



2025 Graduation Ceremony Book

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Be. WITH CQU

CQUniversity Mace

The use of a mace on ceremonial occasions commenced in Europe in the 12th Century, when ornate versions were borne on State occasions as symbols of royal authority. Ceremonial maces are now widely part of the formal ceremonial regalia of parliaments and universities throughout the western world and are used to symbolise the authority of the governing body.

Every Australian State Parliament has a mace, as does the Commonwealth House of Representatives.

The Mace is a symbol of the authority of the Council of the University and signifies the University's responsibility to work for the sustenance of our present world and to ensure that future generations are not disadvantaged, but are enriched by our efforts.

All CQUniversity campuses have their own mace with custom design artwork.





Mr Graeme Innes AM, LLB Syd,
HonDUni Canberra, **HonDSocSc** RMIT,
HonLLD UNSW, **HonDUni** ECU, **FAICD**

Welcome from the Chancellor

I'm delighted to join our graduands, their families, and their many supporters, on the occasion of their graduation. Today's milestone is one of life's great accomplishments and I warmly congratulate you all on this remarkable achievement. Graduation represents the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance, and dedication. While today may be a celebration of the end of this study journey it also marks the start of what will be a new journey of lifelong learning and discovery.

As Chancellor of CQUniversity, I stand at every graduation and take pride in the achievements of everyone before me. Each graduand's study journey is unique, but no study journey is free from challenges. By persevering and committing yourself to your study and your goals, you have shown exceptional resilience and adaptability. In return, you have invested in an education that will help to shape your future and enable you to create and influence change.

Please enjoy this day and be proud of what you have achieved. The effort taken, and the sacrifices made, will not be without reward!

I would also like to acknowledge the parents, siblings, partners, children, friends, educators, and supporters who have provided motivation and encouragement when it was needed most. Your support has helped to empower our graduands to reach their goals and fulfil their potential.

I wish all our graduands well and offer my sincere gratitude to them for choosing CQUniversity as their learning partner. Once again, congratulations! Good luck on the bright and fulfilling future that awaits you as an alumnus of this great University!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Innes'.

Mr Graeme Innes AM
Chancellor



**Professor Nick Klomp, BAppSc Curtin,
BSc (Hons) Murdoch, PhD Glasgow, GAICD**

Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor

Congratulations and welcome to the CQUniversity Australia alumni community. Whether you completed a certificate, diploma, undergraduate degree or postgraduate qualification, the study journey that led you here today will be filled with memories of challenges and rewards. This is what makes today so special. Today is a day for you to reflect on your determination, effort and growth. It is a day to celebrate all that you have achieved.

As a graduate of CQUniversity, you carry the University's reputation with you. We measure our impact through your success and your contributions to the community from this day forward.

As a CQUniversity alumnus, you are now a part of a global cohort of highly educated citizens who have all the necessary skills to be changemakers. I encourage you to consider the responsibility that comes with this and extend a helping hand to others to achieve what is now yours. I encourage

you to never stop learning, seek wisdom from wherever you can find it, and share what you know with others.

We value the achievements of our alumni and are proud to continue to support you by providing access to career services and mentors, professional and personal development, and opportunities for you to follow your passion and expand your experience. I encourage you to take advantage of our resources to fuel your continued success, and I look forward to your ongoing connection to CQUniversity.

Congratulations once again on reaching this significant milestone!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Klomp".

**Professor Nick Klomp
Vice-Chancellor and President**

About the University

Originally founded in Rockhampton in 1967, as the Queensland Institute of Technology (QIT) Capricornia, CQUniversity Australia was granted full University status in 1992 and now has more than 30 000 students studying online and on-campus across Australia.

CQUniversity is proud to be recognised as Australia's most inclusive university with some of the highest ratios of students from disadvantaged, mature age, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and first-in-family backgrounds. This inclusive approach and commitment to access and participation means the University defines itself by who it embraces, rather than who it excludes.

It is this strong focus on participation and accessibility, that has seen CQUniversity firmly establish itself as one of the largest universities based in regional Australia, and the only university with a campus in every mainland state of Australia. The University operates campuses in Adelaide, Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Melbourne, Rockhampton, Sydney and Townsville and also has a strong track record of working in partnership with regional university centres across the country. In 2020, CQUniversity also established an international presence with a delivery site in Jakarta, Indonesia.

CQUniversity is Queensland's only dual sector university and delivers more than 300 education and training offerings, from short courses and certificates, through to undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees. As a pioneer in the delivery of distance education, CQUniversity continues to be a leader in online study with around one third of the current student cohort made up of students studying off-campus, many of whom are based in rural and remote areas.

CQUniversity's flexible approach to learning and teaching, and continued innovation in this space, has provided opportunities for thousands of students to complete qualifications, regardless of their geographical location or personal circumstances.

After more than half a century working with stakeholders in regional Australia, CQUniversity is now a renowned research institution in several key disciplines and the benchmark leader for how universities should engage and collaborate with communities and industry. The University's applied research focus is oriented towards impact and real-world outcomes, with the purpose of providing solutions to challenges and identifying new opportunities for advancement in our regions and beyond.

CQUniversity has a strong alumni community with more than 120,000 alumni across the globe. CQUniversity graduates also have some of the best employment outcomes in Australia, with recent data released by the Graduate Outcomes Survey indicating that 79.5 per cent of domestic undergraduate students find full time employment within four months of graduation, compared to the national average of 72.3 per cent.

CQUniversity's unique vision for diversity, outreach, engagement, research, learning and teaching, and inclusiveness, combined with its growth aspirations and continued expansion of student success, research excellence, social innovation and community engagement, has led to it being recognised within several world university rankings, and among the world's best 'young universities' by both the Times Higher Education and QS World University Rankings.

Indigenous Sash

CQUniversity is proud of its commitment to Reconciliation between Australia's Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

To enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to have their ancestry recognised during graduation ceremonies, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduands have the option of wearing an Indigenous sash for their Graduation.

The wearing of the sash enables the community, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to celebrate the achievement of the growing number of Indigenous graduates and to reflect on our University's and nation's Reconciliation goals.

CQUniversity's Indigenous sash is based on the artwork 'Chasing Dreams' (by Samantha Campbell) commissioned from Coolamon Creative and represents the University's commitment to reconciliation and respect for the many Traditional Owners of the many lands on which the University operates.

CQUniversity Regalia

	GOWN	STOLE / HOOD	HEADWEAR
Certificate I - IV	G1	S Beige	M
Diploma	G1	S Beige	M
Associate Degree	G1	S Sunflower Yellow	M
Bachelor Degree	G1	S Opaline	M
Bachelor Honours Degree	G1	S Jade	M
Graduate Certificate	G1	S Powder Blue	M
Graduate Diploma	G1	S Ultramarine	M
Masters	G1	S Violet	M
PhD – Doctor of Philosophy	G2	H1	B
PhD – Doctor Education, Business & The Professional Doctorate	G2	H2	B
Honorary Doctorate	G3	H3	B
Emeritus Professor	G3	H3	B
Companion of the University	G4	S Blue	M

G1: Bachelor Cambridge Style gown.

G2: Oxford Doctorate pattern of blue cloth with facings of green, red and gold satin. The sleeves are fully lined with University green satin, with red and gold satin edging.

G3: Cambridge Doctorate pattern of scarlet cloth with facings in silver satin, sleeves fully lined in silver satin, fastened with a gold cord and button.

G4: Cambridge Bachelor pattern of black cloth.

S: 100cm long in polyester rayon fabric, specified colour above, it is embroidered with a 12cm high full-colour CQUniversity logo on each side, positioned 8cm from the top seam.

H1: Oxford pattern of blue cloth, fully lined with University green satin with red and gold satin edging, and fastened onto the front of the gown with 'hoodlinks' designed according to CQU's Logo.

H2: Oxford pattern of green cloth, fully lined with University gold satin with red and blue satin edging, and fastened onto the front of the gown with 'hoodlinks' designed according to CQU's Logo.

H3: Cambridge pattern of scarlet cloth, fully lined in silver satin.

M: Black mortarboard, black tassel.

B: Velvet Tudor bonnet with gold cord and tassels.

Program

1. PROCESSIONS

The audience is requested to stand as the academic procession of the Graduate Staff and Official Party enter.

2. THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

The words for the Australian National Anthem are provided in this booklet.

3. WELCOME TO COUNTRY

CQUniversity Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land upon which we work and learn and we pay respect to the First Nations Peoples and their Elders, past, present and future.

4. WELCOME BY THE CHANCELLOR

Delivered by Mr Graeme Innes AM, LLB Syd, HonDUni Canberra, HonDSocSc RMIT, HonLLD UNSW, HonDUni ECU, FAICD

5. ADDRESS BY THE VICE- CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT

Delivered by Professor Nick Klomp, BAppSc Curtin, BSc(Hons) Murdoch, PhD Glasgow, GAICD

6. ADDRESS BY THE GUEST SPEAKER

An address of inspiration delivered by a respected member of CQUniversity's community.

7. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Members of the Official Party will present awards to graduates and honorary guests.

8. RESPONSE BY THE GRADUATES' REPRESENTATIVE SPEAKER

An address of reflection delivered by a graduating student.

9. TURNING OF THE TASSEL

A CQUniversity tradition, all graduates are asked to move their tassel from the right to the left of their mortarboard or bonnet.

10. 'CHARGE TO GRADUATES' BY THE CHANCELLOR

The 'Charge to Graduates' is provided on the last page of this booklet.

11. DEPARTURE OF PROCESSION

The audience is requested to stand as the academic procession of the Official Party, joined by the new graduates, depart.

Music

National Anthem

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

Australians all let us rejoice, for we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil; our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing, Advance Australia Fair.

Alumni Awards

CQUniversity takes great pride in the achievements our alumni are making in their world. Their accomplishments benefit both society and the University, advancing the common good and inspiring others. The annual Alumni Awards acknowledge and celebrate these achievements by our outstanding alumni in their professional field or community service activities.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is conferred in recognition of exceptional contribution to society and demonstrated achievement of excellence in a professional context.

RECIPIENT: LEILANI BIN-JUDA



Ms Leilani Bin-Juda is of Torres Strait Islander heritage with ties to Hammond, Darnley and Murray Islands. She grew up in Cairns before beginning her academic journey with CQUniversity in

Rockhampton. After her studies, she moved to Canberra where she began work in the Australian Public Service with the then Department of Primary Industries and Energy, followed by the Attorney-General's Department. In 1999, she became a curator at the National Museum of Australia. In this role, Leilani delivered exhibitions for the Torres Strait Gallery and was later invited to return to Thursday Island to help establish the Gab Titui Cultural Centre.

Inspired by this experience, Leilani transitioned into cultural diplomacy, beginning with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in 2007. Her Australian Public Service career spans over 27 years, encompassing roles in policy and program development across international relations, health, fisheries, crime prevention and the arts and culture portfolios. Ms Bin-Juda held various overseas postings and assignments during this time, including as Acting High Commissioner in Tuvalu and Niue; Counsellor, Kiribati; First Secretary (Political/Gender/Sports Diplomacy), Papua New Guinea; Adviser (Economic Governance) to the

Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands; and Manager of Australia's Cultural Program at the Shanghai World Expo 2010.

As a passionate advocate for Australia's Indigenous heritage, both domestically and internationally, Leilani has served as the first Torres Strait Islander in the role as DFAT's Treaty Liaison Officer on Thursday Island where she was responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Australia-Papua New Guinea Torres Strait Treaty. She later became the CEO of the Torres Strait Regional Authority and the first woman to be substantially appointed into the CEO role. Leilani's career further advanced in DFAT at the senior executive level. In November 2023, she was appointed as Australia's High Commissioner to Nigeria and the first Indigenous Australian to occupy the role. This work encompasses a portfolio that includes one of Africa's largest economies and a key trade partner to Australia. Our High Commission is also accredited to the Republics of Benin, Cameroon, Niger, The Gambia and Gabon.

Her unwavering commitment to advocating for Australia's Indigenous heritage is reflected in her numerous guest speaking engagements, such as at the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation Torres Strait Women's Leadership Program, the Australia-New Zealand School of Government, and her significant contribution to the 2024 book *Growing Up Torres Strait Islander in Australia*. In 2019, Ms Bin-Juda was officially recognised with the Public Service Medal for outstanding service promoting Indigenous heritage in Australia's cultural and foreign policies.

Alumni Awards

SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD

The Social Impact Award is conferred in recognition of exceptional contributions to society.

RECIPIENT: JOHN KAPELERIS



After completing his Bachelor of Science (Honours) at the University of Queensland, Dr John Kapeleris commenced a career as a Medical Immunologist, eventually moving into medical product

development. His experience as a health practitioner contributed to his significant productivity as a Research and Development Manager. While working for Panbio Pty Ltd, Dr Kapeleris managed the development of 16 new medical diagnostic products, including diagnostic assays targeting diseases such as Whooping Cough, Barmah Forest Virus, Q fever, Leptospira, Brucella, Epstein-Barr Virus, Human Herpes Virus 6, Japanese encephalitis and Dengue Fever. He then moved into the Business Development Manager role, overseeing the global market adoption of these products, and helping to transform Panbio into a global enterprise.

After his significant achievements in medical services, John broadened his focus to research and development, commercialisation, and business leadership more generally, spending nearly a decade leading the Australian Institute for Commercialisation. He later became a founding member of Technology Reserve, a global community of experts built on shared philosophies of innovation, technological accessibility, collaboration, and a commitment to supporting small and medium-sized enterprises.

Dr Kapeleris has played a pivotal role in guiding various enterprises by providing leadership and consultation across multiple industries, with a focus on capital-raising, market entry, and innovation. In his most recent venture, John is the CEO of

BirdSol Pty Ltd. BirdSol is an innovative technology company with an avian deterrent and wildlife management technology based on an artificial intelligence (AI) system called Cherrp™. Cherrp™ detects target bird species through visual and auditory recognition, using their own 'language' to guide them away from protected areas and towards alternative feeding sites. The technology promotes humane wildlife treatment while improving agricultural yields, with field trials showing it to reduce crop loss from birds by over 96%.

With over 30 years' experience in medical biotechnology, product development, commercialisation, and executive management, Dr Kapeleris has led BirdSol Pty Ltd to significant recognition. The company was selected as a finalist in the 2023 THRIVE Agrifood Global Impact Awards and the 2023 Future Food Asia Awards and was featured at AgriFutures Evoke. In 2024, BirdSol was also chosen for the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) GroundUp program, which fast-tracks innovative solutions for the grains sector.

Dr Kapeleris actively bridges the gap between industry and education through his long-term roles in academia. At the Queensland University of Technology, he contributed his expertise to the Innovation Space Incubator project, while at the University of Queensland, where he is an Adjunct Associate Professor, he has held significant roles, including Biotechnology Program Facilitator, Bioentrepreneurship Course Co-ordinator and Industry Advisory Board Member. In this capacity, he lectures on topics such as the Commercialisation of Biotech Products, Bioentrepreneurship, Innovation, and Nanotechnology, ensuring knowledge transfer based on his significant industry experience will support innovation well into the future.

Alumni Awards

EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Early Career Achievement Award is conferred in recognition of significant achievement within five years of graduation.

RECIPIENT: JESSE TRECCO-ALEXANDER



Jesse Trecco-Alexander is a proud Aboriginal man hailing from Bindal Country in the Townsville region. Jesse's entry into the For Purpose sector was inspired by his interest in human services, developed through varied roles

in Banking, Disability Support Services, and as a political candidate. In 2020, during the final year of his studies, Jesse worked with Queensland Corrective Services (QCS), focusing on parole system reform and sentence management services. He later transitioned his skillset to the health sector, taking on several leadership roles at the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network.

In early 2023, Jesse founded qtb Advisory Group, providing specialist advisory services on Project and Change Management, Management Advisory, Governance and Risk, Probity and Procurement,

Community Engagement and Co-Design and Organisational Development. In mid-2023 Jesse also joined the staff of Anaiwan Advisory, a 100% Aboriginal-owned, operated, and led commercial firm. By July of the same year, he was promoted to partner. The role at Anaiwan Advisory resulted in project-based and full-time employment opportunities for CQUniversity students.

In 2025, Jesse reverted to his position as Managing Director of qtb Advisory Group, spearheading the development of a new Memorandum of Understanding with CQUniversity. This collaboration aims to demonstrate the commitment to work together to achieve several goals, including the integration of First Nations' knowledge, culture, and professional services expertise into courses, and the development of mentorship and career opportunities for students.

By combining his education qualifications and work experience, Jesse is fostering meaningful and impactful partnerships, demonstrating significant impact early in his career.

Alumni Awards

INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award is conferred in recognition of achievement to a high standard and an exceptional contribution to an industry or profession.

RECIPIENT: RITI SHARAN



Dr Riti Sharan is an award-winning immunologist recognised for her work on HIV, latent tuberculosis, and potential treatments for these conditions. She actively engages with both local and international

communities to inspire the next generation of female scientists through workshops, mentorship, outreach programs, committee memberships, and speaking engagements.

During her time at CQUniversity, Dr Sharan completed her doctorate in just 3 years, authoring and co-authoring five peer-reviewed publications before graduating in 2011. Her doctoral research focused on the effect of copper in decreasing waterborne diseases, leading her to develop a cost-effective technique using copper storage vessels to reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases in developing nations.

Following her PhD, Dr Sharan joined the Institut Pasteur in France as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, where she studied the efficacy and safety of vaccines against exacerbation by Nontypeable

Haemophilus influenzae. In 2016, she took a role as Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Texas A&M Medical Science Center and transitioned to the Texas Biomedical Research Institute in 2019. Over the next five years, she advanced from a Postdoctoral Scientist to an Assistant Professor role, and now runs her own laboratory.

Dr Sharan utilises her expertise in an extensive list of specialties, from tuberculosis immunology to cloning techniques, and her professional experience to empower other women in science. Over the past few years, she has facilitated school STEAM outreach programs, mentored women working in infectious disease research and served as a judge for the Young Women's Leadership Academy Science Fair.

Dr Sharan is a respected figure in her field, having spoken at international events such as the Immunology 2024 conference in Chicago and the International Conference on Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance in India. A multi-award winner, Dr Sharan's most recent recognitions include the 2024 AAI Early Career Faculty Travel Grant, the 2022 Most Impactful Publication Award from Texas Biomedical Institute, and the 2022 Early-Stage Investigator Award from the Texas Developmental Center for AIDS Research for her impactful contribution to HIV research.

Medallists



UNIVERSITY MEDALLIST

The University may award University Medals to students who have achieved an exceptionally high level of performance in their studies in certain programs. Eligibility to be considered for the award of a University Medal will be limited to graduates who have achieved First Class Honours in a Bachelor Honours program.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Jarred Burns – Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (Electrical) First Class



SCHOOL MEDALLISTS

School Medals are awarded to the graduating student with the highest academic achievement in a bachelor degree program in each of the Schools in the Higher Education Division. To be eligible for a School Medal, graduates must have achieved a Distinction level in a three-year degree program or a First Class Honours level in a four-year program.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LAW

Michael Driscoll – Bachelor of Laws with Distinction

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

Brayden Rewald – Bachelor of Education (Primary) with Distinction

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Dallas Merreyson – Bachelor of Aviation (Flight Operations) with Distinction

SCHOOL OF HEALTH, MEDICAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Shane Chugg – Bachelor of Paramedic Science with Distinction

SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Nicole Glossop – Bachelor of Nursing with Distinction

Charge to Graduates

“I charge you as graduates of CQUniversity Australia to maintain a commitment to life-long learning, to strive for truth, integrity and compassion, to contribute to your chosen profession, and by the application of your abilities, support and nurture the communities of which you are part.

May your achievements bring honour to your University, your chosen profession and to yourself.”

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Contact us

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