



ANNUAL REPORT 2016



HELPING STUDENTS TO A BETTER FUTURE

ABOUT US

Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) was established in 2003. It grew out of the former Australian Vietnam War Veterans' Trust (AVWVT), established in 1985. The purpose of AVWVT was to distribute the Australian share of the funds received from the Agent Orange legal settlement in the USA to Vietnam Veterans and their dependants.

The aim of AVWVT was to provide assistance to those children of the Vietnam War Veterans who would not, without a scholarship, have the financial means to complete a tertiary degree.

AVCAT, a national independent charity, has continued the legacy of AVWVT. AVCAT aims to help the children and grandchildren of Australian veterans to a better future through education. Our scholarships assist those selected to obtain the qualification they need to enter their chosen career. The scholarships are targeted at youth to assist them with initial employment. All are means-tested and support full-time tertiary study at university, TAFE or a registered training organisation.

AVCAT manages scholarships on behalf of sponsors and donors who include the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs, ex-service organisations, corporate sponsors and private donors.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Chairman's Report
5	Chief Executive Officer's Report
7	Directors' Report
9	Our People
11	Our Sponsors
13	Our Students

Front cover images (from left to right): 2011 Long Tan Bursary recipient, Andrea Wiles, 2016 Long Tan Bursary recipient, Adrian Chin Quan with Major General Mark Kelly, and 2008 TLC Scholarship recipient, Christopher Bennett.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Pictured above (from left to right): AVCAT Chairman Vice Admiral Russ Shalders (Ret'd) with 2016 TLC Scholarship recipient, Gabrielle Sherring, and her mother and grandfather.

AVCAT's mission remains as it has been for the past 31 years - to provide financial support to the children of Australian veterans to allow them to reach their academic potential. Since our inception in 1985 as the Australian Vietnam War Veterans' Trust (AVWVT), we have enjoyed the continuing support of the Australian Government, many ex-service organisations and private donors who have provided funding for the scholarships we manage. In 2016, through the generosity of our donors, we were able to provide financial assistance to 67 new students who joined some 2300 alumni of the various schemes we manage.

The Long Tan Bursary Scheme remains the mainstay of our efforts and 35 new recipients were awarded a bursary this year. This Scheme is managed by AVCAT on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)

and is governed by a Services Agreement, which underpins the application, selection and management processes involved in awarding these bursaries. We continue to advocate for a widening of the Scheme's eligibility criteria and we were delighted with the recent news that an increase of each Bursary to \$4000 per annum has been approved to commence in the 2017 academic year. We await further advice from DVA on how and when the Scheme may be adjusted in future years.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Honourable Dan Tehan, has taken a keen interest in the work of AVCAT and has been receptive to our advocacy in relation to a number of initiatives we have proposed to enhance the Long Tan Bursary Scheme. We thank him for his ongoing support and through him, thank the Department of Veterans' Affairs for their administrative support, not least the provision of office facilities at DVA Head Office in Sydney.

I would also like to record sincere thanks to our Patron, the Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret'd), for his willingness to support AVCAT and our students. While the Governor General was unable to host the customary special Award Ceremony at Admiralty House in Sydney this year, we are hopeful that future events can be scheduled there to recognise and reward our recipients and the many donors who make the awards possible.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Throughout 2016, a continuing element in AVCAT's strategic plan has been to further develop our profile within, and beyond the veteran community. We aim to ensure that all eligible students are aware of the availability of scholarships we manage. We also try hard to increase awareness amongst potential donors so that the number of bursaries and scholarships available for those studying at university, TAFE or college, can be increased.

In 2016 there were 32 sponsored scholarships provided through the generosity of new and continuing donors. This number will increase dramatically in 2017 as result of a very generous sponsorship arrangement negotiated late in 2016 whereby RSL Queensland have agreed to support 35 new scholarships, each to the value of \$4000 per annum. While this is a very large donation, the equally generous, though smaller sponsorship arrangements we have in place with a variety of donors from the ex-service community, from industry and from private individuals, continue to assist many deserving students. AVCAT sincerely appreciates the trust that donors place in us to manage funds allocated for bursaries and scholarships. The financial assistance provided can make an amazing difference to the life of a tertiary student. Each bursary is paid on a monthly basis and ensures a regular income which translates into academic success. I am pleased to report that the long term academic success rate for AVCAT alumni hovers around 76%, which is well in excess

of wider community achievement levels.

I remain impressed and grateful for the wonderful work done by the small AVCAT team who are dedicated and passionate in pursuit of our objectives and who, as the public face of our organisation, are constantly reacting compassionately to the many enquiries and requests for information from new applicants and ongoing scholarship holders. The staff are ably assisted by a number of very experienced volunteers who assist in the assessing of applications to confirm eligibility and to match donors with applicants.

In April this year we welcomed our new CEO, Joan Hughes who brings a depth of experience to AVCAT having worked in the not-for-profit sector for many years.

The AVCAT Board continues to pursue good governance practice and we ensure that we remain fully compliant with all regulatory and reporting requirements. In conjunction with management, we ensure that operational practices are aligned with our closely monitored strategic planning and risk management profiles. A major part of our planning effort this year was focussed on being in a position to properly negotiate renewal of the Services Agreement which was extended for one year in June 2016.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am greatly appreciative and offer my sincere thanks to my fellow Directors for their unstinting support and effort in furthering the aims of AVCAT. Their commitment is well reflected in the time they willingly give to our students, our donors and to Board activities. The depth of their experience is reflected in their collective total time in office which is approaching 110 years.

At the end of 2016 we had in our care over 190 recipients of bursaries and scholarships, spread over four years of tertiary study. This total will increase dramatically in 2017 as result of the RSL Queensland sponsorship of an additional 35 scholarships.

All members of the AVCAT team remain fully committed to supporting and guiding our talented and deserving scholarship recipients. We are very proud of the role we have been able to play in their continuing development.

Vice Admiral R. E. Shalders AO, CSC, RAN (Ret'd)
Chairman



Pictured above (from left to right) : AVCAT Chairman Vice Admiral Russ Shalders (Ret'd) with 2016 NSW Guest Speaker and 2012 Long Tan Bursary recipient, Jessica Brown, with parents and AVCAT CEO Joan Hughes.

Jessica studied a double degree of Social Work and Arts at the University of New South Wales. She is currently working as a child protection case worker at the Department of Family and Community Services.

Jessica says "The career I have today is because of the time, freedom of choice and education that the Long Tan Bursary afforded me"

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

OUR STRATEGIC VISION

As a national independent charity, AVCAT continues to administer and manage an ever-growing number of bursaries and scholarships for veterans' children and grandchildren who are studying at a university, TAFE college or a registered training organisation. Awarding scholarships is a complex process and we prioritise those applicants who have financial and other difficulties regarding their access to tertiary education. People applying for a bursary or scholarship also need to show academic potential and strong links to the veterans in their families.



Pictured above (from left to right): 2016 TLC Scholarship recipient, Corey East with AVCAT CEO Joan Hughes.

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education"
Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

2016, my first year with AVCAT, has been truly inspiring as I learnt about the history of AVCAT, the sacrifice of so many and the importance of supporting people to achieve their educational goals. Positive learning experiences can challenge our views about the world around us and influence our life choices and future directions. Education is one of the keys to open our minds and hearts, especially when we apply ourselves wholeheartedly to areas that we feel strongly about. I have been very moved by the calibre of the people who have received bursaries and scholarships and the organisations and the individuals who sponsor them.

AVCAT works closely with the sponsors to keep them informed about the progress of the students they are supporting. This occurs twice a year through annual and mid-year reviews. Students who have completed their studies often comment that the financial support of a scholarship allowed them to work one job instead of two and this gave them more time academically and personally. As well, a common message from the students is 'it is great to know that someone else cares about me and my education'. AVCAT continually aims to develop its profile within and beyond the veteran community.

Links with ex-service organisations are critical in promoting the work of AVCAT and signing up more sponsors. In 2016 we received 256 applications and awarded 67 bursaries and scholarships. A priority for

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

2017 is to secure more sponsors especially from the ACT, WA and Victoria. Our overall goals are simple - *increase the number of eligible applicants who receive a scholarship and support current students to complete their qualifications!*

LONG TAN BURSARY SCHEME

The majority of the bursaries and scholarships that AVCAT administers on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), various ex-service organisations and private donors, provide three to four years' of financial support to a range of students studying tertiary courses across Australia (see Page 14).

AVCAT acknowledges the support of the Australian Government for funding the Long Tan Bursary Scheme that AVCAT administers on its behalf. The Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs also provides office space, access to meeting rooms and IT support to the AVCAT Board and staff based in Sydney. Each year the Long Tan Bursaries are presented to their recipients at a special presentation event, hosted by DVA in each state/territory. AVCAT is very grateful for this support.

In 2016 there were 35 Long Tan Bursaries awarded.

OUR SPONSORS

The effective impact of AVCAT's work is seen in the increasing number of bursaries

and scholarships offered each year and the increase in the number of sponsors and donors. Thanks to the generosity of new and ongoing sponsors there were 32 new sponsored scholarships available for 2016 eligible applicants. We have worked hard this year to find new sponsors and I am pleased to confirm RSL Queensland will be generously sponsoring 35 students in 2017. Other new sponsors for 2017 are the Tasmanian Navy Network (Hobart), TPI Tasmania, VVAA WA as well as 2 individual donors. I thank them all sincerely for financially supporting the scholarship recipients and look forward to their ongoing support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The AVCAT team is very small but their commitment, skills, and hard work are remarkable. It is a long and thorough process from the application and assessment stage to finally setting up scholarship payments. I sincerely thank the independent assessors and the members of the National Selection Committee for their fair and detailed assessments.

Finally, the Chairman, Vice Admiral Russ Shalders (Ret'd) has guided and supported my executive work and I thank him sincerely. The other Board Directors willingly commit their time and effort and I thank them for their wisdom and service to AVCAT.

Joan Hughes
Chief Executive Officer

DIRECTORS' REPORT



Pictured above (from left to right): 2016 TLC Scholarship recipient, Angela Bennett, with AVCAT Director, Ian Henderson.

In compliance with the provisions of the Corporations Act 2001, the Directors present this Financial Report of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2016.

Short and long-term objectives

The principal objective of the Company is to provide financial assistance to Australian Veterans' children in relation to tertiary education, where those children are in necessitous and deserving circumstances.

The organisation's strategies for achieving this objective include:

- the provision of financial assistance for Veterans' children through the awarding of scholarships to appropriate applicants who are undertaking tertiary studies;
- the soliciting and acceptance of donations to:

- i) a Trust established for the benefit of Veterans' children; and
- ii) funds established and maintained for the benefit of Veterans' children;

- the promotion and development of the organisation's scholarship policy and procedures with

- i) organisations of ex-service personnel in Australia;

- ii) the Australian governments, departments and agencies;

- iii) the broader business and education communities.

- the retention of the administration of the Long Tan Bursary Scheme.

- the provision of an advocacy and support service to improve outcomes for the children of Australia Veterans undertaking tertiary studies.

Principal Activities

The Company manages and administers scholarships and bursaries, funded by the Australian Government, ex-service organisations and private donors and through bursaries provided by the Company.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Company's activities during the financial year are those prescribed in its Constitution, namely the provision of financial assistance for the costs of tertiary studies to the selected and deserving children of the Australian Veteran community.

Performance Measures

The Company measures performance through the establishment and monitoring of Key Performance Indicators:

1. By monitoring the completion rates of recipients in their respective tertiary studies. The cohort of recipients who commenced their studies in 2014 completed their scholarship period in 2016 and achieved a completion rate of 64%. The eleven year average completion rate for students receiving financial assistance through AVCAT is 76%.
2. By measuring the ratios of expenses to assistance funds distributed to recipients. The ratio of administrative expenses to assistance fund is 18% (2015: 18%). This compares to the ratio of operating expenses to assistance funds of 63% (2015: 58%).

Members

The members of the Company are the five principal national ex-service organisations. They are the Australian Veterans' and Defence Services Council, Legacy Australia

Council Incorporated, the Returned & Services League of Australia Limited, the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia Incorporated and the Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Australia Incorporated. The other member is the Chairman who is appointed by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. The Repatriation Commission has the right to appoint a person to be a member but has chosen not to do so.

Directors of the Company

The Chairman is a Director. Each of the sponsoring organisations appoints a Director and each Director may appoint an Alternate with the agreement of his or her appointing organisation. All the Directors of the Company have experience in matters associated with the welfare of veterans and their families in necessitous and deserving circumstances. The Directors and Alternate Directors act in an honorary capacity and receive no compensation for their services.

COMPANY SECRETARY

Ms Joan Hughes was appointed company secretary on 18th April, 2016.

Our Annual Financial Report for year ended 31 December 2016 is available on our website www.avcat.org.au.

Vice Admiral Russ E Shalders AO, CSC, RAN (Ret'd)
Chairman

OUR PEOPLE

Patron

His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret'd)

Chairman

Vice Admiral Russ E Shalders AO CSC RAN (Ret'd).
Chairman of the Board since 2010

Deputy Chairman

Mr Ken H Foster OAM JP
Board member since 2005
Appointed by VVFA
Member of the Finance Committee

Company Secretary

Ms Joan Hughes
Appointed Company Secretary on 18 April 2016

Directors

Lieutenant Colonel Phillip G Badcock (Ret'd) AFAIM AFIPM
Board member since 2005
Appointed by Legacy Australia
Member of the Audit and Risk Committee

Lieutenant Colonel Ian M Henderson (Ret'd)
Board member since 2005
Appointed by RSL National
Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee

Mr William (Bill) Roberts OAM
Board member since 2005
Appointed by VVAA
Member of the National Selection Committee

Mr Gordon S Blake
Board member since 2012
Appointed by AVADSC

Alternate Directors

Mrs Meg Green RN RM MN
Board member since 2013
Appointed by AVADSC
Member of the Finance Committee

Mr Peter AF Kaineder BA Cert Teach
Board member since 2006
Appointed by VVAA
Member of the National Selection Committee

Mr David J Norton MA FCA
Board member since 2011
Appointed by Legacy Australia
Chairman of the Finance Committee
Member of the Audit and Risk Committee

Mr Norm M Robertson JP
Board member since 1989
Appointed by VVFA
Member of the National Selection Committee

Company Auditor

Mr AM Frawley DM
Walsh and Co.

Company Pro-Bono Solicitor

Mr Ralph Galilee
Managing Partner, Galilee Solicitors

Application Assessors

Mrs Denise Corcoran
Dr Ruth Shatford PHD

OUR PEOPLE

The AVCAT Team

Chief Executive Officer

Ms Joan Hughes

Finance Manager

Ms Milly Yeo

Accountant

Ms Courtney He

Scholarship Manager

Ms Tania Hayes

Scholarship Coordinator

Ms Therese Canty

Scholarship Officer

Ms Anne West

Volunteers

National Selection Committee

Chair

*Dr Janis Milburn OAM PhD MEd BA DipEd
FACE Grad Dip Theology*

National Selection Committee Members

Mrs Eileen Henderson

Mr Peter Kaineder

Ms Carly Marshall JP BA DipEd MEd

Mr William (Bill) Roberts OAM

Mr Norm Robertson

Office Volunteers

Ms Jan Treharne

Ms Fran Appleton



Pictured above (from left to right): 2016 Long Tan Bursary recipient, Stephen Dawson, with AVCAT Scholarship Manager, Tania Hayes.



Pictured above (from left to right): AVCAT CEO, Joan Hughes with 2016 RSL National Scholarship recipient, James Fitzpatrick.

OUR SPONSORS

We would like to thank our generous sponsors, without whom we would be unable to provide the funds for many of the scholarships presented each year. We would also like to acknowledge our anonymous donors. Thank you!

Apprenticeship Support Australia

Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs

Australian Military Bank

Australian Veterans' and Defence Services Council

Brigadier Roy Morris

Brisbane Water (NSW) Legacy Club

Castle Hill RSL Sub-Branch

Chatswood RSL Club

Chatswood RSL Sub-Branch

Commodore Nick Helyer

Dr Janis Milburn

Dr Peter Helson

Legacy Australia Inc.

Mrs O King

Newtown RSL Sub-branch

NSW Nurses and Midwives Association

Port Macquarie RSL Sub-branch

Royal Australian Regiment Foundation

RSL National

RSL (Queensland Branch)

Tasmania Navy Network (Hobart)

Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans Association of New South Wales Limited (TPI NSW)

Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans Association of South Australia (TPI SA)

Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans Association of Tasmania (TPI TAS)

Veterans Centre - Sydney Northern Beaches

Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia (Far North Coast Sub-Branch)

Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia (South Australia) (VVAA SA)

Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia (Western Australia) (VVAA WA)

Vietnam Veterans' Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association of Australia (VVPPAA)

Wandering Warriors

War Widows Guild of Australia

War Widows Guild of Australia (NSW)

OUR SPONSORS

National Sponsors of 2016 scholarships



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Australian Veterans & Defence Services Council

Regional Sponsors of 2016 scholarships



Veterans Centre
Sydney Northern Beaches

OUR STUDENTS



Taliska Arentsen (nee Kiebat)

*Former Long Tan Bursary Recipient
(pictured in the above photo with her parents)*

In December 2016, the AVCAT team received the following email from Taliska's parents.

"We were recently reading through one of our Vietnam Veterans and Peace Keepers journals and saw one of your advertisements for the AVCAT scholarships with photos of the success of some previous recipients. We were reminded of how appreciative our daughter Taliska, who received a Long Tan Bursary in 2009.

Taliska studied at the University of New England an Arts/ Law Degree and was lucky enough to receive a Long Tan AVCAT Bursary which really helped support her through University. She has said that although she still needed to work part-time to get by, the bursary helped to pay her boarding fees to live on campus at

College (she needed to live away from home in order to attend university). It also really helped pay for the cost of her text books, giving her peace of mind that the important things for studying each semester were always covered.

Taliska was at university from 2009 to 2013 when she graduated mid-year with her double degree in Arts/Law. She went on to work in a local law firm in Wauchope and Port Macquarie (NSW) as a law clerk in 2013, gaining experience in the field. In 2015 Taliska completed her GDLP and was admitted as a Legal Practitioner of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory.

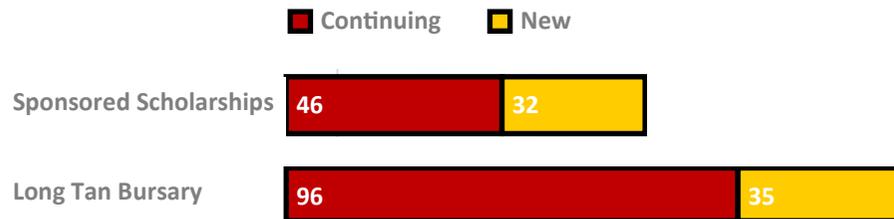
In 2016, Taliska gained a permanent position with the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel in the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice in pursuant of her career in Law. She is also working in a voluntary capacity with the Top End Women's Legal Service on a rotational basis, to provide free legal advice to women in need. Taliska has also taken up a position as a Board Director of the non-government organisation the YWCA of Darwin.

As you can see we are both very proud of our daughter Taliska and would like to convey to you our sincere gratitude for the assistance the Long Tan AVCAT Bursary gave to Taliska with her study (as does Taliska).

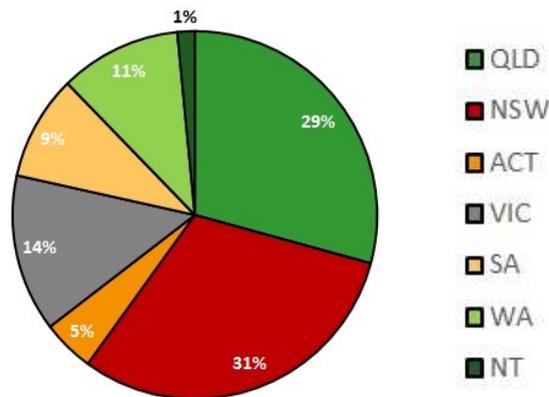
Thank you once again!"

OUR STUDENTS

Total number of scholarship recipients in 2016



Geographic distribution of 2016 scholarship recipients



2016 Scholarship Recipients

In 2016, AVCAT awarded 67 new scholarships, including 35 Long Tan Bursaries and 32 Sponsored Scholarships.

Congratulations to all of our 2016 scholarship recipients.

AVCAT Scholarship

Naomi Carpenter
Brandon Lee

AVCAT Commemorative Bursary

Sponsored by various ex-service organisations and individuals
Taylor Heslington

OUR STUDENTS

AVCAT Commemorative Bursary

Sponsored by War Widows Guild of Australia
Jacqueline Madden

Brisbane Water (NSW) Legacy Club Scholarship

Amelia Lynch
Harley Lynch

Chatswood RSL Club Scholarships

Natasha Harvey
Samantha Jeffrey

Chatswood RSL Club/RSL Sub-Branch Scholarship

Stefanie Martin

Darryl Knapp Memorial Scholarship

Sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (South Australia)
Christie-Ann Daly

George Douglass Commemorative Bursary

Sponsored by the estate of the late George Douglass
Curtis Rayment
Emily Thompson-Young

Legacy Australia Westpac Scholarship

Kieana Bradford
Rhys Kissell
Jade Ommanni-Clarke
Belinda Smith
Kirstie Worthy

Long Tan Bursary

Sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs

Joselle Bardwell
Fionna Batchelor
Kellie Bedwell
Alexandra Binnie
Rosheen Borthwick
Rebecca Brady

Amy Byrnes
Adrian Chin Quan
Cameron Dadd
Stephen Dawson

Leonie Farrugia
Sam Forsyth-Gray
Victoria Horwood
Carolyn Jeffress

Samantha-Anne Knight
Emma Longhurst
Amy Lords
Madison Lucas
Christina Nichols

Kelly Peihopa
Angela Redfern
Cian Reid
Thara Sproule
Olivia Stevenson
Britanny Tulk

Julian Turner
Tyrone Turner
Jeremy Vines
Jessie Lee Webster
Amanda Welden
Melissa Woodberry
Kate Winn
Eugene Zabo
Molly Zillman

OUR STUDENTS

NSW Nurses and Midwives Association Scholarship

Sponsored by NSW Nurses and Midwives Association

Kirsten Miller

Royal Australian Regiment Foundation Scholarship

Madeleine Croton

Mitchael Allan

Jake Melville

Royal Australian Regiment Foundation Scholarship supported by Wandering Warriors

Courtney Dole

RSL National Scholarship

James Fitzpatrick

Travis Styles

TLC Scholarship

Sponsored by anonymous donors

Angela Bennett

Corey East

Gabrielle Sherring

TPI Association NSW Scholarship

Laura Macdonald

Megan Wood

TPI Association SA Scholarship

Yasmin Lyons

Lauren Pepe



Pictured above (from left to right): 2016 Long Tan Bursary Recipient, Tyrone Turner, with parents, and 2016 Long Tan Bursary Recipient, Julian Turner.



Pictured above: 2016 Chatswood RSL Club Scholarship recipient, Natasha Harvey, with Chatswood RSL Club Executives

OUR STUDENTS

In 2016, AVCAT celebrated our 30th year of providing support to the children and grandchildren of veterans. As such, four AVCAT Commemorative Bursaries, sponsored by various ex-service organisations and other private donors, were awarded. The students selected were recognised for their high level of personal merit, leadership ability and community service. Congratulations to our four recipients whose stories are as follows.



Taylor Heslington

Bachelor of Law with Bachelor of International Relations

Australian National University (ANU)

"I'm Taylor and I am a recipient of the AVCAT Commemorative Bursary. I'm loving my degree so far, and I am hoping that it will help me achieve my dream of working in international conflict resolution.

I have taken up many opportunities to get involved at university, especially through the arts, as I was lucky enough to be appointed as an Arts Representative for my accommodation and I was also elected as the Secretary of the Interhall Arts Committee for 2017. In addition, I have taken up a Community Ambassador position with the Access and Inclusion Department of ANU.

"I'm so thankful to my sponsors for their generosity as, without their assistance, none of the wonderful experiences I've had at university thus far would have been possible."



Curtis Rayment

Bachelor of Health Science
University of Queensland

"My name is Curtis and I was fortunate enough to be awarded the George Douglass Commemorative Bursary for 2016. I am trying very hard to reach my goal of eventually being a Royal Flying Doctor and cannot explain in words how helpful and what an honour it is to receive such a scholarship. I come from a cattle station west of Winton and enjoy working with horses. I miss home very dearly but am enjoying the city life and having the opportunity to play Rugby in the Brisbane Reserve Premier competition."

OUR STUDENTS



Jacqui Madden

Bachelor of Creative Arts-Theatre
University of Southern Queensland

"My name is Jacqui and I was awarded the AVCAT Commemorative Scholarship sponsored by the War Widows Guild of Australia.

Since grade four I've been taking part in Speech & Drama and theatre workshops, later auditioning and succeeding in getting into Empire Theatre Youth Arts' Impact Ensemble for the last four years of high school. The most influential production I did was the now published Talking to Brickwalls where we ultimately improved the way people communicated with their loved ones. I love the impact theatre can have on people, which is why I chose my university course.

My scholarship has, thus far, allowed me the financial freedom to be able to 100% focus on my studies."



Emily Thompson-Young

Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Physiotherapy
La Trobe University

"My name is Emily and I was awarded the 2016 George Douglass Commemorative Bursary.

In order to pursue my career aspirations, I had to move interstate as no physiotherapy degrees are offered in Tasmania. I moved to Bendigo in February last year. It was a daunting and challenging experience that at the time, I did not believe I was prepared for.

As a result of my enrolment at La Trobe University I have been given many opportunities. Some of these have included working as a sports trainer for a local football and netball club, working as a residential assistant on the university residence, and acting as a mentor for first year students. I am so appreciative for all the assistance and support I have been given through this scholarship."



AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

A national independent charity

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