. In 2014 the school also ranked 70th on the FT's list of global providers of customised executive education programs.

The QUT Institute for Future Environments (IFE) is also bringing national and international science leaders to QUT, through its Grand Challenge Lecture series and other special events.

In June 2014, the IFE and QUT presented an evening with Dr Michio Kaku (pictured), where the revolutionary physicist, author and broadcaster enthralled a massive audience at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre with the physics behind future possibilities such as emotional robots, teleportation and memory uploads and downloads.

Another high-profile American physicist – Nobel Prize winning Professor Brian Schmidt – shared his knowledge with the university in a 2014 public talk about his supernova work and his Harvard team's discovery that the universe's expansion is accelerating, not slowing down.

Other Nobel Laureates to talk at QUT include the joint 2003 prize winners for economics, Welshman Sir Clive Granger and American Professor Robert Engle.

World-leading climate change scientist Dr Richard Conant (who shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) also joined QUT in 2011 on a three-year fellowship.

The former NASA scientist who was one of the experts behind Google Earth, Dr Timothy Foresman, has also maintained links with QUT. After giving a guest talk at the university in 2013, he was appointed as QUT's inaugural SIBA Chair of Spatial Information.

Another famous NASA name – astronaut Andy Thomas, the first Australian in space – also shared his knowledge with a QUT audience in 2010.

In the arts arena, QUT hosted Academy Award-winning cinematographer Andrew Lesnie in 2002 for a public talk and showcase.

The Creative Industries Faculty has also run public master classes with identities ranging from pop singer Kate Miller-Heidke to thespian Diane Cilento.

In 2005, QUT's Faculty of Law brought copyright reformist and Creative Commons co-founder Lawrence Lessig to Australia from Stanford University to speak about the then-fledgling issue of internet copyright.

Closer to home, the Faculty of Law has also brought leading members of the Brisbane and Australian judiciary, including former High Court judge Michael Kirby, to campus for its well-received public law seminar series.

“Out of this university will come not just bright kids with the stars in their eyes but entire industries that employ people.”

Dr Michio Kaku  
Futurist

# International influence



**QUT'S** increasing global links have seen our campuses develop into thriving multicultural communities over the past 25 years – and opened the door for our students and researchers to travel the world.

The number of QUT students to leave Australia on international study experiences nearly doubled between 2009 and 2014 and continued growth is a key QUT strategic goal. The QUT Blueprint aims to ensure that by 2016 at least 15 per cent of all graduating students will have had an international study experience.

Likewise, QUT researchers and expert staff are furthering their work and influence abroad, making more than 2600 trips overseas in 2013 to attend conferences, seminars and forums to share and grow their expertise.

The global thirst for education has seen international enrolments consistently make up around 15 per cent of the student body – a figure in keeping with a key QUT Blueprint strategic goal.

This includes a mix of undergraduate and higher degree students, with the university actively working to increase the number of research students.

The university promotes its strengths to international markets, which have diversified in recent years. Around 6800 students from 100 countries now study at QUT.

Since 2003, the QUT International College has provided English language and academic pathway programs for more than 10,000 international students who have successfully progressed from the college to QUT faculty programs.

Several thousand more have visited on study tours from partner institutions in countries including Japan, Korea, China, Denmark and Thailand.

Our international community was also strengthened in 2009 with the opening of the Confucius Institute at QUT – Queensland's first Confucius Institute.

The institute is dedicated to the development of Chinese language teaching and learning with a key aim of bridging the gap between our state schools and China.

QUT also extended a hand of friendship to Asia when it bestowed honorary doctorates on Wang Bintai in 2008 for his work as Director General of China's Jiangsu Provincial Education Department, and Madam Wu Qidi, China's Vice-Minister for Education (Higher Education), in 2003.

Other international guests to receive the title of Doctor of the University include Narayana Murthy (the founder of Indian-based IT giant Infosys) in 2005 and Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan in 2011.

We have long-standing research links with international public institutions such as Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley, as well as private organisations including Boeing, Microsoft, Oracle, The World Bank and the World Health Organisation.

And, culturally, the university hosts a vibrant program of events each year, such as the annual East West festival, dragon boat races, a Ramadhan breakfast and Norwegian Constitution Day.



# Old Government House

**When** Old Government House was completed in 1862 it sat alone high on a promontory at Gardens Point, overlooking a picturesque bend in the Brisbane River and the young colonial settlement.

Its grand design and location made it an impressive sight for visitors and immigrants arriving by ship: as they circled the point, it came into view as a stately mansion against the backdrop of ramshackle wooden huts scattered throughout the bush.

It was a bold exemplar of the colony's potential prosperity and those early settlers could hardly have imagined that one day the house would sit in the midst of a thriving university campus, next to a sea of skyscrapers.

As custodian of Old Government House, one of QUT's greatest cultural gifts to Queensland over the past 25 years has been the loving restoration of the home of the state's first 11 governors.

The house served as the official governor's residence until 1910 and then became the first University of Queensland building in 1911.

Between 1972 and 2002 it was the headquarters of the National Trust of Queensland.

After QUT became custodian of this historic sandstone building in 2002, it was painstakingly restored over two years with the help of the Queensland Government and the National Trust. The rejuvenated mansion opened to the public in June 2009 in time for Queensland's 150th anniversary celebrations.

Later that same year, QUT's \$15 million restoration and adaptation of Old Government House received The National Trust of Queensland's John Herbert Memorial Award.

The project also earned Brisbane architects Conrad Gargett the Australian Institute of Architects' 2010 John Dalton Award for Building of the Year in Brisbane.

Today, the house is a blend of historical features, public spaces and new technology.

Visitors can take in the original details that have been uncovered, restored or replicated, and marvel at the grand cedar staircase and new cascading Swarovski crystal chandelier in the reception hall.

They can also visit the William Robinson Gallery on the upper floor and the cafe in the courtyard, and picnic on the lawns under the historic bunya tree planted in 1861.

The house serves as a museum of Queensland's history and offers free guided tours, podcast tours and touch screen displays about the people who once lived and worked there.

Children can even go on a 'K-Trek' (knowledge trek with iPads) during special events such as Lamington Day – a celebration of the culinary moment in 1901 when Governor Lamington's chef first dipped some sponge cake in chocolate and coconut to create the iconic lamington.

QUT's connection with governors has continued into the 21st century.

Former Governor of Queensland Peter Arnison AC, CVO served as the university's chancellor from 2004 to 2012. In 2014, former Australian Governor-General Dame Quentin Bryce AD, CVO relocated to an office space at QUT's Gardens Point campus.



**top:** Black and white image of Lady Lamington with baby Victor in pram outside Old Government House circa 1898. Image courtesy of Queensland State Archives.

**above and right:** The house post renovation in the grounds of QUT Gardens Point campus more than 115 years later.

**facing page:** (main image) The 'inflorescent' chandelier in the reception hall of the house is a graceful cascade of 52,000 golden Swarovski crystals cast in bronze. It was designed by Belinda Smith from Urban Art Projects, a Brisbane art-based design consultancy founded by brothers and QUT Bachelor of Visual Arts graduates Matthew and Daniel Tobin in 1993.





# William Robinson Gallery



One of Australia's greatest artists, William Robinson, is also one of QUT's greatest alumni.

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

While Robinson has been based in the greater Brisbane area for that time, his works can be seen in places ranging from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art to the National Gallery of Australia.

Robinson and his art are so admired that QUT honoured him by opening the William Robinson Gallery in the graceful setting of Old Government House on the university's Gardens Point campus in 2009. The same year, he was awarded our highest alumni honour in the QUT Outstanding Alumni Awards for 2009.

In 2014, the William Robinson Gallery's walls were adorned with works from his whimsical farmyard period: bemused cows and chooks poking their heads around tin sheds and other scenes reflecting his family's time living on a three-hectare farm in the semi-rural Brisbane suburb of Birkdale.

The gallery is a delight for the campus regulars and visitors alike, who cross the sandstone threshold of Old Government House and climb the elegant staircase to the first floor gallery.

Works on display are changed each year, chosen from the university's continually growing collection which currently numbers over 145 key Robinson works.

The most recent acquisition, purchased in 2013, is *The blue pools, Springbrook to Beechmont* (2000) which depicts the mountainous landscape of the Gold Coast hinterland in Robinson's deeply personal yet multi-dimensional perspective.

Known for his expressionist landscapes of regions close to his heart – and often where he has lived – Robinson's most significant individual works are now valued at up towards \$1 million.

His talent as a portrait artist has also been recognised.

He has won two Archibald Prizes for playful – and somewhat controversial – self portraits, *Equestrian self portrait* and *Self portrait with stunned mullet*, placing him in the exclusive company of Brett Whitely as the only dual Archibald recipients to win with self portraits.

In 2011, Robinson donated both those winning portraits, along with five other paintings entered in the Archibalds, to the QUT Art Collection.

He cited the William Robinson Gallery and his family's desire to see the art kept together in one place as his motivation behind the unprecedented art gift, which was valued at \$4.85 million.

The bond with QUT began back in the 1950s when Robinson was studying to be an art teacher at the Central Technical College (a forerunner of QUT). After graduating he worked as an arts educator through the 1960s, '70s and '80s, before retiring from QUT in 1989 to be a full-time artist.

By this stage he had already won his first Archibald Prize (1987) and would go on to win a second in 1995, as well as the prestigious Wynne Prize for Landscape Painting in 1990 and 1996.

His two major bodies of work – the *Creation* landscapes, begun in 1988 and eventually completed in 2004, and the *Mountain* series (1992–93) – were critically acclaimed and Robinson's art assumed its due place in the history of Australian landscape painting.

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



top: *Self portrait with goose feathers* 1989  
Oil on linen  
QUT Art Collection  
Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by William Robinson, 2011.

above: *Tallanbanna with cloud front* 1998  
Oil on canvas  
Gift of the artist under the Cultural Gifts Program, 2005.

facing page: *The blue pools, Springbrook to Beechmont* 2000  
Oil on linen  
QUT Art Collection  
Purchased 2013 through the William Robinson Art Collection Fund.

# Our active alumni

Education provides links for life — links with knowledge, friends, and your place of study.

More than 170,000 students have graduated from QUT in the past 25 years and will forever be linked with the university and QUT Alumni.

In addition to graduates, the QUT alumni community also includes past and present QUT staff members and QUT Council members.

Our alumni remain connected to the university in many ways, ranging from mentoring current students and acting as faculty advisors to donating to research programs and student scholarships.

Active domestic alumni chapters range from Fostering Executive Women (which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2013) to the newly formed law alumni chapter. Our many off-shore chapters uniting graduates include Korea, Taiwan, China Malaysia and Vietnam.

The annual QUT Golden Graduates morning tea also recognises alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago and includes teachers from the Central Technical College, Kedron Park and Kelvin Grove teachers' colleges and Brisbane Kindergarten Training College.

QUT creative industries alumni include acclaimed actor Gyton Grantley and singer-songwriter Kate Miller-Heidke and Indigenous stars Deborah Mailman (actor) and Wayne Blair (actor/director).

Award-winning journalist Leigh Sales (host of the ABC's 7.30) is a QUT graduate, as are fellow journalists Ellen Fanning and QUT patron Tracey Spicer.

Other notable graduates range from cricketer and physical education alumnus Ian Healy to Telstra Australian Businesswoman of the Year Rosemary Vilgan and former Queensland premier Peter Beattie.

Many of our highest achieving alumni have been recognised in the annual QUT Outstanding Alumni Awards.

The awards were established in 1991, with the top award — the QUT Alumnus of the Year — handed out each year to achievers from a variety of fields.

Business winners (and the year of their award) thus far have been Taco Bell CEO Greg Creed (2014), former Telstra CEO David Moffatt (2000) and Collins Foods (KFC Qld, Sizzler) chief executive Kevin Perkins (1993).

In health, our top alumni have been Indigenous health campaigner Dr Mick Adams (2010), UN global health campaigner Dr Amaya Gillespie (2006), vision scientist Professor Robert Hess (2003), leading optometrist Heather Waldron (1994), and mental health administrator and researcher Dr Harvey Whiteford (1997).

In the fields of built environment and engineering, our Alumni of the Year have been entrepreneur Allan Brackin (1999), engineering executive Pia-Angela Francini (2007), air quality expert Dr Dale Gilbert (1998), Google researcher Dr Stephen Lawrence (2005), Ausenco co-founder Zimi Meka (2008), Brisbane City Council CEO Colin Jensen (2011), and architects and Populous principals John Barrow and Rod Sheard (2013).

Our major education winners have been educator Jan Hannant (1991), renowned artist William Robinson (2009), and Indigenous education leader Chris Sarra (2004).

Science and information technology have been represented by software researcher Cristina Cifuentes (2001), Bundaberg Sugar boss Geoff Mitchell (2002), immunologist Dr David Wyatt (1996), and science graduate Alan Key (1995).

In law, top lawyer Teresa Handicott was named Alumnus of the Year in 2012.



facing page: (main image) Leigh Sales. Inset images: (left to right) Kate Miller-Heidke, Teresa Handicott, Zimi Meka, Dr Amaya Gillespie and Wayne Blair.

“I feel that if you can make money, you’re better off helping other people than helping yourself.”

Chuck Feeney  
Founder of The Atlantic Philanthropies



## Philanthropy

**Global** and Australian philanthropy has changed QUT physically and philosophically.

Over the past decade, major donations have played an important role in helping fund new developments on campus and vital research, and also enriched students’ lives through greater opportunities.

One of QUT’s most generous benefactors has been American philanthropist Charles (Chuck) Feeney and his foundation The Atlantic Philanthropies.

Atlantic provided a \$25 million gift towards QUT’s new Science and Engineering Centre (open 2013), as well as \$22.5 million to help build the university’s Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (open 2006), and \$20 million to establish the QUT Health Clinics (open 2007).

The Atlantic Philanthropies has also provided \$10.5 million for two capacity-building projects QUT is leading in Vietnam, in the professions of nursing and public health, and another \$750,000 to establish the QUT-based Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies (ACPNS).

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is another strong international supporter of QUT, and has provided almost \$10 million through its Grand Challenges in Global Health program to fund Distinguished Professor James Dale’s long-term banana biofortification project to boost the nutritional value of bananas in sub-Saharan Africa.

Bill and Melinda Gates have taken a personal interest in the project and met with Professor Dale and his team during a visit to Australia in 2011.

According to the ACPNS, high-profile philanthropists like the Gates and Mr Feeney have a double impact on society: they make huge differences to recipients through their donations, but also act as peer leaders and encourage philanthropy on a wider level.

Philanthropy is also directly benefiting and inspiring QUT students through a range of privately backed scholarships.

The late Carl and Mary Leonard, an American couple who retired to Brisbane, donated money and bequeathed their estate worth \$1 million to the university to enable students to travel overseas to study or volunteer.

The Mary and Carl Leonard International Relations Award is now an enduring legacy of the Leonards’ own lives which were spent working in developing countries.

Another leading philanthropist, pastoralist and QUT Chancellor Tim Fairfax AC, is helping regional and rural students through a multi-million dollar donation to QUT.

Mr Fairfax has established the Tim Fairfax AC Learning Potential Fund Scholarships which will provide 24 scholarships each year for low-income young people from Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Philanthropists are finding varied ways to give to QUT, with some donating land or artworks.

Businesswoman Laurie Cowled gave a valuable block of Noosa land to the university, which was sold to fund scholarships aimed at women who were from regional areas, Indigenous, or economically disadvantaged.

The late Dr Elizabeth Marks also chose land as her gift. She gave the university her 52-hectare Samford property with the wish that it be used for ecological purposes and it has since been turned into the Samford Ecological Research Facility.

The university’s art collection has also benefited from the generosity of others.

Art lovers Shane and Sally Thompson have bequeathed a personal collection of just under 400 artworks to the QUT Art Collection, and renowned artist William Robinson has donated seven of his own works, including two Archibald Prize-winning self portraits.

“I THINK LEARNING WOULD BE THE THEME OF OUR LIFE AND WE JUST WANT TO HELP THESE YOUNG PEOPLE LEARN.”

The late Mary Leonard  
(1911–2013)



# Rhodes Scholars

**World-class** teaching at QUT has helped produce six Rhodes Scholars in the past 25 years.

Rhodes is the oldest and most prestigious international graduate scholarship program in the world and awards scholarships to students selected from 14 countries each year, including one Queensland scholarship.



**JAMES TILBURY**  
Mr Tilbury, (pictured left and on facing page), joined the select Rhodes

cohort in 2011 and headed to Oxford to study a Masters of Environmental Change and Management.

Prior to Oxford, one of his biggest challenges was working in Cambodia with international development organisation CARE.

Mr Tilbury's desire to help the planet's poorest people through sustainable development and poverty alleviation was shared with the community when he became one of the faces of QUT's television commercial series on graduates in the real world.

His goals are in keeping with the spirit of the Rhodes Scholarships, which were established in 1903 under the will of Cecil Rhodes to develop outstanding leaders and promote international understanding and peace.



**ANDREW TROTTER**  
A dual QUT graduate in arts and law, Mr Trotter is a

Rhodes Scholar (2013) destined to make an impact on society. His ultimate goal is to see alleged international criminals judged fairly and expeditiously in their own countries.

Prior to studying international criminal law at Oxford, he had already completed an internship at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, and human rights-related internships in Cambodia and India.

The tertiary path that led Mr Trotter to the Rhodes Scholarship actually started with a scholarship: he began his QUT studies as one of the inaugural QUT Vice-Chancellor's Scholars.



**AMANDA ROJEK**  
Queensland's 2012 Rhodes Scholar, Ms Rojek, has degrees in applied science

and human movement studies from QUT. She arrived in Oxford in 2014 to study a Masters in Global Health Science, with a focus on disaster management.

Ms Rojek studied medicine at University of Queensland after her QUT degrees and is passionate about bringing adequate and timely healthcare to struggling and underprivileged communities.

She has been a remote area medical volunteer in Chicago, a Red Cross emergency services volunteer in Australia and has trekked to the Mount Everest base camp and climbed Borneo's Mount Kinabalu.



**BEN WHITE**  
Professor White was QUT's first Rhodes Scholar in 1998.

The law graduate and university medalist is now a well-known health law researcher and lecturer at QUT. Professor White completed his PhD at Oxford University, where his thesis investigated the role that consultation plays in the law reform process.

Law reform has gone on to form a central part of Professor White's career. Prior to joining QUT Law School, he was a full-time commissioner of the Queensland Law Reform Commission from 2005 to 2007 (and part-time commissioner between 2007 and 2010), where he had carriage of a five-year review into the state's guardianship legislation.

Professor White is now a director of QUT's Health Law Research Centre and has published extensively in the area of health law, with a particular focus on end-of-life decision making and guardianship law.



**CHRISTOPHER LAYTON**  
Restoring eyesight and improving people's lives is

the vision of our 2002 Rhodes Scholar, who graduated from optometry with a university medal in 1998 and was also named the 2002 QUT Alumni Young Achiever Award Winner.

Now the director of ophthalmology research at the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation, Dr Layton is a medical retina subspecialist and brings a real-world clinical perspective to the foundation's efforts to prevent and treat blindness.

Dr Layton pioneered the term 'diabetic retinal neuropathy' during his Rhodes Scholar work at Oxford University where he researched the challenge of making artificial retinas.



**THOMAS WARD**  
A medical engineering graduate and QUT medalist, Dr Ward was Queensland's

2001 Rhodes Scholar.

During his undergraduate studies, he was sponsored by the Queen's Trust for Young Australians to carry out an assessment of the needs of landmine victims and rural amputees in Cambodia.

After graduating from QUT, he used his Rhodes Scholarship to complete a doctorate at Oxford University's Orthopaedic Engineering Centre, where he researched knee joint replacements.

He then worked in the United States and consulted on major health system reforms in the Middle East and completed a medical degree.

# Learning and teaching

Understand, adapt and transform could well sum up QUT's guiding mantra for its learning and teaching as we move through the 21st Century.

Every new cohort of students brings heightened expectations and requirements and we are living up to our dual titles of being a university of technology and a university for the real world.

More than \$500 million has been spent over the past decade to reshape our campuses and create facilities to optimise student learning and knowledge sharing.

This amazing decade of developments ranges from the \$230 million Science and Engineering Centre (2013) and \$140 million Creative Industries Precinct (stage one 2004 and stage two opening 2015) to the \$50 million Student Learning Support Centre (Kelvin Grove 2007) and \$13.5 million Kelvin Grove Library refurbishment (2011).

Today's students have open, collaborative learning spaces, strong online resources, and committed, engaging and inspiring teachers.

Every new development, including the refurbishment of existing buildings, is designed in keeping with the philosophy that students prosper when they have time and space to think and learn, and feel connected to their university and to one another.

Our new facilities house technology-enabled lecture theatres, studios and laboratories, but are also strong on communal spaces for collaborative learning, idea sharing and networking.

Computer labs are still a vital part of our campuses too, but now we also boast many informal communication hubs packed with power outlets and free wifi to cater for students' ever-present laptops, tablets and smart phones.

Nationally, there is a growing trend for students to minimise time spent in formal classes, and QUT has consequently prioritised the integration of physical and virtual approaches to our learning and teaching.

Real-world learning remains a QUT strength, with practical experience and simulations an important part of student learning experiences.

This is evident across all our courses, including the Queensland-first paramedic degree introduced by the Faculty of Health in 2005 and our leading teaching degrees in the Faculty of Education.

QUT's teaching excellence has been recognised at a national level, where we have been a leading player in the national awards for university teaching.

Our teachers – as well as innovative programs such as the Student Success Program and Teacher Education Done Differently – have claimed 14 awards in the Australian Government's Australian Awards for University Teaching in 2013 and 2012.

On campus, our top teachers are recognised each year in the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence, which began in 2007.

The David Gardiner QUT Teacher of the Year Award was also established in 2014 in recognition of the outstanding contribution of the late Professor David Gardiner AM, QUT's former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and former Dean of the Faculty of Law.



A brilliant teacher, Professor Gardiner was a highly-regarded legal scholar who recognised very early the potential for multimedia technology to enrich the learning environment.

QUT's short courses and professional development are also undergoing renewal with the \$10 million Transform project (2013–15), which will transform the university's postgraduate offerings to meet the needs of busy professionals who prefer short and innovative learning experiences.

top: Science and Engineering Centre (Gardens Point). above: Kelvin Grove Library.

facing page: (main image) Kelvin Grove Library. Inset images: (left to right) Student Learning Support Centre (Kelvin Grove), Caboolture Library, Science and Engineering Centre, Kindler Theatre and H Block postgraduate space (Gardens Point).

# Investing in potential

Everyone deserves an education. But for some people, financial obstacles can limit tertiary aspirations.

One of QUT's greatest achievements over the past 25 years has been to level the playing field through the creation of Australia's biggest equity scholarships scheme.

QUT Equity provides over \$3 million in funding – about 2500 scholarships and bursaries – every year to support students from low-income, rural and remote, or socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

Many of the scheme's scholarships are made possible by the QUT Learning Potential Fund – a perpetual fund supported by the university, its staff, alumni and community donations, which seeks to bring out the potential in students from low-income backgrounds.

The fund was established in 1999 and has backed more than 15,000 scholarships and bursaries and grown to \$28 million – over halfway toward its goal of \$50 million.

**“ We see the QUT Equity Scholarships Scheme as a learning program, not a welfare program. The gift is not the cash, it's the degree — that's what will change their lives.”**

**Mary Kelly**  
QUT Equity Director and  
Learning Potential Fund donor

An egalitarian approach to education is one of the key values of the QUT Blueprint, which has set a goal of increasing the proportion of domestic undergraduate students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds to 16 per cent by 2016. Nationally, the Australian Government has set a target for all universities of 20 per cent by 2020.

In keeping with these widening participation goals, QUT is the lead institution for the Queensland Widening Participation Consortium – a collaboration of the state's eight public universities and the Queensland Department of Education, Training and Employment. In 2011 the consortium received a \$21 million grant from the Australian Government's Higher Education Participation and Partnership Program to undertake a range of widening participation activities across the state, involving schools and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

At QUT, the funding has been used to build the successful Explore Uni initiative which works with partner schools in the northern Brisbane corridor and Wide Bay region and engages low-income and Indigenous students in on-campus experiences.

More than 7000 school students attend Explore Uni events each year, which range from day visits to three-day camps. All the events aim to de-mystify university and promote tertiary aspirations in teenagers who may not previously have believed they could afford or were capable of going to university. An equally-vibrant program of in-school and in-community engagements contributes to academic success and building aspiration for post-school study. QUT's student ambassadors are crucial to the program's success and provide first-hand insights and stories about university life.

QUT's outreach strategies aim to increase the number of Indigenous students, with the QUT Blueprint setting a 2016 goal of Indigenous students comprising 1.7 per cent of our student population.

Gender equity is also a core value for the university, with the QUT Blueprint targeting 40 per cent of senior staff positions to be held by women by 2016.

# A vibrant workplace

With its vibrant, inspiring and caring environment, QUT has earned a reputation as an outstanding place to work for both academic and professional staff.

Our 7000-member workforce is a community in itself and boasts a dynamic mix of experience, longevity and youth.

The positive staff culture that exists at QUT has been recognised by top results in workplace surveys and awards, including QUT's status as the best Australian university to work for (awarded by the Uni Jobs website in 2013 based on survey feedback).

The university is continually evolving as a workplace and runs a staff opinion survey every three years to ensure it stays focused on staff needs.

We have also received 10 annual citations in a row as an Employer of Choice for Women from the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency.

Gender equity is a core value for the university and the QUT Blueprint aims for women to hold 40 per cent of senior staff positions by 2016.

As part of QUT's commitment to all staff achieving their potential, the university recognises the importance of a work-life balance, and family and personal responsibilities, and provides a policy-backed supportive and flexible work environment.

The QUT Wellness Matters program encourages healthy minds, bodies and spirits through promoting activities and services ranging from on-campus yoga to taking part in R U OK? Day.

Staff have also participated in the annual Global Corporate Challenge since 2009, with more than 1000 taking part in the walking challenge in 2013 and collectively earning QUT the title of 2nd Most Active Organisation Award (Education and Training) in Australia.

Workforce renewal has taken place over the past decade: In 2005 QUT became the first Australian university to introduce a dedicated Early Career Academic Recruitment and Development (ECARD) program.

At the other end of the experience spectrum, our academic workforce has also been boosted by the recruitment of more research capacity-building professors.

Academic and professional staff, as well as community partners, are recognised and rewarded for exceptional contributions through the Vice-Chancellor's Performance Fund and the annual Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence.

The university has a 20 Year Club for long-term staff and also encourages its former employees to keep in touch through their automatic membership of QUT Alumni.

At the end of each year, the entire university staff is invited to join together to celebrate the festive season at the annual Vice-Chancellor's drinks. In 2013, this event included a 'flash mob' of dancing staff, promoting the QUT Staff Giving Program.

QUT staff have always been amazingly generous and in 2007 the Staff Giving Committee was established to further our workplace giving.

In 2014, close to 500 staff collectively donate about \$7000 every fortnight to the Staff Giving Program through payroll donations, with the majority of those donations directed toward the QUT Learning Potential Fund.

The QUT community also gives back to the wider community by participating in a wide range of charity events each year including Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Daffodil Day and Movember.

# Student life



Today's QUT has a diverse and energetic student population who contribute hugely to the vibrancy of our campuses.

They are all ages and come from all backgrounds, but share a drive to create their own destinies through education.

As QUT has aged, more and more students have joined us for the journey: In 1990 the new university had 20,000 students but by 2014 we had more than 43,000.

The campus renewal that has taken place at Gardens Point, Kelvin Grove and Caboolture over the past decade has given them wonderful learning facilities, as well as a smorgasbord of recreational, retail and dining options.

About 10,000 of our students are experienced postgraduates, who range from higher degree research students to professionals seeking to further their qualifications and knowledge through postgraduate courses.

They share the campuses with undergraduates who come straight from school or, increasingly, with some life experience under their belt.

Some of those students are the brightest that Queensland schools produce and enter on prestigious, merit-based QUT Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships. The elite program was introduced in 2005 and provides more than 100 scholarships, totalling \$2 million each year, to high-achieving Year 12s who receive an OP1 or 2. Recipients also gain automatic entry to the QUT College of Excellence, which opened in 2010.

Other students receive equity scholarships through the QUT Learning Potential Fund to help them achieve academic goals and careers that may otherwise have been beyond their financial reach.

We also have around 6800 international students and 29 international student clubs which are run through the QUT Guild. These include clubs for students from Norway, Latin America, Saudi Arabia, India and China.

This student body also runs clubs for hobbies, religions, political interests and many sports areas. More than 1000 students compete in QUT sport and in 2014 QUT won the Northern University Games for the first time.

The university offers support services for many of our student groups to help improve their tertiary experience.

These include the Oodgeroo Unit for Indigenous students, the QUT Research Students Network, International Student Services, QUT Equity and the QUT Elite Athlete Program.

The QUT Guild also supports students with academic advocacy, legal advice and welfare assistance, as well as funding student clubs and campus sports, and running the guild bars and campus shops.

Our current students are also great motivators for our future students: a dedicated group of QUT student ambassadors share their stories with school students each year to promote higher education and de-mystify uni life.

Students who contribute to the community through volunteer and leadership work are also recognised annually at the QUT Student Leadership Awards, an initiative of QUT Alumni and Development.







# The future

QUT ambitiously positions itself as a university for the real world of today and tomorrow.

QUT will continue to strengthen its reputation for producing graduates who can thrive in volatile environments over the long term, work productively in teams, and combine depth in professional knowledge with broad perspectives based on exposure to new ideas and different cultures.

This focus on the undergraduate experience will be complemented by a much stronger emphasis on ongoing professional education. Meanwhile our research will grow in impact by combining disciplinary strength with interdisciplinary application and be distinguished by the extent to which we embed and deliver on a commitment to working in major partnerships with industry. In particular, evolving technologies of automation, personalisation and big data are advancing disciplines, transforming professions and disrupting business models.

QUT is beginning to build critical mass in these enabling technologies and is well positioned to differentiate its research and teaching by exploiting their application. This technological edge, coupled with our interdisciplinary culture and willingness to work with end users, represents an important competitive advantage for QUT.

Meeting all these challenges will require a sustainable and highly capable workforce, world-class facilities, sound financial management, robust operating systems and, perhaps above all, our continuing to foster QUT's proud sense of community and engagement with alumni.



a university for the **real** world®



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