

# Encounter

THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE FOR FLINDERS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS / 2022



## Understanding ancient truths

Uncovering the cultural history  
of one of Australia's oldest sites



Flinders  
University

# Acknowledgement of Country

Flinders University acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which its campuses are located, these are the Traditional Lands of the Arrernte, Dagoman, First Nations of the South East, First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee region, Jawoyn, Kurna, Larrakia, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Warumungu, Wardaman and Yolngu people. We honour their Elders past, present and emerging.

Uncle Mickey Kumatpi Marrutya O'Brien opens Yungkurrinthi Inparrila – an outdoor cultural gathering space on Kurna Yarta (Bedford Park campus).  
Photo by Ben Searcy

## Flinders University is making a difference

2022 is already proving to be another big year for Flinders as we take great strides towards our ambitious vision.

Our researchers continue to make amazing discoveries, and our rapidly growing share of national research funding predicts even greater success in the future. Our students enjoy a supportive learning environment, and our postgraduate employment outcomes are the best in Australia.

As we build on our past, we know that we must always look to the future as we adapt and evolve. One change I hope you will like is the modernisation of our university logo as emblazoned on the cover of this issue of *Encounter*. The new logo is contemporary in style yet remains true to our heritage and to the colours that speak so deeply to us all.

The design is the result of extensive consultation with students, alumni, staff and stakeholders. Indeed, you may have been one of the many alumni who contributed to the process – if so, thank you, and I hope you're as delighted as we are with our bold new look.

Another visible sign of our progress can be seen in the towering cranes next to the Flinders Railway Station where our new Health and Medical Research Building is under construction. This landmark for our Flinders Village development will be operational in 2024 and will be home to hundreds of talented researchers.

At the other end of the Flinders rail line in the city, Festival Tower is taking shape on North Terrace. Also on track for completion in 2024, our presence in the Tower will significantly expand our city campus.

I'm pleased to report that Flinders is embarking on a second *Innovate* Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to embed the progress achieved since our inaugural RAP in 2020, which saw the introduction of the Elders on Campus program, cultural awareness training, and the creation of Yungkurrinthi Inparrila – a culturally appropriate gathering space on campus.



**'We are delighted to see our students back on campus in large numbers after more than two years of pandemic related difficulties.'**

Like me, you most likely remember your own student days very fondly. What I remember most are the people I met and the experiences we shared along the way. The lifelong friendships that were made with classmates and fellow students. The inspirational teachers whose classes may have whizzed by but whose formative effects have stayed with me throughout my career. Those personal interactions were priceless, and I am pleased that we are able to move beyond the restrictions of the pandemic to offer our current students those same life-changing opportunities.

**I hope you are filled with the same optimism as I at the incredible opportunities we are creating as we continue to make a difference in the lives of our students and our community.**

Professor Colin J. Stirling  
President and Vice-Chancellor

Flinders University 2022 Investigator Lecture

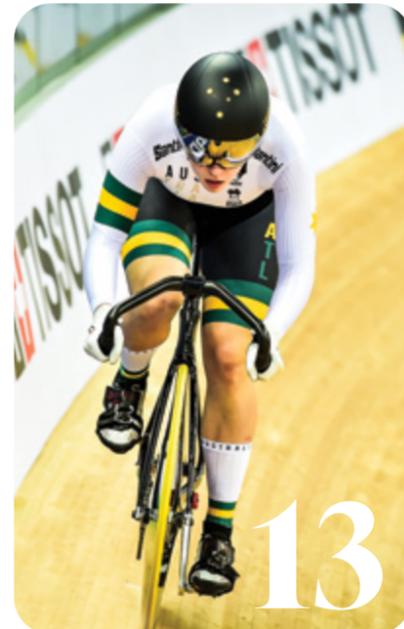
### Conflict and Crisis: A global health emergency

**6pm Thursday 8 September  
Adelaide Town Hall**

Keynote speaker, Reverend Tim Costello AO, followed by a panel discussion with Professor Paul Arbon AM, Professor Len Notaras AO and Eric Tlozek, facilitated by journalist Jessica Adamson.

**REGISTER NOW: [FLINDERS.EDU.AU/INVESTIGATOR](https://flinders.edu.au/investigator)**

# What's inside



# Forging friendships at Flinders



While your university education helps launch your career, for many the time spent at Flinders has also sparked friendships, partnerships and connections that will last a lifetime.

Flinders Arts graduate Glenda Shaw has lived in three countries and eight cities, experiences which she says have made her a friendship expert. Glenda has written a book about how to be a better friend, and on page 35 she shares with us the importance of friendships, including those she made while at Flinders.

Research is an important cornerstone of Flinders University, and we highlight the work of Professor Jeroen Hendriks, whose partnership with the Royal Adelaide Hospital will see lives saved through a collaborative clinical trial in atrial fibrillation. See page 16 for more on this trailblazing researcher.

Comprising 50% of the donors to the Matthew Flinders Scholarship, alumni play a key role in supporting students facing financial hardship. Read on page 23 how this support is having an impact.

We love to hear what you have been doing since graduating, whether that is locally or across the world. See page 31 for what some of our international graduates have been achieving since completing their studies.

With a range of key milestones being celebrated at the University this year, we look forward to hosting several opportunities for you to come together with your friends or reconnect with fellow alumni. See right for our upcoming milestone events.

I hope this year has allowed you to travel once again, and to spend time with family and friends. We would love to show you what's new at Flinders. Please get in touch via [alumni@flinders.edu.au](mailto:alumni@flinders.edu.au) if you would like to plan a visit.

Kim Pryor  
Alumni Relations Manager

## Join us for our 2022 milestone celebrations

Doctor of Medicine Rural Stream  
Parallel Rural Community Curriculum  
20-year celebration

Friday 9 September  
6pm to 10pm | City Hall, Mount Gambier

Graduates, students, staff and clinical educators will celebrate 20 years of rural medical training in Mount Gambier, Millicent, Naracoorte, and Hamilton in Victoria.

Maritime Archaeology  
20-year celebration

Thursday 22 September  
5.30pm to 7.30pm  
Sôl Rooftop, SkyCity Adelaide

Maritime Archaeology staff and graduates will come together for a reunion during the Australian Institute of Maritime Archaeology Conference, hosted by Flinders University.

Geographical Information Systems  
25+ year celebration

Wednesday 16 November  
Lunch | The Tavern, Flinders University

Aligning with the international Geographical Information Systems Day, graduates of our GIS programs are invited back to campus to reunite with fellow graduates and staff.

Law 30-year celebration

Saturday 3 December  
7pm until late | Gala Dinner in The Plaza  
Flinders University

Law graduates and their guests are invited to an on-campus gala dinner in the Flinders Plaza to celebrate 30 years of Law at Flinders.

2022 also marks:

- 25 years of Flinders University in the Northern Territory
- 10 years of teaching Master of Physiotherapy and Master of Occupational Therapy
- 25 years of teaching Tourism and Events

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# Honorary awards at Flinders

Highlighting remarkable service and achievements.

At this year's May graduations, five great Australians were recognised with highly regarded honorary awards, highlighting their efforts that have changed lives and shaped communities for the better.



## Maggie Beer AO | DUniv '22

Celebrated cook Maggie Beer AO was honoured for her distinguished service to improving food experiences and wellbeing outcomes for older Australians, and for promoting principles of nutrition and nutritional access throughout people's lives. A cookbook author, TV star, restaurateur, Board Member and advocate, Maggie's down-to-earth charm and tireless work ethic has cemented her status as an Australian icon.



## Josh Cavallo | DUniv '22

Adelaide United footballer Josh Cavallo was recognised for courageously standing as a role model in elite men's sport, and championing equality in broader society. The 22-year-old made global headlines during 2021 for coming out as the first openly gay male player in a top-flight men's professional soccer league anywhere in the world.



## Richard Fejo | DUniv '22

Respected Darwin Elder Richard Fejo was recognised for his incredible contribution to community. Uncle Richie, as he is known to many, is a Larrakia man who has dedicated a 25-year career to cross-cultural education and improving outcomes for Aboriginal people. He has played a key role in the University's Reconciliation Action Plan, and has been an important advocate for Flinders, its students and partners in the Northern Territory.



## Kerry Heysen AM | BA(Hons) '75, DLitt '22

World-renowned film producer Kerry Heysen AM has worked with some of Hollywood's most famous movie studios and biggest stars. She has also contributed millions to the South Australian economy through developing such cinematic successes as *Shine*, which won 62 awards around the world.

Flinders has long been a part of Kerry's story: she met her husband and film collaborator Scott Hicks (BA(Hons) '75, DLitt '97) on campus, she was a member of the University's Council in 2011, and is a current member of the Alumni Awards Selection Committee.



## Dr Dale Lambert PSM FTSE | BSc '83, BA(Hons) '85, BA '89, PhD(EHLT) '97, DSc '22

Dr Dale Lambert PSM FTSE was recognised for his three decades at the forefront of defence science in Australia, and as a visionary leader in driving artificial intelligence and automated analysis capabilities.

Currently serving as Chief of Cyber and Electronic Warfare Division in the Defence Science and Technology Group within the Australian Department of Defence, Dr Lambert's work has ensured our country's defences rate among the best in the world.

# Doing something every day to help others

Dr Rosemary Brooks OAM is ensuring a better future for students, refugees and Aboriginal Australians.

BY DAVID SLY

**Dr Rosemary Brooks OAM (PhD(Hums) '79) has made it her focus to encourage others to excel, and to prevent barriers from hindering their potential. Her service to others was recognised with the 2021 Convocation Medal, Flinders University's most prominent alumni award.**

During her 35 years as Principal of St Ann's College, a university residential college located in North Adelaide, Dr Brooks nurtured more than 3,000 students, mostly from rural regions but also from overseas and across Australia, while they attended one of South Australia's three universities.

Through living at the college and being a constant supportive presence in the students' lives, Dr Brooks established tutoring, mentoring and leadership programs that had a profound impact on forging a generation of Australia's emerging leaders, scientists, engineers, teachers, nurses, doctors and artists.

**'There is no greater calling than to provide service to others, so that they can realise their maximum potential.'**

Importantly, she supported students to excel at their studies, with up to 35% of the 185 students at the college each year winning the St Ann's Medal for achieving more Distinctions than any other grade.

### GROUNDING IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

Dr Brooks says, 'During my studies, I was introduced to the links between art and philosophy and was impressed by the strong social justice message that has always been significant at Flinders. It aligns with what we believed and practised at St Ann's - that no barriers of race, colour or creed separate us.'

Dr Brooks is especially proud of a particular legacy at St Ann's, the appointment of the first Indigenous Patron to the college, Kurna Elder Uncle Lewis Yarlupurka O'Brien AO.



Photo by Jennie Groom

### A NEW CHAPTER IN LEGAL WORK

Retiring from her role at St Ann's and relocating to Melbourne signalled a new chapter in Dr Brooks' life, where she is now committed to pro bono legal work, having graduated from law in 2007.

Her legal work is focused on human rights, Indigenous legal rights and native title, and she is heavily involved in Afghan refugee work with Refugee Legal. She has also worked on legal projects in Cambodia and Zanzibar.

'I try to do something to help others every day,' Dr Brooks explains, 'and there is room for more people to offer their help too.'

### A CALL TO ACTION

She describes her website [doitrightnow.com.au](http://doitrightnow.com.au) as a call to action, highlighting six projects she is passionately involved with - refugees and asylum seekers, Aboriginal rights, cultural diversity, biodiversity, environmental protection, and helping disadvantaged young people.

'Individuals can make a difference,' says Dr Brooks. 'It's now our turn to care for future lives.'

Dr Brooks is a Dame of Justice of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, a charity that raises funds for the sick and those in need through the Mary Potter Foundation. She was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2021 for service to the community and is determined to continue to help.

'There is no greater calling than to provide service to others, so that they can realise their maximum potential,' she says.

# Understanding ancient truths

An Adnyamathanha Elder is working with Flinders University researchers and the local community to uncover the cultural history of the Warraty Rock Shelter.

BY DAVID SLY



Cliff Coulthard

**The chance discovery of a remote South Australian cave has uncovered archaeological evidence of 50,000-year-old human occupation – one of the oldest in Australia's Aboriginal history.**

When Adnyamathanha Elder and cultural teacher, ranger and researcher Cliff Coulthard showed Flinders University researcher Dr Giles Hamm the Warraty Rock Shelter in 2012, they had no idea of the extraordinary archaeological riches they would uncover.

Their initial dig at the site produced a wide range of items that have been dated using radiocarbon and Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) methods, and papers of their find have been published in the prestigious *Nature* journal.

'We had done digs at other sites in the southern Flinders Ranges – at Arkaba and Hookina Creek – but we only found items that date back to around 27,000 years. It was incredibly fortunate that we went further north, because that is where we struck gold,' says Cliff.

## RESEARCH FUNDING

Warraty, located in a sheer gorge near a spring just south of the Strzelecki Track, was first pointed out to Cliff when he was a 15-year-old stockman working beside Adnyamathanha Elders Colin and Lachlan Wilton. He had since forgotten about Warraty and only recognised the location by chance while conducting extensive Flinders Ranges fieldwork, with Dr Hamm, to identify sites for potential excavation.

Receiving \$910,000 of Australian Research Council funding in December 2021 will now enable Flinders University researchers – led by Dr Hamm along with Cliff and his brother Terry Coulthard (of Iga Warta and Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Council), Professor Mike Smith, Professor Claire Smith, Dr Chris Wilson (BArchaeol(Hons) '06, PhD(EHLT) '17) and Associate Professor Mike Morley – to undertake further investigations at the Warraty site.



Warraty Rock Shelter

## EXCHANGING KNOWLEDGE

The research team will work with local Adnyamathanha community members to uncover further evidence of how Australia's earliest civilisation successfully survived, adapted and thrived by meeting the challenges of an ever-changing late Pleistocene arid climate.

The study will involve a unique knowledge exchange workshop method to share archaeological and scientific information to better understand how Adnyamathanha people adapted through cultural innovation and traditional land use practices in the past.

## EXTENSIVE FINDINGS

The initial dig at Warraty took three weeks for the archaeological team to excavate about a metre in depth, after they had walked almost two kilometres each day through difficult terrain to reach the cave concealed in a cliff face. The riches that their efforts revealed were extensive.

**'The findings have unlocked secrets of a spoken history that has passed on a thread of ancient knowledge. It shows the power of language.'** CLIFF COULTHARD

They found remnants of small stone tools after digging only five centimetres into the floor of the cave, but found greater prizes at a depth of about 50 centimetres to one metre, including the remains of charcoal, cooked food and ceremonial ochre that reveal the cave was a frequently used settlement. Cliff believes it could have housed up to 20 people.

'Cooked remains included the bones of Andu (yellow-footed rock-wallaby) and kangaroo, and a rare fragment of dingo bone, along with the hard kernels of quandong seeds – which is still a common native food of the Flinders Ranges region,' says Cliff.

## MYTHICAL BEAST: YAMARTI

But most prized of all was finding the bones of the extinct Yamarti (*Diprotodon optatum*) – a giant wombat-like marsupial that Cliff had heard Adnyamathanha Elders talk of as an almost mythical beast.

'No-one ever truly understood what the Yamarti tales were about,' he admits. Now they have evidence – underlining the strength of oral traditions that have been passed through Adnyamathanha generations for 50,000 years.

Cliff believes it's a valuable stepping stone that can help rekindle ancient language and traditions. 'It shows there are still many new things about the past for us to learn.'

The discovery also marks the culmination of Cliff's lifetime fascination in archaeology and geology. Starting as a ranger in 1977, he was one of the first three Aboriginal Heritage Rangers appointed to the SA Aboriginal and Historical Relics Unit in 1980, and has supported many archaeologists and rock art research teams in the Flinders Ranges.

## UNDERSTANDING ANCIENT TRUTHS

Now, with decades of accumulated knowledge and experience, Cliff feels he's truly prepared to understand more ancient truths from archaeological digs such as Warraty.



Duncan Johnson on an excavation

'It's just like it was waiting for me, and the spirit of those old men guided me there. It's the ultimate history story.'

He believes in the importance of sharing cultural heritage across cultures, and a significant next step will be creating workshops to teach young Adnyamathanha people and archaeology students at Flinders University the significant cultural and historical context of what has been discovered at the Warraty site.

'I just wish my grandfathers were here to hear of this discovery,' says 69-year-old Cliff, his eyes gleaming. 'It would have made them happy and so proud of what our people have achieved.'

'Yep, we are the ultimate survivors.'

## Honorary awardee

This year Cliff Coulthard will be made an honorary awardee of Flinders University with a Doctor of Letters *honoris causa* to acknowledge his lifetime commitment to gaining Adnyamathanha cultural understanding and a sustained interest in collaborating with a wide range of researchers. It also recognises his focus on mentoring young Adnyamathanha people and his strong interest in sharing his deep cultural knowledge with others.

# Making an indelible mark on public health

Environmental Health graduate Helen Psarras is safeguarding the health of customers and workers in the tattoo and piercing industry.

BY DAVID SLY

**In 2004, the burgeoning tattoo and body piercing industry still held an outlaw mystique – seeming to run by its own set of rules, which meant it was also very vulnerable to the spread of pathogens and bloodborne viruses.**

But as the numbers of customers has surged in subsequent years, the energetic work of Environmental Health Officer Helen Psarras (BEnvHlth '02), safeguarding the health of both customers and workers in this industry from infections and disease, has been highly successful.

## A DEGREE OF CHALLENGE

After completing her Bachelor of Environmental Health at Flinders University, Helen was only 22 when she took a job at SA Health and was introduced to troubling public health issues facing the tattoo and body piercing industry.

She had been hoping to graduate into a job working as an environmental health officer for a metropolitan council, but the challenge of working in such a specialised area that needed immediate attention to improve contentious work practices both thrilled and energised her.

'There were a lot of mavericks in the tattooing industry who didn't like any type of law enforcement, but I asked them to educate me in what they did, and they agreed. Once I had that knowledge, we worked together to put the rules in place that would work,' says Helen.

'And because I had a science background, they trusted me and understood that what I recommended was going to benefit everyone.'

## NEW SAFETY MEASURES

This crucial work to apply widespread health safety measures has not only averted possible deaths but prevented many people from getting sick, and has subsequently reduced the burden on nurses, doctors, ambulances and hospitals.

'In 2004 it went from being an industry with a health danger risk level of 9 out of 10, to now being less than 2 out of 10,' says Helen, whose safety measures continue to be enforced by environmental health officers, and have become an accepted standard within the tattooing and body piercing industry.

This work represents only part of Helen's very diverse career in public health.

Her achievements range from introducing the Smokefree program to South Australia – which promoted *no smoking* policies that were adopted by powerful groups such as

the Australian Hotels Association – through to emergency management of public health risks during the 2007 Kangaroo Island bushfires.

## COVID-19 MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Helen has also been part of the COVID-19 management command team within the SA Health State Control Centre. Her directives ensured a seamless transition of restaurants and cafés from table service to takeaway foods, saw playgrounds get sanitised, advised businesses on infection control, and gave appropriate operational advice to small business owners in such specialised interactive fields as massage, hairdressing and nail salons.

When businesses were reopening, her advice ensured that air conditioning systems were free of legionella, premises were free of mould, and staff understood infection control.

'My experience and knowledge of infection control through the tattoo and body piercing industry actually gave me the perfect management skills that could be applied to the first public health disaster of our lifetime,' says Helen.

'It enabled me to be responsible for teams setting up the state's medi-hotels, through to unexpected tasks such as managing quarantine arrangements for the NASA pilots undertaking the Hayabusa2 mission in South Australia, and liaising with Tennis Australia to manage the operational oversight of the visiting players and officials for the Adelaide International Tennis Tournament.'

## TAKING A LEADERSHIP ROLE

Helen's steadfast belief in the importance of the work undertaken by environmental health officers has seen her take voluntary leadership roles as State President of Environmental Health Australia (South Australia) and as a National Director of the organisation.

She has been a long-term member of Flinders University's Graduate Diploma of Environmental Health Practice Professional Advisory Committee, ensuring that graduates have the best current knowledge available across science, social science and law, and can address emerging issues that affect public health.

'I have loved every job that I've had, and I can attribute it all to the degree I got at Flinders. It gave me the confidence and the diverse skill set to apply my knowledge broadly. After three years of studying Environmental Health at Flinders, I felt that I could do anything in the sector.'

'...because I had a science background they trusted me and understood that what I recommended was going to benefit everyone.'

HELEN PSARRAS



# Oakley is going the distance

Athlete Development Program

BY BILL CONDIE



Oakley Nilsen winning the 2022 Bay Sheffield 800m. Photo by Scott Hargreaves

**‘Since being in the program, I have become stronger and remained injury free.’** OAKLEY NILSEN

As a distance runner with a focus on becoming a physiotherapist, Oakley Nilsen thought studying a Bachelor of Health Science then a Master of Physiotherapy at Flinders University would be a good move.

‘I enjoy learning about body systems as this can be applied within my own field of interest,’ says Oakley, who won the Bay Sheffield this year (800m Men) and last year (550m and 800m Under 18 Boys).

He is looking forward to using his degree to help other athletes.

‘I have a particular interest in sports physiotherapy and working with elite level sporting clubs to prevent injuries and reduce injury recovery time. I know personally the impact that injuries can play, and I would like to help other people at all levels to reach their potential and remain free of injury.’

## SPORTING AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The Flinders University Athlete Development Program has become a perfect complement to his regular training as well as to his current studies.

‘The program is aimed at assisting students in the pursuit of sporting and academic excellence,’ says Wendy Gower, Manager of Sport and Fitness at Flinders.

‘It provides them with access to high-level facilities and training environments, and the support of highly qualified staff in fields such as strength and conditioning, with exercises tailored for individual sporting needs.’

Students can also access specialist health professionals to assist in managing new or existing injuries, or to assess nutritional and dietary requirements.

## INDIVIDUALISED TRAINING

‘I train and compete with a number of athletes who told me of the benefits and performance enhancement they gained from the program – especially the individualised training,’ says Oakley.

‘I had little experience of gym-based strength and conditioning training beforehand, but knew the benefits it provides, so I jumped at being involved in the program and have not looked back.’

Within the program Oakley tries to complete two 60 to 90-minute strength and conditioning sessions each week, on top of his daily training and running sessions.

He says, ‘Since being in the program, I have become stronger and remained injury free.’

Coaches in the program include exercise and sport science experts Chris Rawling and Alex Hosking.

‘The coaches are extremely knowledgeable. I have learnt about different muscle groups, muscle group attachments and the opposing muscles roles.’

Within five years Oakley hopes to be a registered practising sports physiotherapist and be competing at the annual Open Athletics National Championships.

He says, ‘I have enjoyed every minute of the program. Professionally it will give me an edge, while personally it is improving my performance and allowing me to meet like-minded athletes with similar interests and goals.’

# Athletic flexibility to a degree

Elite Athlete Program

BY LYNDA ALLEN

**World-class cyclist Holly Takos (BCrim ’21) has represented Australia in the Commonwealth Games (2014), Track Cycling World Championships (2017), and is a two-times Oceania and Australian Champion.**

While she was achieving her dream of representing Australia on the world stage, Holly also harboured a desire to do something to support the wider community.

‘I knew that once I hung up my bike, I wanted to be on a career path that would allow me to contribute to the world around me, so criminology at Flinders University was the perfect fit,’ says Holly, who graduated from the Bachelor of Criminology last year.

## FINDING BALANCE

She says the Elite Athlete Program at Flinders University has been pivotal to pursuing her sporting goals, without having to put her studies on hold.

‘The hardest thing for athletes who are also studying is trying to find the perfect time balance to focus on both commitments to the best of our abilities. The program gave me that balance.’

As a member of the national Elite Athlete Education Network, through the Elite Athlete Program Flinders supports athletes to achieve academic excellence while also pursuing their sporting career. Students in the program receive advice, academic planning, and the flexibility to balance their degree with their sporting commitments.

## A LIKE-MINDED COMMUNITY

With 156 students currently in the program, it also provides the opportunity to network with other athletes at the University with similar ambitions, and who may be facing the same challenges.

‘Being part of a community of like-minded people gave me the confidence and support I needed to keep pushing forward,’ says Holly.

## SECURING HER FUTURE

Now retired from professional cycling, Holly is focused on using the knowledge she gained from her degree, working for the Commonwealth Bank as part of their Cyber Security Graduate Program. She is currently part of a team that works to protect customers from cyber-related threats through conducting research and analysis of emerging trends, as well as monitoring attacks by using detection tools.

Holly says, ‘If it wasn’t for the support I was given by the University and the Elite Athlete Program to balance both my studies and sporting ambitions, I would not have set myself up as well as I did to transition out of sport into a new career path.’

## Development and support for athletes

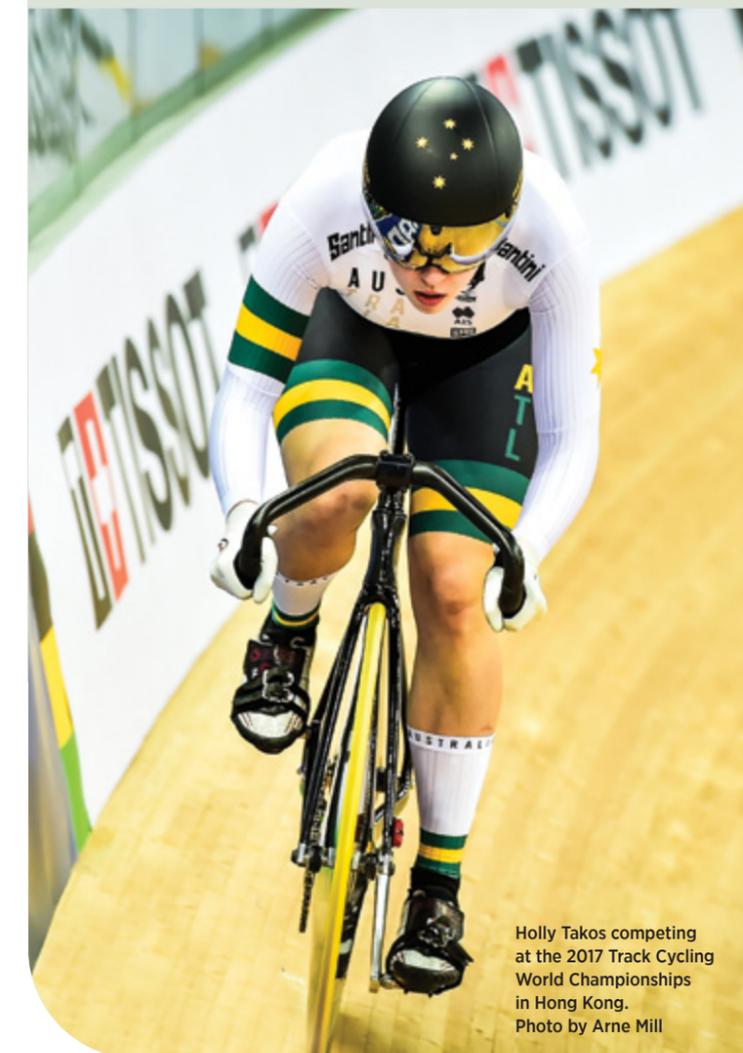
Two programs designed to support athletes at Flinders University are leading the way in creating opportunities both on and off the track.

### ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This program assists the athletic development of enrolled students who have competed at a state, national or international level in their chosen sport. The program aims to improve the athletic performance of the student while they complete their university studies.

### ELITE ATHLETE PROGRAM

To be eligible for the Elite Athlete Program, athletes need to be competing at state level or above. Flinders works with these students to find the best study pathway into their chosen degree. Through the program they are provided with advice, support and flexibility to complete their degree while fulfilling their professional athletic commitments.



Holly Takos competing at the 2017 Track Cycling World Championships in Hong Kong. Photo by Arne Mill

## Building on a tradition of innovation

Flinders University celebrates 30 years of teaching Law.

BY NICOLE WEDDING

Inaugural graduates of Flinders Law in 1996.

**In 1992 a group of 20 students made history as the very first to study Law at Flinders University. While much has changed in the years since, a strong trailblazing spirit lives on, says Dean of Law Professor Tania Leiman (GradCertEd '10).**

From its inception, Flinders Law was unique: it was focused on the practicalities of legal practice and encouraged students to pursue critical and theoretical perspectives.

Social justice and innovation were high on the agenda and a passionate foundation team, led by foundation Professor and Dean of Law Rebecca Bailey-Harris, brought this vision into focus.

The foundation law team even counted a former Supreme Court Judge – the late Elliott Johnston AO QC – who returned from retirement for the role.

### ACCOMPLISHED DEAN OF LAW

Current Dean of Law Professor Tania Leiman was appointed in 2017, and follows in the footsteps of Andrew Stewart, Tony Moore, Gary Davis, David Bamford and Kim Economides.

So far, Professor Leiman has delivered a new curriculum during a pandemic, spearheaded a program where students build legal applications for industry clients, and encouraged those around her to understand more deeply the law's role in colonialism and oppression of Australia's First Nations people.

Professor Leiman is proud of the many Law alumni success stories.

She says, 'We're now seeing our first "Silks" – Kerry Clark SC and Judge Anthony Allen QC, who was also one of our first members of the judiciary, along with Magistrate Michelle Sutcliffe. In 2021 Rebecca Sandford was the first Flinders graduate (and youngest woman) to be appointed as President of the Law Society.'

### STRENGTH IN INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration among staff members is strong, leading to greater partnerships with industry and increased community engagement.

'We work closely with industry and the profession – and have many law practitioners as guest speakers or mentors,' says Professor Leiman. 'Since 2019, students in our Law in a Digital Age core topic have worked with almost 30 industry clients to create over 50 legal applications.'

## 'We work closely with industry and the profession.'

PROFESSOR TANIA LEIMAN

'Our Legal Centre collaborates extensively with community justice centres and this year celebrates 10 years of operation as a legal clinic for the public.'

### PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION

Preparing students for an uncertain future means continuing to adapt. It's a challenge that Professor Leiman and the Flinders Law team are well equipped for and ready to meet.

She notes that celebrating this year's 30-year milestone is a great incentive for acknowledging the grounding values and achievements of Law at Flinders, while developing the next generation of Law graduates.

'We've taken on what's been there since Flinders Law began – a deep commitment to social justice, and an innovative approach,' says Professor Leiman. 'The way we teach gives students real insight into a future that's already here.'

## Raising voices and perspectives

Jack Weise is giving back through The Weise Foundation Scholarship.

BY LYNDA ALLEN

**Commerce and Law graduate Jack Weise (BCom '09, LLB/LP(GradEntry) '13) is passionate about the transformative power of education.**

With a global career in law that has taken him from Adelaide to Sydney and London, and now Singapore, 34-year-old Jack is keen to give back and help students at Flinders University through The Weise Foundation Scholarship.

'One of my fundamental beliefs is in the power of education. If you have access to education it opens up so many opportunities and possibilities for your life,' says Jack. 'Education helps to bring people up and break socio-economic cycles.'

### INSPIRED TO GIVE

Jack has been inspired by his late grandfather, George Moody, who was a pillar of the community in Mackay, Queensland.

'He was involved in many different aspects of the local community and at one time was part of 35 different organisations. His immense contribution to others really caused me to examine what I am doing for the community and how I can help others.'

This year Jack created The Weise Foundation Scholarship at Flinders University. The scholarship will support students in their second or subsequent years of study who are in financial need, with a focus on supporting refugees, single parents, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.



### FOSTERING A DIVERSE SOCIETY

'It's admirable for any student to make it through the challenging first year of study at university, but quite often people from these groups face additional challenges and hurdles to make it through their degree. Reaching their second year of study demonstrates a strong commitment to their future.'

## 'I believe in helping others and giving back where you can.'

JACK WEISE

Passionate about fostering a diverse society and creating an opportunity for a broader range of voices to be heard, Jack says, 'Australia is becoming more and more diverse. We need different voices and opinions – from those with lived experience as a refugee, single parent or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander – to contribute to the discussion and offer their perspective.'

### A GLOBAL CAREER

After a diverse career across three continents, Jack now works in Singapore as Senior Legal Counsel for an aircraft leasing company, where he drafts, negotiates and facilitates complex cross-border aircraft finance and leasing transactions.

'All of the places I have lived have different cultures, clients and ways of life. It has been an interesting and exciting journey.'

Celebrating  
**30**  
years

## Flinders Law Gala Dinner

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**Book now:** [Flinders.edu.au/30yearsoflaw](https://flinders.edu.au/30yearsoflaw)



**‘I was able to demonstrate significant reductions in cardiovascular hospitalisations and mortality as a result of the nurse-driven integrated care approach.’** PROFESSOR JEROEN HENDRIKS

# Innovative care model

Flinders University’s Professor Jeroen Hendriks is optimising treatment for the world’s most common heart rhythm disorder.

BY YAZ DEDOVIC

**More than half a million Australians suffering from atrial fibrillation (AF) could benefit from a new model of care currently being researched by trailblazing nursing researcher Professor Jeroen Hendriks.**

Atrial fibrillation is the world’s most common heart rhythm disorder, and is associated with increased risk of strokes, and comorbidities such as heart failure, hypertension and sleep apnoea, which may lead to hospitalisation.

‘The disorder is also linked with modifiable lifestyle factors such as obesity, sedentary lifestyle, alcohol use and smoking,’ says Professor Hendriks, who is a professor in Cardiovascular Nursing at Flinders University.

He is determined to optimise treatment for atrial fibrillation patients and reduce demand on overstretched hospitals.

### TAILORED MODEL OF CARE

Professor Hendriks has established the first ever specialised Integrated Care AF Clinics at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Cardiovascular Centre in Norwood. The clinics are focused on delivering comprehensive atrial fibrillation care and demonstrating the benefits of the new model of integrated care, through a five-year clinical trial.

The model is based on active patient involvement in their own tailored treatment with support from a multidisciplinary team, including specific roles for nurses and allied health professionals. It includes engagement and education to enable the patient to effectively self-manage atrial fibrillation risks such as modifying lifestyle factors.

‘It’s no longer about asking the patient what’s the matter, but instead what matters to you?’ says Professor Hendriks. ‘So that we really work together and have the patient in the centre of the care, and on board as a member of the multidisciplinary team.’

‘For example, a cardiologist can focus on medical treatment while a nurse can provide education and goal setting with the patient to determine which risk factors can be addressed, then coordinate the care. We also have an exercise specialist on board to assess what kind of exercise would be appropriate for the patient.’

### DEMONSTRATED SUCCESS

After successfully developing and evaluating an integrated care model in the Netherlands during his PhD studies, Professor Hendriks forged key partnerships in Australia. This led to his appointment as the Leo J Mahar Cardiovascular Nursing

Chair, a clinical academic joint appointment between Flinders University and Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN).

He is also supported by a Future Leader Fellowship provided by the Heart Foundation, and is affiliated with the Centre for Heart Rhythm Disorders at the University of Adelaide.

‘In the Netherlands I was able to demonstrate significant reductions in cardiovascular hospitalisations and mortality as a result of the nurse-driven integrated care approach – when compared to usual care in a large randomised controlled trial,’ says Professor Hendriks.

### AN IMMEDIATE NEED

‘Data from our research team at the Centre for Heart Rhythm Disorders has shown that over the past 21 years the number of AF-related hospital admissions is rising to the point of outnumbering hospitalisation from other conditions, such as myocardial infarction and heart failure,’ says Professor Hendriks.

‘Cases are only set to rise further in the near future with Australia’s ageing population, and we’ll undoubtedly experience capacity problems in hospitals if we don’t change the way we’re addressing atrial fibrillation and its associated risk factors.’

Now underway at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Cardiovascular Clinic at Norwood, Professor Hendriks’ trial is tracking the treatment journey of 1,400 atrial fibrillation patients over a number of years to understand the benefits of the new model of care.

The research for the innovative care model could transform future treatment for atrial fibrillation patients, and improve their quality of life. This in turn could lead to fewer cardiovascular hospitalisations, a reduced mortality rate, and vital savings for the healthcare system.

### RESEARCH HALL OF FAME

Recognised for his research endeavours, Professor Hendriks received the prestigious SIGMA International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame award in Edinburgh, Scotland, in July this year, where he also presented his integrated model of care program of research to an international audience.

He says, ‘If we provide comprehensive treatment according to evidence-based guidelines and aligned with the preferences of the patient, with them on board, this will lead to quality-of-life improvements and satisfaction with the care they receive, which will potentially translate to a reduced burden on the healthcare system.’

# Congratulations to our 2021 Alumni Awardees

The achievements of 14 outstanding Flinders University graduates, across a range of career paths, industries and community involvement, were acknowledged in the 2021 Flinders University Alumni Awards.

The awards were presented by Flinders University Chancellor Stephen Gerlach AM and Deputy Chancellor Elizabeth Perry AM, at a gala dinner held in December last year.

Nurturing the leaders of tomorrow and introducing landmark social justice, research, public policy and community engagement initiatives that improve our local and international community were hallmarks of the high achievers recognised.

Cultural Tourism graduate Lee Cumberlidge (BCuIT '00) received a Distinguished Alumni Award for his creativity and innovative leadership exhibited as Co-founder and Creative Director of the Illuminate Adelaide festival that first lit up the city during winter 2021.

Combining arts, business and tourism, Lee's Flinders degree gave him the confidence to pursue a career in the arts.

'What I learned at uni was quickly put into action, and I found that I really enjoyed the creative process. I came to understand the depth of the industry – where business and creativity work together to create strong, sustainable events that benefit so many different stakeholders,' says Lee.

## • CONVOCAION MEDAL •



**Dr Rosemary Brooks OAM**  
PhD(Hums) '79

Outstanding commitment to tertiary education, particularly to students in a residential college setting, and in recognition of significant pro bono legal work and community service.

**'I try to do something to help others every day, and there is room for more people to offer their help too.'**

DR ROSEMARY BROOKS OAM

## • DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS •



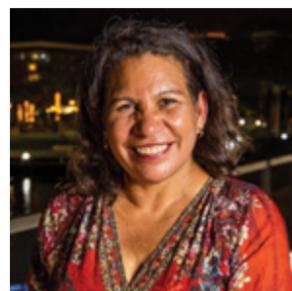
**Lee Cumberlidge**  
BCuIT '00

Distinguished leadership, creativity and commitment to arts management and artists, and for bringing innovative projects to life for audiences to enjoy.



**Professor Rosalie Grivell**  
BMBS '98

Distinguished contribution to medicine both as an educator and researcher in women's health, and for influential advocacy of South Australia's abortion law.



**Leanne Liddle**  
LLB/LP(GradEntry) '04

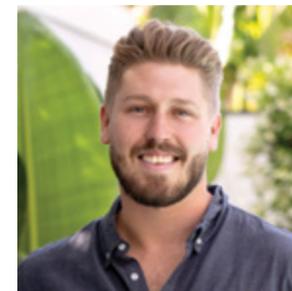
Distinguished leadership and commitment to justice over the past 30 years, including the Aboriginal Justice Agreement for the Northern Territory.



**Dr Christopher McGowan**  
PhD(HlthSc) '17

Distinguished contribution to the health and human services sectors for over 30 years through professional and humanitarian activities.

## • EARLY CAREER ALUMNI AWARDS •



**Sam Ackland**  
BBus(Mktg) '16

Significant contribution to the construction and cleaning industry, and for an innovative approach as an employer developing a positive work environment.



**Kate Bohunnis**  
BCreatArts(Hons) '18

Significant contribution to the visual arts, working in metal, mould-making, textiles and print, with a focus on identity, gender and queer perspectives.



**Dr Himal Kandel**  
PhD(HlthSc) '19

Significant contribution to the scientific community in ophthalmology and optometry, and for improving patient outcomes.



**Dr Alyce Martin**  
BMedSc '11, BSc(Hons) '12  
PhD(Med) '18

Significant contribution in the field of gastrointestinal physiology, including support and advocacy of her professional community.



**Associate Professor Elspeth McInnes AM**  
BA(Hons) '91, PhD(SS) '01

Distinguished contribution to research, teaching and advocacy on the impact of violence and abuse on children and parenting.



**Elizabeth Naumczyk**  
BA '76

Distinguished leadership and international impact as a prominent law librarian in establishing three research law libraries in Australia, The Netherlands and Singapore.



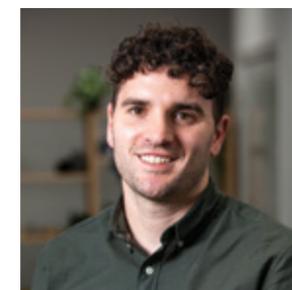
**Richard Stokes**  
BA '80, DipEd '81

Distinguished leadership within the boarding school industry through the creation of the Australian Boarding Schools Association.



**Dr Katharina J Peters**  
BSc(MarineBiol)(Hons) '10  
PhD(Biol) '16

Significant contribution to wildlife ecology and conservation, and for taking a mentoring role in developing other early career researchers.



**Ben Tripodi**  
BHlthSc '16

Significant contribution and entrepreneurship in developing innovative solutions to support athlete development, and improve employee wellbeing and performance.



**Read the inspiring stories of our awardees**

# Steering a company in the right direction

MBA graduate Nick Hutchinson is delivering a sustainable future for a South Australian dairy company.

BY LYNDA ALLEN

**As General Manager of Fleurieu Milk Company, 33-year-old Flinders University MBA graduate Nick Hutchinson (BBus '10, MBA '12) is leading the way in building sustainable practices for the proudly local, family-run business.**

With more than 75 staff, the South Australian company, based at Myponga, emerged out of a local dairy industry that was being run into the ground in the early 2000s. Input prices were at record levels and farms across Australia were forced out of operation.

With such a dire outlook, in 2004 two dairy farms across three families took the leap into bottling and selling their own milk, launching Fleurieu Milk Company – which now supplies milk, cream, yoghurt and flavoured milk across the state, and in New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

## SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The company continues to grow and now sources milk from a range of dairies across the local region.

'Local dairy farmers are the heart and soul of Fleurieu Milk Company,' says Nick.

'Understanding the value of our product and supporting local dairy farmers to ensure they're also financially stable allows us to invest in areas that improve the social and environmental impact of the business.'

With a company built on a solid foundation of social and environmental sustainability, the focus is on selling a quality product instead of competing on price.

'The moment we begin competing on price is the moment we will need to begin cost cutting. But all cost cutting would do is lead to decisions throughout our business, and our stakeholders' businesses, that impact the environment,' says Nick.

'We are not interested in compromising on the environment.'

Fleurieu Milk Company, together with its supplying farms, look after over 3,000 acres across the Fleurieu Peninsula. They feel a deep responsibility to care for the environment that helps to produce their dairy products, and are constantly looking for ways to become more sustainable and reduce their energy use.

They have installed a 70kw solar system, upgraded their generator and switchboard, and are planning to add a UPS battery to assist in the swap over from power to generator supply during peak demand periods.

'We have also significantly reduced our gas usage through the processing plant by using the offset heat from the refrigeration units to heat our pasteuriser water,' says Nick.

## MBA TO LEAD THE WAY

Achieving a Bachelor of Business at Flinders University in 2010, Nick decided to deepen his business skills and knowledge and embarked on an MBA. He says his time at Flinders taught him some very important life skills around time management, work ethic and social skills.

'I worked full-time while studying so the importance of time management was critical and something that I value extremely highly in my role today.

'Socially, university was great. I was mixing with people from so many different backgrounds and ages. Being able to work with a mix of people is really important in my current position, and university introduced me to this.

'As a country kid from small rural schools, the MBA pushed me out of my comfort zone and enhanced both my professional and personal skills.'

## LEARNING FROM OTHERS

While in his early years at Fleurieu Milk Company, Nick says he was always the youngest person sitting in meetings or talking to business partners. He found a similar situation when he began his MBA at Flinders.

Instead of being intimidated, he realised the important opportunity of being surrounded by such extensive knowledge and experience.

'I told myself, "Don't be afraid to ask questions. Just pick the thought processes of talented people, whether they are lecturers or senior business managers".'

Learning from others is a practice that has helped Nick to expand and grow as a manager, as he now reaches the ten-year mark of working with the dairy company. He is passionate about being part of a sustainable, local company and believes they have a winning formula.

'Fleurieu Milk Company has been built on a foundation of sustainability with very strong values of giving back to the local community, employing locals, and looking after them. I'm just lucky enough to continue steering it in the right direction.'



**'As a country kid from small rural schools, the MBA pushed me out of my comfort zone and enhanced both my professional and personal skills.'**

NICK HUTCHINSON

Photo by Nicole Wedding

**Take your career to the next level with our new MBA. Flinders University alumni receive a 20% fee discount.**

[FLINDERS.EDU.AU/ALUMNI-MBA](https://flinders.edu.au/alumni-mba)

# Early Career Research seed funding expands horizons

Dr Fiona Rillotta is transforming the lives of Australians with intellectual disability.

**Supported by individual donors, a \$10,000 Early Career Research grant from Flinders University has helped Dr Rillotta deliver six research projects based on the University's trailblazing Up the Hill Project.**

Established at Flinders in 1999, Up the Hill is the first-ever inclusion program that offers a university experience for people with intellectual disability.

'The students have the opportunity to study topics of interest with their peers at Flinders, including visual arts, popular culture, history, women's studies, drama, screen studies, tourism, IT and disability studies,' says Dr Rillotta.

'The university experience leads to personal development in self-confidence, social networks, social skills, and self-advocacy skills. It makes a huge difference to the lives of people living with intellectual disability.'

Dr Rillotta says participants and supporters of the program know its positive impacts, but without empirical research evidence to inform this belief, the program would remain small in scope.

With her Early Career Research seed funding, Dr Rillotta was able to employ Up the Hill graduate Tim Adam as co-researcher, to help create and publish accessible research summaries of key areas of the program.

The outcomes of this research have been even greater than Dr Rillotta and Mr Adam expected, including high journal rankings that will help develop their research careers, access to national funding to expand the research, and the redevelopment of the Up the Hill Project.

'We're now re-designing the Up the Hill program based on some of the research findings, including enabling participants to work towards a university qualification rather than simply a certificate of completion,' says Dr Rillotta.

This change means school leavers with intellectual disability could transition to university just like their peers. Flinders will be the first university in Australia to offer this opportunity.

Without donor support, none of these outcomes would have been possible.

'This seed funding gave me the opportunity to collaborate with others, build a track record, produce results that will impact the community, and gain even more funding opportunities that I hope will support policy change on a national level,' says Dr Rillotta.

**This year, Flinders will match every donation to the Early Career Research fund, up to a total of \$40,000. This means your donation to support the valuable research by emerging researchers will be doubled – creating even more impact for our community.**

**'As a result of the funding, my research has real-world, real-life outcomes for people with intellectual disability wishing to attend university.'**

DR FIONA RILLOTTA

## Critical support for students in financial need

A Matthew Flinders Scholarship helped Hanh be worry-free about money for food.

**Master of Education student Thi Hong Hanh Nguyen worried about how she would buy food and pay her rent before receiving critical support from a Matthew Flinders Scholarship.**

When her Australian travel plans were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and she was unable to return home to Vietnam, Hanh decided to take the opportunity to extend her teaching education through the Master of Education (Early Childhood) at Flinders University.

'Teaching children has been my passion for years,' says Hanh. 'It matches my personality and strengths of being patient, calm and caring.'

Like many students, one of Hanh's biggest challenges is meeting her living costs while juggling study and work – especially during the full-time practical component of her degree.

During the pandemic, Hanh found the cost of living particularly challenging – especially when her family at home in Vietnam could not support her as they had planned.

'It was a big struggle for me. I had to borrow money from my friends, and I needed to work more to cover all my living expenses,' says Hanh.

Working 15-20 hours a week as a barista helped alleviate the strain, but during her six-week placement at an early learning centre, Hanh had to drop her working hours to just a seven-hour shift. It was at this point Hanh found she couldn't make ends meet and applied for a Matthew Flinders Scholarship.

'The scholarship helped me get through my most challenging time,' says Hanh. 'It helped me to be worry-free about money for food.'

**'I am very thankful to those who have supported the scholarship.'**

Through the scholarship Hanh was able to afford a month's worth of groceries, pay her phone bill and cover her public transport costs.

'It might be a small amount for someone else, but for students who are struggling, it is precious and invaluable,' says Hanh.

**You can provide urgent financial assistance to help students like Hanh by donating to the Matthew Flinders Scholarship. 100% of your donation will support students in financial need.**

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## GIFTS-IN-MEMORIAM

**In memory of Trevor Baillie**  
Tamara Baillie  
**In memory of Isla Lucy Bond**  
Rebecca Linehan  
**In memory of Howard James Buchan**  
Bruce Buchan  
**In memory of Professor Michael Bull**  
Matthew Sykes & Pete Allred  
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**In memory of Warren Lee Young**  
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Thank you also to our many donors who wish to remain anonymous and to those who have made a bequest in their will.

\*The Donor Honour Roll recognises those who donated to Flinders University between 1 January and 31 December 2021.



# Support our mission for change

Flinders University Museum of Art's nationally significant collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork engages our students and researchers with First Nations knowledges, perspectives and lived experiences.

The artworks transform ways of seeing, feeling and understanding the shared histories of Australia's recent past, and open up conversations that advance reconciliation.

With your support, FUMA seeks to secure the rare, final edition of the *Look Who's Calling The Kettle Black* series.

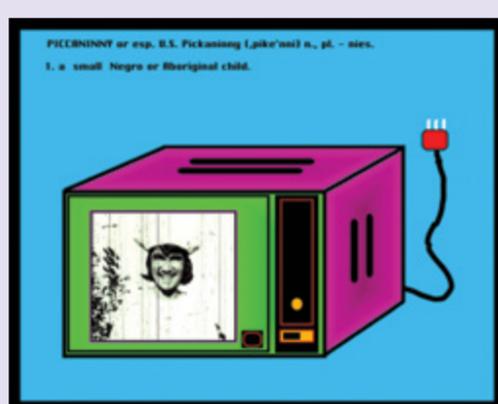
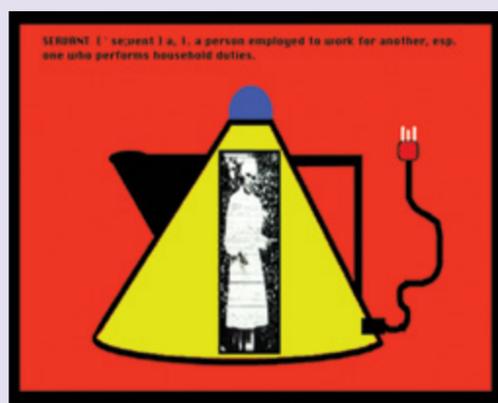
The ten digitally rendered photographs in the series are by one of Australia's most acclaimed experimental artists, r e a.

The series speaks to the oppressive colonial to mid-century policies that saw countless Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls forced into domestic labour.

If you share our mission for change, please donate today.

[Flinders.edu.au/FUMA/donate](https://Flinders.edu.au/FUMA/donate)

Scan the QR code:



r e a, Gamilaraay, Wailwan and Biripi people, selected works from the series *Look Who's Calling The Kettle Black* (1992), digital dye sublimation prints, ten images per edition, 20cm x 25cm each, © the artist.



# Integrating the workplace into a degree

Work Integrated Learning is increasing student employability.

Getting students job-ready is just one benefit of Flinders University's Work Integrated Learning (WIL) program, where students get the opportunity to merge their degree knowledge with the practical aspects of being in the workplace.

Master of Environmental Management student Jessica Priess recently undertook a WIL placement at the South Australian government's Department for Environment and Water (DEW). She explains what she has gained personally and professionally from being part of the program.

'At Flinders I first studied a Bachelor of Science majoring in Marine Biology and Aquaculture because of my interest in the ocean and my desire to work scientifically in the field. But over time I felt like I could make more of a positive impact on the marine environment by combining my previous knowledge with a Master of Environmental Management.

'I wanted to do a placement with DEW because it aligned with my major project on coastal adaptation, which is also the area that I want my career to be focused on.

'I spent 15 days working with the department - but spaced over a few months so that I could also fit in my studies. Over this time, I learnt a lot about how DEW works in relation to South Australia's coastline, and the role it plays.

'I was surprised to learn how many moving parts are involved with managing the coast, and the number of professional relationships that are involved between state and local levels.

'It was great to be able to help the team work on assignments where I knew I had the ability to make a difference. For example, I assisted in a bid for funding from the Federal government towards coastal adaptation in South Australia.

'Throughout the placement I was able to put my university knowledge into practice, especially the research aspects needed for developing the grant proposal.



**'DEW was the perfect place to get first-hand experience and it provided me with the opportunity for networking with professionals in that field.'** JESSICA PRIESS

'For this I was tasked with researching various forms of literature for information based on the value of the South Australian coastline, economically, socially, environmentally and culturally - then complete an annotated bibliography for each piece of literature.

'The networking opportunity was also amazing - I have met people in the field and worked directly with them to demonstrate my abilities.

'This WIL opportunity has shown me the type of work involved in coastal management and confirmed my desire to work in this field - so that I can make a positive impact on creating a more sustainable South Australian coastline.'

**Benefit from WIL at your organisation**

Work Integrated Learning includes clinical placements, internships, field education, vocational and professional practice, plus projects with industry and community organisations. If you would like to host a student for a WIL opportunity contact us:

[WIL.MANAGER@FLINDERS.EDU.AU](mailto:WIL.MANAGER@FLINDERS.EDU.AU) | +61 8 8201 2978

# Factory of the Future: A quiet revolution

What does it take to create a world-class innovation ecosystem in Australia?

BY PROFESSOR JOHN SPOEHR

**Our capability to manufacture the products we need when we need them has been elevated to a national policy priority following the impact of the pandemic on key supply chains, which restricted our access to critical goods.**

Over the last few years a quiet revolution has been taking place at the Tonsley Innovation District in Adelaide's southern suburbs. An industrial-scale testing facility has been created to test and trial cutting-edge technologies and business processes.

This is Australia's first 'Factory of the Future' facility – a \$20 million investment in capability building established by Flinders University, with support from the South Australian and Federal Governments, and in partnership with BAE Systems and a network of leading South Australian companies.

## BUILDING EFFECTIVE COLLABORATIONS

Dozens of technology trials have already been undertaken in the pilot facility, attracting over 2,000 visitors from industry, government and the community, who want to learn more about how we can build effective research collaborations between researchers and industry.

The good news is that early successes are attracting attention and funding from national and state policymakers. The high level of interest is also linked to the fact that Australia needs to urgently develop and adopt new strategies that boost university/industry research collaboration.

This is fundamental to national growth in high value, knowledge intensive, products and services.

## GLOBAL INSPIRATION

We have drawn inspiration from the best-of-breed globally, including the network of Fraunhofer Institutes in Germany, the range of manufacturing institutes in the United States, and the Catapult Centres in the United Kingdom.

What these leading research and development institutions have in common is a long-term commitment from funding partners to build world-class capability and capacity in collaboration with industry. They exist at the interface between universities and industry, filling a gap that is presently very large in Australia's innovation ecosystem.

## STRONG SUPPORT

While Flinders has been fortunate to secure strong government support to help bridge the gap that so often exists between universities and small to medium sized businesses, meeting the collaboration challenge at a national

level requires a commitment to establishing a network of Factory of the Future-style facilities across Australia.

Along with government support, our Factory of the Future is a partnership with BAE Systems Maritime Australia and its growing supply chain.

A key driver of the collaboration is a shared commitment to maximising the domestic industry development benefits that can flow from projects as large as the Federal Government's \$35 billion Hunter Class Frigate program. Projects of this scale have enormous transformative potential, particularly when the ambition is to create a world-class, digitally enabled ship manufacturing capability.

## CREATING SCALE & MOMENTUM

To have the freedom to take risks and innovate, enlightened firms have a long history of establishing research and development facilities in innovation districts just like Tonsley.

BAE Systems has followed this tradition, co-locating its Research and Technology team with Flinders University at Tonsley. This is a game changer, creating scale and momentum on the back of a now well established and mature research partnership.

Our collaboration with BAE Systems is grounded in a commitment to help remove barriers and accelerate the adoption of technologies in a human-centred way. This means engineers, scientists and social scientists working much more closely together than they have in the past, on common challenges.

So far, lessons learnt from our trials have been published as part of a series of Australian Industrial Transformation Institute research reports, informing practice in both shipbuilding and the wider manufacturing sector.

## WORLD-CLASS CAPABILITIES

In pursuit of greater sovereign capability in times of crisis, Australia, like most nations, has been challenged to invest much more in research and innovation. At Flinders we have accepted this challenge and are significantly expanding our world-class research and development capabilities, and boosting essential collaboration between research and industry through new partnering models.

Our vision is that by 2027 we will form part of a world-class network of Factory of the Future facilities in Australia, much like our global inspiration in Germany, the US and UK.

What might have seemed unrealistic to many onlookers five years ago is now well underway. It is proving to be a source of inspiration for policymakers wanting to accelerate the growth of advanced manufacturing in Australia.



## About the author

Professor John Spoehr is Pro-Vice Chancellor of Research Impact at Flinders University, where he is actively involved in the development of industry, government and community research partnerships at a local, national and international level.

[FACTORYOFTHEFUTURE.COM.AU](https://factoryofthefuture.com.au)

# Streamlining our international pathways

The new Flinders University Academy is creating greater opportunities for students from overseas to study at Flinders.

BY LYNDA ALLEN

With Australia's borders now open after almost two years of restrictions, Flinders University is pleased to welcome new international students to study on campus with the introduction of a streamlined pathway program.

From 2023 the newly established Flinders University Academy will offer an innovative pathway program for students from overseas, supporting them to achieve their ambition to study at Flinders.

## TAILORED LEARNING

Taking control of pathway courses for international students at Flinders, the Academy will be owned and governed by the University but will operate independently. With this structural change to its pathways program, Flinders can ensure that each student is offered a tailor-made learning experience to best suit their needs.

'In a highly competitive and mature market, this approach will ensure that the changing needs and demands of international students are able to be met quickly by the University, while still delivering a seamless transition from their pathway course to their chosen degree,' says Sebastian Raneskold, Vice-President and Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) at Flinders University.

## PATHWAY OPTIONS

Based in The Plaza at Flinders' Bedford Park campus, the Academy will offer a range of pathway options across the University's wide selection of study areas and programs, including diploma courses - allowing students to easily transition to the first or second year of their chosen degree.

Pre-masters programs will also be offered, in addition to Foundation Studies and English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS).

## VIBRANT CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

'As Australia once again opens up to the world, students from overseas are finally able to join us and take part in our vibrant campus life in person,' says Sebastian.

'Flinders University is a destination for enterprising students who travel from around the world to be part of a richly interactive and personalised approach to learning.'

The University looks forward to welcoming its newest international students to campus in 2023. The sense of enthusiasm they bring plays an integral role in the diverse and engaging learning experience that Flinders University is known for.

## Flinders International Alumni Scholarship

Are you a Flinders University international graduate? You could be eligible for a 20% full duration scholarship to study another undergraduate or postgraduate degree at Flinders. Learn more and join us on campus again in 2023!

[FLINDERS.EDU.AU/INTERNATIONAL-SCHOLARSHIPS](https://flinders.edu.au/international-scholarships)

[FLINDERS.EDU.AU/ACADEMY](https://flinders.edu.au/academy)

# Our global alumni connections

Where in the world are our international graduates?

With thousands of students from overseas coming to Flinders University to study each year, we want to introduce you to five of our international alumni, who are now making the most of their Flinders University degree in their home country.



**Amalka Edirisinghe (MCBT '20) | Sri Lanka**

Completing a Master of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy at Flinders, Amalka has dedicated her career to providing clinical supervision to psychosocial workers in war-affected areas of Sri Lanka. Overcoming her own adversities in life, she has become a cognitive behaviour therapy expert in Sri Lanka.

*'The clinical supervision helps to reduce the stress that psychosocial workers face when providing counselling to clients, to increase accountability of their work, and provides a platform to increase their knowledge and skills.'*



**Liza Fahmida (MPubAdmin '16) | Bangladesh**

Inspired by her mother, who was the first female lecturer at Bhola Government College in Bangladesh, Liza studied a Master of Public Administration at Flinders. In her hometown of Dhaka, Liza now works in the SME & Special Programmes Department of the Bangladesh Bank - the country's central bank.

*'My study at Flinders helped me to develop my analytical skills and allows me to contribute to the improvement of the banking sector in Bangladesh. I can now look at issues through a more critical lens.'*



**Bridget Numarce (MClinRehab '21) | Ghana**

Completing a Master of Clinical Rehabilitation at Flinders has allowed Bridget to improve her knowledge in evidence-based treatments and fine-tune her interest in rehabilitation at home in Ghana. She believes her studies will help her to think critically and engage rehabilitation patients in a better way.

*'I changed from the medical doctor pathway into physiotherapy when I saw the patient-centredness of physiotherapy - they spend a lot more time with the patients. A doctor saves the life of a patient, but a physiotherapist saves a patient's quality of life.'*



**Jose 'Apollo' Pacamalan (MEnvMgmt '05) | Philippines**

Apollo is the founder of the Rice-Duck Movement, which offers subsistence farmers in his homeland of the Philippines an organic, climate-smart, accessible and more viable rice production system. Apollo's Master in Environmental Management at Flinders put him on the path to this vital community development work.

*'The greatest accomplishment in my work is when I see poor farmers and households grow in terms of their skills and talents in farming systems.'*



**Diana Kambuaya (MEd(LeaderMgmt) '13) | Indonesia**

Studying educational leadership and management at Flinders enabled Diana to learn about different leadership styles and approaches, and the necessary traits for a leader-educator. She is now the program manager and course content coordinator at the SAGU Foundation in the Papua Province of Indonesia.

*'At Flinders I was introduced to the theory of relational leadership and servant leadership, which opened my understanding of the correlation between a student's academic performance and their school leaders. I am now applying these leadership styles at the SAGU Foundation.'*

[FLINDERS.EDU.AU/ALUMNI-STORIES](https://flinders.edu.au/alumni-stories)

# On a mission of discovery

Medicine foundation academic and neuroscience researcher Emeritus Professor Marcello Costa AO FAA has enjoyed many years of discovery at Flinders University.

BY ANNIKA DEAN

After an illustrious 47-year career at Flinders University, Matthew Flinders Distinguished Emeritus Professor Marcello Costa AO FAA retired in February from his most recent roles as the Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor and Professor of Neurophysiology with the College of Medicine and Public Health.

Professor Costa first joined the University in 1975, when he was appointed foundation lecturer in Physiology in Flinders' newly opened School of Medicine (now the College of Medicine and Public Health).

## OPPORTUNITY AT FLINDERS

However, it was not a straightforward journey to Flinders. After growing up in Argentina, then returning to his birthplace of Italy to study medicine and complete compulsory military service, Professor Costa emigrated to Melbourne. Five years later, opportunity knocked from Flinders University, which proved to be a long-term move for the Professor and his young family.

He says, 'I had plenty of other offers to move within Australia, or even to go to Europe or the United States, but I found that being at Flinders was a unique opportunity. From the very beginning we had the opportunity to create something new. And I think we did.'

'We were lucky to be a medical school within a hospital, where teaching, research and patient care could come together – a virtuous cycle inspired by foundation Dean, Gus Fraenkel, and implemented by foundation Chair of Medicine, John Chalmers.'

'By doing this, we never lost track of what medicine was requiring, what was feasible, and the questions the students were asking that needed answers. And that kept us alive.'

'Research, teaching and medical practice; if they are together, in the long term it's better.'

## PIONEERING GUT-BRAIN RESEARCH

A pioneer in enteric neuroscience, the second brain found in our gut that controls the gastrointestinal tract, Professor Costa found himself in the field almost by accident. Wishing to study the brain while in Italy but being unable to do so, he instead turned to the anatomy of the gut, finding the two weren't that dissimilar after all.

'At the time, very little was known about the second brain because the anatomists, the physiologists and the pharmacologists hadn't talked to each other over the last 150 years. Once I moved to Australia, colleagues and I were able to bring them all together for the first time in a way that changed the field very rapidly.'

'We were very lucky because everything we were looking at was new and the discoveries we found in the gut could be applied to the spinal cord and to the brain too.'

## A PASSION FOR DISCOVERY

It's a passion for discovery that has long kept Professor Costa in the laboratory, even after he reached his 80th birthday.

'Science by and large requires a sense of wonder and imagination about the world, but the reality of nature is that it's even richer than we can think of.'

'There is always something new to find and there is no end to it. This is what keeps research alive.'

'I encourage every young person to take this view of discovery very seriously. As I keep saying to my grandchildren, if you want to do something, and it's not harmful to yourself or to others, do it.'

## SUPPORT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Supporting the next generation of medical students and researchers has been an important pillar of Professor Costa's career.

Since 2003, alongside his research and teaching, he has donated to a range of education and research projects, including the Matthew Flinders Scholarship and neuroscience research. He sees it as a way of sharing what he has been given throughout his lifetime.

As his retirement begins, Professor Costa hopes he has encouraged a curious but critical mindset in those who will follow. He acknowledges that, for all his achievements, without him the world will not stop.

'There's nothing I did that could have been done without the input of my older and younger mentors and my peers. Every time I took a step in my research it was always with somebody else. And that's important – we don't do things on our own.'

**'There is always something new to find and there is no end to it. This is what keeps research alive.'**

MATTHEW FLINDERS  
DISTINGUISHED EMERITUS PROFESSOR  
MARCELLO COSTA AO FAA

# Finance, fishing and lifelong friendship

Friends Andrew Mattner, Matt Kerin and Simon Hasler share a bond that has lasted long past their graduation day more than 30 years ago.

BY NICOLE WEDDING

**You'd be hard-pressed to find a better group of friends than Andrew Mattner (BEc(Acc) '94), Matt Kerin (BCom '94) and Simon Hasler (BCom '94).**

The group's three-decades-long friendship began when they were bright-eyed students at Flinders University in the 1990s and has lasted the course while each has pursued their own successful career.

Andrew is the Owner and Director of financial services business Altitude Advisory, Matt is the Finance Manager at SA Heart, and Simon is the Commercial Manager at Beach Energy.

## 'I loved the social aspect of university.'

ANDREW MATTNER

'I loved the social aspect of university – we may not have been the most compliant students,' Andrew jokes when asked about his favourite memories from Flinders.

The classroom did, however, bring him together with Simon and Matt.

'I met Simon on the first day of orientation, and we've been mates ever since. Then I met Matt really early on in a lecture or tutorial, and we both became mates with him,' says Andrew.

### BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Outside of the lecture theatre, the three friends spent most of their time on campus either playing sports in the gym (Simon was particularly into basketball), playing 'far too many hours' of cards in the refectory, watching new-release movies at the Matthew Flinders Theatre, or socialising at the Tavern.

In the years since graduating, despite their busy – and highly successful – careers, the group still makes time for activities together like fishing, playing and watching football, playing golf, and eating out.

'We all played football at Goodwood Saints,' says Simon. 'And in more recent times, we try to get over to Melbourne to watch an AFL game or two and play some golf.'



Matt Kerin, Andrew Mattner and Simon Hasler.

### THE EVER-CHANGING UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

While Andrew, Matt and Simon all look back on their time at Flinders fondly, they wonder if it's the same for students in 2022.

'With so much online now, I wonder whether the social interaction has been lost. Or maybe I am just showing my age, and it has simply taken a different form,' says Simon.

## 'Life isn't always going to work out exactly how you planned. But eventually, you will find a path that gets you to where you want to go.'

MATT KERIN

But they're optimistic that future students will make the most of what life presents them.

'Life isn't always going to work out exactly how you planned. There will always be curveballs,' says Matt.

'But eventually, you will find a path that gets you to where you want to go.'

Connecting through mutual classes or share housing, friendship expert Glenda Shaw (BA(Hons) '77) established friendships during her time at Flinders University – nearly 50 years ago – that have lasted both time and distance.

Many of the friends Glenda made at university had moved to Adelaide from interstate and so the group provided each other with the trusted and supportive base they needed living away from their families.

She says, 'We were there for each other. We shared houses, dresses, cars and new experiences.'

## 'The like-minded people you go to university with now will be incredibly valuable moving forward in life, both socially and professionally.'

GLENDA SHAW

What stood out to Glenda was that she had many more things in common with the friends she made at university than with those she had known since childhood, whether these were interests, socio-political proclivities, or spirit of adventure.

'That level of connection and bonding is really important for foundational friendships, as they give you a good metric to go by,' says Glenda.

### SUPPORTIVE AND POSITIVE

'There is one Flinders friend in particular, Glenys Rowe, who has stayed the course. She invited me to stay with her in London a few years after we graduated, an action that launched my life outside Australia.'

From London, Glenda then moved to Santa Barbara in California and has since lived in California for much of her life.

'Even though Glenys and I have lived on different continents, we've always remained supportive and positive about each other's lives and careers throughout the decades.'

### BETTER YOU, BETTER FRIENDS

In moving countries and looking to make new friends, Glenda soon realised that it's not about looking for good friends, it's about becoming a better friend yourself, and the idea for her book *Better You, Better Friends* was born.

'We can have a lot of judgement about people outside ourselves, but not a lot of introspection. I wanted to find out how I could be a better friend through more observation of my own behaviour.'

Glenda shares her advice for making new friends: 'Spend time with people, be honest, and find people that you really connect with and understand.'

'At university, you start finding yourself and developing your skills in communication and understanding with the people you choose to spend time with. These are people that you know support your adventures, spirit, and what you're doing.'

She says, 'The like-minded people you go to university with now will be incredibly valuable moving forward in life, both socially and professionally.'

# Friendships that last the distance

Arts graduate Glenda Shaw forged foundational friendships at Flinders.

BY JESSICA INGRAM



'Spend time with people, be honest, and find people that you really connect with and understand.'

GLENDA SHAW

Glenda Shaw with lifelong friend Glenys Rowe in England, 1980.

# “Fearless Conversations”

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## Episode two: Fearless Women Breaking the Bias

“We’re there to educate that next generation to create change and show that it is possible to have a successful career as a female in building and construction.”

### Litsa Adamou

Co-owner, House Inspect Australia

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## Episode three: The Future of Politics

“It’s the kind of workplace where bad things can happen, and you tend to find that in any very hierarchical organisation where one class of people ... have vastly more power than the people who work for them.”

### Hon Susan Close MP

Deputy Premier of South Australia

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## Episode four: Reconciliation for our Future

“Unless you can acknowledge what’s happened in the past, you really don’t understand where we are. And if you don’t do that, it’s hard to move forward.”

### Hon Kyam Maher MLC

Attorney-General of South Australia  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector

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## Episode five: Your Financial Security – Who is in Control?

“It is easy to be concerned about the economic outlook ... but I really cannot think of an economy in the world that is better equipped to cope with some of these challenges than what we have in Australia.”

### David Robertson

Chief Economist, Bendigo & Adelaide Bank

A monthly panel series with thought leaders who want to challenge the current rhetoric to create a fearless future. Be part of the conversation.

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