



2023

Donor Impact Report

Acknowledgement of Country and recognition of Australian First Nations traditional owners and cultures

Charles Darwin University (CDU) acknowledges and respects the many Australian First Nations traditional custodians of the lands upon which our campuses and centres are located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Larrakia who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Darwin Casuarina, Waterfront and Palmerston campuses are located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Arrernte who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Alice Springs campus is located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Jawoyn, Wardaman and Dagomon who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Katherine campuses are located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Gadigal who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Sydney campus is located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Turrbal and Yuggera who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Brisbane centre is located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Woiworung who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Melbourne centre is located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Kurna who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Adelaide centre is located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Whadjuk who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Perth centre is located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Warumungu who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Tennant Creek centre is located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Yolngu who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Nhulunbuy centre is located.

We also acknowledge and pay our respect to the Mirrar (Jabiru), the Kungarakan (Batchelor and Adelaide River), the Anindilyakwa (Groote Eylandt) and the Tiwi (Tiwi Islands) people.

We acknowledge Australian First Nations peoples' long tradition of sustaining their communities and environments over thousands of years. They are the first educators and first innovators.

They are the holders of knowledge that makes an important contribution to the improvement of our local, national and global communities.

We extend our respect to Elders - past, present and emerging - and to all First Nations people.



Contents

4	From the Vice-Chancellor
7	From the Vice-President Community Connection
8	Donor-funded scholarships
13	Paspalis Group and CDU partner to support and inspire the Territory's brightest minds
16	What it takes to be exceptional
18	Supporting mature-age students to achieve their goals
20	A scholarship in memory of a beloved daughter
22	Helping students become frontline Child Protection Practitioners
24	Inspiring CDU's brightest Technology students
26	An opportunity to work at Darwin International Airport
28	Alumni supporting CDU through scholarships
30	Gordon Darling Foundation supports Top End visual arts at CDU Art Gallery
32	Encouraging Territory women and non-binary individuals to become politicians
34	Immersing Territory high school students in CDU STEM programs
36	CDU staff donations – many ways to give
40	Thank You
41	Our Donors
44	Staying Connected

From the Vice-Chancellor

2023 has been another busy and productive year for CDU. At the beginning of the year, we undertook a strong international student recruitment drive in the South-East Asian region, travelling to India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. We also opened a CDU Office in New Delhi, India to further strengthen our partnerships in this region.



Our strategic vision of being Australia's most connected University continues with the establishment of a new campus in Nhulunbuy, the formation of new and significant partnerships regionally and nationally, new courses and programs attracting students from around the world and our extensive program of public engagement activities including alumni, scholarship and donor celebration events.

We are so privileged to work in an environment where all we need to do is provide the opportunity for students to learn and they bring their interest and enthusiasm for knowledge to us. We had over 4000 graduates in 2023 including, 414 First Nations graduates. What an outstanding achievement for a regional University. CDU graduates also have one of the highest rates of employer satisfaction so, we know all our graduates are work-ready and equipped with the skills and knowledge to contribute and make a real difference in the world.

In research, we have continued to grow our international reputation. Research has always been an area where CDU punched well above its weight and this trend continued in 2023 with CDU climbing up in international rankings. Notably, we are one of the top 200 universities globally for research and impact towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Together with Menzies School of Health Research, we are proud to have 24 researchers in the top 2% of the world.

I am so proud to be Vice-Chancellor of this outstanding University. As the year ends, I am delighted to present the 2023 Donor Impact Report highlighting the significant and long-lasting contributions our donors make to our activities. It is a timely reminder that there is no group of people more connected and more committed to the University than its financial supporters. I am also very pleased to announce the appointment of the Hon. Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO as our new Vice-President Community Connection. Vicki already had close connections with the University as an alumna and former member of the University Council.



She embodies CDU's vision of connectedness, and her personal values of inclusion, kindness and openness align with our University values. I am thrilled that she has joined us in this pivotal role.

Your generous donations give our students opportunities to improve their lives and careers through higher education and training. You have also supported CDU research and innovation that will make lasting change nationally and internationally. You have given back to our community when they were in need and made our society stronger and our culture richer by doing so.

I am so inspired by your generosity.

In these pages, we acknowledge the contributions of those who are shaping the CDU of tomorrow and we share unique stories of giving that have helped CDU reach its goals this year.

On behalf of everyone at Charles Darwin University, thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Scott Bowman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Professor Scott Bowman AO
Vice-Chancellor and President



From the Vice-President Community Connection

I am very pleased to begin my new role as CDU's Vice-President Community Connection. I have a strong relationship with this University as an alumna and I hold a Bachelor of Children's Services from CDU.

I bring my cumulative skills and experience gained in previous roles as the former Administrator of the Northern Territory, former Chief Executive Officer of Somerville Community Services and ongoing advisory roles on various boards and committees locally and nationally to this exciting new position. Leading CDU's Community Connection team in nurturing excellent relationships with CDU's valued donors and creating strong community connections in the Territory and beyond will be my aim over the next few years.



CDU is a fantastic and innovative University and one with the needs of the Territory at its forefront. I am passionate about the contribution this University can make to Australia's higher education and vocational education sectors. It is such a privilege to lead a team focused on building relationships that will support CDU's vision. I look forward to championing our Territory's University locally, nationally and internationally together with you our esteemed donors.

Thank you,

Vicki O'Halloran.

Hon. Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO
Vice-President Community Connection

Donor-funded scholarships

CDU's generous donors provide a wide range of scholarships for our students. These include scholarships supporting First Nations students, skills development and training scholarships and scholarships combined with unique industrial training opportunities.

- > Akron Group NT Scholarship
- > Alicia Johnson Memorial Scholarship
- > ASPL Group First Nations Female Scholarship
- > Atomic 212st First Nations Media Scholarship
- > Atomic 212st First Nations Nursing Scholarship
- > Barbara Singer Environmental Scholarship
- > Carbine Club Scholarship
- > Charles See Kee Scholarship
- > Connellan Airways Outback Australia Scholarship
- > COSOL Scholarship
- > CSIRO Indigenous Scholarship
- > Cycas Scholarship
- > Darwin International Airport
- > Darwin International Airport First Nations Scholarship
- > Darwin Skills Development Scheme Community and Health Services Scholarship
- > DDR Australia First Nations Scholarship
- > Department of Corporate and Digital Development Scholarship
- > Department of Corporate and Digital Development Work Integrated Learning Scholarship
- > Department of Education Work Integrated Learning Scholarship
- > Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics Engineering Scholarship
- > Department of the Attorney - General and Justice Work Integrated Learning Scholarship
- > Department of the Chief Minister & Cabinet Work Integrated Learning Scholarship
- > Edgar Dunis Arts Scholarship - Higher Education
- > Edgar Dunis Arts Scholarship - TAFE
- > Flynn Family Fund Scholarship in Environmental Sciences
- > Future of Work Regional Education and Skills Program
- > Garth and Lorna Robertson Scholarship in Social Sciences
- > George Brown Memorial Scholarship
- > HWL Ebsworth Lawyers Scholarship
- > INPEX Scholarship
- > International House Darwin Academic Scholarship
- > International House Darwin Community Scholarship
- > Luma Luma Holiday Apartments Scholarship
- > Majarlin Kimberly Centre for Remote Health Scholarship
- > Maxwell Carment Scholarship in Humanities and Social Sciences



- › Mediserve Nursing Scholarship
- › Minister for Equality and Inclusion Scholarship for Men - Non-Traditional Occupations: Higher Education
- › Minister for Equality and Inclusion Scholarship for Men - Non-Traditional Occupations - VET
- › Minister for Equality and Inclusion Scholarship for Women - Higher Education
- › Minister for Equality and Inclusion Scholarship for Women - Site
- › Minister for Equality and Inclusion Scholarship for Women - TAFE
- › Minister for Equality and Inclusion Women Scholarship - Non-Traditional Trades
- › Morning Star Scholarship
- › National Tertiary Education Union Scholarship
- › NEC Information Technology Scholarship
- › NEC Regional Information Technology Scholarship
- › Newmont Australia Alice Springs Community TAFE Scholarship
- › Newmont Australia Alice Springs TAFE Pathways Scholarship
- › Newmont Australia First Nations Scholarship
- › Newmont Australia Scholarship
- › Nhulunbuy Corporation Scholarship
- › NT IT Scholarship for New Learning
- › Power and Water Scholarship in Memory of Trevor Horman
- › Radical Systems IT Scholarship
- › Sabaratnam Prathapan Scholarship
- › Sabrina J Di Lembo Memorial Scholarship
- › Sandy Nairn Memorial Scholarship
- › Santos Scholarship
- › Teacher Scholarship
- › Territory Families, Housing and Communities Work Integrated Learning Scholarship
- › The Joel Bradley Shaw Memorial Scholarship
- › The Michael Paspalis Entrepreneur Scholarship
- › The National Association of Women in Construction NT Scholarship – Technical and Further Education
- › The Northern Territory Department of Education Early Years Rewarding Careers: Early Childhood
- › The Northern Territory Department of Education Early Years Rewarding Careers: Early Childhood Educator Diploma Scholarship
- › The Northern Territory Department of Education Early Years Rewarding Careers: Early Childhood Educator Certificate III Scholarship
- › Top End Freemasons Scholarship in Memory of Tom Usher
- › Top End Native Plant Society Scholarship
- › Vocus Communications Scholarship
- › Waratah Cricket Club Scholarship
- › Women in Finance and Economics Scholarship Program

2023 Scholarship Celebration Event







PASPALIS

Darwin
Innovation
HUB

43-50 SMITH STREET

Harley Paroulakis

Paspalis Group and CDU partner to support and inspire the Territory's brightest minds

The Paspalis Group of Companies is well-known for its significant contributions to the Northern Territory. This year, CEO Harley Paroulakis donated \$50,000 to CDU to establish the Michael Paspalis Scholarship valued at \$10,000 per annum over the next five years. The scholarship, created in memory of Harley's grandfather Michael, will be advertised in November 2023 and be open to any CDU student enrolled in the third year of a Bachelor's degree program.

The scholarship application process will be competitive and aimed at career-minded students with creative entrepreneurial ability. It will also include a 12-week work placement at one of the Paspalis Group's companies, including the Darwin Innovation Hub. Paspalis Group and CDU will work closely with scholarship recipients to ensure that each work placement matches the student's future career goals.

"Michael Paspalis was the founder of our company and came to the Northern Territory in the 1920s. He really built up the company. He was involved in various industries – hotels, trade, property development and cinemas. So, as a pioneer of our company, it's nice to draw upon that heritage as well as the current relationship we have with the University which is modern and dynamic. We feel that it makes a very prestigious scholarship with a nice heritage to it. The student also gets the opportunity to undertake work placement in an area of our company that's best for them," said Harley.

Harley has also pledged an additional \$50,000 this year to CDU's Guardians of Greek Language and Culture program, taking the total value of his recent donation to CDU to \$100,000. He is extremely proud of his Greek heritage – the Paroulakis family has been a part of Darwin's Greek community for three generations, going back almost one hundred years. "Greeks account for about 10% of the Darwin population but I always add a footnote that we are probably 30% of Darwin's Gross Domestic Product," he explained at the 2023 CDU Guardians of Greek Language and Culture celebration.

Established in 2012, CDU's Guardians of Greek Language and Culture work very closely with the Northern Territory's Greek community to secure the University's Greek Language and Culture Program. Since establishment, the group has raised over \$1.5 million to develop Australia's best Hellenic and Greek Studies program. The program, headed by Professor George Frazis, incorporates opportunities for Greek study tours, postgraduate research, exchange programs, and advancing the understanding and appreciation of over 5,000 years of Greek influence on world history and culture.



Harold Thomas standing in front of his award-winning painting 'Tribal Abduction'. Photo taken by Fiona Morrison and originally published online by The Guardian.

The 2016 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAAs) winning painting *Tribal Abduction*, by renowned Aboriginal artist Harold Thomas was purchased by Harley, and has been on loan to CDU since 2018. “We felt that a place of learning and education would be the best home for this painting,” said Harley.

He acquired the deeply political and confronting artwork because he found it incredibly inspirational. He saw similarities in Harold’s artistic depiction of experiences suffered by Aboriginal people under colonial oppression and European Romantic Era artists’ depictions of the Greeks’ struggles under Ottoman rule in previous centuries. “I suppose that we struck a sort of unusual friendship and bond in that,” Harley said of his conversations with artist Harold Thomas. Mr Thomas told Harley that it was his hope that the artwork would not leave the Northern Territory and that it would inspire healing for Aboriginal people who suffered through the Stolen Generations. The painting is currently displayed in the University’s Chancellery building at Casuarina campus.

Harley’s business experience and affiliations are many and diverse including being the founder of the Darwin Innovation Hub. He also leads a team of Growth Facilitators appointed in 2020 by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources as a National Delivery Partner for the Business Management element of its Entrepreneurs Program. He aims to establish more partnerships with CDU in the future that draw on the Paspalis Group’s national and international Research and Development (R &D) experience, particularly from Singapore. “I think going forward, we have capacity to do other things with the University, but this is the start of it,” he said. He emphasised the importance of establishing connections between industry, research and regions through such partnerships.

“I am excited to be a part of a new direction in innovation and investment. Our goal is to be the commercialisation partner of CDU. So, we have committed \$100,000 to further R &D investment this year.”

– Harley Paroulakis.



Student testimonials from the 2023 CDU study tour to Greece:

"The program was an AMAZING experience. One that I will cherish forever. Almost two weeks later I still feel as if we are still altogether in Greece about to immerse ourselves in another full day of Hellenic language and cultural activities. We were strangers before we met, but within seconds, we all felt and acted like one happy and appreciative family."

"I can't believe how many Hellenic language, cultural experiences, opportunities and engagement with the local residents we were exposed to. It was an excellent environment in which we did make good use of our language skills. In fact, I have to re-teach myself to talk and think about my English the same way I did before the trip. I'm still defaulting to talking and thinking like a native Greek. My family are also amazed at the improvement in my spoken Greek."

"The activities on the itinerary such as purchasing our train tickets, ordering food, asking directions, shopping, listening to and asking questions of our tour guides and engaging with everyone that we met, volunteering to help people in need were so well planned and effective that there is no way that any one person could have experience what we did had they taken the trip on their own accord. So, for that, I thank you very much. Thank you for constantly reinforcing to us to talk and think GREEK! Engaging with other students who had a different level of Greek competency to mine also drastically improved my Greek language skills."



What it takes to be exceptional

Winning one University scholarship is commendable but winning two is exceptional. 18-year-old Darwin born and raised Veronica Thomas is that exceptional student. A first-year Bachelor of Engineering Science student, she is the winner of the 2023 Newmont Australia Scholarship and the CDU Pro-Vice Chancellors' Scholarships for High Achieving School Leavers.

Veronica comes from a large family. She is the seventh of thirteen children and according to her, the smartest one in the family, "just ask my mum," she said. Being one of many siblings gave her a burning desire to be outstanding and motivated her to excel in her studies. Her childhood was easy-going, mostly spent studying and enjoying time with loved ones. And she was always keenly interested in mathematics.

"Throughout school, I always pushed myself and achieved far better than I could have ever dreamt."

Her love of maths grew as she learnt more about it and engineering quickly became her most desirable career and study option. Her elder brother is also an engineer who completed his studies at CDU and now works for Newmont. The Newmont scholarship allows Veronica to undertake several weeks of work experience at Newmont's Tanami mine site during semester breaks, something that she is really looking forward to.

After graduation, she would like to be an engineer working on building design and structure or a specialist maths teacher helping students to achieve their dreams. Whatever direction her future career takes, the opportunity to use her mathematical skills in the real world after graduating really excites her.

Winning these two prestigious scholarships enables Veronica to immerse herself in her studies and takes away the pressure of having to work excessively to provide for herself. She plans to use these funds to purchase a car to travel to and from University. But these scholarships represent much more than just financial aid to her:

"They signify the validation and recognition of my efforts which motivates me to strive for excellence."

Newmont is the world's leading gold company and a producer of copper, silver, zinc and lead. Newmont's Tanami Operations support CDU students with a range of scholarships as part of its community and social engagement strategy. By providing these scholarships,

Newmont also seeks to identify talented students who may be interested in working with the company through programs tailored for students and graduates.

The CDU Pro-Vice Chancellors' Scholarships for High Achieving School Leavers provides financial support to top Northern Territory school leavers who choose to study at CDU. Since establishment, these scholarships have helped many high-achieving school leavers to undertake rewarding tertiary education without leaving the Territory.

"Being awarded the Newmont Australia Scholarship and the Pro-Vice Chancellors' Scholarships for High Achieving School Leavers is a great honour. I am forever grateful to the donors who have made this possible."

– Veronica Thomas



Supporting mature-age students to achieve their goals

The Sandy Nairn Memorial Scholarship was established in 2012 by Emeritus Professor Malcolm Nairn. He was the first Vice-Chancellor of the Northern Territory University now called Charles Darwin University. He arrived with his wife Sandy in Darwin in 1989 from Western Australia's Murdoch University where he was Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Business Manager. This scholarship was established in memory of his wife Sandy who died of lung cancer in 1993 while they were living in Darwin. Her last fond memories were of Darwin.

Sandy undertook higher education studies at a mature age after first bringing up their three children. This was Professor Nairn's motivation for funding this initiative:

"I wanted to establish a scholarship that would allow matured aged people to return to study after raising a family and I also had great affection for CDU as its first Vice-Chancellor."

Since establishing this scholarship, Professor Nairn has doubled the value of this contribution as he wants to better support awarded students through Australia's currently challenging financial times. Part of these funds are for use of the interest for ongoing scholarships in perpetuity. Some of Professor Nairn's children are also interested in continuing to support CDU so, he hopes that this scholarship will continue to enrich CDU students' lives for many years to come.

Brooke Campbell is the 2023 recipient of the Sandy Nairn Memorial Scholarship. Residing in Brisbane, she is a single mother to three young children – Noah aged seven, Aspen aged four and Henry aged two years.

"I am nearly 33 years old and have spent the last seven and a half years raising my young family and put my career on hold until now," she said.

Since childhood, she always had a strong interest in children and helping others. In 2021, Brooke did a Tertiary Enabling Program and worked very hard to achieve a good Grade Point Average to get into the degree of her dreams. She chose CDU to study a Bachelor of Midwifery because of the flexible fully online study option. As a busy single mother who works casually while studying fulltime, this scholarship provides invaluable financial support for her. Brooke's exceptional drive to pursue a career in midwifery is because her second son Darcy was stillborn at 36 weeks' gestation in 2017. She and her sister have since raised \$11,000 for the Bears of Hope charity to support other families who experience a miscarriage, still birth or neonatal death. Brooke has also raised awareness on stillbirth via media interviews and coverage nationally and internationally gaining appreciation from a global audience of women who have experienced stillbirth.



Brooke Campbell

She has done very well in her tertiary studies so far, receiving a letter of academic excellence from her faculty's Dean in two semesters. She hopes to graduate from CDU in 2025 and then take up a graduate midwifery position at a Brisbane hospital.

"I cannot overstate how thankful and honoured I am to receive this phenomenal gift. I truly have exceeded and pushed myself past all my limits both physically and mentally over the last nearly two years to achieve high results, support my children, escape a terrible marriage and show how independent and strong their mother can be."

– Brooke Campbell

Kristen Arkus was the 2022 recipient of the Sandy Nairn Memorial scholarship. She has two sons Ayden aged seven and Joshua aged 17 years. She is a nursing student studying fulltime while working as an enrolled nurse. This scholarship greatly assisted with the financial

burden of time spent away from work on clinical placement for her studies.

"I chose to further my career and study the Bachelor of Nursing as there is more opportunities for growth as a registered nurse. I am the first person in my family to study at University. Most importantly, I wanted to show my sons it was possible and hopefully inspire them to continue their education."

Kristen plans to obtain a position in CDU's new Graduate Nursing program after completing her current course. She aims to specialise in critical emergency care in this graduate study program and to gain experience in nursing in remote locations in future.



A scholarship in memory of a beloved daughter

The Sabrina J Di Lembo Memorial Scholarship was established in 2019 by Michael and Lidia Di Lembo to honour the memory and accomplishments of their daughter Sabrina Josephine Di Lembo.

The Scholarship is funded by SabrinasReach4Life charity, with fundraising and the contribution of generous supporters. Sabrina was a 2nd year law student at Charles Darwin University and on a CDU scholarship. She was a kind, loving, respectful and gracious young

lady committed to her studies who strived to always excel in everything she did in life. This scholarship provides financial support to a Territorian who is passionate about serving their community, understands the importance of promoting mental health and committed to spread awareness of the effects of anxiety and depression.

Brooke Griffin received this scholarship in 2023 and is studying towards a Master of Clinical Psychology at CDU. She is keen to make a meaningful impact in the field of mental health by contributing to the development of effective therapeutic interventions that address the complex needs of individuals struggling with mental health issues. She also wants to participate in community outreach programs to raise awareness about mental health, promote mental wellness and particularly to reduce the stigma of suicide in the community.

Through these efforts she hopes to make an impactful difference to the lives of people living in the Northern Territory.

Brooke Griffin with Lidia Di Lembo



As part of her current studies, she has also completed a work placement at Darwin's Don Dale Youth Detention Centre. This was an experience that she found very valuable as she got to work with a whole range of youth and highly experienced staff. Brooke first became interested in psychology when she was in high school through career awareness training, and she completed a Bachelor of Psychology before undertaking her current Master's degree.

"I understand that being a recipient of the Sabrina J Di Lembo Scholarship comes with certain responsibilities and I am fully committed to fulfilling them. I would be honoured to participate in any events or activities organised by SabrinasReach4Life to express my gratitude and contribute to the scholarship's mission," she said.

SabrinasReach4Life is local charity which provides peer led support to those bereaved by suicide; collaborates with key stakeholders in the prevention of suicide in our community; advocates for improvement in services to

those in distress; refers those in need to appropriate services or professionals; assists in reducing stigma of suicide by contributing to public awareness campaigns such as leading an annual forum on World Suicide Prevention Day and fundraises to support research, scholarships and local community initiatives. The organisation won the Suicide Prevention Australia 2023 National LiFE Awards for excellence in suicide prevention in the Northern Territory in the 'Communities in Action' category. They were also finalists in Awards Australia 2022 in the Northern Territory Community Achievement Awards for 'Health and Wellbeing'.

"I am determined to make the most of this opportunity and honour Sabrina's memory through my academic and career accomplishments. Thank you for this incredible honour and for supporting my aspirations."

– Brooke Griffin

Helping students become frontline Child Protection Practitioners

Nokuvimba Michelle Madzima is the 2023 recipient of the Territory Families, Housing and Communities' Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Scholarship for undergraduate and postgraduate CDU students studying social work or psychology. She is an international student born and raised in Masvingo, a small town in Zimbabwe and, completed her elementary and high school education in Zimbabwe.



"As a member of the Charity and Décor club at Regina Mundi High School, I did volunteer work with children, which sparked my interest in working with them. We made frequent trips to children's hospitals and orphanages to offer our assistance and to spend some quality time with them; seeing the smiles on their faces was really gratifying."

During the Covid 19 outbreak, Michelle also volunteered at another charity called Arise Deborah that fed orphans in Zimbabwe's most deprived communities. "I usually helped to make meals and served them to children on Thursdays," she said. These experiences made her realise that her efforts have the potential to positively affect the lives of those around her.

"I have always wanted to make a difference in the lives of others, which a career in social work allows me to do. With the WIL Scholarship, I will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of children through my work in Child Protection."

Now in her third year at CDU, pursuing a Bachelor of Social Work, her experience at CDU has been transformational both academically and personally. The comprehensive curriculum has provided her with a firm foundation of knowledge and skills essential for addressing the complex social issues that people face today. While studying, she has met and worked with people from a variety of backgrounds, which has helped her develop empathy, cultural competency, and the capacity to collaborate with different individuals. After graduating in 2025, she would like to use this knowledge to make a significant difference in people's lives and communities.

"I want to pursue a child protection career at the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities where I will safeguard the needs of children and give direct assistance to those in need. My ultimate purpose in life is to use my job to empower others, advance social justice, and improve society," said Michelle.



Michelle Madzima

"Your investment in my education will have a long-term influence on my life and the lives of the people I intend to serve. I am determined to make the most of this opportunity and will work hard to attain my goals. I genuinely appreciate your assistance and can't wait to start this new journey under your leadership."

– Michelle Madzima

The WIL scholarship not only lifts her financial burdens but also provides her with a renewed sense of motivation and determination as she can devote more time to her studies and take advantage of more opportunities for professional development.

For the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, providing this scholarship to CDU students serves as "an early careers pathway into the Northern Territory Public Sector, with the aim to build a skilled and work ready workforce". The Department works in close consultation with CDU, the scholarship donor agency and scholarship recipients to achieve this outcome.



Agnes Javier and Adam Whitehead from Radical Systems.

Inspiring CDU's brightest Technology students

Agnes Juliana Javier is the 2023 recipient of the Radical Systems IT Scholarship. This scholarship supports an enthusiastic and talented CDU Technology student who is passionate about their field to realise their goals by providing financial support and any available mentorship opportunities in their initial years of study.

First Nations Australian students are strongly encouraged to apply. Preference is also given to female applicants or those who identify as female, first in family to attend University or those who demonstrate financial, cultural or social disadvantage.

Agnes arrived in Darwin in early 2023 to study a Bachelor of Computer Science degree. During her first three months in Darwin, she already attended several networking events including the CDU IT Code Fair and an Engineers Australia welcome event. She also became



a member of the Australian Cyber Information Security Association and plans to attend the association's Australian Cyber Conference in future. She wants to use her scholarship funds to invest in her studies by attending more networking events, workshops or to purchase tech equipment. After graduating, Agnes would like to explore her IT career options via an internship. She hopes that a suitable internship would allow her to gain the necessary experience and skills to develop her career in the Northern Territory's IT industry.

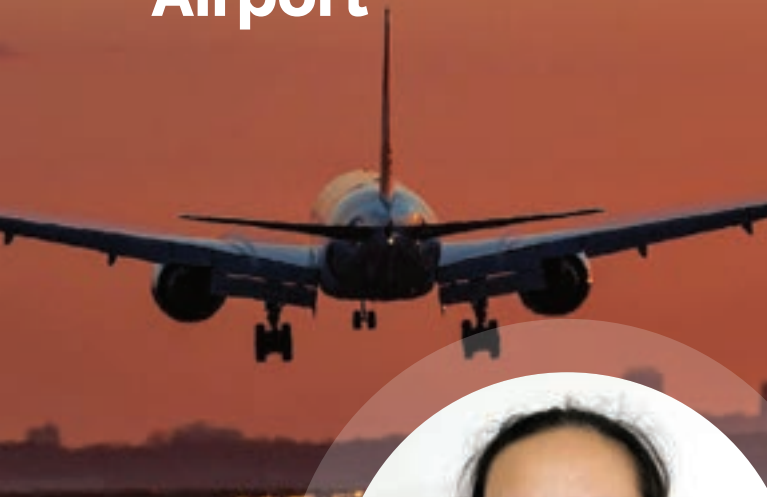
"I sincerely appreciate your trust and financial support of my studies. Not only have you lessened my financial burden with my education, but it has also fuelled me to strive even more to be successful and make a significant contribution to society. I will continue to learn all that I can and share that knowledge in return to future students like me," Agnes said.

Radical Systems is a Northern Territory-based technology service provider with leading expertise in software development, implementation, and related services. The company commenced operations in 2009 and currently employs 57 professional staff dedicated to delivering highly functional and innovative technology solutions that make business more efficient. The company is keen to support the education and careers of talented Northern Territory Information Technology students.

"This would not have been possible without your help and your contribution will immensely help me to attain my educational goals."

– Agnes Javier

An opportunity to work at Darwin International Airport



Thi Ngoc Hong Luu (Sandy) 2022 scholarship recipient.

The Darwin International Airport Scholarship supports high achieving CDU students interested in gaining life experience through work placements with Northern Territory Airports. First Nations Australians are strongly encouraged to apply. The scholarship provides the opportunity for a student to gain practical work experience in their field at the Airport Development Group (ADG) as the successful applicant undertakes 4-6 weeks work placement each year with ADG during semester breaks with a paid salary. The duration of each scholarship is six semesters and is \$1,250 per semester.

Thi Ngoc Hong Luu (Sandy) was a 2022 recipient of this scholarship. She is enrolled in a Bachelor of Laws degree at CDU and is very interested in Contracts, Torts and Commercial Law. She intends to work in these areas of law after graduation. The opportunity to work with the ADG will provide valuable experience for her future career.

"The scholarship will support me financially to complete my study. Thank you so much for your generosity," Sandy said.

Darryl Sonza was another recipient of this scholarship and also a CDU Bachelor of Laws student. Originally from the Philippines, he has been a Northern Territory resident since 2015. Since living here, he also started a family. "My two daughters are born and raised as proud Territorians," he said. He stopped working fulltime in 2021 to study full-time. To support his family, he does some part-time consulting work as well as casual employment with a local practice involved in insurance litigation. This scholarship was a welcome relief financially for him and he looks forward to the work placement component of the scholarship. Darryl is deeply invested in the Territory and believes there is

a lot of opportunity to make the Northern Territory as competitive as any other state in Australia. He thinks that Darwin is best positioned as Australia's geographical gateway to Asia and is also a viable technology hub, given the right support and investments.

"I recognise Darwin Airport's important role in making all these a reality. Therefore, to be able to start and maintain a relationship with the organisation through this scholarship is an important opportunity for me, personally and professionally, as a Territorian and a future legal practitioner," Darryl explained.

ADG has held an agreement with CDU since 2017. The first 3-year agreement was to provide a scholarship for a CDU student enrolled in Environmental Science. The latest agreement was made in 2022 for two scholarships (total of \$30,000 for a duration of six semesters) and both were awarded in the second semester of 2022. Darwin International Airport also supports First Nations CDU students with a dedicated scholarship to financially support high achieving students interested in gaining life experience through work placements with Northern Territory Airports.

"Our last successful applicant, Matt Evans, is now a full-time permanent employee with ADG as the Environment and Sustainability Officer," said Leanne Coburn Executive General Manager – People, Culture & Community of the Airport Development Group.





AKRON co-owner George Vordohilas.

Alumni supporting CDU through scholarships

The AKRON Group Northern Territory Scholarship financially supports a driven and hardworking Territorian enrolled in a CDU Higher Education degree program in the areas of Business or Engineering. AKRON Group NT owners George and Maria Vordohilas established this scholarship, in order to give back to the community as part of their local engagement program. In addition, to supporting the next generation into the workforce, Akron hopes that this scholarship provides both a financial and educational benefit to the students, as well as providing the successful applicants with a placement program with AKRON. George and Maria are both also CDU alumnus.



CDU has more than
88,000 Alumni
living and working
in Australia or
internationally.



You'll find CDU
alumni in more than
140 countries
worldwide.



CDU engages
with nearly
30,000 alumni
each month.



**Alumni engage
with students**
through activities
including mentoring
and networking events.



“We also provide a placement experience as part of this scholarship which I think is a really useful on-field experience for them,” said Maria.

The Akron Group has a long commercial history in Darwin. It was established in 1961 by its founder Emmanuel Vordohilas who has an extensive background in building and civil works within the Northern Territory. Since then, Akron Group NT has grown to be the Northern Territory’s largest privately owned asset maintenance provider.

Joshua Leong was the 2022 recipient of the AKRON Group Northern Territory Scholarship. He is enrolled in a Bachelor of Engineering honours degree, specialising in civil and structural engineering. He wants to pursue a career in Engineering with a goal to remain in the Territory to help sustain its infrastructure and structural developments. He chose to continue studying in the Territory to remain close to his family.

“I have lived in the Territory my whole life, which has also encouraged my decision to remain in the Territory as I formed an essential attachment to the area, I consider home. This scholarship is significant to me

“ You have also significantly reduced my financial pressure, allowing me to focus more on university tasks without worrying about finding a way to pay for my university expenses. I am truly grateful for this opportunity. Thank you so much for your generosity.”

– Joshua Leong

and my future aspirations as it provides opportunities to broaden my skills and knowledge and gain essential experience,” he said.

This scholarship will help to open future pathways to engineering work opportunities in the Territory for Joshua and he would also like to work with the AKRON Group in future. The work placement opportunity provided with the scholarship gives him the opportunity to learn what is required to be an efficient civil engineer, gain new connections, and further understand the fundamentals of civil engineering.

Gordon Darling Foundation supports Top End visual arts at CDU Art Gallery

The Charles Darwin University Art Gallery was delighted to receive support from the Gordon Darling Foundation toward the design and publication of the exhibition catalogue, *Manburrba: our story of printed cloth from Bábbarra Women's Centre*. This 108-page full-colour publication, edited by Dr Joanna Barrkman, Curator, CDU Art Gallery documents the creative journey undertaken by Maningrida women artists over the past 37 years, featuring over 40 striking and colourful hand-printed textiles made by 22 artists, as well as some early lino-block, screen-prints and etchings on paper.



Cover of the exhibition catalogue, *Manburrba: our story of printed cloth from Bábbarra Women's Centre*, published by the CDU Art Gallery in 2023.

From humble beginnings in a disused shed in one of Australia's most remote communities, Bábbarra is now recognised as one of Australia's major First Nations textile enterprises. Their reputation for large-scale, repeat, screen-printed textiles now span Australia and the globe.

"The Gordon Darling Foundation enabled us to tell this story. Together with the artists from Bábbarra Women's Centre we've created a lasting record of the genesis of lino-block and screen-printing on cloth by women from Maningrida, in Arnhem Land," said exhibition curator, Dr Joanna Barrkman.

The catalogue relates to the cultural significance embedded in the various textile designs, as articulated by the artists, as well as essays that outline cultural protocols that inform the textiles designs and the history of Bábbarra Women's Centre including the role of CDU in fostering screen-printing techniques at Maningrida with First Nations artists in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

The Gordon Darling Foundation was established in 1991 by Gordon Darling AC (b. 1921– d. 2015). Its purpose is to fund visual arts activities Australia-wide, including access to and enjoyment of all areas of the visual arts, to the broadest possible audience. The Foundation has a national reputation for the support of a wide range of visual arts projects in all Australian states and territories and helps to promote Australian arts in the international arena.



Raylene Ngarridjjan Bonson and Genevieve Smith screen-print *Bawáliba* design by Lucy Bulandjan Yarawanga. Image reproduced courtesy of Bábbarra Women's Centre. Photograph taken by Ingrid Johanson, 2018.

Manburrba; our story of printed cloth from Bábbarra Women's centre is the second CDU Art Gallery catalogue supported by the Gordon Darling Foundation who also supported the catalogue *Sculptures of Atauro Island* in 2017. *Manburrba: our story of printed cloth from Bábbarra Women's Centre* features contributions by Dr Joanna Barrkman, Professor Scott Bowman AO, Ziian Carey, Ingrid Johanson, Janet Kalidjan Marawarr, Lucy Bulandjan Yarawanga and Janita Wamutjan Yikara. It was printed by UniPrint and designed by Black Dog Graphics. The catalogue is available for purchase from the CDU Art Gallery and Bábbarra Women's Centre.



Front row: The Hon. Natasha Fyles MLA - Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, The Hon. Sally Thomas AC - Former Administrator of the Northern Territory, Lia Finocchiaro MLA - Leader of the Opposition with 2022 cohort.

Encouraging Territory women and non-binary individuals to become politicians

The Trawalla Foundation has renewed its support of CDU Northern Institute's Pathways to Politics Program for Women and non-binary Northern Territory residents in 2023. This is a proudly non-partisan initiative that aims to change the face of Australian politics by equipping women from marginalised or minority groups with the skills, knowledge, confidence and networks they need to run for elected office and to thrive as political leaders. The Benjamin Duncan Foundation and the DGP Foundation have also recently donated funds to support this program.

"For more than 20 years I've been passionate about improving the quality of leadership and decision making in Australia. Sadly, Australia continues to suffer from a chronic underrepresentation of women in leadership positions and currently ranks as 51st in the world when it comes to the representation of women in government."
- Carol Schwartz AO, Chair, Trawalla Foundation.

The Pathways to Politics program is a nation-wide initiative of the Trawalla Foundation, Women's Leadership Institute Australia and the University of Melbourne. It is also offered in other Australian states and territories by the University of Melbourne, Queensland University of Technology, the University of New South Wales, the University of Adelaide and the University of Canberra. It will also be offered by other Australian universities in future.

More information about this innovative program can be found on the Pathways to Politics national network website pathwaystopolitics.org.au.

CDU's 2023 programme was held in September at the Northern Institute located at the University's Casuarina campus in Darwin. The University is deeply appreciative that the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO, former Administrator of the Northern Territory (2017-2023), is Patron of our Pathways to Politics Program for Women in the Northern Territory. The CDU program is open to female-identifying and non-binary residents of the Northern Territory. For participants that have undertaken the program, you become part of an extensive, supportive national network of diverse and highly motivated women from various political, professional, and cultural backgrounds, all dedicated to making a tangible difference in the political landscape. There is no cost to participate in this program.

An alumna of CDU's Pathways to Politics Program for Women has put the skills and knowledge she learnt to the test as she led the "Yes" campaign in the Northern Territory in 2023. Georgie Corrie is a proud Nyamal woman born and raised on Wurundjeri Land of the Kulin Nation who graduated from the inaugural Pathways to Politics Program for Women (NT) last year.

"Pursuing a career in politics is not only a good thing for women but it is also good for the community. I really encourage Territorian women to take up this opportunity, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain," Ms Corrie said.

"I also want to encourage women who are interested in becoming involved on boards or the land council for instance to apply for this program. It provides helpful skills that are usable in a range of situations and will help you to have your voice heard so that you can make a difference."

CDU's continuing commitment to offering this unique mentoring program could not occur without the generous support of the Trawalla Foundation.



Testimonials from supporters and politicians:

Annabel Crabb, journalist and television presenter:

"Pathways to Politics doesn't just bewail the undersupply of women in public office: it takes practical steps to address the problem, equipping women with the skills and confidence to get involved.... It's an invaluable down payment on a better kind of politics."

Samantha Ratnam MP, Leader of the Victorian Greens:

"I continue to be impressed by the grounding that participants receive through Pathways to Politics about the nature of political life, its opportunities and challenges. Having worked with several participants who were subsequently elected to the Victorian parliament, I can attest to the ground-breaking nature of the program and how it is helping to change the face of politics."


Helen Haines MP, Independent Member for Indi:

"It's critical that we have more women making decisions at all levels of government to take us to a stronger, more inclusive future. Pathways to Politics is a brilliant and clever program designed to equip women for election and build their networks so they can be the change makers we so urgently need."

Senator the Hon Jane Hume, Liberal Senator for Victoria:

"Through its thoughtfully structured program and speakers, Pathways to Politics gives participants the right combination: the unvarnished realities of political life, the expectations and commitment it requires, but also the extraordinary opportunities a political career presents, how fulfilling it can be, the value your pre-politics life can bring to the table and the unparalleled opportunity to make a contribution and make a difference."





Immersing Territory high school students in CDU STEM programs

In 2013, the Hon. Austin Asche AC KC established CDU's highly successful Year 11 Science Experience program for the Northern Territory's brightest secondary school students. This program enables exceptional students, with an aptitude for science and who have been nominated by their school, to attend a two-day immersive on-campus science education experience. Students participate in a range of activities supervised by CDU academics led by Dr Carla Eisemberg – Associate Dean Innovation and Lecturer in STEM Pathways.

“Let me just say that this University has the greatest future of any University in Australia. We are close to Asia, we are in Darwin, a multi-racial city, where students can feel quite relaxed and of course we have brilliant professors and students. I think it's just a matter of time before we will be one of the most important universities in Australia,” Hon. Austin Asche AC KC said about the significant role that CDU plays in the Northern Australian region.

Last year's Year 11 Science Experience program was held at CDU's Casuarina Campus in October. 17 students from eight Northern Territory Schools attended this program. 10 Darwin schools, five Katherine schools and two Alice Springs schools participated in the program. Topics and activities that students experienced included Material



The Hon. Austin Asche AC KC with his daughter Wendy Asche.

Science, Entrepreneurship, Biotechnology and Haematology, Chem-E-Car, Immersive Tech in Health Science, Virtual Reality, Turtle handling, Robotics and Sports Science. The 2023 program was held in November.

The program aims to enable students who show exceptional talent and imagination to experience the cutting edge of science and inspire them to pursue further challenges and educational offerings in the science field. Meals, transport, and equipment for all program activities are provided, as well as travel and accommodation for students from outside of the Darwin region as required. Students also get to engage more informally with CDU's STEM lecturers and other notable guests at a gala dinner.

“

Student testimonials:

“There was a great range of activities from a variety of branches of science. This experience was engaging to both teachers and students. Thank you!”

“It has been a fantastic experience, thank you so much to all the facilitators!”

“Loved the Year 11 Science Experience and would like to come again.”

”

CDU staff donations – many ways to give

CDU staff can donate to the University and to wider charitable initiatives via our dedicated staff giving program, targeted appeals or by establishing scholarships.

CDyou staff giving program

CDyou, our giving program for CDU employees is a simple and effective way for staff to regularly donate pre-tax dollars through automated payroll deductions to support CDU programs or our charity partners. 100% of staff contribution is directed to a cause of their choice and the University matches dollar-for-dollar any staff donation towards internal activities. So, the impact of staff giving in support of internal activities is doubled. The CDyou staff giving program also allows staff to nominate external charities that they would like to support like the *Black Dog Institute*, *Foodbank NT* and the *No More Campaign*.

This year, \$5,000 was donated by CDyou staff giving to the University's Indigenous Student Support Fund was used by CDU's First Nations Leadership & Engagement team to take 18 First Nations CDU students to the 2023 Indigenous Nationals Uni Games. The games were held at Monash University in Melbourne in June 2023. These games give CDU First Nations students the opportunity to network with First Nations students from other Australian universities, promote wellbeing and healthy living, celebrate culture and identity through positive role models, and build connections and friendships. It also encourages stronger student engagement with CDU leading to greater student success and outcomes and promotes CDU on the national stage.

"We attended our first games in 2022. The CDU team competed in four core sports - Basketball, Netball, Volleyball and Touch Football over the course of five days against 35 other Australian universities. Our attendance was a great success." Jeanette O'Brien, Senior Administration Officer – First Nations Leadership & Engagement.



2023 CDU Emergency Flood Appeal

In 2023, Gurindji Country in the Northern Territory experienced severe floods that devastated Kalkarindji, Daguragu, Pigeon Hole and surrounding communities. Many families lost their homes and belongings and were in urgent need of assistance. People from these communities were evacuated to the Centre for National Resilience at Howard Springs outside of Darwin. Community children were also hosted by Darwin's public schools during this challenging time. Through an emergency appeal to CDU staff and matched donations

by the University, CDU was able to raise a total of \$8,990 that was split evenly between two well-established, community-led organisations who were on the ground directly supporting communities: Gurindji Aboriginal Corporation and Karungkarni Art and Culture Centre. The impact of this major disaster will be felt by many people - families, Elders, and children - well into the future. We extend our *heartfelt* thanks to staff who generously supported the CDU Flood Appeal for this region.



Scholarships

Staff can also establish tailored scholarships through the CDyou staff giving program. One example is the Waratah Cricket Club Scholarship established in 2019 by a staff member. This \$5000 scholarship, awarded annually, enables a Darwin cricketer to support themselves through a CDU course while playing cricket for the Waratah Warriors Cricket Club.

Kanishka Weerakoon was the 2020 recipient of this scholarship and used it to support completion of CDU's Master of Professional Accounting course. He now works as an accountant for CDU Finance and continues to umpire cricket on the weekends as he loves this sport. When Kanishka applied for this scholarship, he was experiencing a challenging time having arrived in Australia to study in 2018 and needing to also secure casual work to support himself. "I had a dream to come to Australia for my studies and I was successful at the end," he said.

In 2020, COVID-related workplace crises made him lose the casual job that he held at the time, and winning this scholarship helped him to continue studying

"I'd like to thank everyone that helped me during a really difficult financial time for me, even with just a word to encourage me to keep studying. I was in the last year of my studies, and I'd used all my money to pay my uni fees when I won this scholarship. I felt like I'd won a million dollar ticket at that time."

– Kanishka Weerakoon

uninterrupted. Kanishka completed his schooling in Sri Lanka at Kalutara Vidyalaya – a school renowned for producing outstanding Sri Lankan cricketers like Tillakaratne Dilshan a former captain of the Sri Lankan national cricket team. Kanishka himself played cricket throughout his schooling and also played club level cricket in Sri Lanka before moving to Australia and joining the Waratah Cricket Club. His cricketing skills provided the unique opportunity to apply for this scholarship to further his career prospects. After graduating from CDU, he worked in Darwin for Bendigo Bank and the Northern Land Council before joining CDU Finance.

Kanishka Weerakoon



CDU staff say why they give:

"I have always donated a percentage of my earnings – that's why I give to the staff programme," CDU professional staff member.

"The reason I give, is that I know it makes a difference. If giving makes a difference to the life of one student, then it is all worth it," Professor Rueben Bolt – Deputy Vice-Chancellor First Nations Leadership.

"I donate because education changes lives, and every little bit helps to change a life for the better and to give people opportunities," Professor Hilary Winchester – former Vice-President Governance & University Secretary.

"I choose to give to the remote students fund so that they can access similar opportunities as CDU's urban students have access to," Alice Doyle – Associate Vice Chancellor East Arnhem Region.

"I came to Australia as an international student in 2005. I remember how difficult it was for me and my partner to manage financially during that period when I was studying, and he only had a part-time work permit. That is why I give – so CDU can support its students better," CDU professional staff member.



The 2023 CDU
Flood Appeal raised
\$8990



Since commencement,
the CDyou staff giving
program has raised
over \$250,000



The CDyou program was relaunched
mid-2022 and over the last 12 months,
we have raised over \$52,000.

Most of these funds were allocated to
supporting students through scholarships,
prizes and other programs.



*Staff can also support other CDU initiatives like
the area of greatest need at the University.*

Thank You

To all our donors, supporters, mentors, ambassadors, volunteers, champions, influencers, and friends - thank you for supporting Charles Darwin University.

Your generosity and contribution are transforming lives and making an impact across our University, local communities and broader society.

There is no CDU, without YOU.





Our Donors

Friends of CDU is a community of like-minded individuals who share a passion for Charles Darwin University and its ability to contribute to the future prosperity of Northern Australia and beyond through innovative and impactful training, research and education.

Friends of CDU is the umbrella program for our different donor groups: Guardians of Greek Language and Culture, Friends of the CDU Art Gallery, the CDU Bequest Society, the CDyou staff giving program and all donors who have gifted \$1000 or more to CDU during their lifetime.

- **Vice Chancellor's Circle:** \$250,000+
- **Patron:** \$100,000+
- **Companion:** \$50,000+
- **Senior Fellow:** \$25,000+
- **Fellow:** \$10,000+
- **Friend:** \$1,000+

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CDU thanks the generous 'Friends' who have supported our University this year. We especially thank everyone who collectively contributed \$26,970 to the Sifat Appeal which was created to support the late Md Isfaqur Rahman (Sifat), who lost his life in a home invasion.

According to his family's wishes, \$25,000 went directly to the family and \$1,970 to the Bangladeshi Student Association.

PATRONS

Individuals

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Dr. David Liddle and
Robyn Liddle
Emeritus Prof. Mal Nairn AM
Prof. Jai Singh AM

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The Hon. Sally Thomas AC

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*We also thank everyone who has supported CDU,
our staff and our wonderful students in 2023.*

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www.cdu.edu.au/alumni-giving/giving/friends-cdu

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At Charles Darwin University, we believe a new world University is built on social justice, sustainability, creativity, and collective effort.

A place where everyone can follow their passion to make things better however big or small. We strive for excellence, integrity, accountability, and equal opportunity for all. We value and respect the place, history, and culture of First Nations Australians.

Your support assists the University in bringing people together to use knowledge to help shape a brighter future.

Your support matters immensely and we thank you.

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Including the University in your Will is a way to provide lasting support for our work and our students beyond your lifetime. If you have included CDU in your Will or are considering if a bequest is appropriate for you, please contact us at:

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