



To our wonderful supporters, we thank you for an incredible year. Your generosity of spirit, and passion for championing life-changing education and research is helping us shape the world.

From our humble beginnings as the Working Men's College, to our global standing as a top university of technology, design and enterprise, RMIT has been built on philanthropic support. It's the generosity and dedication of people like you that makes our success possible. Thank you for believing in the transformative power of education and innovative research.

Meet some of the generous people who share your passion for supporting RMIT (from Left):

Tessa Wallis

Masks & Puppets Plus

For someone who struggled like myself, I had to wait to be educated because I could never afford to stop working. I decided to make a bequest after attending Alumni functions and, although I didn't consider myself to be in this category of donor before, when I spoke to the Bequest Manager it made me feel that yes, I can do it and I wanted to do it. I'm excited to give that opportunity to someone else to make it easier for them to establish a new direction in life.

Ronnie Bauer

Klepner's Fine Antique Jewellery & Valuers

As an alumnus, it has given me great pleasure to be a donor to RMIT's Gold and Silversmithing School since the 1980s. Being able to provide employment experiences for RMIT students and to exhibit their work has been a joy.



Karl Fender OAM

Fender Katsalidis Architects

Supporting education, whether it's through imparting practical and theoretical knowledge or providing funding to facilitate learning programs, is the cornerstone of a rich global future. The world is the source of inspiration for students of architecture and RMIT University is to be commended for creating travel exchange programs which allow their students to experience this firsthand. The cost of participation is often beyond student budgets and therefore monetary donations, which enable them to travel, can directly and dramatically enhance their education and future potential.

Richard Xin

(Not Pictured)
Managing Director,
Oino Shipbrokers Melbourne

Having been an international student, I know firsthand how difficult it can be to study, work and settle into an entirely new environment. My hope is that the Oino Scholarship will give disadvantaged students the boost they need to achieve success in their lives and careers. I think there's such power in showing students that someone is in their corner supporting them every step of the way. RMIT also has an incredible logistics and international trade program, and its graduates will make a great impact on linking the world. I'm proud to support that.

Esther Anatolitis

Executive Director of NAVA, Deputy Chair of Contemporary Arts Precincts

I support RMIT because RMIT does more than just support teaching, learning and research. RMIT University is a cultural leader, constantly reimagining what's possible when education and city-making are one and the same project. RMIT's architectural vision for the cultural spine of Melbourne has a transformative impact – not only for the RMIT community, but for everyone whose experience of our city is one of creative confidence and shared ambition.

Impact Report

Who We Are

RMIT University exists to create transformative experiences for our students, getting them ready for life and work, and to help shape the world with research, innovation, teaching and engagement.

Your generous support enables the University to deliver life changing opportunities and experiences. Our work is guided by our values, which reflect our purpose and the beliefs by which we conduct ourselves.

We promise to live these values, honouring your support by creating positive experiences and generating impact on a local and global scale.

Our Values

Impact

RMIT achieves impact through an applied, practice-based approach to meeting contemporary needs. We shape the world for the better through collaborative design, research, learning and problem-solving.

Agility

We are forward-looking, balanced and sustainable in our approach to organisation and resourcing. We are able to adapt quickly and effectively to new pressures and opportunities.

Courage

We are honest and fair in our conduct and relationships. We embrace new thinking and evidence, test it rigorously and apply it to our own learning. We are strongly committed to performance, accountability and value for money. We speak out on issues of importance to our community and our world. We respect the rights of others and our obligations to the health of the planet.

Imagination

We value innovation and creativity as essential qualities of our work and resources for the economy and society. We are committed to developing, applying and sharing new ideas and perspectives.

Passion

We take pride in RMIT and its achievements and we are deeply committed to extending and deepening RMIT's positive impact.

Inclusion

RMIT creates life-changing opportunities for all, welcomes students and staff from diverse backgrounds, honours the identity and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations, and is an accessible and open institution dedicated to serving the needs of the whole community.

Strength in Community

Thank you for being part of RMIT's philanthropic community. The past year has seen fantastic growth in involvement and an infectious energy from our supporters as we continue to ready our students for life and work and create impact through our innovative research.

The Capitol Theatre Appeal was our most visible achievement and it provides us with a wonderful opportunity to give back to the people of Melbourne. As a collaboration between staff, alumni, community supporters and government, the project is RMIT to its core. We're looking forward to the official opening and seeing The Capitol reinstated as one of the world's great theatres. I hope to see you there as this historic venue comes to life again.

In 2018 RMIT awarded more than 1,950 scholarships supporting life-changing education experiences. We were delighted to see increased support for the Andreas Florez Travel Scholarship for Artistic Excellence, Sarah's Dream Scholarship and the Storey Scholarships, just to name a few. Every recipient has a story to tell and our philanthropic community should stand tall in the knowledge they're changing lives for the better.

When we create new opportunities for our talented students, the effect is exponential – education improves lives for generations to come and for the community at large. Through relationships and partnerships with philanthropic trusts and foundations, we also secured funding to directly support 11 projects that are finding solutions to critical problems or creating amazing opportunities for the communities we serve.

I want to thank you for supporting another great year for RMIT. Together, we are making a difference in the world and I hope you're as proud of our progress as I am.

Martin Bean CBE
Vice-Chancellor and President

2018 by The Numbers

11% increase in funds raised in 2018



of funds raised supported ground-breaking Research



of funds raised supported transformational **Scholarships**



of funds raised supported the RMIT Capitol **Theatre Appeal**



of funds raised supported our greatest needs

mentors supporting RMIT students

3,474

ground-breaking research projects published*

1,954

scholarships awarded

from 12,973 Applications, including 44 Unilodge scholarships.

1,31

research projects

in progress with external collaborators.

9 philanthropically-funded research projects completed An award-winning RMIT researcher and teacher, Professor Sylvester Abanteriba is also a donor dedicated to changing the lives of his students.

When Professor Sylvester Abanteriba arrived at RMIT, he had no idea it was the start of a 28-year-and-counting academic career. Hailing from Ghana, Professor Abanteriba undertook his engineering studies in Europe and was a successful researcher in engine tribology, the study of friction and wear in engine components. During his eleven years in Germany, he undertook many industry research projects including contract research for multinationals like MAN Diesel, BMW and Volkswagen. His accomplishments include creating landmark engine tribology analysis software so cutting edge it's still used by engine manufacturers today.

A move to Australia unexpectedly led him to teaching and Professor Abanteriba's RMIT journey began.

"Before I arrived in Australia, I was recommended by executives of Toyota in Japan to work for Toyota Australia, but unfortunately, all their research projects were being completed in Japan at the time. The CEO kindly reached out to his contacts and discovered that RMIT needed a thermodynamics teacher for the remainder of that year."

Voted lecturer of the year by his students, Professor Abanteriba secured a full-time teaching position and dedicated himself to co-developing RMIT's inaugural double degree, a Bachelor of Engineering (Aerospace Engineering) (Honours) / Bachelor of Business (Management).

Seeing a need for growing the University's industry connections and opportunities, Professor Abanteriba also founded the innovative RMIT International Industry Experience and Research Program (RIIERP). The program is a partnership between RMIT and 200 global organisations offering students international industry experience through paid internships and postgraduate research grants across Europe, Asia and the USA.

"RIIERP is very close to my heart and I am very proud of what it has achieved for our students. I founded the program in 1992 because I felt, with the emergence of globalisation, it was incumbent upon educational institutions like ours to provide students with the attributes for life and work in a globalised society."

This attitude extends to Professor Abanteriba's support of scholarships. A longstanding donor to the University, he is enthusiastic about the difference a donation can make.

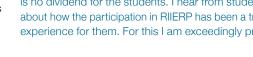
"I feel passionate about donating to support scholarships, because young people who are keen to learn and acquire the skills to live and work in the community should be given the opportunity to do so, independent of their socio-economic situation."

Though he has accomplished much at RMIT. Professor Abanteriba is most proud of the connections he has made with his students and their achievements.

"It's wonderful to see my students grow, learn and accomplish so much in their lives. It's an honour to be on their journey. Throughout the years I have become godfather to many of their children!"

Despite his success, Professor Abanteriba remains humble and focussed on his goal.

"I believe that when one works in an educational institution, one must be cognisant of the fact that any achievements, no matter how great they might be, would be worthless if there is no dividend for the students. I hear from students everyday about how the participation in RIIERP has been a transformative experience for them. For this I am exceedingly proud."





Celebrating 10 years of the Boeing Scholarship and decades of collaboration, RMIT and Boeing continue to explore new frontiers in aerospace, STEM and research.

The world's largest aerospace company, Boeing is an innovation force to be reckoned with. A leading manufacturer of commercial jetliners and defence, space and security systems, Boeing is a hub for the brightest engineering, science and information technology minds.

RMIT is an education leader in engineering, computer science and information technology, preparing students in these fields for the global world of work. Together, these organisations have embarked on the RMIT-Boeing Strategic Relationship, a multi-year partnership dedicated to transformational education, career and research opportunities.

In leading edge research, the partnership focusses on sustainable solutions to aerospace challenges through biomimicry, an approach to design inspired by nature and its processes. In addition to research and innovation, the agreement also seeks to provide graduate students with career opportunities in aerospace and other high-tech industries.

"Embracing ongoing innovation, and investing in productivity through training, skilling, and automation are the keys to the continued success of Australia's manufacturing

industry," said Adnan Raghdo, Director of engineering at Boeing Aerostructures Australia. "It's partnerships like the one with RMIT which helps us do just that."

Boeing has also provided significant financial support for RMIT student projects, travel bursaries, awards and community outreach programs. Now in its 10th year, the Boeing Scholarship has made it possible for students to receive crucial support, excel in their studies and embark on exciting careers.

"Boeing is proud to invest in the next generation of aerospace engineering through the RMIT scholarship program. Boeing's relationship with RMIT spans decades and has supported RMIT through its STEM program for over a decade, with the goal of developing critical skills for the workforce today and tomorrow," said Mr Raghdo.



Meet Lucas

Studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical Engineering) (Honours)/Bachelor of Commerce, Lucas was thrilled to receive the Boeing Scholarship.

"I've always had a genuine interest in the aerospace industry and followed Boeing closely for years, so being told that my scholarship application was successful, it was one of the most satisfying and fulfilling moments of my life."

Relocating from Mildura to Melbourne to study at RMIT, the Boeing Scholarship has allowed Lucas to focus on his studies and achieve his goals. It's also had some unexpected benefits.

"Getting the opportunity to tour Boeing's facilities and network with key employees was a life-changing experience. Also, the Boeing Scholarship has given me greater self-belief and the knowledge that I can achieve anything I put my mind to."

Over halfway through his studies, Lucas remains grateful for what the Boeing Scholarship has helped him accomplish.

"I would like to say a massive thank you to Boeing for not only the support they have given me, but also for inspiring me to become the best engineer I can be. I am very grateful for this scholarship and I can't thank them enough for helping me in my journey as an aspiring engineer."

Meet Kanika

Studying a Bachelor of Information Technology, Kanika's mindset has changed thanks to the Boeing Scholarship.

"The Boeing Scholarship has transformed my way of thinking. It gave me a real boost and opened my eyes to what's possible when you work hard. I'm now someone who sees opportunities and tries to say yes to every one that comes my way."

Following her incredible passion for computers, Kanika was excited to begin her course. However, juggling study and work proved difficult to manage.

"My dad was supporting our whole family, so I needed to work, but it cut into my study time. I knew I needed external help to complete my course, so I applied for the Boeing Scholarship and it changed everything. I left my job, dedicated myself to my studies and got excellent grades."

Kanika also pursued roles as an RMIT Tutor and Lab Assistant, helping IT undergraduates to succeed in their courses. Clearly on a roll, Kanika recently began an exciting one year internship as a software engineer, an opportunity she's delighted about "because there's always something new to learn."

Meet Johanna

Graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical Engineering) (Honours), Johanna credits the Boeing Scholarship with putting her on the right career path.

"The Boeing Scholarship made me look at the aerospace industry for career opportunities. Before receiving the scholarship, I didn't know Boeing had a presence in Australia. My career at Boeing has spanned eight years and been both challenging and rewarding."

Starting out as a graduate engineer, Johanna specialised in wing design and structural analysis. Her work can be found on the 737MAX, 787 Dreamliner and the 777X. Johanna has now transitioned to the research and development team – Boeing Research & Technology Australia, specialising in robotics and automation processes for airplane builds.

"As an engineer, I was looking for growth opportunities because I really wanted to use more of my RMIT degree. Mechanical engineering has tremendous technical breadth, and I wanted to explore those subjects and concepts that I wasn't utilising in aircraft design. Thankfully Boeing offers so many engineering roles, so I was able to pursue a different area of my field and stay with a company I love."

In this next phase of her career, Johanna looks to mentor more young women like herself and inspire them to explore high-tech careers.

"I have the opportunity to inspire and foster young women in STEM. An engineering career is so rewarding. I want to continue to show women that they can be strong and capable tech leaders, encourage them to follow their passion, and through that passion, create the future they envisage. A career in STEM is a platform for changing the world."

"This scholarship has opened so many doors and opportunities for me. It has boosted my confidence and, because I have been given so much, I'm now paying it forward by giving back to help students like me. Thank you for supporting me and letting me know what I'm capable of."

Naturopath and Olympic
Gold Medallist Lauren Burns
is uncovering the key to elite
athletic performance thanks
to the Jacka Foundation
of Natural Therapies.

When it comes to understanding elite athletes, Lauren Burns is a natural. Earning an Olympic Gold Medal in Taekwondo at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, Lauren was keen to understand how elite athletes like herself excel, delving into a ground-breaking study at RMIT to find out.

"I was excited to jump in and explore the factors that impact high performance sport. Having my own sporting experience gave me insight, but I knew this study would have greater reach, highlighting the lifestyle factors and mindset needed to reach the next level, in sport and in life."

A qualified naturopath and nutritionist, Lauren initially investigated the effects of organic food versus pesticides on elite athlete performance, receiving funding through The Jacka Foundation Research Training Scholarship to assist her research.

A not-for-profit charitable fund, The Jacka Foundation of Natural Therapies (JFNT) was established in 2010 to promote the safe and effective use of natural therapies through supporting research into the field.

"The Jacka Foundation aims to advance natural therapies and develop a community of naturopathy researchers, scholars and leaders. There is little funding for natural therapies research, so we were thrilled to partner with RMIT to support three research scholarships, one of which Lauren received," said Pauline McCabe, JFNT Board Director.

When Lauren was unable to obtain additional project funding, she began a new study on the lifestyles and mindsets of Olympic, Paralympic and world champion athletes.

"The research journey can be so changeable, but I landed on a topic I find so interesting and that deserved to be investigated, as these principles are applicable to the business world, support services, and everyday life."

Publishing her findings in two articles in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, Lauren's study found that championship performance primarily occurs at the intersection of a strong psychological profile, interpersonal support, effective performance strategies and lifestyle.

"Through this research, we highlighted that psychological factors and support networks are key to success. The next step is looking at a much larger sample of athletes through a National survey, to compare these practices between foundational and mastery level athletes," said Lauren.

Lauren's work has already gained international attention and she's slated to speak at FEPSAC 2019 — Europe's largest sport psychology conference. She will also be presenting her findings at the International Congress of Complementary Medicine Research and the JFNT annual general meeting.

"I have a passion for supporting naturopaths like Lauren. There are such benefits to broadening research in our area, supporting our profession and growing knowledge, and I'm excited for Lauren to share more about her research process and findings with us" said Pauline.

Already delving into phase two of her study, Lauren remains grateful for the JFNT's support.

"Without the Jacka Foundation and RMIT, I could never have done this research. Their support has created opportunities for research that is not normally done. They've allowed me to follow the work without any pressures — just support, and it's been a fantastic experience. I am looking forward to my research being out in the community and having real-life impact." said Lauren.



A graduate of the RMIT Bachelor of Interior Design program, Carolyn Varney has enjoyed an illustrious career across Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Australia. Co-founding the acclaimed Designinc group with her partner Hans, Carolyn is well-known for designing exquisite retail, hospitality and major commercial projects.

A powerful team, Carolyn and Hans' accomplishments and love of the industry are clear, as is their desire to help others achieve success in the interior design field.

"It's a very interesting transition when you stop work, because you start thinking about the next generation of [interior designers] that's going to come through. You starting thinking about ways that you can help them, benefit the industry and make a difference," Carolyn says.

Together they have been inspired to give back by leaving a bequest to RMIT and developing the Varney Travelling Scholarship for RMIT design students.

"My partner Hans and I have had a lot of conversations about what is important to us and education is really the key, it certainly has been for us, it's the thing that can help you support yourself and your family, it's what transforms your life and so we came back to where it all started and that was RMIT."

Having seen firsthand the opportunities an RMIT education makes possible, Carolyn is looking forward to helping others enjoy life-changing educational experiences.

"The feeling of leaving a legacy is very satisfying. It's good to know that it doesn't just stop with you and that you can leave something that will be of lasting benefit for someone."



Thanks to RMIT's generous supporters, The Capitol will once again be a centre of creative excellence for students, staff and the community.

When you walk into Melbourne's iconic Capitol Theatre, it's easy to see why it's known as one of the world's great cinemas. Designed by renowned architects Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin, The Capitol is an integral part of our city's artistic and cultural heritage.

Thanks to your support, the RMIT Capitol Theatre Appeal raised over \$1.36 million and, in conjunction with the generous support of the Victorian Government, has allowed the University to reactivate this cultural icon.

"The Capitol Theatre was originally a leading-edge building, and what RMIT is doing is bringing it back up to a leading-edge building in terms of its film and media projection technology," said Peter Malatt, Lead Architect for the Capitol Theatre restoration.

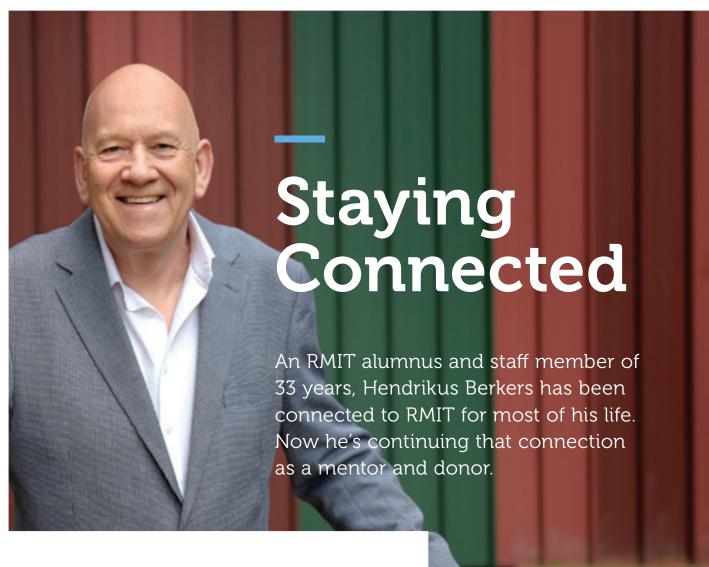
From upgrading the theatre's signature geometric ceiling with LED lights, to painstakingly restoring the famous Ben Hur mantlepiece, months of care and expertise have gone into ensuring The Capitol remains a heritage masterpiece ready for the next generation of patrons.

Now a state-of-the-art presentation and lecture theatre, The Capitol is fitted out to host TED-style talks and panel discussions presented by RMIT or industry partners. The widened stage and retractable screen will enable festivals and live performances to be hosted in this 580-seat auditorium.

This year, a partnership between RMIT and ACMI will see The Capitol debut as the new home of ACMI's extensive range of festivals and events as they undergo their refurbishment. Together, we will host more than 500 events at The Capitol and expect over 100,000 visitors at our beautiful theatre. ACMI and RMIT will also collaborate to develop innovative teaching and research opportunities for students and staff.

None of this would be possible without your generosity and passion for giving this iconic Melbourne landmark a new lease on life. Your support is being recognised in The Capitol foyer as part of RMIT's first donor wall, an exciting installation dedicated to your impact. Donors will have an opportunity to see The Capitol and the donor wall at a special viewing in August soon after the doors reopen.

"It's a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bring back to Melbourne a cultural, architectural, screen-design icon that will be managed by a beloved educational institution, not just for its students, but for everyone who lives in the city," said Marc Morel, RMIT Venues Manager.



After graduating from the RMIT Cabinet Making Apprenticeship program over 40 years ago, Hendrikus Berkers has remained an important member of the University community. Hendrikus is an accomplished furniture maker, a gifted educator and now Director of Environmental Blinds, a supplier of energy efficient interior and exterior blind solutions.

In his 33 years at RMIT, he taught Vocational Education and Higher Education students across the university, specialising in furniture construction and

manufacturing, before rising to become Head of the Department of Furniture Technology, Head of the Department of Built Environment and later Head of the School of Design TAFE. He completed a Master of Architecture in 2002 and was also instrumental in establishing the Advanced Certificate of Furniture Production and the Diploma of Furniture Technology and Design, the first of their kind offered in Australia.

"For me, RMIT is a very special place. My connection started when I was just 16 with the apprenticeship in cabinet making and I have retained a relationship with RMIT ever since. Half of my life at RMIT revolved around teaching and the other half was around various leadership roles. In 2010, I left as the Head of the Design TAFE school at RMIT to pursue my own projects," said Hendrikus.

"I enjoyed being a student here. I think it is an amazing place to study, very dynamic, quite edgy and very well connected with industry, which I think creates a point of difference from other providers in Australia and indeed overseas."

As a donor, Hendrikus has supported the University with regular contributions, donated to the RMIT Capitol Theatre Appeal and has made provision to establish a travelling scholarship in his Will.

"I decided to leave a bequest to RMIT to set up a travelling scholarship because I think it's very important for a young person to have the opportunity to travel. The Philanthropy team was absolutely amazing in the way they managed and helped me through that process, it was incredible. So, it's actually not that hard to do, it's just a case of wanting to do it. I feel very passionate about RMIT and this is a way of me giving something back to the University."

Scholarship Success Stories

Scholarships are integral to supporting students on the path to success. Meet the talented scholarship recipients that graduated in 2018.

Our recent graduates share their reflections on the impact of receiving a scholarship:

Yiling Shen

McCraith Scholarship in Architecture

"I'm really grateful for my scholarship because it helped me an incredible amount. Architecture is a really expensive course in terms of materials and printing costs, so it really helped me to be able to focus on my work instead of how much it was costing. The scholarship allowed me to stop worrying about

affording basic necessities like food and rent, and even allowed me to travel, which I hadn't ever been able to afford. I travelled to Europe and Japan thanks to the scholarship, which was amazing for my architectural education."

Gabriella Korosi

Michael Efron Business Scholarship

"My scholarship helped me succeed by giving me the motivation and push in the right direction. Without it, I would've really struggled to financially support myself and my mother, whom I'm a carer for, throughout my studies. It took a really big weight off my shoulders which then allowed me to divert my full attention to doing the best I could with my studies, and I feel with the scholarship I reached my full potential."

Marcus Watson

R.G. Kayler-Thomson Memorial Scholarship

"My scholarship enabled me to complete an unpaid internship over the summer break between my third and fourth years of study. This internship was interstate, based in NSW and due to the work being unpaid, I would not have been able to take the opportunity if not for the scholarship granting

me the financial freedom to do so. The scholarship funded this endeavour and this piece of work was my first real insight into the world of research within my field. I would never have even been offered the work opportunity had I not met certain individuals at the ceremony where I was awarded this scholarship. The scholarship itself and the networking opportunities it gave me really jumpstarted my entry into research."

These transformational scholarships have enabled the following students to graduate in 2018

Orcadia Foundation Scholarship	Ahmed Al Abid Ali
Boeing Scholarship	Jeremy Bean-Hodges
Andreas Florez Travel Scholarship for Artistic Merit	Mahala Bond
JAYCO Scholarship	Jeniece Cheung
Jack Ward Scholarship	Kimberlee Drane
Marion Fletcher Fashion and Textiles Scholarship	Jessica Gregory
Boeing Scholarship	Brayden Henderson
Emeritus Professor John Jackson Scholarship	llana Jones
Sarah's Dream Scholarship	Ben King
Orcadia Foundation Scholarship	Abdul Ali Mohammadi
Storey Scholarship	Mary O'Callaghan
George Alexander Scholarship	Sarah Pisarski
Emeritus Professor David Beanland AO Scholarship	Jarrah Raabe
0 Al	lamia Una
George Alexander Scholarship	Jamie Ung





Shaping the world through transformative educational experience and ground-breaking research.

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