THANK YOU

Charles Darwin University
25th Anniversary Foundation Appeal
2015–2017
From the Chair

On behalf of the CDU Foundation I would like to express our gratitude to those who support our university.

This book features just some of the wonderful supporters of the University and the profoundly positive impact they are making to our university and in the wider community.

While we have space here for only a few of your stories, the ‘Thank You’ written on the front cover belongs to every single CDU supporter.

There are so many inspiring stories to share, and the CDU Foundation is already preparing for our next Thank You book. We welcome suggestions from all CDU Foundation members and supporters for inclusion in our next book.

Thank you once again,

Deborah Fracaro,
Chair, Charles Darwin University Foundation
Thank you to all the supporters of Charles Darwin University.

Just as the famous maxim proclaims that “an army marches on its stomach”, so it is that a University is only able to contribute to society because of the support it derives from its staff, students, industry and community stakeholders.

You are a critical part of our ongoing success and a vital part of our University family.

As public sector institutions are required to diversify their income sources, and are increasingly accountable to a broader group of stakeholders, our partnership with you is even more important for much of what we aspire to achieve in the future.

With your ongoing financial and in-kind support we are continuing to build our research and teaching expertise and to deliver knowledge, training and education to the people of the Northern Territory, our region and beyond.

We are acknowledged among the top 10 universities in Australia, the world’s top 50 universities less than 50 years old, and the top 300 of all universities in the world. We are world class!

The University continues to progress from strength-to-strength, and will continue to do that with your ongoing support.

Thank you for everything you have given to help make us who we are today, and I look forward to continuing our work with you to make an even bigger impact tomorrow.

Professor Simon Maddocks,
Vice-Chancellor and President
“My research is about how the harbour’s nutrient cycle works. We are looking at microbes in the sediment that keep the harbour healthy, and at things such as seasonal fluctuations, the impact of temperature and other water quality changes.”
Darwin Harbour is the heart of our city, and with a growing economy and population pressures, there is now an imperative to understand how its ecosystem stays healthy and clean.

Enter CDU researcher Julia Fortune, a PhD candidate who is researching how microbes, mangroves and tides work together to maintain healthy waterways.

Working under the auspices of a joint partnership between CDU and the Northern Territory government, Julia’s work comprises baseline research that will help governments and corporations understand how to use the harbour in a sustainable way.

It is funded in part by ConocoPhillips, one of CDU’s leading corporate donors.

“As a member of the Territory community and user of the Darwin Harbour, we understand its importance to the Top End lifestyle, economy, and its significant cultural value,” ConocoPhillips Vice President of Sustainable Development Kayleen Ewin said.

“We are pleased to support this scientific project led by CDU, which brings together the knowledge of research organisations, Traditional Owners, industry and community groups.”
Through the financial support of talented individuals, CDU’s benefactors bring multiple benefits to the entire community.

The tangible support of a scholarship or award allows people to achieve their full potential in the classroom and go on to contribute to the community.

The 2014 recipient of the Maxwell Carment Scholarship in Humanities and Social Sciences, Linda Hopkinson, is one such example.

“My scholarship allowed me to focus on my studies. Without it, I wouldn’t have achieved the grades I did, or been able to do the extra programs that led to this job.”

She is now giving back to the Darwin community in which she was born and raised, in her work as a counsellor at Melaleuca Refugee Centre.

“I work with young people who are already in the community. I help them as they adjust to a new culture with new values and hold on to their own culture at the same time,” she said. “It’s an amazing team and the best job ever.”

The Maxwell Carment Honours Scholarship in Humanities and Social Sciences was established by Emeritus Professor David Carment AM, Annie Carment and Tom Carment in honour of their late father, Maxwell.

“It was our hope to establish a scholarship that would provide sufficient financial support so that able Honours students could concentrate on their studies,” Professor Carment said.

“Linda is now making such a worthwhile contribution to the community through her work with young refugees. Maxwell Carment was also involved in helping refugees. He would very much approve.”
“My scholarship allowed me to focus on my studies. Without it, I wouldn’t have achieved the grades I did, or been able to do the extra programs that led to this job.”
“The landscaping will be a lasting, on-campus testimony to the McNiece family’s generosity.”
Charles Darwin University has always played an important part in the artistic and cultural life of the Northern Territory. During 2015, on our Casuarina campus, we commenced an exciting project to redevelop the existing theatre into a Performing Arts Precinct. This will ensure our continuing support of the performing arts and Territory artists, and strengthen our study offerings in the performing arts.

Among the many acts of philanthropy and in-kind support that have made this project possible is a generous donation in memory of Laurie McNiece made by the McNiece Family Foundation for landscape gardening in the precinct.

Kevin Davis, former CDU Pro Vice-Chancellor and longtime CDU foundation member said:

“The McNiece Family are established CDU benefactors who have made a great contribution to developing some of our most talented students, through their McNiece Family Scholarship. The Performing Arts Precinct beautification will be a lasting on-campus testimony to their generosity.”

Professor Giselle Byrnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Law, Education, Business and Arts said CDU was delighted with this contribution from the McNiece Family.

“Contributions such as these are critical in helping us to realise the goal of reviving this wonderful facility and building a strong and vibrant arts program.”
It was a deep appreciation of all the opportunities the Territory has given them, as well as their own experience of the life-changing benefits of education, that motivated Heather Boulden and Jeremy Hemphill to establish three scholarship bequests.

“Education has made all the difference to our lives. It’s given us life options and opportunities we wouldn’t have had otherwise, and both of us benefitted from scholarships,” Heather said.

The pair strongly supported the proposal to establish a university in the Territory, Jeremy said. “It has been wonderful to see the fledgling university grow and develop to be the centre of excellence it is today.”

The Jeremy Hemphill Scholarship for Sustainable Engineering Innovation Research, the Heather Boulden Scholarship for Women in Science and the Boulden Hemphill Scholarship for Music, allow talented people to pursue studies in these areas without the burden of financial concerns. Jeremy, a former engineer, and Heather, a former health professional, spent their working lives engaged with science, while music is a shared passion they both see as universally valuable.

“The thing about a bequest is that it is ongoing. Hopefully ours will make a difference to the lives of many,” Heather said.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Engineering, Health, Science and the Environment, Professor Sue Carthew, said the Boulden-Hemphill scholarships are a wonderful legacy.

“A bequest such as this will encourage Territorians to achieve their dreams,” Professor Carthew said.
“The thing about a bequest is that it is ongoing. Hopefully ours will make a difference to the lives of many.”
“It is an exciting time for Greek Studies at CDU.”
The Greek community continued to grow its support for CDU in 2015. Through the local community and their representing CDU organisations, Greek Studies continues to flourish at the university.

Testimony to this is the newly created position of Associate Professor in Greek Studies that began in March 2015, with Dr George Frazis appointed to the five-year role. Part of Dr Frazis’ work is devoted to the strategic building and consolidation of Greek Studies.

Dr Frazis said that the establishment of CDU’s program in Greek Studies would not have been possible without the support of the local Greek community.

“The generous financial support of the local Greek community, especially through the auspices, hard work and great energy of the Friends of Greek Language and Culture, and the Greek Guardians of the CDU Foundation.

“I am very proud and happy to be part of both this community and the CDU community,” he said.

Among CDU’s Greek Guardians is the Jalouise company, owned by the Mitaros, Liveris and Canaris families.

As a representative of Jalouise, Mr Michael Canaris said that the appointment of Dr Frazis was a major milestone for Greek Studies at CDU.

“It is through the vision, energy and hard work of the CDU Foundation, together with the Greek Guardians, that this position has been established,” Mr Canaris said.

“It is an exciting time for Greek Studies at CDU as both the program and the university continue to grow.”
With CDU’s alumni being an ever-expanding network, past students from all walks of life have returned to lend their support to our projects.

Among them is proud alumnus Shellie Morris, a performing artist, teacher and mentor who is now recognised as one of Australia’s finest singer-songwriters.

Shellie’s many awards and accolades include the 2014 NT Australian of the Year and NAIDOC Artist of the Year. Her voice and heart-felt music have been heard on stages across the world: at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the Sydney Opera House, the Vancouver Winter Olympics and the Skirball Centre in New York and, closer to home, in the highly successful Prison Songs, with Ernie Dingo, at the 2015 Darwin Festival.

Whether she’s recording or working with remote communities, music for Shellie has a higher purpose. Through her work with Songwomen from Indigenous communities she is preserving language and the intangible cultural heritage of an oral tradition.

Taking time out from her busy schedule, in 2015 Shellie volunteered to help CDU raise funds to redevelop the Performing Arts Theatre on Casuarina campus.

“This is about developing the next generation of successful performing artists in the Territory,” Shellie said. “It’s about creating opportunities for talent and contributing to the wider community.”
“It’s about creating opportunities for talent and contributing to the wider community.”
“The Fellowship provided a fantastic opportunity for concentrated research into an aspect of Northern Territory history.”
As recipient of the Government House Foundation/Charles Darwin University (GHF/CDU) Fellowship, Dr Pam Oliver wanted to set the record straight about one of the Northern Territory’s most controversial Administrators, Charles Lydiard Aubrey Abbott. Abbott was the administrator of the Northern Territory from 1937-1946, during World War II and the bombings of Darwin, and who has been considered by the history books as a poor leader. Dr Oliver’s research found otherwise.

“ Abbott was a persistent advocate in Canberra for the Territory. His pleas for adequate defence and provisioning of Darwin from 1938, and (his wife) Hilda’s remarkable work of transforming Government House into a centre that promoted the North and welcomed all ordinary and vice-regal visitors, as well as her extraordinary war work need recognition so both of the Abbotts can have a more appropriate legacy.”

The GHF/CDU Fellowship was established through the generosity of the Government House Foundation. Its purpose is to promote awareness of the significance of Government House, Administrators and Government residents in Northern Territory history.

“The Fellowship provided a fantastic opportunity for concentrated research into an aspect of Northern Territory history,” Dr Oliver said.

“I had tremendous support from CDU, the Northern Territory Archives Service and the NT Library. I hope the findings make a significant contribution to Northern Territory history and reviewing Abbott’s legacy.”
Following the untimely death of notable Darwin lawyer Alicia Johnson in 1991, the Alicia Johnson Memorial Trust was established by her friends and family. The trust supports areas that Alicia was passionate about: social justice and human rights; juvenile justice; environmental law; and the law and the legal system in a social context. It has provided support for diverse projects and individuals, such as the training of CDU Law students in counselling at the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service and the Retta Dixon Children’s Home class action, involving individuals who were forcibly removed from their parents.

Last year, the trust took a new direction when CDU Lecturer in Law Mr Ken Parish submitted a plan to the trustees that the Alicia Johnson Legal Centre be established.

Building on the trust’s existing connections with CDU, Mr Parish proposed that the Centre could provide legal advice to less privileged Territorians as well as supervise practical experience for CDU law students.

The Centre is now being established with the support of the Trust.

“Establishing the Centre has been a beautiful reminder of the magnificent contribution Alicia made to Darwin,” Warren Johnson, father of Alicia, said. “Through the trust the contribution continues, helping those who need it most.”

CDU Law students.
Inset: Alicia Johnson.
“Establishing the Centre has been a beautiful reminder of the magnificent contribution Alicia made to Darwin.”
“Winning the scholarship has motivated me to do better”
The TOGA Group of Companies is proud to confirm its commitment to advance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment in the Top End.

As part of its commitment to the Northern Territory Government in delivering the Darwin City Waterfront development, the TOGA Group of Companies has provided five scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at CDU; now also home to the CDU Business School.

These scholarships – one in the construction discipline and four in the engineering school – provide a total of $20,000 in support for committed and talented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Mechanical Engineering student Rikki Bruce won the TOGA scholarship in 2015. As a sole-parent studying full-time the scholarship allowed Rikki to more effectively focus on her studies.

“Winning the scholarship really took the pressure off me financially, and it has motivated me to do better. I had a really good year this year,” Rikki said.

The TOGA Group of Companies has for many years promoted education as a meaningful way to give back to the local community and industry, with the capacity to make a lasting impact on the lives of all people, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in remote areas of Australia including the Top End of Australia.

The management team at TOGA were confident that CDU offered comprehensive options to fulfil the outcomes sought by both TOGA Group and the Northern Territory Government in facilitating support for the Top End Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and specifically the Larrakia people – the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region.
A belief in giving back to the community motivates the philanthropy of Nick Halkitis.

A born and bred Territorian and CDU alumnus, Nick is Director of HB Group, Darwin’s leading masonry and construction materials manufacturer and supplier. With his tremendous energy and commitment, Nick has contributed time, financial donations and in-kind support to the university as well as other community groups and causes such as Movember – for which he is not just the Northern Territory’s top fundraiser, but one of the top fundraisers in the country.

“It’s important for business to give back to the community. Every contribution big or small is important. We each give according to our strength,” Nick said.

HB Group’s support of CDU began when it became a Guardian of Greek Language and Culture two years ago. From there, support has extended to other programs and works, such as CDU’s new Theatre Precinct, which is built with blocks manufactured by HB Group in Darwin.

“The stone is from our quarry, and the blocks are made in Darwin – they are 100 per cent Territorian,” Nick said.

“I studied at CDU and now the first of my children have studied there. The third is in Year 12 and will probably go there too.

“In the past young people had to go away to study, but now they have a choice to study here.

“The giving comes back round to you in the end.”
“Every contribution big or small is important. We each give according to our strength.”
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