

Leaving an environmental legacy

JOHN ROTMAN hopes his bequest will inspire others to act generously.

TEXT
Row Booker

IMAGE
Julianne Osborne

A retired Royal Australian Air Force serviceman and “proud Territorian” has bequeathed his entire estate to CDU to create scholarships in biological and environmental research.

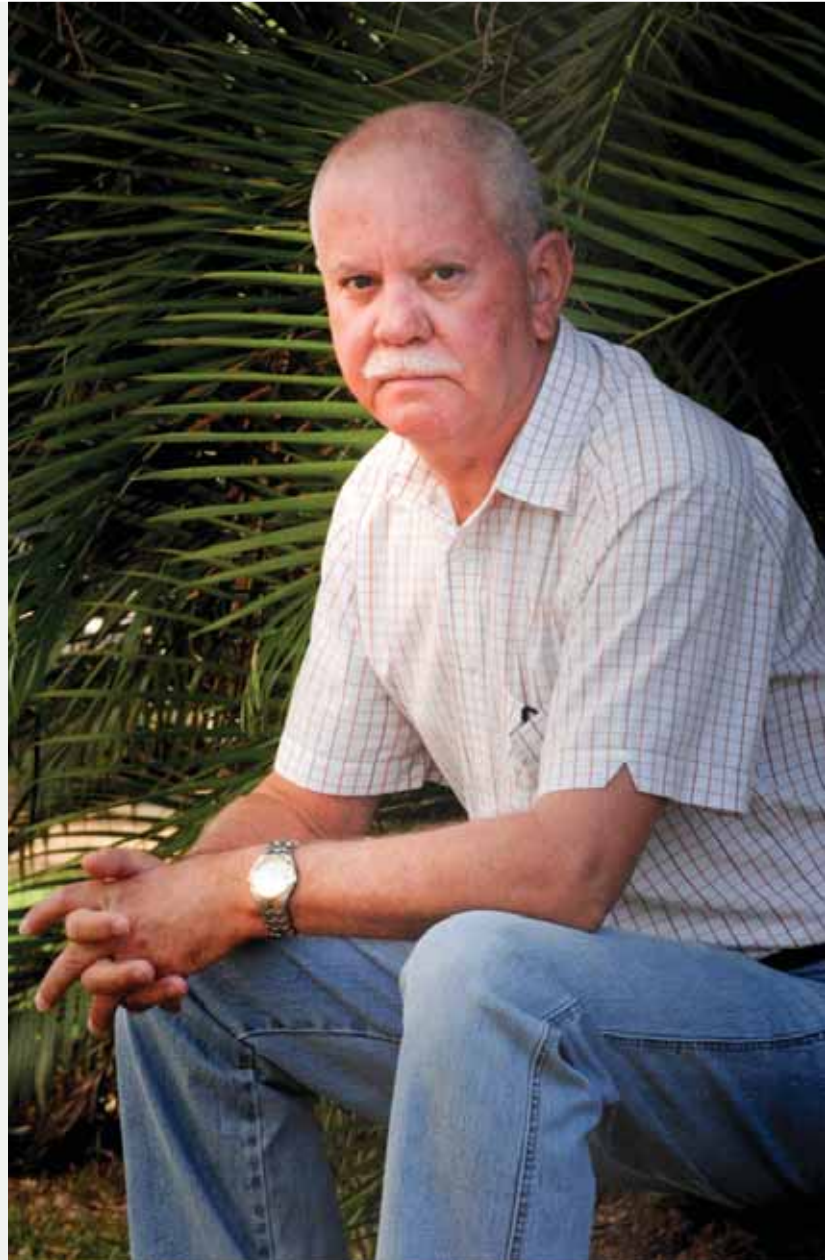
John Rotman has lived in the Territory since 1982 when he was posted to the RAAF Base in Darwin. On his retirement in 1989 after 20 years’ service, there was no question about where he would spend the next chapter of his life – Darwin.

The 58-year-old said he’s living a “good and interesting life” in the Territory and the bequest is his way of “giving something back” to the place where he enjoys the easy tropical lifestyle.

“I looked around at the various institutions here in the NT and, after much thought, concluded that the university was the perfect choice,” Mr Rotman said.

Once he’d settled on CDU, Mr Rotman said it was difficult to decide which part of the university the money would most benefit. “Originally, I wanted it to go to an art prize as my mother was an amateur painter, but then I started to think about what would have the most far-reaching benefits and that’s when a mate came up with the idea of where I’d donate the money,” Mr Rotman said.

He has stipulated that his estate, which he estimated would be valued at more than \$650,000, should go to biological science scholarships to help protect and improve the Territory environment for generations to come.



He wants his money to make a real difference to deserving students. “If my bequest meant that a person of lesser means could attend university, having never been able to consider doing so before due to financial reasons, then I would feel that I had left a worthwhile legacy.

“I also hope that if everyone like myself, who has worked all his life, bought his own home and renovated it over the years, can make an investment like this, which could make a significant investment to our future, then I would hope that my bequest would inspire the more well-off among us to do the same,” Mr Rotman said.

Director of Development for External Relations at CDU, Serhat Abdurazak said the university was extremely grateful to Mr Rotman for the generous bequest.

“We are so appreciative that Mr Rotman has bequeathed this money to us and it will make a real difference to the recipients,” Mr Abdurazak said.

