

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

CONTACT

winter 2017

When the **WAR** *is over*

THE VICTORIA CROSS HERO
LIGHTING THE WAY FOR
STRUGGLING VETERANS

HEALING HANDS
*on the
frontline*

Frankie editor
KEEPING PRINT
WORLD ALIVE

BOEING
*set for take-off
at St Lucia*

Wallabies
SKIPPER BACK
AT HOME

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Telephone: +61 7 3365 2479
Email: contactmagazine@uq.edu.au
Website: contact-magazine.uq.edu.au

Editor: Michael Jones

Editorial team: Camille Layt, Mark Schroder, Melanie Williams

Design: Jennifer McLeod, James North, Craig Oddy, Paul Thomas

Contributors: Professor Janeen Baxter, Di Brodie, Professor Chris Greig, Gillian Ievers, Fiona Kennedy, Tom Kennedy, Danielle Koopman, Melinda Kopanakis, Dr Thilak Mallawaarachchi, Jessica Marshall, Professor Gita Mishra, Kathryn Monty, Suzanne Parker, Prue Roche, Katrina Shimmin-Clarke, Tony ZHANG Han

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Telephone: +61 7 3346 3900
Email: advancement@uq.edu.au

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COVER IMAGE

Victoria Cross recipient and General Manager of Seven Network Queensland Ben Roberts-Smith at UQ's St Lucia campus.



CONTACT APP

The *Contact* app can be read on your smartphone, iPad or other tablet device.

To download the app, visit the iTunes™ App Store or GooglePlay™ store and search for **UQ Contact**.



MESSAGE from the Chancellery

Many of today's students see a 'job for life' as a relic from another century, and expect to move through a range of careers.

When they come to UQ, we partner with them to develop their capacities to be satisfied and to succeed – which for some will mean building careers for themselves and for others, in their home countries and globally.

With the aims of not only answering society's changing demands, but of also anticipating future changes, UQ is expanding study choices for highly motivated students who seek timeless proficiencies such as critical thinking and logical argument, as well as contemporary knowledge and contacts needed for career opportunities.

An example of our new programs is the Bachelor of Advanced Finance and Economics, which enrolled its first students in 2016. A four-year honours program, it is an Australian first, suiting students who are accomplished in mathematics and can master fast-tracked learning.

It includes a final-year choice of either a research pathway or a profession-oriented pathway, which will connect

students with employers. It is already so popular with high achievers that it has one of the loftiest academic entry levels of any UQ undergraduate degree.

Other innovative programs for graduates and undergraduates have begun in 2017, and are attracting very bright students. Examples include the Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics; the Bachelor of Advanced Humanities; the Bachelor of Clinical Exercise Physiology; the Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice; the Master of International Relations/Master of International Law; and the Master of Data Science.

The last mentioned pools expertise not only in computing, statistics and mathematics, but also in ethics, law and communication, among others.

Like all UQ programs with an industry orientation, it will generate graduates who are technically adept, attuned to the wider societal implications of their work, and ready to tackle difficult global problems.

“UQ is expanding study choices for highly motivated students who seek timeless proficiencies such as critical thinking and logical argument.”

Graduates from these and all programs will stand on the shoulders of alumni who have earned UQ a handsome reputation for creating well-rounded graduates.

It is a reputation built also by past UQ staff and leaders, none more so than a former Vice-Chancellor and President, Emeritus Professor John Hay AC. John's death in November prompted sadness and tributes from alumni and friends across the world, and significant numbers attended commemorations in Melbourne and at UQ's St Lucia campus.

John was among Australia's most eloquent champions of excellence in higher education, and reflection upon his legacy reinforced for me the imperative to defend excellence, and empower students and graduates to be enlightening agents in an era that some fear is 'post-truth'.

Professor Peter Høj
Vice-Chancellor and President

To read a tribute to Emeritus Professor John Hay AC, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

Features



INDULGE IN PRINT

Contact catches up with *frankie* editor and alumnus Jo Walker about why print magazines are still cool.



A NEW BATTLEFIELD

War hero Ben Roberts-Smith shines a light on the dark days for soldiers in search of a new life.



IN THE LINE OF FIRE

Alumnus Andrew Cameron is providing aid to communities ravaged by war and disease.



MUSIC TO THE EARS

Cancer survivor and alumnus Glenys Abrahams is helping hearing-impaired students in Africa.

Regulars

4

THE BIG QUESTION

UQ researchers discuss the leading causes of global inequality.

14

24 HOURS ON CAMPUS

Contact photographers capture a typical day in the lives of students and staff at UQ's beautiful Gatton campus.

24

TRAVEL DIARY

Rotary Peace Fellow Tony ZHANG Han traveled to Timor-Leste to help vulnerable communities improve resilience in the face of ever-looming natural disasters.

38

CULTURE

Contact goes behind the curtain of the iconic UQ Med and Law revues.



REUNITE WITH YOUR MATES

Class of 1967 Pharmacy

21 October 2017
Dinner at The Ship Inn,
South Bank, 6–10pm

Class of 1977 Dentistry

28 October 2017
Tour of the UQ Oral Health
Centre, UQ Herston campus,
10am–12pm. Lunch at Customs
House, Brisbane, 12.30–3pm

Class of 1967 Chemical Engineering

3 November 2017
Tour of the School of Chemical
Engineering, UQ St Lucia
campus, 2–3.30pm. Dinner at
Rydges, South Bank, 6–11pm

Class of 1973 Veterinary Science

17 November 2017
Dinner at Boulevard Gardens,
Indooroopilly, 6.30–10.30pm

For more information about
these reunions, or for RSVP
details, please contact
Alumni and Community
Events Officer Prue Roche
on +61 7 3443 3206 or email
prue.roche@uq.edu.au.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



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The University of
Queensland Alumni
group

THE BIG QUESTION

What is the leading cause of global inequality?



Professor Gita Mishra
Professor of Life Course Epidemiology,
School of Public Health
Director of the Australian Longitudinal
Study on Women's Health

"The leading cause of global inequality is lack of access to education for all women. Globally, they make up two-thirds of the population who are illiterate. Education empowers women to deal with adversity in life. Educated women can improve the health and economic wellbeing of their family and local community."



Dr Thilak Mallawaarachchi
Principal Research Fellow, Risk and
Sustainable Management Group

"Inequality – deprived needs and unfulfilled capabilities of the vulnerable – has risen lately. Financial sector over-expansion coupled with weak social policies are some likely causes. Without the skills to remain useful, rapid technological change could leave people behind, depriving them of opportunities to fulfil their needs and aspirations, and creating a massive underclass."



Professor Chris Greig
Director, UQ Energy Initiative
Director, Dow Centre for Sustainable
Engineering Innovation

"Innovation is the heart of enduring prosperity. Nations, communities and organisations that have consistently fostered free enterprise and rewarded innovation over sustained periods have seen the livelihoods of people thrive. Those who have shunned free enterprise and failed to value innovation have stagnated. Global inequality exists because these fundamental differences have prevailed over generations."



Professor Janeen Baxter
Director, Life Course Centre

"Global inequality exists between nations as well as between individuals and groups within countries. The causes are related, but not identical, and result from historical processes including wars, industrialisation and colonisation, as well as current arrangements such as trade, financial systems and global politics. Inequalities between countries influence within-country access to resources and are shaped by internal structures and institutions."

Research impact

THE INVISIBLE PERILS OF FEMALE SUCCESS

You may be familiar with the metaphorical glass ceiling – the invisible barrier women face in career progression – but what happens after they break through?

The answer isn't encouraging. UQ's Professor Alex Haslam noticed that women are often appointed to leadership positions in organisations only when the organisations are in trouble.

In 2003, *The Times* published an article linking female board member appointments to a downturn in company performance.

"This conclusion was entirely unwarranted, since the evidence on which it was based was correlational," Professor Haslam said.

Together with his colleague at the time, Professor Michelle Ryan from the University of Exeter, he decided to explore the true circumstances around the promotion of women to senior positions.

They found that not only did companies tend to improve or stabilise after women were appointed to the board of directors,

but these women were more likely to be appointed when companies were already performing poorly – a phenomenon they dubbed the 'glass cliff'.

Since then, they have found evidence of the phenomenon in a wide range of fields, including law and politics.

The term has become so recognised that it was shortlisted for the *Oxford Dictionary's* Word of the Year for 2016.

Professor Haslam said the first step to addressing the issue was recognising that it exists. He recommended that organisations audit themselves to see what leadership opportunities and paths were open to women and how they are helped to negotiate them.

"In our experience this tends to uncover a range of inequalities – some subtle, others not. Having done this, you can set about trying to correct inequalities, preferably in consultation with both women and men, so that people understand what you are trying to do and why."

Professors Haslam and Ryan are working on a book about the 'glass cliff', together with Dr Kim Peters from UQ's School of Psychology.

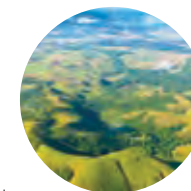


'Glass cliff' has become so recognised that it was shortlisted for the Oxford Dictionary's Word of the Year for 2016.

RESEARCH IMPACT: highlighting some of the groundbreaking research being produced at UQ

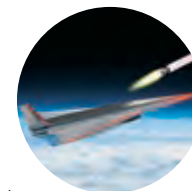
Volunteering to save the world

Professor Brent Ritchie is working with the Carbon Market Institute and Qantas to tackle climate change by encouraging consumers to buy voluntary carbon offsets.



Faster than a speeding bullet

Professor Michael Smart is leading research at UQ's Centre for Hypersonics that could revolutionise space exploration using scramjet technology.



Pioneering changes for employees

Professor Gillian Whitehouse's extensive research into gender and employment equity has contributed to new legislation with wide-reaching changes for Queensland employees.



Learn more about UQ's research impact online at uq.edu.au/research/impact.

READ, TOUCH, *indulge*



Frankie and *Smith Journal* represent a rare breed of magazines that are drawing more readers with each issue, despite a downturn in the industry. *Contact* spoke to Jo Walker, Editor-in-Chief at Frankie Press, about what it takes to survive in the struggling world of magazines.

Editor and UQ alumnus Jo Walker (Bachelor of Arts '01, Graduate Diploma in Journalism '02) didn't go looking for a career in publications, but she has found her calling there nonetheless. Walker (pictured) grew up in Brisbane and Hong Kong and hopped between a few universities before settling on UQ. She says this worldview has been crucial to her current role.

What led you to study at UQ?

I was one of those people who took a long, long time between the end of high school and finishing a degree. I tried a few different courses, a few different universities, but, with its large Arts department and – unoriginal, I know – the beautiful big campus, UQ drew me in.

Did you always know you wanted to work in publishing?

Oh no, the decision to study journalism came much later. I'd already graduated from my BA, having dropped Law from my original double degree, and I was working in a record store. I sat down and thought, what do I do slightly better than other people? There was one thing on the list – writing. I was writing theatre reviews for a street press magazine at the time and decided journalism was something I wanted to explore further.

What are the biggest changes you've seen to the magazine industry?

The industry itself is smaller, but the competition has expanded. What we're competing against these days is not so much other magazines, but smartphones, the internet and Facebook. Content is easier to find online, but so much of it is just publications replicating each other in order to get the coveted 'engagement'. The biggest change is that the line between content and advertising is becoming very blurred.

So how is *frankie* bucking the trend, with subscriptions growing, while other magazines are closing their doors?

I think *frankie* has always been about having a beautiful product: it looks beautiful, the paper feels good in your fingers, and people often tell us they like how it smells, which is weird – but lovely. These days, people sit at computers all day, so to just be able to get away from the screen and have something so substantial and lovely to indulge in – that's why people still are very attracted to *frankie*. So I think titles that aren't providing an experience or something different for their readers are, to my mind, the ones most in trouble.

web To learn more about Jo Walker and *frankie* magazine, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

top 5

FAVOURITE PUBLICATIONS

1. *Riposte* – “Beautifully made with quirky features for smart women. They had one recently on America's oldest park ranger, a 95-year-old woman.”

2. *Fast Company* – “They always have really cool cover interviews and profile interesting start-up companies.”

3. *Love* – “My fashion indulgence! They do fun stuff with clothes you could never afford, and the editor used to work on my all-time favourite, *The Face*.”

4. *qz.com* – “This clever US news, technology, and silliness publication hired one of my old colleagues, but they also have an Indian take on pop culture.”

5. *The Line of Best Fit* – “I've been reading this London music site since it was just a fan blog – I can't live without it, or I wouldn't know what to listen to.”



When the **WAR** *is over*

In another life, Ben Roberts-Smith VC was a war hero – the ‘man mountain’ whose bravery in Afghanistan earned him a Victoria Cross. Today he’s a UQ graduate and General Manager of Seven Network Queensland. From the outside, his transition to the corporate world has been swift, but he knows all too well that for many former soldiers the battles go on forever.

It’s 3am on a spring night in 2013 and Ben Roberts-Smith is wide awake.

After 18 years in the military, he’s seen the horrors of war.

As a patrol commander in the Special Air Service (SAS), he led men into battle. Hell, he was awarded a Victoria Cross for Australia for his actions during a bloody assault in Afghanistan in June 2010.

But now, a different type of battle keeps him up at night.

This time, he’s on a mission that will change his life forever – he’s fighting for his family, and he’s terrified.

Roberts-Smith (Master of Business Administration ’16) swapped his camouflage uniform for a business suit in October 2013, retiring from the military as the most highly decorated member of the Australian Defence Force at that time.

Looking back today, the 38-year-old admits it was the most frightening decision he’d ever made.

“My first year out of the military was terrifying,” the two-metre-tall former Corporal told *Contact*.

“From the day I left school, every second Thursday I received a pay cheque. Then all of a sudden, that money stopped.

“I had taken a year off and was trying to work out what was next. Not only did I not really know what I wanted to do, I was worried I wouldn’t be able to feed my kids.”

On retirement from the military, Roberts-Smith moved to Brisbane from the Perth headquarters of the SAS with his wife, Emma, and their twin daughters, Eve and Elizabeth.

Using the skills he’d developed over almost two decades in the military,

he set up a management consultancy, advising organisations such as Price-waterhouseCoopers (PwC) and Seven Network Queensland on corporate culture, strategic restructuring and change management.

“My SAS unit was probably one of the most high-performing teams in Australia. It had to be: if you’re part of that team and you make a mistake, people could die,” Roberts-Smith said.

“I had an insightful methodology around how to achieve team success, and that’s predominantly what I was doing at that point.

“I didn’t pretend to be something I wasn’t. I couldn’t consult on a business level because I wasn’t a businessman. But I could talk about culture.”

It’s been a rapid rise for Roberts-Smith since transitioning to civilian life.

In 2015, following his consultancy with ►



Ben Roberts-Smith VC at his MBA graduation ceremony at UQ in December 2016 (above), and on patrol as an SAS soldier (right).

Seven Network Queensland, he was offered the position of Deputy General Manager and was appointed General Manager six months later, replacing the retiring Neil Mooney.

"I was shocked because I knew nothing about the television industry," Roberts-Smith said.

"Neil said to me, 'Mate, I can teach you television, but I can't teach character. And character is what you have in spades'.

"I decided this was what it was all about. I'd been given an opportunity to learn something, and wasn't going to find a better teacher than someone who'd been in the game for more than 40 years."

If the pressure of starting a new career at the top wasn't enough, Roberts-Smith was also completing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at UQ.

Graduating in December last year, he became Australia's first enlisted Victoria Cross recipient to complete a degree after receiving the honour.

He said he felt the pressure to succeed in his studies to smooth the path for his former military colleagues.

"I needed to do well because I was representing my colleagues, and I needed to balance study with my family, work and charity commitments," Roberts-Smith said.

"To have succeeded at something doesn't take away from the fact that I went through fear of failure like everyone else, and that fear is what really drove me not to fail.

"I likened it to passing the selection course for the SAS – I put a lot of effort into it and I've been rewarded with a degree, and that's something anyone would be proud of."

UQ offered Roberts-Smith a scholarship to study his MBA with a view to setting up a program to support other elite SAS soldiers transitioning to a corporate career.

"I joined the army at 18 so I hadn't gone to university for a bachelor's degree and I didn't have the base level of business knowledge because there were many things I just hadn't been exposed to," he said.

"The best thing about the MBA was it taught me what I did know.

"You don't fully comprehend how much you have been given through military service and so you're able to give back to the course."

UQ MBA Program Director Dr Sarah Jane Kelly said Roberts-Smith had done very well in the course and had brought a unique perspective to his fellow students.

"The other students really benefited from his insights into character, leadership and strategy," she said.

"We value servicemen and women in our program and are proud to offer support. As a result of Ben's enrolment we have since attracted several former SAS, military and air force students to the program."

UQ is now one of two universities in Australia providing scholarships through the Wandering Warriors program, a fundraising initiative of the Australian SAS Association to help veterans seeking a new direction through mentoring, education and employment opportunities.

Roberts-Smith is the patron of Wandering Warriors, as well as the White Cloud Foundation, which aims to help increase resources and improve access to support for people, families and carers who live with depression.

He holds leadership roles in several charities, including as Deputy Chairman of the Prime Minister's Advisory Council for Veterans' Mental Health, and is a National Ambassador for Legacy, among other roles.

"One of the attributes particularly pertinent to the SAS is that you have guys who can assimilate information very quickly and apply it with relevance, and that is what you are selected for," Roberts-Smith said.

"The misconception about SAS soldiers is that we're all big and burly, and we're selected on being fit. That couldn't be further from the truth.

"Soldiers are selected for their mental stamina and resolve, and those characteristics come in handy when completing a degree."

.....

War has always fascinated Roberts-Smith. He is a fourth-generation soldier and his ancestors have served in every Australian conflict since the Boer War.

"From the day I read my first book about Gallipoli, I wanted to be a soldier," he said.

"I wanted to know what it felt like. I wanted to know why those old blokes would sit together on Anzac Day and tell stories, and why no one else understood that sense of camaraderie. And I wanted to serve."



Image courtesy of Australian Defence Force.

"Soldiers are selected for their mental stamina and resolve, and those characteristics come in handy when completing a degree."



Ben Roberts-Smith VC in his role as General Manager of Seven Network Queensland (left) and his collection of military medals, including his Victoria Cross and Medal for Gallantry (above).



WANDERING WARRIORS

The volunteers at Wandering Warriors know that for some veterans the battle continues, while others will seek a new direction and fresh challenges. Wandering Warriors assists with the journey through mentoring, education and employment opportunities, as well as direct donations to select veteran causes.

The UQ Business School (UQBS) and Wandering Warriors have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in respect to the following UQBS programs for selected Australian Defence Force veterans:

- Master of Business Administration
- Graduate Diploma in Business Administration
- Graduate Certificate in Business Administration.

This represents a significant milestone in the pursuit of academic opportunities for the veteran community.



To watch a video about Wandering Warriors, visit contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

Roberts-Smith joined the Australian Army in 1996 and completed the SAS selection course in 2003. He served in East Timor, Fiji, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East, and was awarded the Medal for Gallantry in 2006.

His life changed forever on 11 June 2010.

A troop of the Special Operations Task Group conducted a helicopter assault into Tizak, in Afghanistan's Kandahar province. Their mission was to capture or kill a senior Taliban commander.

Here he took part in an assault against an enemy fortification, exposing his own position in order to draw fire away from members of his patrol who were pinned down. Fighting at close range, the Corporal stormed two enemy machine-gun posts and silenced them.

Roberts-Smith was awarded a Victoria Cross for his actions. His citation in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* noted that "his selfless actions in circumstances of great peril served to enable his patrol to break into the enemy's defences and to regain the initiative... resulting in a tactical victory".

"I was part of a group of Australian soldiers who went through one of the most intense battles of the war in Afghanistan," Roberts-Smith recalled.

"All those men were awarded a Battle Honour, which is the highest collective award for gallantry a soldier can receive.

"Without question, some of the acts I witnessed that day were worthy of Victoria Crosses.

"That Victoria Cross represents what we all did. All I had that day was opportunity, and if anyone else from that group was in that position they would have done exactly the same thing.

"That's the really short version of a 13-hour-long battle."

Roberts-Smith said the thing he missed about the military was the camaraderie.

"Every day you're with the boys, and you have a role," he said.

"You are all passionate, you are all highly motivated, everyone is mission-focused and believes in what they're doing. It's a great environment to be part of."

Roberts-Smith was presented with his Victoria Cross in January 2011 and, after many months on the publicity circuit,

returned to Afghanistan as a patrol commander.

"Doing that job meant more to me at that time than anything else in my career. I was in a position where I was able to prove to myself that I could lead in combat. To be in battle and make the right decisions and keep my guys alive. I got to achieve the goal I set at the start of my career, and not everyone gets to do that," he said.

.....

The question for Roberts-Smith was: what's next?

"It's hard to explain to people that you've lived your dream," he said.

"Many times during my MBA, the class would talk about their aspirations and

dreams and how we'd achieve them, and I would tell people that I've actually done that."

He said the harsh reality for many soldiers, much like professional athletes, was the limited amount of time they had to achieve their career goals, due to age and the physical demands of the job.

"It's actually the catalyst for many of the social issues veterans face," he said.

"You lose your focus. Without an education to support a new goal, you start to lose your sense of self-worth, your motivation, and that's when you start to see issues such as suicide, domestic violence and substance abuse.

"All those things are symptoms of somebody's service. But they can be

mitigated by empowering veterans to find employment or re-educate themselves.

"It's important that people understand what has happened here at UQ. It's the beginning of what can be a significant part of helping veterans transition to civilian life."

Roberts-Smith hopes to use his profile to lead the way for the thousands of Australian veterans struggling to adjust to life outside the military.

His aim now is winning the TV ratings war, while at the same time driving the innovation that is taking Seven Network Queensland to the top in commercial revenue.

"I'm proud and humbled to be one of the 100 Australians awarded a Victoria Cross, but I don't want to be forever defined by my military career," he said.

"Everyone wants to talk about what happened on one day. I'm proud of that day because of what we achieved as a group. But I do not want to be that guy who sits around at bars and talks to people about his Victoria Cross.

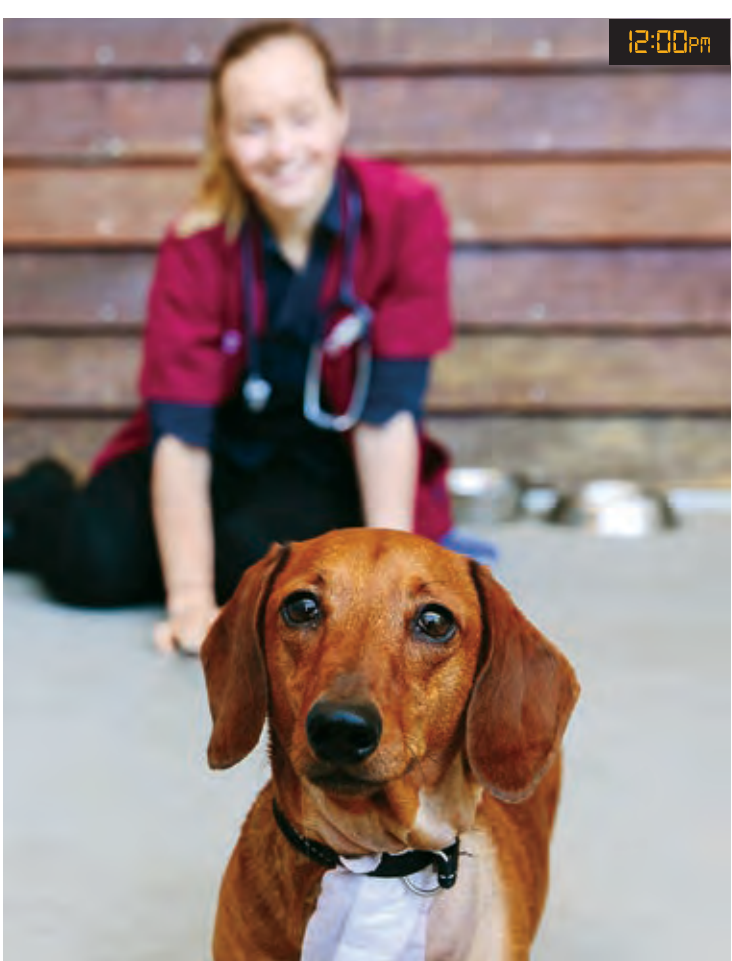
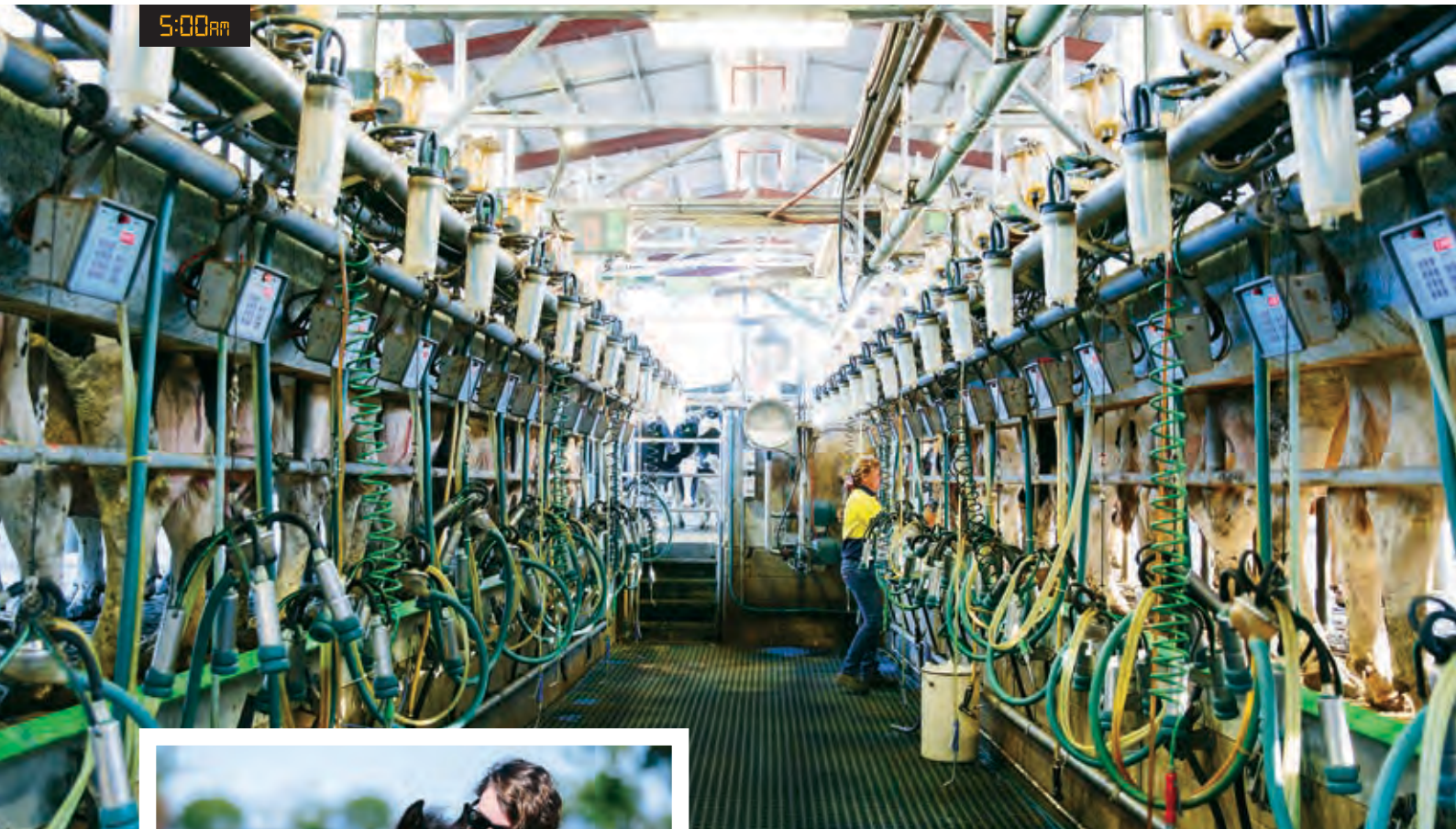
"I'd like to think that people who work with me recognise that I'm a good operator. The important thing to me is I'm getting taken on face value, and people are assessing me on what I'm doing now."

"I know very clearly that life can change in an instant, so when you have the opportunity to make the most out of life, then you have to take it.

"I'm trying to prove that in my current job. The Seven Network gave me a chance and I'm trying to do what I can every day to better the organisation." ■

LIFE ON THE LAND *at Gatton*

Milking the cows, feeding the foals, treating sick animals, and checking the crops.
It's all in a day's work at UQ's beautiful Gatton campus.



- 5am Dairy assistant and farm hand Heather Lee milks the cows at the UQ Gatton dairy.
- 8am Equine Unit Technician Maddison Hooper with one of the foals born last spring.
- 10am Senior lecturer in Equine Science Dr Judy Cawdell-Smith (left) working with students.
- 12pm UQ VETS Small Animal Hospital intern veterinarian Dr Michaela Swan with a cute recovering patient.
- 3pm Students Gabriel Crane and Felipe Alvear Fujii catch up on some washing.
- 5pm Staff prepare dinner at the Dining Hall.
- 6pm Students Jack Gordon-Manley and Zoe Cowlard among the crops.

[web](#) To see more images of everyday life at Gatton, visit contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.



“As a therapist, it is hard to stand by while witnessing the stress families are facing.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kathryn Esparza is a registered psychologist with a Master of Clinical Psychology. In 2014 she received the Australian Postgraduate Award and is currently completing her PhD at UQ's Parenting and Family Support Centre. Esparza works in private practice in Logan Central and also undertakes sessional academic work where she enjoys lecturing on the topic of cross-cultural psychology. Beyond her current research, she aspires to become an academic in clinical psychology and increase training in the areas of migrant mental health and cross-cultural assessment and intervention for trainee psychologists.

REFUGEE SUPPORT *starts at home*

As the global community confronts one of the greatest refugee crises in modern history, many nations – including Australia – are facing the challenge of successfully resettling large numbers of migrant and former refugee families.

Three years ago, I started work as a psychologist in Brisbane's southside working with migrant and former refugee communities. It was through my work with these families that I began to see more help was needed and I was first struck with the idea of the role I could play.

I recognised that parents who undertake the immense challenge of relocating to a new country do so with the hope of providing their children with the opportunity to grow into healthy, happy and successful adults. Unfortunately, I soon realised that many migrant parents struggle with family relationships and changes in their children's behaviour, while also dealing with the stress that comes with settling in a new country.

The problem these families face is support usually doesn't arrive until something goes drastically wrong and family relationships have broken down, or a child has developed significant behaviour problems. Not only is it more difficult to address problems once they have escalated, but this can also increase dependency on public health services in the long term. My work tries to reach these families early in their resettlement to prevent relationship breakdowns and help families adjust to parenting in a new culture and country.

As a therapist, it is hard to stand by while witnessing the stress families are facing. So, when it came to deciding on a PhD topic, I wanted to ensure that my research could produce real, tangible change in the community and foster better settlement outcomes for these families.

My work takes a preventative approach and is offered as an adjunct to existing settlement support services in an attempt to offer a cost-effective and realistic option for parents and the agencies supporting them.

Being given the opportunity to conduct this research at UQ's Parenting and Family Support Centre has opened many doors for me, allowing me to partner with Access Community Services Limited – a leading settlement agency that shares my passion for innovative solutions to settlement issues.

We are investigating whether the well-established Triple P – Positive Parenting Program can bridge the service gap for newly arrived migrant families and provide support early, before problems develop. We're trying to equip parents with the knowledge and tools to parent confidently in a new culture, and raise happy, well-adjusted children.

My ultimate goal is that the program is offered as part of standard service delivery for all migrant parents.

With the arrival of my first child in May, I feel more motivated than ever to help create positive change for the inspiring families I have encountered, whose love for their children has helped them navigate some of life's hardest journeys.

Improving family relationships and promoting the wellbeing of both parents and their children enriches not only the lives of our migrant populations, but also the nations welcoming them.

UQ is helping me share my passion of working with migrant and former refugee families, and is also allowing me to leave my small mark on the world.



To watch a video about how Kathryn Esparza is creating change for migrant families, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

PARTNERSHIP *hits new heights*

With its 'research powerhouse' reputation – particularly in mathematics, advanced engineering and neuroscience – it makes perfect sense for UQ to join forces with Boeing, a company also renowned for research and development activities that have been critical to its 100 years of aerospace leadership.



Boeing Research & Technology-Australia Manager Dr Jason Armstrong and Boeing UQ Research Alliance PhD Scholarship recipient Aimee Ryan at Boeing's Brisbane headquarters.
Image courtesy of Boeing Defence Australia Ltd.

In a first for the Asia-Pacific region, a team of more than 30 engineers from Boeing Research & Technology Australia (BR&T-A) is relocating from its Brisbane headquarters to a specially designed research centre at UQ's St Lucia campus this year.

To be housed in the Hawken Building, the heart of the University's engineering hub, the BR&T-A Brisbane Technology Centre will be conveniently located near other specialist research groups of interest to the aviation industry, including the Queensland Brain Institute, where bird flight-patterns are being analysed

for possible unmanned aircraft system application, and the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, home to several sustainable fuels project teams and polymer researchers.

UQ graduate and former NASA fellow in the US, Dr Jason Armstrong (Bachelor of Science '89, Bachelor of Science (Honours) '90, Master of Science '92), who heads the BR&T-A Brisbane Technology Centre, believes the partnership will benefit all.

"From Boeing's perspective, we will have a customised work environment featuring adaptable space and advanced technology," Armstrong said.

"More importantly, we will enhance our access to UQ's world-class researchers in engineering, human movement, neuroscience, chemistry, physics and psychology, as well as investigators in software and hardware components.

"And we hope that by being located in a high-traffic area on campus, we will attract interest from students who may then work in our industry and/or undertake high-level study in the fields of aerospace."

The collaboration means that academic research will be effectively translated to industry – a great boon for its relevance when applying for funding –

and UQ students will also continue to benefit from the PhD scholarships and undergraduate internships Boeing offers.

"We will be putting meat on the bones of the Australian Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda, which suggests that we must 'embrace new ideas and harness new sources of growth to deliver the next age of economic prosperity'," Armstrong said.

On a day-to-day basis, Boeing's presence at UQ will be a showcase for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) projects, involving not just Boeing researchers, but UQ students and staff too.

Topics already being investigated include a study of human factors in the flight deck and simulator technologies for future training approaches with Professor Stephan Riek, and Professor Paul Meehan's work on incremental sheet forming, which, as an advanced manufacturing technology, has demonstrated high potential to shape complex three-dimensional parts without using specific high-cost tooling.

As a fully functioning industry workspace, the new BR&T-A Brisbane Technology Centre will demonstrate the realities of aerospace research and will

provide opportunities for UQ staff and students to experience it first-hand.

"We are very pleased to be able to embed this BR&T-A Brisbane Technology Centre at UQ St Lucia, which will complement our other sites, including the Brisbane Airport Boeing Flight Training facility and CBD Boeing locations which perform technical work," Armstrong said.

video To watch a video about Boeing graduate engineer Jessica Orr, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

"We will enhance our access to UQ's world-class researchers in engineering, human movement, neuroscience, chemistry, physics and psychology."

Andrew Cameron
working as head nurse
at Juba Teaching
Hospital in Sudan.
Image courtesy of
New Zealand Red Cross



Aid in the **LINE OF FIRE**

Andrew Cameron OAM has spent his life helping others, in a journey that has taken him from the war-torn regions of South Sudan to the arid landscape of outback Queensland. *Contact* checked in with Cameron, a decorated nurse and humanitarian worker, during his latest mission to Afghanistan.

There was no fancy cake for Andrew Cameron OAM on his 60th birthday in December last year. Nor were there any lavish Christmas or New Year's Eve celebrations.

Living less than three kilometres from the frontline in Afghanistan's Helmand Province has a way of spoiling the mood.

But it was a birthday he will never forget.

"There is a fair bit of fighting happening close by. You can hear the rat-tat-tat of the machine guns and the booming of the cannons day and night," Cameron told *Contact* from his sandbagged home in the city of Lashkar Gar.

Cameron (Master of Tropical Health '95) landed in Afghanistan in December last year as part of a 12-month humanitarian mission with the Red Cross – his third year spent in the country.

As a nurse and project manager, his role involves monitoring and improving the health of detainees in prison, assisting wounded soldiers and training other soldiers in first aid.

The area is among the more volatile provinces in southern Afghanistan,

where opposition forces are actively operating in its various districts.

"I have lived in places like this before and know the environment and situation relatively well," Cameron said.

"A challenge of working in a place as troubled, yet starkly beautiful, as Afghanistan is the isolation. The 24-hour security, tight curfews and escorts allow for little freedom and we are confined to our living quarters when we're not out working.

"When you're working in such a remote and challenging environment, you need to know your limitations and be resourceful with what you have."

Since joining the Red Cross in 2006, Cameron has embarked on humanitarian missions to Georgia, Iraq, Yemen, South Sudan, South Ossetia and Kenya. In 2014, he landed in Sierra Leone during the devastating Ebola outbreak.

Cameron has been recognised for his humanitarian work with a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2013 and a Florence Nightingale Medal in 2011, the highest international award for nurses, for "exceptional courage and devotion" ►



Andrew Cameron and colleague Georgie Fergusson tend to a car crash victim near Birdsville (above), and burying the dead during the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone (below right).

to victims of armed conflict and natural disaster". He was also recently awarded the Ebola Medal for Service in West Africa by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in recognition of his work during the 2014 Ebola epidemic, and earlier this year received the Humanitarian Overseas Medal from the Australian Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret'd).

Cameron said his work in Sierra Leone during the Ebola outbreak was particularly challenging as he took on the responsibility of burying the dead.

"The Ebola outbreak happened and I considered how I would feel if it were my family who were sick in an area in desperate need of medical personnel, so I had to volunteer. Coordinating the burials was a hard job, but we tried to give the deceased as much dignity as possible."

Cameron recalled some of the more interesting encounters during his various missions with the Red Cross, including the time he was tasked with teaching the rules of war to rebel fighters at a primary school in South Sudan.

"I was going through the training with them, teaching them the rules of armed conflict, and it was quite bizarre seeing these burly men dressed in camouflage khaki sitting cross-legged on that abandoned school room floor," he said.

Originally working as a labourer in New Zealand, Cameron began training as a nurse at the age of 19 at Hutt Hospital and was the only man in a class of 44.

"Given that it was the mid-1970s, I was an object of curiosity among my classmates because nursing was traditionally a female profession."

Cameron said there were originally restrictions on where men were allowed to practise.

"I wasn't allowed to go near many female wards. But I was still assessed on my understanding of obstetrics, gynaecology and female health issues, so I had to teach myself everything from a textbook. It made me more determined to be a better nurse. I went on to achieve my midwifery registration and just kept learning new things, such as intensive care and emergency medicine."

After moving to Australia and working in a remote clinic at Mornington Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria for seven years, Cameron completed a Bachelor of Nursing at La Trobe University in 1991. He said it later became apparent he would need a higher research degree to further his career.

"I wanted a master's degree, so I applied to UQ and was accepted into their Master of Tropical Health program. I had some of the best times of my life at UQ and I

met my wife, Daniella, there. I was also given the opportunity to travel to the Solomon Islands to conduct a research project on the epidemiology of malaria, which solidified my interest in remote and tropical medicine.

"My studies at UQ gave me a solid foundation of knowledge which I have drawn from in all kinds of harsh situations over the last 20 years. Parasitology, epidemiology, entomology, disease control and health promotion. I have a passion for this work and try to make the most of it in all kinds of situations, for which I have to thank UQ for that wonderful opportunity."

When he isn't on overseas missions with the Red Cross, Cameron works as the Director of Nursing at one of Australia's most remote medical clinics in Birdsville – more than 700 kilometres by road from the nearest base hospital in Mount Isa.

"Birdsville is located on the edge of the formidable Simpson Desert, so it is one of the most remote places in our vast country to have an established clinic. I can be out of the clinic for 12 hours or more, retrieving someone from the desert," Cameron said.

"I love working out in the community and treating patients. If I worked in a big city, I would be confined to an office, but out here I can make a real difference."

web To see more pictures of Andrew Cameron's Red Cross missions, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.



UQ Chancellor Peter Varghese AO (left) and Alumni Friends President Jason Yu (right) present Emeritus Professor Dr Mary Mahoney AO with her UQ Alumnus of the Year award at the 2016 Courting the Greats ceremony.

Golden age OF ALUMNI FRIENDS

For half a century, members of Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc. (Alumni Friends) have been forging strong relationships between UQ alumni and the wider community, while supporting UQ students, educators and research through their fundraising and philanthropic activities.

As the first alumni association to be founded in Australia, the Alumni Friends Golden Jubilee is a major event. Celebrations in 2017 include events, exhibitions and initiatives which both showcase Alumni Friends and celebrate their continuing contribution to UQ.

One such program, the 50 Stories project, focuses on celebrating and sharing individual memories of UQ from students, alumni, community members, and University supporters. Alumni and members of the community are welcome to share their stories by visiting fifty.alumnifriendsuq.com. Alumni Friends, with the help of student interns from the School of Communication and Arts, are also running a competition to encourage contributions from current students.

Members of Alumni Friends are also working hard to raise 50 \$1000 bursaries this year for current students at UQ – the most recent in a long line of gifts to support current students in pursuing their studies.

The group is highly social, and arranges programs of talks and activities across the year. Several Alumni Friends-supported Golden Jubilee events have already taken place this year, including the Great Court Race and the UQ Alumni Book Fair. A UQ Art Museum exhibition, *Philanthropists and Collections*, highlighted the impact philanthropists – including Alumni Friends – have had on the UQ Art Collection.

Events still to take place in 2017 include a Gala Lunch, the Alumni Friends Golden Jubilee Concert at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in October, titled *Ode to Joy*, and special exhibitions and events at the Fryer Library, the RD Milns Antiquities Museum, the Social Sciences and Humanities Library, and the Marks-Hirschfeld Museum of Medical History.

Alumni Friends is an independent, voluntary and not-for-profit organisation that has donated almost \$9 million to the University. Countless students, academics and researchers have benefited from Alumni Friends'

philanthropic support – with donations spread across every faculty and including major prizes such as UQ Alumnus of the Year, UQ Graduate of the Year, and the People's Choice Prize for UQ's popular Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.

Alumni Friends member and volunteer Gary Lambides said his year-round involvement with the organisation over the past three years – in particular the book fair – supported a personal desire to continue learning.

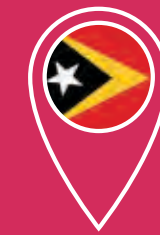
"I have never volunteered with an organisation quite like this before," he said.

"The exposure to new avenues of learning and the sense of community and support that I get from Alumni Friends and from working at Book House is very fulfilling."

Alumni Friends is always looking for new members and volunteers. To get involved, phone +61 7 3365 1561, email alumni@alumnifriendsuq.com or visit www.alumnifriendsuq.com.



• School students in Baguia in Timor-Leste's Baucau District (far left); children play in the street in the Tasitolu wetlands region of Dili (left, inset); and Dili's picturesque coastline (above).



SPOTLIGHT ON TIMOR-LESTE

12

UQ alumni from Timor-Leste

12

UQ Research Projects involving Timor-Leste totalling more than \$10.4 million and covering areas of Defence, agriculture and Triple P – Positive Parenting Program

3

UQ Rotary Peace Fellows working in Timor-Leste in 2017

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF DISASTER



Natural disasters forever loom as a deadly threat in the steep, mountainous countryside of Timor-Leste.

Located near one of the most active tectonic plate boundaries in the world, the nation is particularly vulnerable to earthquakes, landslides, forest fires and floods. Unfortunately, this risk is not well understood or publicised in many communities.

Tony ZHANG Han is working to change this. Han is a UQ Rotary Peace fellow, who this year completed his eight-week applied fieldwork experience at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Timor-Leste in Dili.

His role was to assist the overall project development and implementation of Phase III Disaster Risk Reduction

through building community resilience, while also helping to set up village disaster management committees in five villages across two districts.

“This field experience in Timor-Leste has helped me understand the importance of disaster risk reduction in preventing loss of life and injury of vulnerable communities,” Han said.

“I have a new perspective on how to integrate disaster risk reduction into development projects, particularly in areas of farming and animal-rearing.”

The Rotary Foundation is this year celebrating its 100th anniversary, while the UQ Rotary Peace Centre is celebrating its 15th anniversary.

The UQ Rotary Peace Centre is part of a global program to advance research,

teaching, practical training and knowledge on issues of international relations, conflict resolution and peace-building.

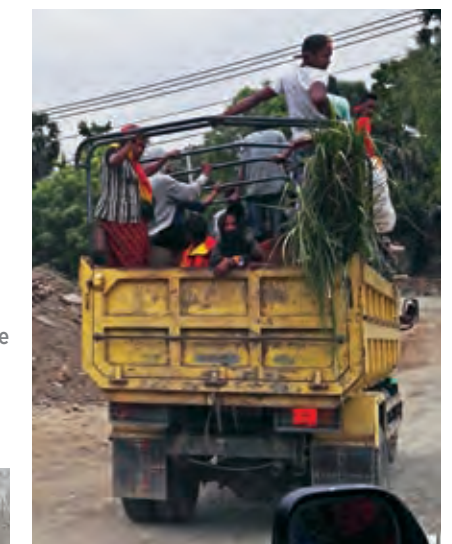
It offers a tailored master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies, designed to have a practical effect on addressing international and regional conflicts.

Each year, the Rotary Foundation selects individuals from around the world to receive fully funded academic fellowships at a number of peace

centres, including UQ. The Peace Fellows' scholarships cover tuition and fees, board, transportation, and all internship and field-study expenses. All UQ Peace Fellows undertake a minimum of eight-weeks applied fieldwork experience while studying.

web To see more photos from Timor-Leste, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

- UQ Rotary Peace Fellow
- Tony ZHANG Han with IOM – Timor-Leste colleague Da Cruz
- Alvaro (left, top); Han talking to Disaster Risk Reduction National Project Officer Luis Pedro Pinto at the 2017 US Mission Expo in Dili (left, bottom); people hitch a ride in the back of a truck near the city of Baucau (right, inset); and a man eats lunch in the village of Sana-Nain in the Manatuto district (right).




CLOAKED *in tradition*

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION


A family heirloom has now graced the shoulders of five family members, who together hold six degrees from UQ.

2016




Marlena Litchfield
Bachelor of Arts

2002




Dr Thomas Keenan
Bachelor of Business Communication (Honours)

1993




June MacDonald
Master of Literary Studies

1976




Mel Keenan
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

1976



Maurice Keenan
Bachelor of Arts

1973



June MacDonald
Bachelor of Arts

web To see more photos of June MacDonald and Marlena Litchfield, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

The gown has faded and the corners of the mortarboard are frayed and bent. After 56 years, it's fair to expect some wear and tear. But Marlena Litchfield likes the imperfections. To her, each loose thread tells a story and represents her family's long association with UQ.

Litchfield (Bachelor of Arts '16) became the fifth member of her family to wear the same academic cap and gown at UQ when she graduated in December last year.

She said wearing the family heirloom meant her graduation day had extra meaning.

"Looking at the photos, everyone looks so much younger and they're all standing in front of the sandstone. It's pretty special," Litchfield said.

Litchfield's great aunt, June MacDonald, was the first to wear the ensemble during her matriculation ceremony at UQ in March 1960, after completing her studies at St Mary's College, Ipswich.

"I was heading off to Teachers' College but I also wanted to start a degree," MacDonald (Bachelor of Arts '73, Master of Literary Studies '93) told *Contact*.

"So my mother took me to Brisbane to buy the cap and gown from Pikes menswear store in Queen Street.

"When I graduated, the same gown was altered to become a graduation gown with a white hood, and it's been worn in various ceremonies since."

MacDonald's brother-in-law and Litchfield's grandfather, Maurice Keenan (Bachelor of Arts '76) and his two sons, Mel Keenan (Bachelor of Arts (Honours) '93) and Dr Thomas Keenan (Bachelor of Business Communication (Honours) '02), each wore the cap and gown at their respective graduation ceremonies.

Recalling her days at UQ, MacDonald said she completed her undergraduate degree as a part-time student and mainly attended classes during the evening after spending the day at Kelvin Grove Teachers' College.

"I travelled to Brisbane from Ipswich on the train," MacDonald said.

"After a day at Teachers' College, I would meet for coffee with a friend who was studying pharmacy at UQ.

"The Merlo family were building their coffee business in Brisbane and had opened Cafe Milano in Queen Street.

"We would roll in there with a few bob to spend. Then we would catch a bus to UQ, where we would have about three hours of class at night.

MacDonald said she benefited from "brilliant" lecturers and remembers attending an English 1 lecture from poet, environmentalist and Indigenous land rights campaigner Judith Wright.

"The lecture hall was full, and you could hear a pin drop because the students were so engaged with what they were learning," she said.

MacDonald enjoyed a long career as a primary school teacher before retiring in 2004.

Litchfield said UQ had been a big part of her life – even as a child.

"We moved to Brisbane from Sydney when I was about five years old, and since then the University has been a staple in our family.

"Aunty June lives so close – just over the Eleanor Schonell Bridge. She would occasionally pick me up from school and we would come to the St Lucia campus for a coffee or to look at the gallery.

"Even when I was at primary school, I lived five minutes from UQ and I would see all the students walking past.

"Now I've been able to make a mark at an institution I've known since primary school."

After beginning a science degree, Litchfield eventually found her feet studying a Bachelor of Arts majoring in

International Relations and French. She said she was planning to pursue a career in law, focusing on foreign policy.

"UQ certainly provided a holistic education. I made a lot of friends and played plenty of sport," she said.

"I believe the internet has made studying a lot easier, compared to the days when Aunty June studied at UQ.

"The structure of studies and learning is so different. There's much more focus on tutorials and participation, rather than the spoken lectures.

"I think university has become more about speaking to students, rather than at students, and all the resources are now easily accessible online."



June MacDonald helps her niece Marlena Litchfield into her graduation ensemble – the same cap and gown she wore at her matriculation ceremony at UQ in 1960 – and (above) the original Pikes menswear store tag inside the gown.



CREATING CHANGE

through generosity



Every gift, regardless of its size, is capable of creating an immediate difference in the lives of students and the outcomes of research at UQ.

Each year, UQ community members support research that cures disease, protects crops, and builds stronger economies. They also help fund scholarships that allow students of all backgrounds to attend and succeed at university.

Take, for example, Darren Vaotuua (Bachelor of Science '02, Master of Physiotherapy Studies '05, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery '16), a senior physiotherapist who yearned to make a positive impact on society as a doctor.

"Talking it over with my wife and kids, we added up the cost of leaving a position as

a senior physiotherapist for the student life studying Medicine at UQ," Vaotuua said.

"We had a mortgage and two beautiful girls who needed nurturing and support to chase their own dreams and so it didn't make sense, it didn't add up, but we just knew it was right."

Vaotuua said that despite trying his hardest to balance work, family and study commitments, the crunch came when he started medical rotations in the final two years of his degree.

"As my studies progressed, going into the rotation years, medicine asked for more of my time.

"I needed to work less during weekends and on the holidays, but we could not afford for me to cut back... in the end work helped me, but by cutting my hours."

Vaotuua said he was fortunate enough to be able to continue his studies after he was awarded the TV Stubbs-Brown Medical Student Scholarship, a scholarship established by Ailsa Munro in memory of her late husband, who was an orthopaedic surgeon.

"The TV Stubbs-Brown Medical Student Scholarship came in and made such a difference, it was really an answered prayer," Vaotuua said. ►



UQ's Great Court
from 1962 to 2017.

“Almost the exact amount I would lose in income by having my hours cut was made up by the support received by that scholarship.”

“To the family of Ailsa Munro and Dr TV Stubbs-Brown, my family and I are forever indebted.”

People who give to UQ to support students such as Vaotuua range from everyday donors, whose regular weekly donations help hundreds of students throughout their studies, to those that have had more financial success in their lives and want to give back.

The extraordinary impact of philanthropy is not new at UQ. The University owes the very land it stands on to the generosity of the Mayne siblings, who funded the purchase of the St Lucia and Herston campuses.

Today, the sandstone pillars of UQ are fortified by the generosity of the men and women who ensured future

generations had access to higher education and groundbreaking research.

Gifts to UQ over the years have varied in size. While major gifts have provided world-leading institutes and locations, the gifts of many individuals have afforded countless students the opportunity to improve their educational outcomes and career prospects.

UQ Director of Development and Philanthropy Andrew Pentland said some of the greatest gifts UQ had received were small or non-financial in nature.

“Philanthropy is not a club you have to join. Anyone can be a philanthropist because it’s not just for the rich and it’s not about the size of the gift,” Pentland said.

“The positive impact you can have on someone’s life through philanthropy is an experience anyone can share, no matter their wealth.”

“To the family of Ailsa Munro and Dr TV Stubbs-Brown, my family and I are forever indebted.”

To this day, the generosity of donors at UQ has produced almost 100 Rhodes Scholars, decreased the rate of cervical cancer-causing infections in Australian women by 86 per cent, and provided a myriad of students with the opportunity to study and thrive at university.

As funding for universities undergoes significant change, UQ relies more than ever on donors to fill the gap between the acceptable and the extraordinary. It is this extra funding that maintains the value of our degrees and enables



• Darren Vaotuua with his wife Nay and daughters
• Lily and Bethany in UQ's Great Court.

UQ's teaching and research to surpass expectations and create change.

With this in mind, the focus of philanthropy at UQ has shifted towards empowering student success, driving discovery and impact, and transforming teaching and learning.

EMPOWERING STUDENT SUCCESS

Students are at the heart of everything UQ does, which is why we strive towards every capable young student who needs support having access to a scholarship, in addition to career-building work, research and travel opportunities.

For Darren Vaotuua, a scholarship was confirmation that he made the correct decision in stepping down from a career in physiotherapy to become an orthopaedic surgeon.

“It is so much more than simply the financial aspect of receiving a scholarship that has meant so much to me,” he said.

“In a highly competitive world like medicine, the affirmation that you are on the right path is so encouraging.

“Scholarships like this fuel and support dreams.”



To learn more about the future we are building thanks to your generosity, visit alumni.uq.edu.au

TRANSFORMING THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

UQ's mission is not just to attract the world's best teachers and researchers, but to cultivate and retain future generations of thought leaders by providing them with opportunities to advance their careers.

The Osiecki Travel Scholarship for Classics Research is an example of how donors have supported this mission at UQ, by helping students utilise overseas educational opportunities to develop a global perspective that provides them with cutting-edge skills.

As UQ is the only Queensland university to offer courses across all areas of the history, archaeology, culture, language and literature of Ancient Greece and Rome, scholarships such as the Osiecki Travel Scholarship for Classics Research ensure Australia can continue to produce leading scholars in these areas.

This scholarship has offered students like Dustin McKenzie (Master of Philosophy, Ancient History and Classics), first-hand access to the artefacts, texts and locations they are studying.

“I’ve been lucky enough to have the opportunity to go on three different overseas programs with UQ and each of them have been funded by scholarships,” McKenzie (pictured) said.

“I could not have had these educational travel opportunities without the support of a travel scholarship.

“This is what I want to do with my life, and the opportunity to visit these sites and see the landscapes and materials first-hand has really helped me to carry on and succeed.”

McKenzie's current research, which focuses on the landscapes of Sicily, immensely benefited from his ability to travel to the Mediterranean where he could access both the physical landscapes and original texts of authors he is examining.

Continuing to cultivate students like McKenzie and attract, train and retain experts across various fields is a priority for UQ, one that is only made possible through donor support.

DRIVING DISCOVERY AND IMPACT

A 'transformational' new gift to UQ's Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) will support a new clinical interface at the facility, providing the Brisbane community with access to some of the world's top neurological disease researchers.

The gift from The Brazil Family Foundation has been split between two areas, with \$1 million put towards Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research, and \$4 million funding stroke research.

QBI Director Professor Pankaj Sah said the gift would support the Institute's move towards a clinical interface, increasing exposure between researchers and the patients they work so hard to help.

“The Brazil family are incredibly generous and they are passionate about understanding, managing and preventing neurological disease,” Sah said.

“They have been extremely humble about the impact their generosity has



• Stroke survivor and
• QBI researcher
• Dr Lavinia Codd.

had on medical research; however, I feel compelled to highlight just how powerful this gift of \$5 million is for QBI.

“Coming into the role with a background in medicine, it was my vision as Director to add a clinical arm to the Institute, allowing us to engage more heavily with the people burdened by neurological diseases and disorders.

“Having researchers and clinicians work side-by-side absolutely accelerates research, which is why The Brazil Family Foundation gift will be so transformative to stroke and MND research at QBI.”

The gift will support the work of QBI scientists such as Dr Lavinia Codd, a stroke survivor turned researcher and advocate, whose research is looking at ways to improve recovery.

“This gift means everything to me,” Codd said.

“As a stroke survivor and a stroke researcher, I am humbled and inspired by The Brazil Family Foundation's gift to QBI.

“I feel the Brazils have truly chosen the right area to fund; their gift will be game changing, and will have an immense impact on the outcomes of stroke survivors.”

UQ's research strengths lie in healthy development and ageing, feeding the world, resilient environments, technology for tomorrow, and transforming societies. Philanthropic funding drives research in these areas by offering brilliant students and researchers the means to discover new solutions to both existing and emerging world issues.



Restaurant franchisee and UQ alumnus Greg Flynn outside an Applebee's restaurant he owns in San Francisco. Image courtesy of Genevieve Shiffrar



DINING OUT

on a winning philosophy

UQ alumnus Greg Flynn has leveraged his multidisciplinary tertiary background to build a billion-dollar food franchise empire in the US.

Mention to a person on the street that a graduate in literary studies with a keen interest in history is now the largest restaurant franchisee in the US and you may be met with a mixture of raised eyebrows and disbelief.

Yet for Greg Flynn (Master of Literary Studies '87), the Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of a franchise empire boasting more than 850 restaurants (including Applebee's, Taco Bell and Panera Bread franchises), 42,000 employees and annual sales topping US\$1.9 billion, the lessons learned from an education in humanities have been invaluable.

"I think in some ways reading history has helped with business," Flynn said.

"In a sense, my entire life has been guided by historical figures – for example, Scottish-American industrialist Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie was a 19th century self-made steel tycoon who lived his life by the maxim of 'learn, earn and return'.

"Carnegie learned as much as he could, went out into the world and made money, and then gave the majority of his wealth away by the time of his death.

"This has become my philosophy and life plan as well."

Flynn has studied at many universities, including Brown, Yale and Stanford in

the US. While at Brown, he won a Rotary Foundation scholarship to study at UQ and spent time living at International House.

He said UQ was one of the world-class universities with the resources and collections he needed to complete high-calibre research in the humanities.

"I had unbelievably great times at International House ... Many of the people I met at UQ have become lifelong friends."

"The fact that UQ possessed the collective works of American founding father Alexander Hamilton and his three great treasury bills appealed to me," he said.

"I had unbelievably great times with my friends at International House – that year was by far the most fun of my life. Many of the people I met at UQ have become lifelong friends."

Now based in San Francisco, Flynn founded Flynn Restaurant Group in

1998 and oversees a business that runs more than 480 Applebee's restaurants (25 per cent of all stores in the US), 250 Taco Bell franchises, and more than 90 Panera Bread bakeries. He also runs Flynn Properties Inc., a firm that deals in commercial property and North American luxury hotels.

Flynn said it was his family who inspired him to get involved in franchising.

"My father owned two Burger Kings and my uncle, at one point, owned three McDonald's restaurants."

Flynn – who managed to maintain and grow a successful business even during the global financial crisis of 2007–08 – attributes his success to a decentralised business structure and focus on staff empowerment.

"Our brands are run independently and the only place they come together is within the senior leadership team. For example, we have no operators that are expected to run both Panera Bread bakeries and Taco Bells. We let our operators focus on their areas of strength and don't stretch them too thin."



To read more about Greg Flynn's approach to business, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

LISTEN *and learn*

Glenys Abrahams owes her life to the power of education and philanthropy. The musician-turned-special-education-teacher is a breast cancer survivor and says she is alive today because of the incredible research into the disease in recent years.



**GIVING
BACK**

In addition to her financial contributions to UQ, Glenys Abrahams is committed to giving back with her skills, time and expertise.

Abrahams is pursuing opportunities to assist on research projects involving music, audiology or speech impairment.

“While money is a vital part of supporting charities and areas of research, there are so many other ways you can help,” she said.

“After the wonderful experience of working with children at The School of St Jude, I am keen to continue to support disadvantaged students in other countries where paediatric hearing technology is not available.”



To learn more about how you can give to UQ, visit uq.edu.au/giving.

... Glenys Abrahams works with The School of St Jude student Nancy (left), and other students at the school (above and below).
... Main image by Godfrey Magari.
... Other images by The School of St Jude.



Glenys Abrahams (Bachelor of Music '81) devotes much of her time to giving back to education and is a long-term supporter of UQ's research into areas of audiology and speech language pathology.

Now, after 34 years working with deaf and hearing-impaired students, she has started a project to detect hearing loss in some of East Africa's poorest school children.

Abrahams completed a four-week project at The School of St Jude in Tanzania in February this year, where she worked to identify hearing loss in students as part of wider medical checks.

“The School of St Jude and its dedicated medical volunteers work hard to provide

a yearly medical-check program for students,” she said.

“However, until recently, the school didn't have the resources to provide hearing tests, like most Australian students receive.

“I approached the school about developing a program, which I have now done in consultation with specialists from organisations such as leading paediatric hearing technology provider Hear and Say, the University of Pretoria and UQ.”

The project involved the use of newly developed software by hearScreen, which allows practitioners to collect and immediately analyse results in the field using smartphone technology.

Abrahams said people often forget how many different fields come together to fight disease.

“It is not just doctors and scientists who we have to thank for our breakthroughs, but physicists and mathematicians who create the machines that detect and diagnose cancer.

“This is why education is so important to me and why I support education at The School of St Jude and UQ.”

Abrahams said she had met many wonderful people during her time working at UQ.

“I developed friendships with many people, across many different faculties, and a lot of the friends I made then I still have today.”

The science behind THE GAME

Wallabies skipper Stephen Moore looks back on a perfect union between his university studies and rugby.

Stephen Moore knows a successful organisation starts with a culture of strong leadership.

So the chance to help lead a transformation at the Queensland Reds was a big factor in the Wallabies captain returning to play for the club that gave him his Super Rugby start.

Moore moved back to Brisbane in December last year after signing a three-year deal with the Reds and, despite the side's poor showing last season, said he was looking forward to helping the Reds to become a force in the competition.

"The opportunity to work with a good, young group of players, and make a contribution to the team experiencing success over the next few seasons, was a big factor in my decision to return to Queensland," Moore told *Contact*.

Moore (Bachelor of Science '06) was raised in Brisbane from a young age and began his university studies at UQ in 2001. He debuted with the Reds in 2003 after standout seasons with the UQ Rugby Club as a student.

The 34-year-old played 46 games for Queensland between 2003 and 2008 before making the move to Canberra to join the ACT Brumbies in 2009.

He made his Wallabies debut while with the Reds in 2005 and has gone on to play more than 100 Tests for Australia.

While the Australian hooker is expected to lead by example both on and off the field, he ruled himself out of contention for the captaincy before the start of the season, with his front-row partner James Slipper retaining those duties.

"A big part of my role here is to help James and the other leaders. If we can establish a strong culture around leadership it will be a step in the right direction," Moore said.

As part of his contract with the Reds, Moore is affiliated with the UQ Rugby Club and said he was thrilled to reconnect with the club with which he won a Colts-division premiership in 2002.

"Winning that grand final was definitely a highlight of my time at UQ. We were undefeated all year," Moore said.

"A lot of those guys went on to have representative careers, so it was a great team to be involved with. Who knows, I might find myself pulling on the boots for them again one day."

More than 210 UQ Rugby Club players have represented Queensland since the club was founded in 1911, while 60 have been selected for Australia. The club has produced 10 Wallabies captains, including Moore, James Horwill, Nathan Sharpe, Michael Lynagh, Geoffrey Shaw, Mark Loane,

Charles Wilson, Keith Winning, Vayro Wilson and James Clark.

"The important thing is that most of the guys have done some form of study as well, which plays a big part in finding the right balance in life."

Moore graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 2006, majoring in Biomedical Science.

"I was always an inquisitive kid and wanted to know why things happened – not just in science but in all areas of life," he said.

"My undergraduate science degree was very much focused on anatomy, physiology and pharmacology. That knowledge has come in handy in my playing career because whenever I've had an injury, I've always known what the doctors and the physios were talking about."

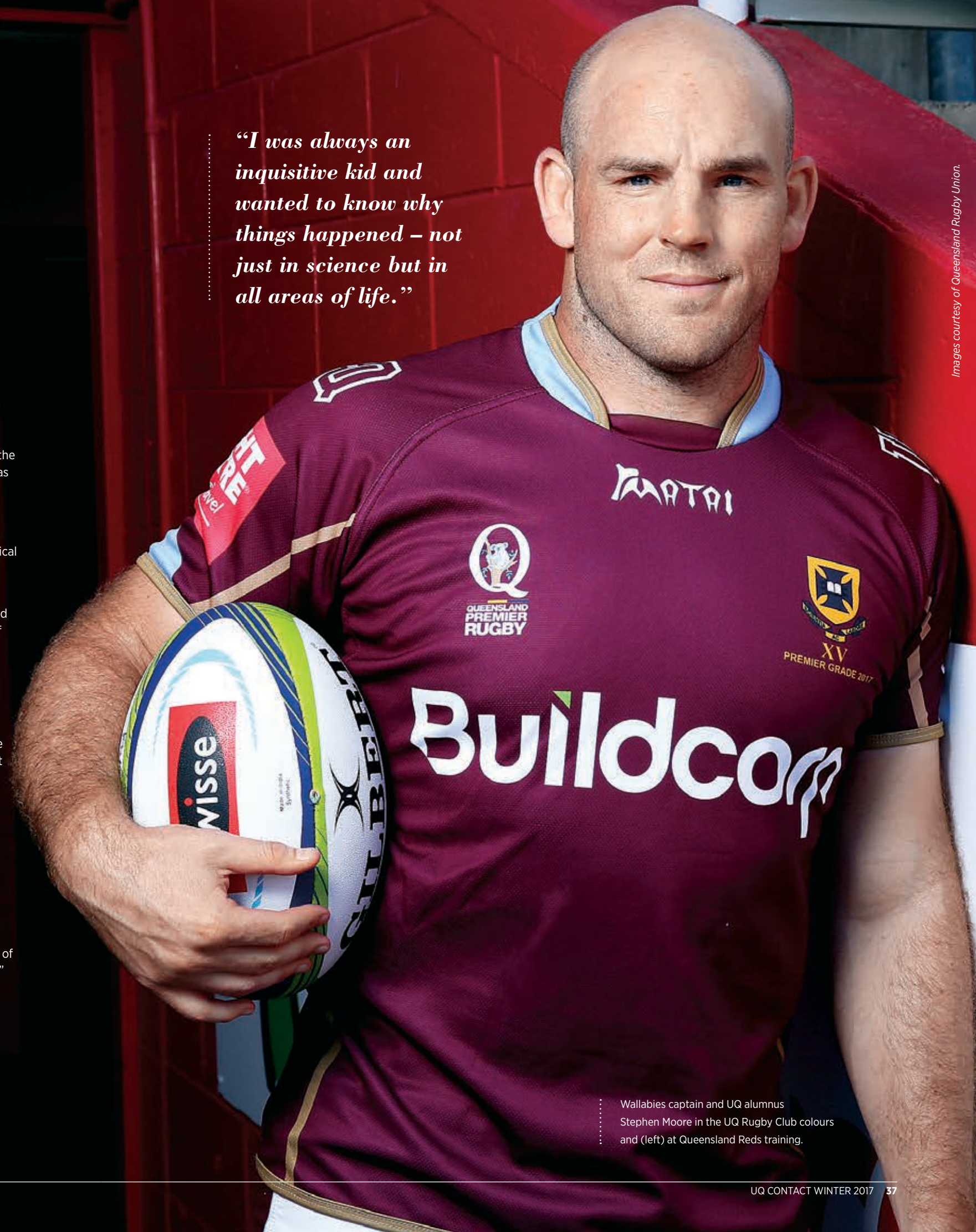
Despite his interest in science, Moore said his post-rugby career goals have changed in recent years and he was instead looking to transition into the business world after hanging up the boots.

"It's very common these days that people will change careers a number of times throughout their working lives," Moore said.

"It's a great thing because it brings a variety of skills and experience to a workplace and allows for continued growth within our society."

web To learn more about the UQ Rugby Club, visit uqrugby.com.au

"I was always an inquisitive kid and wanted to know why things happened – not just in science but in all areas of life."



Wallabies captain and UQ alumnus Stephen Moore in the UQ Rugby Club colours and (left) at Queensland Reds training.





Recent performances from both the UQ Law and Med revues at the Schonell Theatre.

Culture

RIVALRY MAKES FOR EXCELLENT THEATRE

The UQ Law and UQ Med revues are University institutions, and students from both faculties have been producing annual variety shows for decades.

The stage performances combine comedic sketches, songs and videos that satirise the law and medical professions, politics, pop culture and university life.

The 2017 UQ Med Revue will run over three nights from August 13–15, while the UQ Law Revue will run over four nights from August 23–26. Held in the Schonell Theatre, each production dedicates one night for the other to attend its show.

“It’s a friendly rivalry, but it is still raging,” 2017 UQ Law Revue convener Henry Bretz said.

“Going to the Med Revue is our favourite night of the year. We book front-row tickets and throw some light banter. Both revues edit punchlines to

incorporate medical or law jokes on the night our rivals are in the audience.

“These are usually pretty lame but the reaction is the kicker. We yell and bash our fists on the stage and the atmosphere in the theatre starts to resemble a college football match.”

The UQ Med Revue has grown to become the biggest event on the UQ Medical Society calendar and involves more than 250 students.

UQ Med Revue co-convener Chris Strom said the production was written, directed and performed by students.

“One of the best things about the Med Revue is its inclusivity. With such a large cast and crew, it means that so many students can get involved,” he said.

“I think it’s quite a valuable experience for people – particularly in such a demanding degree like medicine. It’s an opportunity to escape the high pressure

There’s always been a small rivalry between doctors and lawyers. At UQ, that rivalry even extends to the stage.

and do something together other than study.”

Bretz agreed, and said it was great to be able to provide a mental health outlet for law students, while simultaneously producing a professional, high-quality comedy show for members of the public.

“Most of the cast genuinely have a good chance of making it in the entertainment industry,” he said.

“These students are creative and sharp, meaning they have so many opportunities to pursue in the legal world.

“In Australia, many comics come from law backgrounds, and I think law encourages critical thought and alternative thinking, which are the building blocks of all comedy.”

video To watch videos and see more photos, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

What’s on

Why Citizenship? Stories from Athens and Rome (Antiquities Museum, ends May 2018)

Why Citizenship? explores stories of how individuals living in Classical Athens and in cities controlled by Imperial Rome portrayed themselves, or others, as citizens. For more information, visit uq.edu.au/antiquities/citizenship.

Still in my mind: Gurindji experience, location and visibility (UQ Art Museum, 12 August – 19 October 2017)

This exhibition reflects on the Gurindji Walk-Off, a nine-year act of self determination that began in 1966 and sparked the national land rights movement. For more information, visit artmuseum.uq.edu.au.

Alumni Friends Golden Jubilee Concert (Queensland Performing Arts Centre, 15 October 2017)

The UQ Symphony Orchestra will perform as part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc. For more information, visit music.uq.edu.au.

Heroes and Villains (Schonell Theatre, 10 September 2017)

The Brisbane City Pops Orchestra will perform *Heroes and Villains* at 2pm. Formerly the St Lucia Orchestra, Brisbane City Pops has been a cornerstone of Brisbane’s amateur orchestral music scene since 1973. For more information, visit schonell.com.

mail If you have an event or exhibition you wish to promote, please email contactmagazine@uq.edu.au

Sport

GRASS IS GREENER ON NEW HOME TURF

The UQ Hockey Club has become one of the most envied clubs in the Brisbane hockey community, after unveiling its new state-of-the-art home ground this season.

The \$24 million UQ Synthetic Fields Precinct, funded by the University, UQ Sport and the UQ Endowment Fund, is home to two international-standard playing fields and a combined social space and changing-rooms facility.

The FIFA and International Hockey Federation (FIH)-certified turf, laid over shock pads, promises to minimise player injuries and deliver greater playing consistency. It is also equipped to host soccer and touch football.

Overlooking the playing fields is a central hub that caters to athletes, supporters and function guests. The refurbished three-storey building features six changing rooms, offices, as well as a top-floor viewing area and terrace capable of hosting up to 120 guests.

The eco-friendly car park located under the playing fields features electric car-charging stations, 350 bicycle racks, and a tank system that harvests and treats excess water captured from both the playing surfaces and the UQ Centre.

UQ Hockey Club Women’s Chair Di Brodie said the new fields had been well received by players, parents and the Brisbane hockey community.

“This is the first time hockey has had an official home on the UQ campus for many years and we are excited to have the synthetic surface to be able to grow our club and provide our players with top-class facilities and coaching,” she said.

With access to the state-of-the-art facilities, the UQ Division 1 Women’s side is hoping to build on its successful 2016 season, which saw the team reach the semi-finals of the Brisbane Women’s Hockey Association competition for the first time since 1984.

The side christened the new surface before the start of the 2017 season, when they took on visiting US college team Yale University in January.

Playing an exhibition match under lights, UQ defeated the Yale Bulldogs 3–2.

“The women were very excited and honoured to play against a team from such an iconic university and made sure they came away with a win,” Brodie said.

“Recording a victory from our first game on the new turf was a great way to start the 2017 season.”

web To see more images, plus aerial footage of the synthetic fields precinct, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.



Members of the UQ Women’s Hockey Club at the new UQ Synthetic Fields Precinct.

Club history

1912

The UQ Women’s Hockey Club was established on 2 April.



Members of the first UQ Women’s Hockey Club in 1912.

1919

The club was asked to participate in its first intervarsity competition in Sydney.

1923

An inaugural meeting was held on 23 March to plan the formation of a Queensland Women’s Hockey Association with representatives from four Brisbane teams – University, Federal Taxation, St Andrews and Brisbane State High School.

1928

The UQ Hockey Club won the Brisbane Women’s Hockey Association premiership.

1938

Jean Hyde, considered at the time to be one of the best women hockey players UQ has ever produced, was selected for Australia.

To read about the full history of the UQ Women’s Hockey Club, visit uqhockey.com.au.

UQ was much more than just a degree

Jessica, UQ Graduate

Through the powerful industry connections she made at UQ, Jessica landed a graduate engineering position at Boeing. Jessica is currently working on a project designing a next generation aircraft that will make air travel more cost effective and accessible to everyone. By learning to see the world differently, Jessica is creating change. See her story at uq.edu.au/createchange



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