

Encounter

THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE FOR FLINDERS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS / 2021

Silver linings in a tourism grey area

Ensuring sustainable shark tourism



Flinders
UNIVERSITY

FEARLESS

Acknowledgement of Country

Flinders University acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which its campuses and centres are located, and honours Elders past and present. These are the traditional lands of the Arrernte, Barngarla, Boandik, Dagoman, Erawirung, Gunditjmara, Jawoyn, Kurna, Larrakia, Nauo, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri, Peramangk, Ramindjeri, Wardaman, Warumungu, and Yolngu people, spanning across South Australia, Northern Territory and Victoria.

ARTWORK CREDIT

Elizabeth Close brings new warmth to the Tjilbruke student lounge

Aboriginal artist and Flinders University Nursing graduate, Elizabeth Close (BNg(PreReg) '07), has created a new mural in the Tjilbruke student lounge within Yunggoendi Mande – the home of the University's support service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

'This is a space where students from all corners of the continent and the Islands come together,' says Elizabeth, a Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara woman. 'Their journeys are all different and not linear. Yet there is a sameness across them all, which is the desire to come here to learn and take that knowledge back.'

Flinders University is pursuing opportunity



My thoughts are with our alumni, wherever you are in the world, and whatever challenges you are facing as the pandemic continues.

Flinders University is vigorously pursuing COVID-related research in the knowledge that our efforts are having a real impact. But this research is not our sole focus and we continue to forge ahead with a range of initiatives to strengthen our growth.

Our campuses are now powered by 100% renewable energy from our solar arrays and a local windfarm, achieving net-zero emissions from electricity. The completion of the Flinders Station and rail line means our Bedford Park and Tonsley campuses are more accessible than ever before – merely 20 minutes from the CBD.

Our new Station Plaza is the first step in realising our *Flinders Village* vision which will combine education, research, health and community, unlocking a potential \$1.1 billion in economic activity. Planning for our Health and Medical Research Building is well advanced with construction expected to commence in late 2021.

This past year we celebrated the first anniversary of our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan, the graduation of the inaugural class of our award-winning Diploma of Digital Technologies, and the 20-year anniversary of our partnership with Nankai University in China.

Our collaborative initiative, *Line Zero Factory of the Future*, continues to harness international industry engagement and leverage Flinders' research, with State government investment fast-tracking stage 1 of a permanent *Line Zero* facility.

Finally, the award of the \$270 million Marine Bioproducts Cooperative Research Centre, driven by Flinders University, will provide an anticipated benefit to South Australia of \$364 million over 15 years.

As you read this, I hope that borders are opening and we can soon welcome you to campus to experience for yourselves our fearless pursuit of excellence, and the impact we are having in our community and beyond.

Professor Colin J. Stirling
President and Vice-Chancellor

Flinders-Nankai milestone

The 20-year anniversary of Flinders University's partnership with Nankai University in China marks a significant milestone in the relationship between the two universities.

From humble beginnings in 2000, this important collaboration has expanded postgraduate education opportunities in both China and Australia.

Joint university programs include the Master of Arts (International Relations in Economy and Trade) which commenced in 2000, the Master of Hospital Administration in 2003, and more recently the Master of Educational Leadership and Management in 2012.

To mark this special anniversary, a publication and video shared stories from Nankai University alumni, including Dr Kunhua Wang (pictured below), a 2007 graduate of the Master of Hospital Administration.

Within six years of graduating, Dr Wang became President of the First Affiliated Hospital in Yunnan Province. He says his studies in the Flinders-Nankai program set him on a path to where his work is now making a significant difference in the sector.

'I was eager to explore solutions to hospital administration problems,' says Dr Wang. 'So I was pleased that the Flinders-Nankai program adopts advanced learning and exchange teaching modes, integrates teaching and research, and uses cutting-edge teaching materials and advanced teaching methods.'

Dr Wang now has ambitious plans to build an 'internet hospital' integrating the hospital technology and medical services of a major hospital, for people living in the remote mountain areas of Yunnan.



What's inside



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Design: Esther Johnson

Photography: Feature photos by Brenton Edwards, unless indicated

Cover photo: Getty

Printed in South Australia by Flinders Press using soy-based inks on Sovereign Silk paper, which includes a mix of recycled content and content from suppliers who practise responsible forestry techniques. Using chlorine-free pulps, the paper is manufactured to strict regulations in Australian paper mills with international standards on low environmental impact.

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- 06 **Our Alumni** • Sarah Brown AM is a force for hope and understanding
- 08 **Our Alumni** • Lee Cumberlidge is illuminating Adelaide
- 10 **Research** • Dying2Learn is opening up difficult conversations
- 11 **Research** • New hope for tinnitus sufferers
- 12 **Our Alumni** • Leanne Liddle is closing the gap on justice
- 14 **Opinion** • Dr Lauren Meyer on ensuring sustainable shark tourism
- 16 **Careers** • HASS Student-Alumni Mentoring Program creates opportunities
- 18 **Our Alumni** • Congratulations to our 2020 Alumni Awards
- 20 **Research** • Support for autistic people unwittingly involved in crime
- 22 **Our Alumni** • Rose Tucker celebrates our special relationship with dogs
- 24 **Our Alumni** • Ben Tripodi's new venture creates Hoap
- 25 **Philanthropy** • Calthorpe Wong Indigenous Medical Scholarship
- 26 **Philanthropy** • Barbara Hughes supports cancer research
- 31 **Our Alumni** • Kate Bohunnis is exploring the *Edges of Excess*
- 32 **Careers** • Digital shipbuilding for the future
- 34 **Our Alumni** • 2021 Fulbright Scholars and Australian Honours

The resilience of our Flinders family



In another disrupted year, we have been buoyed by the resilience of our Flinders family and the many achievements of our alumni.

Alumnus Ben Tripodi has created software that is helping organisations support the health and wellbeing of staff working from home. Read about this timely development on page 24.

I am inspired by the generosity of our alumni, who in 2020 made up 50% of our donors to the Matthew Flinders Scholarship. This program continues to support students experiencing financial hardship as a result of ongoing unemployment and underemployment during the pandemic.

Our academics and researchers continue to make a difference across the community. On page 11 read about a new study led by our audiology researchers, which hopes to bring relief to the one in six people in Australia who suffer from chronic tinnitus.

The *RAP Forum: Sharing our stories* was a highlight of the first year of our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. Sharing stories is an important way to acknowledge our alumni who are advancing reconciliation. On page 6 read about Sarah Brown AM who is improving medical services in remote communities, and on page 12 learn how Leanne Liddle is driving the landmark Aboriginal Justice Agreement in the Northern Territory.

The University is partnering with BankSA this year to bring new opportunities to our students, staff and graduates, including our BRAVE lecture series. The free, in-person and online public lectures, presented by our researchers, are tackling the big questions facing society. Learn more via flinders.edu.au/brave

I am delighted that we have been able to offer in-person graduation celebrations to our 2020 graduates, and I look forward to welcoming our newest graduates in December this year.

I wish you well as we continue to live with the anticipation of 'normal' around the next corner.

Kim Pryor
Alumni Relations Manager

BankSA benefits for Flinders Alumni.

BankSA is proud to partner with Flinders University and is excited to offer Flinders graduates a number of benefits.

For details on current offers available, please visit workplacebanking.banksa.com.au and enter the code: **FLINDE**

1300 361 159 | sbgpartners@banksa.com.au

A force for hope and understanding

Sarah Brown AM is a crucial figure in the development of improved services in remote communities.

With a focus on advancing the health of Aboriginal Australians for nearly two decades, Sarah Brown AM (GradDipHlthAdmin '15) is CEO of the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation, known as Purple House.

Purple House was established after Pintupi people and community art centres raised \$1 million through an art auction in 2000. The aim was to install dialysis units in Aboriginal communities so community members could stay on country, avoiding the need to travel hundreds of kilometres for treatment, and the cultural problems that accompany displacement from home.

'I've been inspired by Pintupi community leaders who have stayed strong and determined to look after their families on country,' says Sarah, who believes in supporting Indigenous leadership.

Driven by Sarah's zeal and focus, Purple House now has more than 150 staff. They operate 18 remote clinics in the NT, WA, and SA, a self-contained mobile dialysis unit called the Purple Truck, nine social support services, and an aged care service.

SERVICES TAILORED TO NEED

She says her primary role is to help activate each community's wishes, to meet their particular needs.

'Aboriginal communities are coming up with their own solutions of how to overcome health care problems,' says Sarah. 'It's not a generic solution – each program is run according to the wishes and input of each community, to best suit its people.'

An incredible result of this tailored approach is that Purple House patients now have a longer life expectancy than non-Aboriginal people on dialysis.

EXPANDING THE OUTREACH

The reach of the successful Purple House model is now extending further, to improve health outcomes for even more remote communities throughout Australia.

Through a crowdfunding campaign that raised \$100,000, and with additional government funding, Sarah recently purchased a block of land in Coober Pedy to build a new Purple House dialysis centre for use by the local community.

The program's influence continues to grow with the recent introduction of a federal Medicare claim number based on the Purple House model of dialysis care. This will provide continued funds to ensure the program's long-term sustainability.

The centre has also been invited to manage remote community aged care, is teaching patients how to cook healthy food, and in Alice Springs is manufacturing bush medicine for sale to remote communities.

Excitingly, Purple House patients have been involved in developing the innovative Wangka Kutju language translation app for mobile phones, converting speech and words from English to Pintupi and vice versa.

The expansion of Purple House services and programs has been demanding on the hard working team, but is having positive results.

'It's all a bit hectic,' Sarah admits, 'but it's having a profound impact. It's empowering Aboriginal people, giving them some agency and giving them more control over how they lead their life. It's busting some stereotypes of how people think about Aboriginal Australia.'

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION RECOGNISED

Sarah's inspiring work has won national recognition. The *Australian Financial Review* named her on its 2018 list of BOSS True Leaders, and she was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2020 for her significant service to community health, remote area nursing, and to the Indigenous community.

Sarah's outstanding contribution to community health, remote area nursing and the advancement of independent Aboriginal community-controlled health initiatives was also recognised with a 2020 Convocation Medal from Flinders University – the highest accolade of our annual Alumni Awards.

STUDYING TO LEARN AND APPLY BEST PRACTICE

Sarah says studying at Flinders University's Alice Springs campus was a crucial turning point in her career.

'While I've been in the same role for 18 years, it keeps changing and growing, so my study at Flinders enabled me to apply what I read and learned into my real-life work,' says Sarah. 'I could see how other organisations were dealing with issues, challenges and opportunities and my study gave me the discipline to spend time reading, thinking and reflecting on best practice.'

Having helped people from the Western Desert to run a new model of care for people requiring dialysis on country, and seeing that model expand and flourish, Sarah's ambition now is straightforward: 'To keep helping the Purple House mob out as long as they will have me.'

She says, 'I just try to be a force of hope and understanding, and to help people live a good life on country.'

“It's empowering Aboriginal people, giving them some agency and giving them more control over how they lead their life. It's busting some stereotypes of how people think about Aboriginal Australia.”

SARAH BROWN AM

Illuminating Adelaide

Lee Cumberlidge has always liked throwing parties but never thought he would do it for a living.

One of the first graduates from Flinders University's Cultural Tourism degree (now Tourism and Events), Lee Cumberlidge (BCuLT '00) has thrown one of the brightest public parties Adelaide has ever seen – illuminating the city during winter as co-founder and creative director of Illuminate Adelaide.

'By transforming the city with light installations at night, we created a magical place that people least expected and spread through several precincts across the city, to make a really big artistic statement,' says Lee.

'It's an idea that came through wanting to create a brand new event for Adelaide, and winter seemed to provide a window of opportunity to do something unique.'

Despite being temporarily impacted by a COVID-19 lockdown, the incredible event saw 40 free illuminated installations and more than 200 events across Adelaide delight thousands of people during July and August this year.

The event was part of a continuing success story for a producer and curator who has scaled the heights of Australia's most famous cultural events over the past two decades.

CULTURAL EVENT EXPERIENCE

Lee produced the Cultural Festival for the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, and co-founded and produced Mona's Festival of Music and Art (MONA FOMA) in Hobart from 2009 to 2021.

He is now a Director of Arts Projects Australia (responsible for WOMADelaide and many national touring productions), a Director of Insite Arts, and a Director of the Illuminate Adelaide Foundation – which presented Illuminate Adelaide.

A DEGREE OF SUCCESS

Lee says his education at Flinders University set him on the path to success. Combining arts, business and tourism, Lee's Flinders degree gave him the confidence to pursue a career in the arts.

'Before I studied at Flinders, I wasn't aware that directing arts events was even a viable possibility, as I have never been an artist myself,' he says.

After graduating, Lee worked for Arts Projects Australia on WOMADelaide, and toured international productions to Australia.

'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.'

DEVELOPING AUDIENCES

Lee says making ideas come to life through events is incredibly satisfying, as they have an empowering effect for those who are experiencing artistic presentations for the first time.

'I've become so passionate about nurturing new audiences for arts events. By creating interesting events, we can share the amazing work that is happening in South Australia across many creative areas – from performance to technology,' he says.

THE FUTURE OF ILLUMINATE

'We deliberately designed Illuminate Adelaide to be a huge event from the outset. I believe you must start an event as you intend it to continue – not to grow into it slowly. We were determined to show its full potential immediately.'

Illuminate Adelaide has three years of guaranteed seed funding from the SA Government, but Lee is determined to push his creative energies further, to foster more great events.

'I want to make Illuminate Adelaide part of the city's DNA, but I also want to continue the great work of Arts Projects Australia with my co-director and mentor Ian Scobie,' says Lee.

'There are many exciting days ahead.'

Hear more from Lee and see Illuminate Adelaide bring the streets alive



“I love starting new things, so co-founding Illuminate Adelaide with Rachael Azzopardi is so very special.”

LEE CUMBERLIDGE

Dying2Learn is opening up difficult conversations

It's something we must all ultimately address, yet our society remains deeply reticent to talk openly about death and dying.

'If we don't have these conversations, those who are ageing, caring for someone at the end of their life, living with a terminal illness, or grieving over the death of a loved one, may feel isolated and unable to share what is happening to them,' says Professor Jennifer Tieman, Director of CareSearch Palliative and Supportive Services at Flinders University.

She says, 'Having conversations about death and dying is hard for many among us – yet it is crucial. To change this, we need to build knowledge and understanding through easily accessed resources.'

Dying2Learn is an online library of proven digital resources that aim to build community awareness and make end-of-life knowledge widely available. The hub is on Flinders University's CareSearch portal, with open access to resources originally developed for an online course created by Flinders researchers.

REMAINING CONFIDENT AND CALM

In May 2020 Jo Johnson's mother died. Two years earlier Jo had accessed the Dying2Learn online content, which helped her to remain confident and calm while she played an active caring role during her mother's passing.

'I was able to assist her to have a peaceful passing by reassuring her and guiding her verbally to feel safe and surrounded in peace,' says Jo. 'I couldn't have done this without the knowledge that Dying2Learn provided me with.'

'I had talked with mum in the lead up to the day and encouraged her to speak in a way that she felt free to express herself honestly, without needing to guard her true feelings to protect me. It was humbling to have her open up in this way.'

SUPPORT FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

While the content is designed for the general public, Professor Tieman says many health professionals also access the resources. This suggests that people working closely with death are still not comfortable or proficient at having conversations about dying.

'Dying2Learn hopes to enable the whole community to have a greater understanding and acceptance of dying and death – and that such knowledge can then be put into action when the time comes.'

“Dying2Learn hopes to enable the whole community to have a greater understanding and acceptance of dying and death, and that such knowledge can then be put into action when the time comes.”

PROFESSOR JENNIFER TIEMAN



CARESEARCH.COM.AU/DYING2LEARN

New hope for tinnitus sufferers

With one in six people in Australia suffering from chronic tinnitus, Flinders University audiology researchers are looking for much-needed solutions.



Pictured: Professor Raj Shekhawat and Dr Deepti Domingo
Photo by Melissa Keogh

DNA forensic science expert Professor Adrian Linacre OAM has been forced to cope with constant buzzing in his ears for almost three years – for others it can be a lifetime of suffering.

'It began at home one evening when I started to hear a buzzing noise. After a while, it dawned on me that the sound was internal in my head,' says Professor Linacre. 'I hoped it would disappear but with tinnitus the constant buzzing white noise continues every moment of every waking day.'

Many people will experience some sort of short-term tinnitus at least once in their lives, usually after a loud music concert or following exposure to a sudden loud noise. However, for one in six people in Australia tinnitus is constant and debilitating, yet limited research has been done to find solutions and improve treatments.

NEW RESEARCH STUDY AT FLINDERS

Led by Flinders University's Professor of Audiology Giriraj Singh (Raj) Shekhawat and postdoctoral fellow Dr Deepti Domingo, a new study will assess the use of HD-tDCS – a type of non-invasive brain stimulation – to reduce the white noise levels of tinnitus.

Professor Shekhawat has 15 years of audiology research experience at University College London and the University of Auckland, plus clinical experience in the US, Singapore, and India.

He says, 'Our inner ear has thousands of hair cells that transfer sound energy into electrical impulses to our brain via the auditory nerve. Any damage along this pathway will disrupt or dull the sound signal reaching the brain – which then tries to compensate by essentially listening harder.'

By working hard to pick up sound, overfiring neurons within certain networks in the brain can result in error signals being interpreted as additional sound – even when none is present.

This is the 'ringing' tinnitus sufferers hear.

'Given tinnitus is caused by disrupted neural networks, through this trial we are aiming to use a safe, low amplitude direct current stimulation to the brain, to correct those networks,' says Dr Domingo, who is excited about the potential to bring long-term relief to millions of tinnitus sufferers around the world.

JOIN THE PILOT STUDY

Funded by the Royal National Institute for the Deaf and Rosetrees Trust in the UK, the three-year pilot study includes research partners in the UK, Europe, and the US. With support from neurological experts at SAHMRI, the study is being conducted at Flinders University's Health2Go clinic and the University's Tonsley campus.

You can join the study – to check your eligibility email your experience of tinnitus to: tinnitus.research@flinders.edu.au

Closing the gap on justice

Leanne Liddle is set to transform the Northern Territory justice system.

As Director of the Aboriginal Justice Unit in the Northern Territory's Department of the Attorney-General and Justice, Flinders University Law graduate Leanne Liddle (LLB/LP (GradEntry) '04) is set to drive fundamental and significant change by introducing an Aboriginal Justice Agreement.

An Arrernte woman from Alice Springs, Leanne was eighteen when she travelled to Adelaide to become a police officer. She was the first female Aboriginal officer to graduate from the Fort Largs Academy in 1988. But after a difficult decade of discrimination she left, drawing on her courage to raise a racial discrimination case through the Federal Court.

The case ended with a confidential out of court settlement, and while it marked the end of her tenure in the police force, it only fuelled her quest to fight for justice and fairness, prompting her to study law at Flinders University.

A DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

'What happened in the police force took away my ability to pursue that particular career, but it didn't stop my desire to do something that could make a difference,' says Leanne.

'My racial discrimination case going through the court system allowed me to see justice at play, and that the justice system needed auditing. I also saw that once you got to court, you needed talented people at the table to represent you. I wanted to become that person.'

STUDY FUELLED BY PURPOSE AND PASSION

Leanne's arrival at Flinders University in 2001 as a mature-aged Law student, fuelled by purpose and passion, signalled an opportunity for her to excel. Juggling full-time studies with part-time work, Leanne was appreciative of the support from her lecturers and from the Yunggoendi Student Engagement centre at the University.

After graduating, Leanne chose not to go into practice as a solicitor, which many had expected her to do. Instead, she went into key bureaucratic roles to inform government and legal policy.

'That's where the real change can occur,' she explains.

THE NEED FOR AN ABORIGINAL JUSTICE AGREEMENT

Over the past three years Leanne has certainly put this belief of being able to make a real change into action, travelling extensively across the Northern Territory to meet with Aboriginal communities to discuss details and possibilities for the Aboriginal Justice Agreement.

The situation she is addressing is daunting: 85% of adult prisons in the Northern Territory (which are at capacity) are filled with Aboriginal people, while 100% of the juvenile detention population is Aboriginal – yet Aboriginal people comprise only 30% of the Territory's population.

They also make up 88% of the NT's homelessness figures and experience staggering rates of chronic illness and poor education outcomes.

'Look at the numbers. We can't pretend there's nothing wrong,' says Leanne. 'But if you look closer, there's complexity to unravel – 60% of offences relate to alcohol and 40% of offences are triggered by unprocessed trauma and grief. We need new ways of addressing these issues and offering programs that work.'

DATA INFORMS AGREEMENT

To draft an accurate picture for change, Leanne and her team have obtained extensive data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and are working with the nation's top criminologists to decipher crucial patterns in the statistics.

They have learned that the very first contact between Aboriginal people and police will set a pathway for future interactions in the justice system, and this is where Leanne says fundamental change must begin.

APPETITE FOR CHANGE

She has also been able to read community appetite for change through working in prisons and listening to prisoners talk about how they believe their lives and patterns of reoffending can change.

Through the Agreement, Leanne plans to introduce early intervention programs to prevent offending, and alternatives to prison such as residential facilities, with tailored rehabilitation for eligible offenders.

She also wants to see a return to community courts, where Elders play a part in sentencing, and the funding of local law groups is led by trusted local voices.

'They're never going to be able to control the safety of their community if they're not empowered and supported to drive that change.'

THE TIME IS RIGHT

Launched in August this year, Leanne says the Aboriginal Justice Agreement includes deliverables that are attainable and practical. She is confident that all outcomes will be realised within five years.

'I believe the time is right for this fundamental and significant change to occur and we have many good people to work with us on the journey to make it happen,' says Leanne.

“I believe the time is right for this fundamental and significant change to occur and we have many good people to work with us on the journey to make it happen.”

LEANNE LIDDLE



Photo by Michael Franchi (c) 2020 ABC. Reproduced by permission of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Library Sales.



Silver linings in a tourism grey area

Dr Lauren Meyer explains the issues in ensuring sustainable shark tourism.

Cage-diving with white sharks is one of our most popular marine wildlife tourism activities, but what are the impacts on these amazing creatures, and can South Australia's cage-diving industry become the gold standard in sustainable shark tourism?

Coming face-to-face with our top predators – with the protection of a cage – remains at the top of many bucket lists. Each year, thousands of thrill seekers and conservationists are lured to the Neptune Islands off South Australia's Eyre Peninsula in the hope of seeing iconic white sharks in action.

While cage-diving was pioneered in South Australia in the early 1980s, forty years on the conversation around white sharks and tourism has changed dramatically from conjuring and conquering fear, to promoting sustainable tourism. But what sustainable tourism looks like and what is an acceptable practice is often debated, making wildlife tourism a complex industry to manage.

NEPTUNE ISLANDS TOURISM

The Neptune Islands are home to three locally owned white shark cage-diving operators, who prior to COVID-19 collectively hosted up to 10,000 passengers each year, contributing \$15 million to the local economy annually.

While this is big money for a small non-extractive industry, the operation is not built on profit alone. It also offers several invaluable benefits – that make all the difference in tourism sustainability.

By enabling the public to safely interact with our top predators, these industry operators encourage education on sharks and enhance the perception of the traditionally misrepresented creatures – fostering stewardship of natural areas and wildlife more broadly.

These benefits are more than nice sentiments and a pat on the back on the boat trip home. Continued public support underpins long-term marine conservation success.

Cage-diving also provides scientists with unparalleled opportunities to undertake cutting edge research, contributing to our understanding of sharks and the local ecosystem.

Despite these benefits, cage-diving at the Neptune Islands can, if unmanaged, impact the species it targets and the ecosystem it relies on.

BAIT AND BERLEY PROS VS CONS

Scientists, managers, industry operators, and the public have voiced concerns about the use of bait and berley to attract sharks for cage-diving purposes. Berley is unsellable tuna from the local aquaculture industry, which eliminates waste and recycles a local marine product that is naturally on the menu for white sharks in South Australia.

Although strict regulations prevent intentionally feeding white sharks, some occasionally catch and consume the bait – they are highly evolved, agile, intelligent ambush predators after all.

Yet our research has found that this occasional consumption is not enough to alter their diet, and the time they spend chasing baits does not detract from their natural feeding opportunities.

However, the cage-diving industry has been attributed to an increase in residency where the sharks spend more days at Neptune Islands and expend energy chasing baits. But these changes have been mitigated through policies to reduce the number of days operators can be at the Islands and by regulating the amount of bait and berley used.

These findings and regulations are an important step in ensuring South Australia's cage-diving remains minimally invasive.

SILVER LININGS

The Neptune Islands are home to over 130 different marine mammal, fish, and bird species that each play an important role maintaining a functional ecosystem within this marine protected area.

Our research found that these species face similar benefits, concerns, and challenges arising from the cage-diving industry as the more iconic white sharks. However, one seems even more interested in the bait and berley than the white sharks, which is having a surprising ecological impact.

Roughly 3,000 Silver Trevally live in the waters of the Neptune Islands and are the bane of photographers, tourists, and even scientists trying to spot sharks through the mass of these fish eagerly consuming the bait and berley.

But these annoying fish do a very important job. They moderate the impact of cage-diving on the broader ecosystem by quickly consuming berley before it reaches the sea floor and is eaten by other species.

Silver Trevally are nature's way of balancing the ecosystem and are an ecological silver lining in a cage-diving sustainability grey area.

ACCEPTABLE WILDLIFE TOURISM

As the pandemic eventually abates and we look to book holidays to interact with wildlife, consider what you can do to promote sustainable and acceptable wildlife tourism.

Find industries and operators that are locally owned, have an education component to their tours, and explicitly support research and conservation.

Keep an eye on marketing and messaging. If negative perceptions of wildlife are promoted, unethical interactions are encouraged (sharks and other wild animals should never be touched), or they put the safety of tourists or wildlife at risk – find a different operator.

And be aware of the messages you send with the photos you post online.

Last but not least – enjoy the wonderful wildlife.

Dr Lauren Meyer (PhD(Biol) '19) studies shark behaviour and is bringing scientific clarity to the oft-maligned and widely misunderstood sea creatures. She was awarded a 2020 Flinders University Early Career Alumni Award for her significant contribution to the local, national and international STEM community through research and innovation in the field of shark trophic ecology.

Photo: Getty

The StAMP of approval

HASS Student-Alumni Mentoring Program is creating opportunities for industry connection and career growth.

Filmmaker Fraser Whitehead (BCreatArts(Screen) '21) admits he needed help to get a foothold in the screen industry. That help came through the Student-Alumni Mentoring Program (StAMP) launched by Flinders University's College of Humanities, Arts and Social Science (HASS) in 2020.

In the final year of his Creative Arts degree, StAMP connected Fraser with Flinders graduate and experienced screen writer/director Matt Vesely (BCreatArts(Screen) '08).

'I developed a script for a short film in the final year of my degree, and Matt pushed me to apply for a Helpmann Academy grant to fund the film,' says Fraser. 'Matt is an established figure in the film and arts industry, and it was great to have his name on my grant application, showing his support for my project.'

BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

StAMP connects final year arts students with Flinders alumni who are willing to share their advice, knowledge and experience with the next generation of graduates. Mentors help prepare students for their chosen career by increasing their confidence and knowledge. The mentors also help them understand the culture, opportunities and challenges of their intended profession.

'I knew I wanted to earn a living as a professional in a filmmaking art department, but I also wanted to write and direct my own films – I didn't know if doing both was feasible,' says Fraser. 'Through discussions with Matt, I realised it was possible to pursue both trajectories and he has helped me to realise this dream.'

EXPERIENCED MENTORS

After a successful start in 2020, the program leapt ahead this year with a remarkable 37 StAMP relationships – an increase of 60%. It features mentors across a broad sweep of arts industries, from acclaimed authors Alan Tucker (DipEd '75, BA(Hons) '74) and Emma Maguire (BA(Hons) '11), to film editor Veronica Buhagiar (BCreatArts(Hons) '15).

Fraser's mentor Matt is a writer/director with local award winning film collective Closer Productions – a group formed by fellow Flinders alumni. His film *System Error* was selected for New York's Tribeca Film Festival, and he has worked as a story producer on SBS's *The Hunting* and written for the ABC's *Aftertaste*.

Having now mentored several students, Matt says being involved in StAMP has been incredibly rewarding. He has enjoyed providing advice to young filmmakers and has found it directly benefits his own work.

'It's really useful for a mentor to view it from a business perspective – I'm always interested in the next wave of talent to work with,' he says. 'And doing the mentorships in a structured way with Flinders means you can put clear boundaries on your time and make sure it fits into your work schedule.'

KICKING OFF CAREERS

Matt says being a StAMP mentor forms the basis of a lasting relationship, and he is especially pleased to see Fraser's career continue to grow. He encourages current creative arts students to join the program.

'As a student this kind of experience is invaluable and a great way to kick off your career,' says Matt. 'The film industry relies on networking, and this is a great opportunity for students to do that.'

Fraser agrees. Along with launching his first short film *Deep Six* earlier this year, he has worked as a Set Decoration Assistant on *The Tourist* – a TV series streaming soon through BBC/Stan.

'I got the role on *The Tourist* through Art Director Gareth Wilkes – I had volunteered on his short film a few months earlier and he was kind enough to offer me my first job in the industry,' says Fraser.

A DIRECT LINE TO INDUSTRY

'Providing mentees with a direct line to industry helps them understand elements of job-seeking and professional conduct that are hard to simulate in the educational environment,' says Matt.

'When I was a young filmmaker, I remember how vital and invigorating it was for me to be able to talk to local, more experienced filmmakers. Those informal mentorships were incredibly formative for me.'

'I now want to give back and continue that cycle of support.'



“The film industry relies on networking, and this is a great opportunity for students to do that.”

MATT VESELY

Pictured: Mentor and film writer/director Matt Vesely with emerging filmmaker Fraser Whitehead

Congratulations to our 2020 Alumni Awardees

The 2020 Flinders University Alumni Awards recognised the significant achievements of 16 outstanding graduates.

For the first time, Early Career Alumni Awards were presented. These awards highlight the early success of seven recent graduates who are already making remarkable headway in their chosen field.

This first group of Early Career Alumni Awardees were acknowledged for their energy and ideas, and the impact they are having in areas as diverse as body image disorders, shark ecology, and advocacy for the African-Australian community.

By daring to bring the taboo subject of genital body image distress into broader discussion, Psychology graduate Dr Gemma Sharp (BBehavSc(Hons) '13, PhD(ClinPsych) '17) has established herself as a rising star in psychological sciences and mental health. She has designed a world-first positive body image 'chatbot' therapist to enable conversations with people via social media, encouraging them to seek treatment.

'The world of digital mental health is rapidly expanding. My goal is to be at the forefront of these important mental health initiatives, both nationally and internationally,' says Gemma.

• CONVOCAION MEDAL •



Sarah Brown AM
GradDipHlthAdmin '15

Outstanding contribution to community health, remote area nursing and the advancement of independent Aboriginal community controlled health initiatives.



Professor Jamie Cooper AO
BMBS '80

Outstanding contribution to national and international intensive care medicine, particularly in the field of traumatic brain injury.

“We learnt that medicine would always be constantly changing, and over the next 40 years it certainly has. We learnt how to keep searching for information, which likely influenced my choice to combine clinical research with my clinical career.”

PROFESSOR JAMIE COOPER AO

• EARLY CAREER ALUMNI AWARDS •



Saadia Adnan
MEd(LeaderMgmt) '15

Significant contribution to equity, access and quality of education across Pakistan through the innovative delivery of educational programming to more than 40 million children during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Daniel Ajak
BCom(Fin), LLB/LP '15

Significant contribution to the African-Australian community in Australia, including the development of professional networks and advocacy for African-Australian legal students.



Veronica Buhagiar
BCreatArts(Hons) '15

Significant contribution to the South Australian creative arts industry, especially for creating networking, mentorship and collaboration opportunities within the post-production filmmaking community.



Dr Melanie Farrier
BSc(Hons) '16, PhD(Chem) '20

Significant contribution to the scientific community through research and advocacy, particularly for promoting equity within the STEM community.

• DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS •



David Tarnda Copley
DipAppSc(DevDis) '88
BNg(GradEntry) '08
GradDipMentHlthNg '09

Distinguished leadership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, research and practice. With a focus on smoking cessation, mental health, and cancer care.



Dr Ian Davis OAM (1978-2018)
BMBS(GradEntry) '06

Distinguished contribution, commitment and service to people living with motor neurone disease, notably through the establishment of FightMND, which has improved the MND research landscape within Australia.



Wendy Johnson AM
BA '80, MEdAdmin '92

Distinguished leadership and contribution to the local, state and national public education system.



Professor Ross McKinnon
BSc(Hons) '89, PhD(Med) '93

Distinguished national and international leadership in pharmaceutical science, positioning Australia as a major contributor to the global pharmaceutical science community.



Dr Lauren Meyer
PhD(Biol) '19

Significant contribution to the local, national and international STEM community through research and innovation in the field of shark trophic ecology.



Dr Gemma Sharp
BBehavSc(Hons) '13
PhD(ClinPsych) '17

Significant contribution to psychological science and mental health research, advocacy and clinical practice within the field of body image and eating disorders.



Dr Christopher Wilson
BArchaeol(Hons) '06
PhD(EHLT) '17

Significant contribution to Indigenous education and archaeology.



Dr Dean Nicolle OAM
PhD(Biol) '08

Distinguished leadership in conservation through a dedication to the discovery, research and preservation of eucalyptus trees at the world-renowned Currency Creek Arboretum.



Professor Wendy Rogers
BMBS '83, BA(Hons) '95
PhD(Med) '98

Distinguished leadership, advocacy and commitment to the field of bioethics, and as a leading activist in exposing organ transplant abuse in China.



Adjunct Associate Professor Mark Staniforth
GradCertTertEd '98, PhD(EHLT) '99

Distinguished contribution and commitment to the investigation, protection, promotion and pedagogy of maritime archaeology, history and heritage in Australia and Southeast Asia.



Read the inspiring stories of our awardees

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

When autism meets the law

Professor Robyn Young is working to stop autistic people from slipping through the justice system cracks.

“It’s a huge and consuming problem. When people do not behave as they are expected to, they are often judged more harshly.”

PROFESSOR ROBYN YOUNG

An interaction with the police and the criminal court system is stressful for anyone but imagine how much more terrifying it must be for autistic people – struggling to both understand and make themselves understood, in a whirlwind of bewildering mixed messages.

For the lucky ones, Professor Robyn Young, a psychologist at Flinders University’s College of Education, Psychology and Social Work, is on hand to help navigate the hazards. But for the rest, all too often they are left on their own to suffer some terrible outcomes.

‘It’s a huge and consuming problem,’ says Professor Young. ‘When people do not behave as they are expected to, they are often judged more harshly.’

Professor Young’s interest in autism began while studying savants as part of her PhD in Savant Syndrome – work which became the subject of the ABC documentary *Uncommon Genius*, which first aired in 2000.

In 2007 she developed ADEC, an Autistic Disorder screening tool for children as young as 12 months old, which continues to be used as a key tool in diagnosing autism.

UNWITTINGLY INVOLVED IN CRIME

Around 2009 Professor Young became interested in the issues surrounding autistic people becoming unwittingly involved in crime when she was invited to counsel a woman who was charged with the murder of her unborn child.

‘I was asked to see if autism might have explained some of the difficulties that she was having interacting in the criminal judicial system,’ says Professor Young.

After that experience, defence lawyers started to invite her to explain to juries why a person with autism might behave in a way that was inconsistent with expectations, such as not showing remorse.

Talking too much, talking at cross-purposes or, as in one case Professor Young worked on, smirking while giving evidence are also traps for people with autism to be misunderstood.

Professor Young now consults with lawyers and appears in court to provide insights into the world as experienced by autistic people.

COERCED INTO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Often lacking in peers or friendships, or missing the intent of the other person, Professor Young notes that her clients may be more vulnerable to being coerced into illegal activity.

Witnessing the difficult legal situations her clients have found themselves in has led Professor Young to investigate the vulnerability of autistic people – and while she says it can happen anywhere, the internet is a minefield.

‘The large majority of people that I see in the legal system have been engaged in internet activities. Some of them have searched pornography and then stumbled across sites where the people depicted were underage, and that’s caused them to get into trouble.’

‘I’ve had three or four clients who have come to the interest of the police because of their search history, and then been targeted by undercover police officers who have posed online as 14-year-old children.’

EDUCATION ON LEGAL RIGHTS

While Professor Young knows that not all autistic people caught in the system are innocent, she says their condition can cause confusion as to what is legal and not legal, and in this situation education is vital.

‘It’s so important to educate autistic people on wrongful behaviour. And for them to understand what to do if they are arrested – to understand their rights,’ she says. ‘Often they haven’t even understood what is actually going on.’

Education is also needed for police and the courts, although some progress has been made.

‘I watched the interview of a young man recently who had an autistic meltdown and assaulted someone. The police were fantastic in that situation, they were clearly aware that the man had an issue, and constantly told him he might want to call a lawyer, until he finally thought, oh, maybe I should.’

THE NEED FOR TRAINING

Professor Young is very aware that people with her training, and who are available to intervene in the criminal process, are few and far between. Asked what she would advocate to address the problem if money were no object – she says training.

‘I’m not suggesting there’s an easy solution,’ she says. ‘But certainly, getting a lot more people trained would help.’

‘Training police officers, training the court, training the public and training autistic people on what might be intuitive to you and me just in terms of the wrongfulness of some behaviour, are all important.’

‘But autistic people also need the skills and a support network, to extricate themselves once they feel like they’re in a situation that they don’t understand.’

Celebrating our special relationship with dogs

Rose Tucker brings a unique kind of storytelling to the screen with the global release of her documentary *We Don't Deserve Dogs*.

“I have always loved travelling and learning about other cultures. Being able to explore this through filmmaking and seeing a side of life that we wouldn't if we were simply travelling as tourists is a privilege.”

ROSE TUCKER

Flinders graduate Rose Tucker (BSc '06, GradDipTourism '07) is a New York-based film producer with Urtext Films, which she runs with her partner, director Matthew Salleh. Featuring dogs and dog lovers around the world, their latest documentary, *We Don't Deserve Dogs*, celebrates the human-canine bond.

The world premiere of *We Don't Deserve Dogs* was planned for the major US film festival South by Southwest (SXSW) in March 2020 – but COVID-19 saw this event cancelled.

The film was eventually released later in the year at leading international film festivals including Warsaw Film Festival, Nashville Film Festival, Miami Film Festival GEMS, and Brisbane International Film Festival.

POSITIVE GLOBAL RESPONSE

The initial setback hasn't stopped the incredible response to the film, which is now topping iTunes documentary bestselling charts in Australia, Canada, the US, and the UK.

'The response has been amazing – it has been viewed in 61 countries and is ranking well in the charts. We were also very excited that several cinema chains across Australia played our film, including Wallis Cinemas in Adelaide,' says Rose.

A LOVE FOR TRAVEL AND EXPLORING CULTURES

To film *We Don't Deserve Dogs*, Rose and Matthew travelled to 11 countries, including Chile, Uganda, Nepal, Finland and Romania, capturing intimate portraits of both common and extraordinary relationships between people and the dogs they love.

A dog birthday party in Lima, Peru; the 'day of the dogs' in Nepal (an annual event during which dogs are showered with flowers and treats); and assistance dogs helping children learn to read in Finland, show intimate and personal relationships between dogs and their humans.

'We like to take simple subjects that people are very familiar with in the western world and examine them in a global context. Everyone in Australia or the US knows what it's like to have a dog – but maybe they don't know what that relationship is like in a place like Pakistan, or Peru, or northern Uganda.'

Rose says, 'I have always loved travelling and learning about other cultures. Being able to explore this through filmmaking and seeing a side of life that we wouldn't if we were simply travelling as tourists is a privilege.'

FLEXIBILITY IN SCIENCE DEGREE

While the link between filmmaking and her science degree at Flinders is not immediately apparent, Rose says she has always been torn between a love of the arts and science and was pleased to be able to merge the two through her degree.

'I chose to do a Bachelor of Science at Flinders because it allowed me the most flexibility in my elective units – including being able to study visual arts and history topics that fed my passion for the arts,' says Rose, who later studied a Graduate Diploma of Tourism at Flinders.

She believes her postgraduate studies in tourism, focusing on event management, helped her gain many skills that are now beneficial to her film career. She says, 'There are a lot of similarities between organising an event and the logistics of putting together a film shoot.'



TURNING A SIDE HUSTLE INTO A CAREER

While Urtext Films began as a post-university side hustle for both Rose and Matthew, it gradually became more commercial, filming for some of Adelaide's largest advertising agencies. With this success, the team then turned their focus to where their true passion lies – documentaries.

In 2016 they moved to New York. A year later they released their first feature documentary, *Barbecue*. Filmed in 12 countries, *Barbecue* explores the way cooking meat over fire brings people and communities together the world over.

The film premiered at SXSW 2017, where it was picked up by Netflix in a three-year global deal. *Barbecue* went on to win the James Beard Foundation Award for Best Documentary – fitting for the film to be recognised by the foundation that celebrates America's diverse food culture.

BRINGING HUMANS TOGETHER

Rose says their films celebrate the things that bring humans together. The pandemic, she notes, does the opposite. She looks forward to a return to normalcy, and more storytelling, soon.

'Navigating the release of *We Don't Deserve Dogs* during this time has been difficult,' she says, 'but we are so glad to finally share it with a global audience.'

Pictured left: *We Don't Deserve Dogs* film still
Above: Rose Tucker on set in Finland

New venture creates Hoap

Former triathlete Ben Tripodi has created software to track fitness and now wellbeing in response to the pandemic.

If all goes to plan for 28-year-old Ben Tripodi (BHlthSc '16), by 2030 two million people worldwide will be using the digital physical and mental performance tools his company developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A former triathlete, Ben graduated from Flinders University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Health Science, majoring in Nutrition. With the support and mentoring of Venture Dorm at Flinders University's New Venture Institute, he was inspired to create and develop the Lumin Sports Arc software platform.

'We started Lumin Sports with the aim of being able to better visualise athlete data for pro sporting teams' decision makers,' says Ben, who launched the company in 2018 with business partners Ryan Brereton and James Begley.

Around 30 organisations now use Lumin software, including Hawthorn Football Club, the Adelaide Crows, the South Australian Sports Institute, Cycling Australia, Adelaide United Football Club, and several World Tour pro cycling teams.

ADAPTING THE BUSINESS

With the arrival of COVID-19 last year, Ben and his Lumin team saw another way for their software to help a different group of people – those looking to manage their wellbeing during the additional pressures of remote working, and leaders needing to support the wellbeing of their team while offsite.

Wellbeing software platform Hoap was created to quantify an individual's wellbeing through a series of daily research-backed questions, developed by in-house psychologists and informed by many years of sports science research.

'Hoap is all about creating self-awareness for the individual and providing organisations with the information needed to step in and support their workers,' says Ben.

'We can give users the trends of their own wellbeing, and how they're tracking across emotional, mental, physical and sleep wellbeing, as well as their social interactions and recovery.'

To inspire its users and teach wellbeing fundamentals, Hoap provides an extensive library of video content from well-known high performers.

HONING BUSINESS SKILLS AT NVI

The ability of the young CEO to respond to wellbeing needs during COVID-19 has put the business in good stead – with Lumin and Hoap now doubling its team members.

Ben says he is grateful for the business skills and networks he developed at Flinders, especially at the University's New Venture Institute.

'The biggest influence on my career was the skills I developed and the people I met at the New Venture Institute. Those connections gave me a framework to launch my career.'

“The biggest influence on my career was the skills I developed and the people I met at the New Venture Institute. Those connections gave me a framework to launch my career.”

BEN TRIPODI

Calthorpe Wong Indigenous Medical Scholarship

A major donation by visionary benefactors will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students.

Set to increase the number of medically qualified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professionals working in their own communities, a generous \$1 million donation from Mary Calthorpe and George Wong will establish a scholarship for Indigenous students studying Medicine at Flinders University.

The Calthorpe Wong Indigenous Medical Scholarship has been created by the retired ophthalmologists, who have worked at the Flinders Medical Centre, the Repatriation General Hospital at Daw Park, and the Marion Road Eye Clinic.

Annually, four Indigenous medical students will receive \$20,000 for each year of their five-year medical degree at Flinders University's Bedford Park campus or in the University's Northern Territory Medical Program.

UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CHALLENGES

Dr Calthorpe says, 'It's our hope that people will be able to access medical care in their own region from people they identify with, speak their language and thoroughly understand their cultural background.'

'During our professional careers, we were honoured to have treated the traditional owners of this land,' says Dr Wong. 'We sought to understand the health challenges facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Hence, we dedicate four annual scholarships in perpetuity for the education of Indigenous medical students.'

'We place our trust and have confidence in these doctors to significantly improve Indigenous health outcomes.'

IMPROVING MEDICAL TREATMENT IN REMOTE AREAS

Flinders University Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous), Associate Professor Simone Tur, says the generous scholarships are a major step forward in helping to boost the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students able to obtain medical qualifications, and then practise in their own communities.



Photo by Jody Allen

Pictured: Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) Associate Professor Simone Tur, Dr George Wong and Dr Mary Calthorpe, with Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling

'It reinforces the ten years of effort by our Northern Territory Medical Program to improve medical treatment for people in remote areas and help them lead longer, healthier lives.'

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for the scholarships will open early in 2022 via flinders.edu.au/scholarships. Recipients will be selected by the five-person Calthorpe Wong Indigenous Medical Scholarships Committee.

Flinders University Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling says, 'We're incredibly grateful to Drs Calthorpe and Wong for their determination to make a difference in this practical and meaningful way.'

“It's our hope that people will be able to access medical care in their own region from people they identify with, speak their language and thoroughly understand their cultural background.”

DR MARY CALTHORPE

Magnificent support for cancer research

Barbara Hughes honours her dear friend through the Margaret Fay Fuller Scholarship.



“ People like Barbara make the world a better place. Her investment supports me to complete ground-breaking research and to create new knowledge on how we can reduce breast cancer risk. ”

JESSICA THOMAS

Back in 1950, Barbara Hughes won the title of Most Graceful Physical Culture Girl of Australia. She also played competitive tennis and golf, and taught ballet and ‘physical culture’ at schools. She is an avid cross-stitcher (having won several prizes at the Royal Adelaide Show) and has been an intrepid traveller throughout her life – meeting her husband Billy on the ski slopes of Switzerland in the 1960s.

Today, 91-year-old Barbara has shown her support for cancer research through a generous donation of \$115,000 to establish the Margaret Fay Fuller Scholarship at Flinders University, named in honour of her good friend.

BECOMING DEAR FRIENDS

In the late 1990s Barbara was introduced to Fay over lunch and the pair instantly became good friends.

‘Fay was so kind, we liked the same things and used to ring each other several times a day to discuss the news when difficult or tragic things happened, or to discuss our travels and the places we’d both explored,’ says Barbara.

When Fay passed away in 2017, she named Barbara in her will. With Fay’s long-term support for cancer research through the Fay Fuller Foundation, Barbara was keen to see these funds continue Fay’s legacy by creating a scholarship to advance cancer research.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS CANCER RESEARCH

Established in perpetuity, the annual \$5,000 Margaret Fay Fuller Scholarship will support a high-achieving PhD student at Flinders University in the field of cancer research.

‘Fay Fuller was magnificent. She was always helping charities or people when there was a tragedy announced,’ says Barbara.

‘I sincerely hope this scholarship continues to carry her legacy and can support a student in the final year of their PhD to make their life a bit easier.’

BREAST CANCER STUDY

Inaugural scholarship recipient Jessica Thomas (MPublicHlth ’14) is studying how to reduce alcohol-related breast cancer risk.

‘Like many Australians, breast cancer has impacted people I care about,’ says Jessica.

‘Alcohol presents one of the few modifiable risk factors and reducing our intake provides us with an opportunity to significantly reduce breast cancer – one of the most common cancers in Australia.’

However, Jessica’s PhD research is not without challenges. While one in seven women in Australia are predicted to develop breast cancer, many don’t understand the link between drinking alcohol and the risk of breast cancer – and are reticent to change habits.

‘Talking about reducing alcohol intake can be very polarising, people don’t like being told what to do,’ says Jessica.

‘We know what needs to be done, what we don’t understand is how to effect change – my PhD seeks to address this.’

MAKING MEANINGFUL CHANGE

Jessica is passionate about her research and about making a difference.

‘I wanted to work on a health issue where I could make an original contribution and where there could be meaningful change. This is what drives me to get out of bed in the morning.’

She is incredibly grateful to Barbara for establishing the Margaret Fay Fuller Scholarship and the support it will provide, not only to her but to emerging cancer researchers into the future.

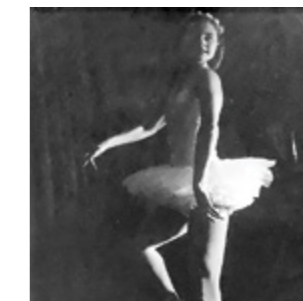
DONOR MAKES THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

‘People like Barbara make the world a better place. Her investment supports me to complete ground-breaking research and to create new knowledge on how we can reduce breast cancer risk.’

Jessica says completing a PhD is a gruelling undertaking but doing research during a pandemic is like trying to learn how to swim in a stormy sea.

‘Being awarded this scholarship is like a shining beacon, a lighthouse that will guide my way to completion. It means that others see the value in the research and the impact that it can have on cancer prevention.’

‘It inspires me to keep going, to dig deep during that tough final year, to finish this research and get it published and out into the world where it can make a difference.’



Pictured left: PhD candidate Jessica Thomas with donor Barbara Hughes Above: Barbara Hughes performing in the 1950s

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In memory of Geoffrey Harris
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Catherine & John Burrows
Evan Dwyer
Kaye Gregory
Jenny Harris
Deirdre Hosking
Doug Hosking
Sonja Latzel
Residents of the Lifestyle SA Retirement Village at Parafield Gardens
Yvette Nicholas

GIFTS-IN-KIND

The Estate of the late Donald Brook
Ali Gumillya Baker
Aleksander Danko
Paula & Douglas Furby
IAS Fine Art Logistics Pty Ltd
Cate Jones
Diana Laidlaw AM
Christine McCormack
JVS Megaw AM

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Thank you also to our many donors who wish to remain anonymous.

*The Donor Honour Roll recognises those who donated to Flinders University between 1 January and 31 December 2020.



BEE-STUNG LIPS: BARBARA HANRAHAN

WORKS ON PAPER 1960-1991

Australian artist and writer Barbara Hanrahan connects sexuality and desire with dreaming and spirituality. She links the farthest star to the humblest garden bee to make works that speak of the fragility of human existence.

This is the first major exhibition of Hanrahan's prolific 30-year printmaking career, which was set in motion in 1960 and ended with her untimely death at the age of just 52.

Characterised by playfully complex narratives that draw on both personal experience and fantasy, her works are fearlessly direct and unashamedly decorative in style.

Curated by Nic Brown, this is a unique opportunity to see works from both public and private collections by this extraordinary artist.

FUMA FLINDERS UNIVERSITY
MUSEUM OF ART

Until Friday 1 October 2021
Social Sciences North Building
Flinders University, Sturt Road, Bedford Park
Monday to Friday 10am-5pm & Thursday until 7pm.

From mid-2022 to November 2023, *Bee-Stung Lips* will tour regional South Australia, before a national tour in 2024.



Click to find out about the tour

[FLINDERS.EDU.AU/MUSEUM-OF-ART](https://flinders.edu.au/museum-of-art)

Exploring the *Edges of Excess*

Kate Bohunnis wins this year's \$100,000 Ramsay Art Prize.

Flinders University creative arts graduate Kate Bohunnis (BCreatArts(Hons) '18) has used silicone, stainless steel and aluminium to create the award-winning work *Edges of Excess*.

The movement of the hard metal pendulum above the soft candy-pink silicon is pleasantly mesmerising, as is the sound it creates swaying back and forth. But the starkness of *Edges of Excess* indicates a darker element to the work.

'The pink silicon material is often used to create silicon babies, to help grieving parents through the loss of their newborn child,' says Kate, who explains, 'I've always been fascinated by abject things.'

At a cost of \$2,000, Kate had one shot at mixing and pouring the 30 litres of silicon - she couldn't afford for it to go wrong. Once set, she ran a Stanley knife across the top of the 4-metre-long strip to create a rough texture in the otherwise soft and smooth material.

THE VALUE OF RESEARCH

Kate completed her studio-based study at Adelaide College of the Arts, before embarking on her Honours research subjects at Flinders University.

'My research subjects at Flinders helped me to formulate a guide for my future and what was important for me as an artist,' says Kate.

'It was vital to have that time to focus, it taught me the value of looking at something completely and seeing what comes out. It really opened up who I am and what I want to make.'

DEVELOPING SKILLS AND PUSHING BOUNDARIES

Although she majored in printmaking, Kate was keen to create immersive art installations and explore new materials. After graduating she gained a six-month residency at the metal fabrication workshop, George Street Studios in Thebarton, where she is now a tenant.

Working side by side with metal fabricators, Kate developed her skills in metalwork and pushed material boundaries to win the 2021 Ramsay Art Prize, worth \$100,000 - Australia's largest prize for an artist under forty.

AWARD WINNING ART

As the winning piece, *Edges of Excess* was on show at the Art Gallery of South Australia from May to August this year and is now part of the Gallery's collection.

Kate is now working towards three solo exhibitions, including a show at COMA gallery in Sydney this November.

While she once toyed with becoming a lawyer or a psychologist, Kate decided they weren't the right path for her.

'I made the choice to nourish who I am by being an artist.'



“It was vital to have that time to focus, it taught me the value of looking at something completely and seeing what comes out. It really opened up who I am and what I want to make.”

KATE BOHUNNIS

Digital shipbuilding for the future

Australia's first digital shipbuilding course at Flinders University is building new careers and gaining industry recognition.

Just 18 months after going live, the Diploma of Digital Technologies course at Flinders has become a multi-award-winning program. A collaboration between Flinders University and BAE Systems Maritime Australia (formerly ASC Shipbuilding), the program won the Training and Mentorship Program of the Year award at Defence Connect's 2020 Australian Defence Industry Awards.

Highlighting the University's positive relationship with BAE Systems and TAFE SA, the Diploma has also won the Industry Collaboration Award at the 2021 South Australian Training Awards, presented by the SA Government's South Australian Skills Commission.

Luke and Tamara from BAE Systems explain why the program works.

Luke was a Logistics Support Officer at BAE Systems when he enrolled in the Diploma of Digital Technologies. With 20 years' experience in the defence industry, and passionate about shipbuilding, Luke saw the program as an opportunity to change the direction of his career.

'I thought it would be a great opportunity to upskill and be part of the future of shipbuilding,' he says.

Tamara was urged by her supervisor at BAE Systems to enrol in the Diploma. With a focus on innovation and industry 4.0, cybersecurity, digital design, design for manufacture, cyber-physical systems, robotics, and automation, she knew it would open her up to the world of transformative technologies and build skills that would be directly relevant to her role, now and into the future.

BUILDING CAREERS

In 2020 Luke was one of 51 shipbuilders from BAE Systems to graduate from the very first year of the program. On completion he was appointed to a new role as a Supply Chain Analyst for BAE Systems' Research and Technology team based at Flinders University's new *Line Zero Factory of the Future*, in the Tonsley Innovation District.

BAE Systems is a founding partner of *Line Zero*, a collaborative environment where a range of companies test advanced manufacturing technologies for potential use in the Hunter Class Frigate Program.

'The course gave me a firsthand look at the innovations and technologies being used in the shipbuilding industry.'

Pictured: Diploma of Digital Technologies student Tamara and graduate Luke, from BAE Systems Maritime Australia



“Being in this position gives you the opportunity to help shape what the industry will look like moving into the future.”

LUKE

'Being in this position gives you the opportunity to help shape what the industry will look like moving into the future,' says Luke. 'I really am working with some of the brightest minds in the country.'

DIVERSITY IN THE WORKFORCE

Fifty percent of students in the program this year are women.

A working mum with two young children, Tamara is the Industry and Innovation Project Support Officer in BAE Systems' Tonsley team. She knew the program would be challenging.

'I have never studied at TAFE or university,' she says. 'The course has been challenging but also rewarding. It has provided me with insight into innovation, engineering and design. I'm especially looking forward to learning about cybersecurity.'

'If you think you don't have the time or life is busy, I am proving that it is possible,' she says. 'There is a good network of support, not only from the lecturers but also from fellow students.'

'And a hint to mums - you don't have to have an engineering background to be successful in the Diploma. I have thought like a mum for some of the assignments and it has paid off.'

WORKING WITH INDUSTRY

Professor Giselle Rampersad, the Director of the program and Flinders University's Professor in Innovation says, 'The program is a leading and critical training initiative in building digital capability for a range of sectors including defence, advanced manufacturing, medical technologies, and renewables.'

'Our collaborators have included BAE Systems Australia, the Federal and State Governments, the Defence Teaming Centre, the Advanced Technology Project, and TAFE SA.'

EXPANDING DELIVERY

Along with shipbuilders and staff from BAE Systems, the program has expanded to include participants from small and medium-sized enterprises with key roles in the defence supply chain, and STEM school teachers wanting to inspire the next generation of students to meet the needs of industry into the future.

'Teachers have travelled from regional areas such as Clare, Mount Gambier and the Riverland to join the group of over 100 students currently undertaking this upskilling opportunity,' says Professor Rampersad.

'And after just one woman in last year's program it's exciting that fifty percent of the participants in this year's program are women - which is an important part in building gender diversity in the STEM pipeline as well as in engineering and defence.'

GROWING NATIONALLY

Professor Rampersad says Flinders University plans to scale the program nationally.

'We currently have 11 interstate industry participants from BAE Systems across Victoria, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia and we look forward to growing nationally over the coming years to build Australia's industry competitiveness.'

Alumni Achievements

2021 FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

Congratulations to two of our outstanding graduates who have been accepted into the prestigious Fulbright Program. Supporting study in the United States, this is the world's largest education exchange scholarship program.



John Kuot (BBus/BlntSt '15) is the Principal Project Engagement Advisor for Homes Victoria and is responsible for leading the organisation's engagement strategy across the \$5.3 billion public and social housing development. He also co-founded the youth-led charity, South Sudanese Australia Youth United.

As a Fulbright Scholar, John will study a Master of Public Administration in Economic Policy Management at Columbia School of International Affairs in New York. He plans to research economic and social policies to improve humanitarian migration policy and the economic empowerment of multicultural communities in Australia.

John is the first South Sudanese Australian to receive a Fulbright Scholarship.



Natasha Wood (BPsych(Hons) '17) is a Clinical Psychology PhD candidate in the College of Education, Psychology and Social Work at Flinders University. Her research uses epigenetics, biological mechanisms that modify gene expression without modifying the genetic code, to explore how different kinds of childhood stress affect mental health.

As a Fulbright Scholar, Natasha will be heading to Boston to work with researchers in the Psychiatric and Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Our Milestone celebrations in 2022

In 2022 we will celebrate several significant milestones across a range of degrees, including:

- **20 years of the Rural Medical Program (2002-2022)**
Friday, 25 March 2022 in Mount Gambier
- **30 years of Law at Flinders (1992-2022)**
- **30 years of Engineering at Flinders (1992-2022)**

We will update you on these reunions and more via email, please ensure your contact details are up to date:
flinders.edu.au/update

WANT TO ORGANISE A REUNION FOR YOUR GRADUATING YEAR?

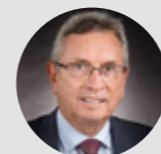
Our online Reunion Toolkit has tips for organising a successful event and explains how the University can support your plans.

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

2021 Australian Honours for our Alumni

Flinders University is proud to celebrate our graduates who were recognised in this year's Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours.

MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (AM)



Professor Philip Aylward AM
PhD(Med) '85
For significant service to medicine, and to community health administration.

Professor James Barber AM
BA(Hons) '82, MSW '02, DUniv '13
For significant service to tertiary education administration, and to youth.

Mrs Anne Gordon Burgess AM
BSocWk '83
For significant service to mental health, to gender equality, and to older persons.

Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney AM
PhD(EHLT) '07
For significant service to Indigenous education, and to social inclusion research.



Ms Wendy Johnson AM
BA '80, MEdAdmin '92
For significant service to secondary education in South Australia.

Emeritus Professor Barbara Santich AM
PhD(Hums) '88
For significant service to tertiary education, gastronomy, food culture and history.

MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (OAM)

Dr Rosemary Brooks OAM
PhD(Hums) '79
For service to tertiary education.



Dr Felicity-ann Lewis OAM
DipT '77, BEd '81
For service to local government, and to the community of Marion.

Dr Robert Llewellyn-Jones OAM
BMBS '83
For service to psychiatry, and to children with developmental disability.

Mr Adam Ka-Ho Lo OAM
GradCertLGTC '16
For service to mental health, and to the multicultural community of Queensland.

Mr Brenley Milsom OAM
GCertPubSecMgmt '97
For service to the community of the Gold Coast.

Mrs Julie Paul OAM
GradCertHlth '97, MPH '99
For service to community health.

Ms Fiona Marie Thomson OAM
BSc '74
For service to youth through Guides, and to academic librarianship.

Ms Dindy Belinda Vaughan OAM
MA(Hums)(Res) '70
For service to the arts.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Shane Ian Batt AFSM
GCertPubSecMgmt '13
For providing dedicated and committed service to the Tasmanian Fire Service, and to the community, for almost 30 years.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

Ms Cheryl-Lee Fitzgerald ESM
GCertPubSecMgmt '14
For leadership and dedication to Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, and to the wider community, has been exemplary.

PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL (PSM)



Dr Duncan Alexander Taylor PSM
BTech(Forensic&AnalyticalChem) '01, BSc(Hons) '02, PhD(Biol) '07, PhD(MathStats) '19
For outstanding public service to forensic DNA statistics in South Australia.

CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS (CSC)

Wing Commander Dr Collette Richards CSC
BMBS(GradEntry) '00
For outstanding devotion to duty in aviation medicine capability development and delivery for the Royal Australian Air Force.

Read more on Flinders University alumni achievements, including the full list of graduates recognised in this year's Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours.

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



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