



CQUNIVERSITY GRADUATION 2024

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 custome design artwork.



The design of this book uses graphical elements adapted from the CQUniversity Rockhampton Mace, designed by Rockhampton artist Kate Dates and is used with permission.

WELCOME FROM THE CHANCELLOR



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

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

WELCOME FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



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

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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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, Perth, 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 artwork commissioned from Chaboo Designs 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: WENDY O'BRIEN

Dr Wendy O'Brien is a legal scholar and human rights specialist working at the global level. Wendy currently works with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, Vienna) on human rights-based criminal justice reform and equal access to justice, with a particular focus on human rights and technology. Wendy has had a long association with the United Nations, including volunteer positions as a Board Member and National Coordinator of the Human Rights Program of the United Nations Association of Australia, as well as a Committee Member of the Status of Women Committee.

Over several decades, Wendy's research has contributed significant new knowledge in the fields of children's rights, gender justice, violence prevention, and human rights-led law reform. Wendy's current work focuses on human rights and criminal justice in the digital age, as part of her broader interest in the human rights implications of the increased use of technology in the administration of criminal justice and social policy.

Wendy's research has been published in leading international human rights and criminology journals. Her co-edited book, *Violence Against Children in the Criminal Justice System*, was published in 2020.

Wendy was previously a Senior Lecturer in Criminology at Deakin University, and she currently holds the role of Adjunct Associate Professor with this institution. Prior to her role at Deakin, she worked as a Senior Specialist in Research with the Australian Crime Commission for seven years, taking a leading role in the delivery of research and policy advice on gender-based violence and the legal and therapeutic responses to child victims and children in conflict with the law. Wendy was also a Lecturer in Literary and Cultural Studies at CQUniversity from 2000 – 2007, after completing her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

ALUMNI AWARDS



Social Impact Award

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

RECIPIENT: SWAPNIL GADGIL

Swapnil is the co-founder and managing director of the multi-award-winning technology company, Therapy Box Ltd, which has a mission to make communication easier for those who require assistance due to physical or cognitive conditions. As well as developing commercial apps to aid communication, Therapy Box is a technical partner that collaborates with academics and clinicians on research projects related to speech, language, and cognition.

Swapnil's management experience in telecommunications and e-commerce environments, combined with his CQUniversity Master of Information Systems qualification, paved the way to starting Therapy Box in 2009 with co-founder Speech Therapist Rebecca Bright MBE. Their original aim was to develop an iPad app to help people with motor neuron disease communicate more easily. The first product released by Therapy Box Ltd was an app called "Predictable" which responded to an unmet need for people who needed text-based communication aids. In 2014, the company was the youngest to win the United Kingdom's Queen's Award for Enterprise: Innovation. In the ten years that followed, the app was released in 10 different versions for different territories and has won numerous awards. Over 50 000 people with speech difficulties have been assisted to date.

Under Swapnil's management, Therapy Box Ltd has now released over 30 specialist apps focusing on communication for healthcare, education and non-government organisations with clients including UNICEF, the United Nations Development Program, Jisc, the National Health Service (NHS) UK, and multiple universities. Therapy Box is currently collaborating with the University of Sheffield's National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) "Invention for Innovation" (i4i) grant project to identify the risk of Alzheimer's disease using speech biomarkers, amongst other projects.

Swapnil continues to support health technology companies through investing in public market companies and buyouts of small established companies.

ALUMNI AWARDS



Early Career Achievement Award

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

RECIPIENT: MISTY NEILSON

After founding a successful organisation and working in executive leadership in the Community Services sector for a decade, Misty commenced a Bachelor of Science at CQUniversity in 2012 to take her skills and knowledge in a new direction. During her studies, she accepted a position with the North Burnett Regional Council driving their Economic Recovery programs, working closely with various bodies in the Environmental Science and Agricultural industries and subsequently moved into dedicated environmental science-based roles. Misty co-founded a full-service consultancy – Thrive – in 2019 before completing her degree in 2021.

Misty's business specialises in supporting clients to improve their long-term capacity, viability, and outcomes through professional, business, and environmental services. Misty is an Accounting for Nature accredited expert and an ecologist and conservation biologist who has collaborated with regional natural resources management bodies, Landcare, and tertiary organisations to implement on-ground sustainable agriculture, environmental, conservation and research projects.

Misty is also part of the team at the Burnett Catchment Care Association (BCCA), using her expertise to undertake natural capital and environmental accounting, grants, tenders and funding acquisition, and developing community projects and action plans through research and strategic assessment. She has led projects including a citizen scientist project for the Burnett Koala Program and the Great Barrier Reef Community Action Plan for the Burnett and Baffle region.

In 2022, Misty commenced her role as a Member of the Regional Community Forum for Wide Bay Burnett and the Fraser Coast for the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

In 2024, Misty was appointed as the Chair of the Board of Directors for Forever Wild (Global), leading the organisation in their mission of protecting wilderness by creating ecological and social equity and driving innovation in non-destructive economic activity.

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: SARAH-JANE PETERSCHLINGMANN

Sarah-Jane founded the technology company ATech in 2007, just two years after completing her Information Technology degree at CQUniversity. Starting as a web developer, Sarah-Jane grew ATech to multi-million-dollar revenues with an impressive list of clients, including Virgin Australia, Seqwater, the South Australian Government, Airservices Australia and Brisbane City Council. Over the past 16 years, ATech has worked with more than 600 local and international customers providing cloud hosting, managed services and web development.

Sarah-Jane is an acknowledged industry leader and has spoken on topics including entrepreneurship, technology, innovation and leadership at events for Women in Technology, Australian Computer Society, the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), Women in Digital, River City Labs and the Queensland Government. In 2023, she co-authored and featured in a book on wholehearted leadership which became an Amazon international best-seller.

Sarah-Jane is Vice-Chair of the Australian Computer Society Queensland Branch Executive Committee. As a strong advocate for women in technology and entrepreneurship, Sarah-Jane has been a member of the ICT Committee for Women in Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneur Convenor and Queensland Branch Executive Committee Member of the Australian Computer Society, and member of the CQUniversity ICT Course Reference Committee.

Sarah-Jane and ATech have received multiple industry awards over the past decade. In 2023, Sarah-Jane was a finalist for the Lord Mayor's Business Awards (Business Person of the Year), Women in Technology Awards (Excellence in Industry Leadership), and ARN Women in ICT Awards (Entrepreneur Award).

Sarah-Jane was also the joint award winner of the prestigious 2022 Queensland Pearcey ICT Entrepreneur of the Year Award, recognising outstanding ICT professionals who have demonstrated innovation, taken risks, made a difference and are an inspiration to others in the industry and the wider community.

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 HEALTH, MEDICAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Mr Sean Kerlin – Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (Civil) 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

Stuart Hentschke – Bachelor of Accounting (Financial Planning) with Distinction

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

Kellie Webb – Bachelor of Digital Media with Distinction

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

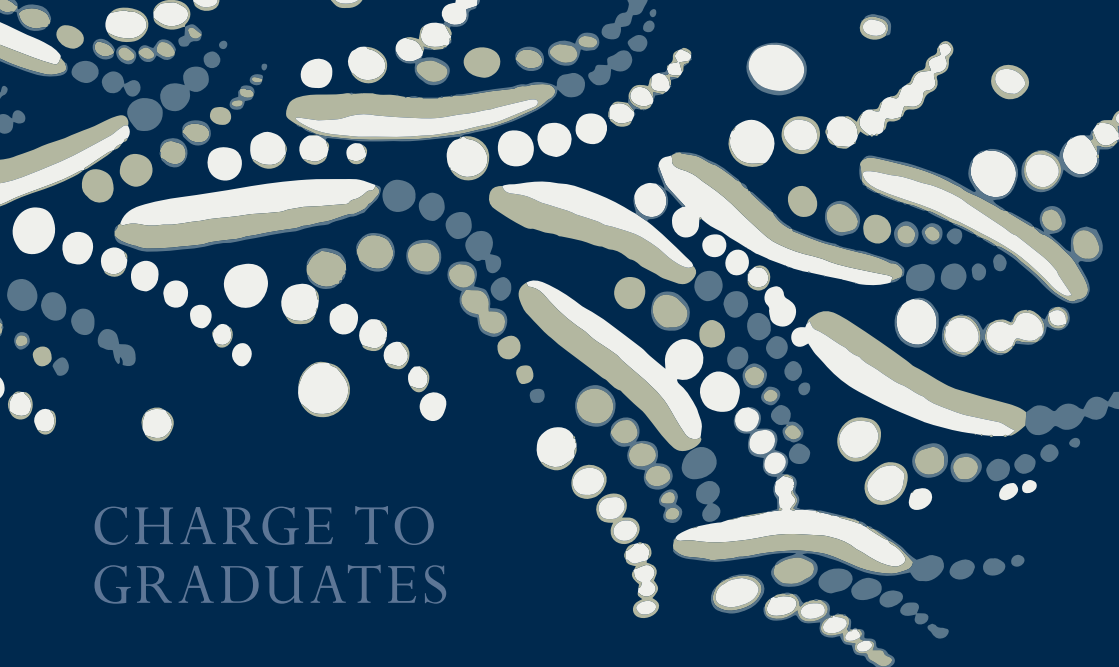
Wayne Alden – Bachelor of Information Technology with Distinction

SCHOOL OF HEALTH, MEDICAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Daniel Humphreys – Bachelor of Science (Chiropractic) with Distinction

SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Helen Ainsworth – 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.”

