

The background is black and filled with numerous gold balloons of various sizes and gold confetti streamers, creating a celebratory atmosphere.

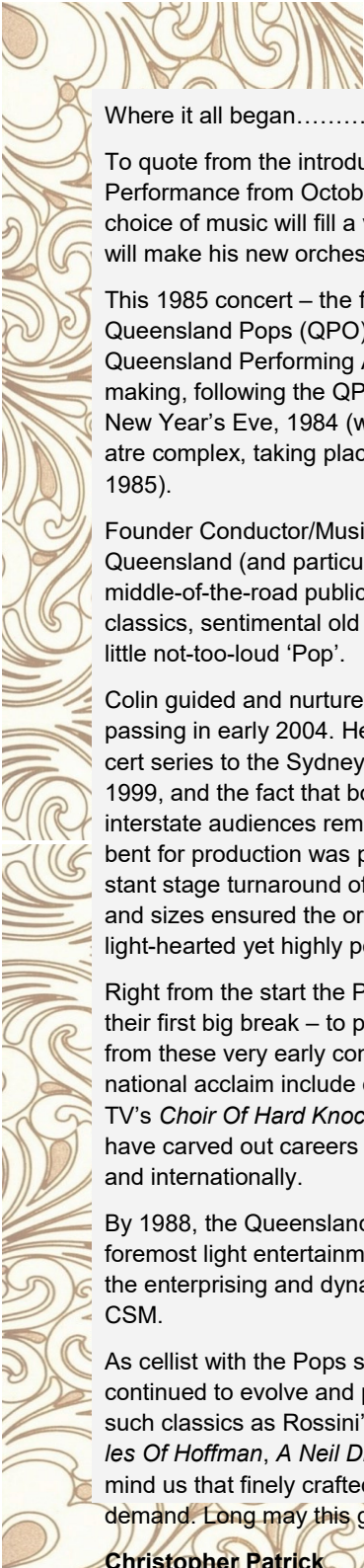
# *NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA CONCERT*



Queensland  
**Pops** Orchestra

**40th Anniversary**

**2024**



Where it all began.....

To quote from the introductory program notes of the Lord Mayor's 19th Command Performance from October 10, 1985: 'It is considered by experts that Colin Harper's choice of music will fill a void in Brisbane's cultural life and – as is evident already – will make his new orchestra a popular institution'.

This 1985 concert – the fourth ever of Brisbane's newest professional orchestra, The Queensland Pops (QPO) – took place at the recently-opened Concert Hall of the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC). It continued a year of history in the making, following the QPO's inaugural performance in the QPAC Lyric Theatre on New Year's Eve, 1984 (which was effectively the 'christening' concert of the new theatre complex, taking place several months before QPAC's official opening in April 1985).

Founder Conductor/Music Director Colin Harper believed there was a need in Queensland (and particularly in Brisbane) for an orchestra able to cater for the vast middle-of-the-road public who liked a potpourri of well-known opera arias, popular classics, sentimental old melodies, modern musicals and – as Colin once said – a little not-too-loud 'Pop'.

Colin guided and nurtured the orchestra to great national acclaim before his untimely passing in early 2004. He took the Pops' hugely successful *Scotland the Brave* concert series to the Sydney Opera House and Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne in 1999, and the fact that both were sell-out performances by an orchestra unknown to interstate audiences remains the stuff of legend. In the early concerts, Colin Harper's bent for production was palpable. His eye for visual effects, expert lighting and a constant stage turnaround of singers, dancers and scene-stealers of all colours, shapes and sizes ensured the orchestra lived up to its premise: to entertain and enthrall, in a light-hearted yet highly polished and professional way.

Right from the start the Pops gave young, talented singers and instrumental artists their first big break – to perform live on stage with a full symphony orchestra. Artists from these very early concerts who have gone on to achieve both national and international acclaim include opera singer sisters Miriam and Clare Gormley and ABC TV's *Choir Of Hard Knocks* director Jonathan Welch, as well as many others who have carved out careers with opera and musical theatre companies both in Australia and internationally.

By 1988, the Queensland Pops Orchestra had established itself as one of Australia's foremost light entertainment orchestras, and that legacy continues ever strong under the enterprising and dynamic stewardship of Conductor/Music Director Patrick Pickett CSM.

As cellist with the Pops since 1985, I have watched with pride how the orchestra has continued to evolve and prosper. Snatching a glance at one program from that year, such classics as Rossini's 'William Tell Overture', 'Barcarolle' from Offenbach's *Tales Of Hoffman*, A Neil Diamond Medley and Bizet's duet from *The Pearl Fishers* remind us that finely crafted popular music remains forever young and will always be in demand. Long may this great orchestra continue!

**Christopher Patrick**



**Patrick Pickett** CSM

MMus, BMus, FTCL, LRAM,  
ARCM, LTCL, ALCM



Concert Master  
Warwick Adeney

Good evening, and a very warm welcome to you all.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Queensland Pops Orchestra's 40th Anniversary New Year's Eve Gala Concert. What a joy it is to return to QPAC for this momentous occasion!

As we reflect on the orchestra's incredible journey, I can't help but think of our founder, Colin Harper AM MBE. I'm certain Colin would be thrilled to see how the Pops have thrived over the past 40 years, leaving an enduring legacy of music for the people of Queensland.

Throughout this time, we have had the privilege of collaborating with many of Australia's finest artists, as well as remarkable community choirs and dancers. But at the heart of it all are the talented musicians who have shaped the Queensland Pops Orchestra. These professional freelance musicians bring extraordinary versatility and artistry, enabling us to deliver such diverse and dynamic programs.

Tonight, we are especially delighted to welcome back some of the original musicians from our inaugural performances, including our distinguished guest concertmaster, Warwick Adeney.

Although I've once again failed in my attempt to retire, I couldn't be more thrilled to return and conduct this very special concert. To our loyal friends and supporters, who have stood by us through decades of music-making, I extend my heartfelt thanks on behalf of everyone involved with the Pops.

As we celebrate this milestone together, I wish each and every one of you a joyful New Year and good health in 2025. Now, let's raise the curtain on an unforgettable evening of music and celebration!



Award-winning soprano, **Nina Korbe**, is quickly establishing herself as one of Australia's leading young sopranos. She has been praised for her creamy tone, brilliant top notes and sensitive performances - which continue to delight critics and audiences.

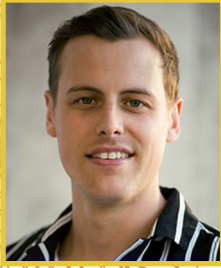
Nina received her Bachelor of Music (with Distinction) from the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University and her Master of Arts (Performance - with Distinction) from the Royal Academy of Music in London. Performance highlights throughout her studies included Arminda (***La finta giardiniera***), Héro (***Béatrice et Bénédict***), Ilia (***Idomeneo***) and Little Miss Manifest in the World Premiere of Freya Walley Cohen's ***Witch***.

For Opera Queensland, she has appeared in their productions of ***La bohème***, ***Die Fledermaus***, ***Il barbiere di Siviglia***, ***Peter Grimes*** and Verdi's ***Requiem*** and this year is a returning Young Artist. In concert, she has been engaged as soloist by Camerata Chamber Orchestra, Queensland Ballet, Southern Cross Soloists and the Goldner String Quartet and is a returning artist with Melba Opera Trust as the recipient of the ***Ruskin Opera Scholarship***.

In 2024, Nina made her Opera Australia début as Maria in ***West Side Story*** and as Lisette in Puccini's ***La rondine*** for Victorian Opera. She has been welcomed back as Artist in Residence with the Queensland Youth Orchestra and in this capacity, she has sung Ravel's ***Shéhérazade*** at the Musikverein in Vienna, Stiftung Mozarteum in Salzburg and Laieszhalle in Hamburg.

As a proud Koa, Kuku Yalanji, Wakka Wakka woman, she is actively involved in the championing of Indigenous Voices; Nina sits on Queensland Youth Orchestra's Reconciliation Action Plan Board and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra's First Nations Advisory Board. She has recently been appointed as the First Nations advisor to the Australian Music Foundation.





## Billy Bouchier

A graduate of Queensland Conservatorium of Music, this year Billy has been in two major productions for Opera Australia. He played Tony in *West Side Story* on Sydney Harbour, and was in their touring production of *Sunset Boulevard*.

Prior to that he was in Opera Australia / GWB's tour of *Miss Saigon*. Other credits include *Candide*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Les Misérables* (Australia and International), *The Last Five Years* and *The Book of Mormon*.

Billy has performed alongside the likes of Jemma Rix, John Foreman and The Queensland Symphony Orchestra. In 2020 he developed and performed in his own cabaret show *The Corner of Brisbane & Broadway*.

A proud member of Actors Equity, Billy is thrilled to be a part of the 40th Anniversary of The Queensland Pops Orchestra New Years Celebrations.



**Bruce Grice** started piping at 12, the youngest in the Ballina Pipe Band by 20 years. He joined the Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band in 1996, becoming their Pipe Major in 2008. Bruce has taken that band three times overseas to France for the Celtic Festival Interceltique de Lorinet. He has been the piper for Prime Ministers and Irish Ambassadors. Last year he performed at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo with the Tasmanian Police Pipe Band. Bruce is an inaugural member of Murphy's Pigs – a Celtic Ensemble that is now 15 years strong.

# ACT I

**Earth** *from Concerto for Didgeridoo* by Sean O'Boyle AM & William Barton.

**We Are Australian** written in 1987 by Bruce Woodley of the Seekers and Dobe Newton of the Bushwackers. Featuring **Chris Williams** on didgeridoo. Arr. Graham Lloyd

**Slavonic Dances** Dvořák, Op. 46

**Song to the Moon** Dvořák, *from Rusalka* **Nina Korbe**

**Laughing Song** *from Die Fledermaus* by Strauss **Nina Korbe**

**Nimrod** Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, Variation 9. It is a portrait of his friend, A.E. Jaeger. And of a long summer evening talk, "when my friend discoursed eloquently on the slow movements of Beethoven". This movement is named Nimrod because 'Jaeger' was German, and in German 'Jaeger' means 'hunter'.

**This Is The Moment** *from Jekyll & Hyde* by Frank Wildhorn Arr. Graham Lloyd **Billy Bouchier**

**Take Me As I Am** *from Jekyll & Hyde* by Frank Wildhorn Arr. Graham Lloyd **Billy Bouchier**

**Sparrow Jig** Trad **Resonance of Birralee**

**Pipe Major Brice Grice solo**

**Highland Cathedral** by Ulrich Roeber and Michael Korb in 1982 for a Highland Games held in Germany. **Piper Bruce Grice** leads this tune which is played from Tattoos and Rugby games to weddings and funerals.

**2021 Pipe Medley** Arr. Graham Lloyd **OzScot Highland Dancers** will perform to this traditional Scottish dance music with **Piper Bruce Grice**

**Scotland The Brave** adopted as the regimental quick march of the Royal Regiment of Scotland Trad. Arr. Michal Rosiak.

## ACT 2

**Introduction and Allegro for Strings**, Op. 47, was composed by Sir Edward Elgar in 1905 for performance in an all-Elgar concert by the newly formed London Symphony Orchestra. Scored for string quartet and string orchestra, Elgar composed it to show off the players' virtuosity. **Borealis Quartet**

**Tristch Trastch Polka** Strauss

**Barcelona** Freddie Mercury & Mike Moran. **Billy Bouchier**. The song reflects Mercury's love of opera with his high notes and Caballé's operatic vocals, backed by a full orchestra. Originally released in 1987, it was one of the biggest hits of Mercury's solo career.

**I Could Have Danced All Night** from *My Fair Lady* Frederick Loewe & Alan Jay Lerner **Nina korbe**

**Anthem** from *Chess* Benny Andersson, Björn Ulvaeus & Tim Rice. **Billy Bouchier**  
The song describes the feelings of Soviet Russian challenger, Anatoly Sergievsky, when he defects.

**Nessun Dorma** (Let no one sleep) by Giacomo Puccini from his opera *Turandot*.  
**Billy Bouchier**

**The Parting Glass** a Scottish traditional song from 1605, often sung at the end of a gathering of friends. It was purportedly the most popular parting song sung in Scotland before Robert Burns wrote *Auld Lang Syne*. Trad. Arr. Graham Lloyd.

**Resonance of Birralelee**

**Time To Say Goodbye** Francesco Sartori, Lyrics by Lucio Quarantotto was originally released as a single for Andrea Bocelli in 1995, under the title 'Con te partirò' and then released as a duet with Sarah Brightman in 1996. It became the biggest-selling single in history.

**Auld Lang Syne** a Scots-language poem written by Robert Burns in 1788 and set to the tune of a traditional folk song. Arranged for the orchestra by Graham Lloyd. Entire cast joins in.

Percussion instruments for Queensland Pops Orchestra are provided by

**Just Percussion.**

13 Creswell Street, Newstead  
[www.justpercussion.com.au](http://www.justpercussion.com.au)



*Australia's Most Trusted Name In Percussion*

Program correct at the time of printing.

## Cheryl Roach OAM



Cheryl has been teaching highland dancing for 54 years. A former champion herself, she has produced a number of champion dancers holding both Australian and Overseas titles. Cheryl has judged and tutored dance workshops throughout Australia and overseas.

In the past, Cheryl has been involved in administration positions on the Australian Board of Highland Dancing and is again involved in the ABHDI Administration.

As well as having her own studio for Highland Dancing, Cheryl is the Dance Director of OzScot Australia, which supports, promotes and encourages collaboration and further development of highland dancing in Australia.

OzScot Australia has been involved in various dance projects both in Australia and internationally, providing many exciting opportunities for the dancer not available within the traditional competitive dance scene. Each team showcases highland dancers from all states and regions of Australia.



### OzScot Highland Dancers

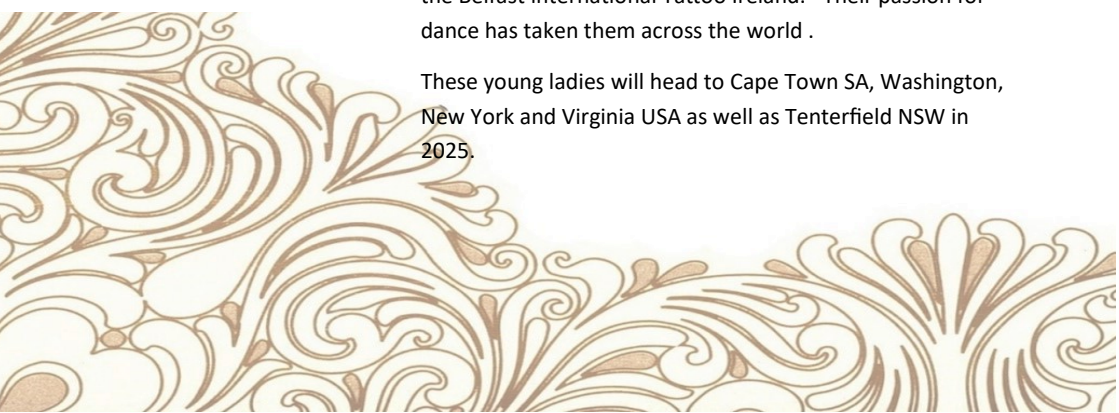
Under the Direction of Cheryl Roach OAM OzScot Australia, proudly an all Australian team, has performed throughout the world at 29 international events over the last 20 years.

OzScot is known throughout the world for its unique blend of traditional and contemporary highland dance.

Dancers are Charlotte Fieldhouse, Kelly Haseldine, Hannah Hughes, and Caitlin Reid.

They were part of a contingent of 90 dancers this year at The Basel Tattoo Switzerland and then part of a team of 30 at the Belfast international Tattoo Ireland. Their passion for dance has taken them across the world .

These young ladies will head to Cape Town SA, Washington, New York and Virginia USA as well as Tenterfield NSW in 2025.





# THE ORCHESTRA

Patrick Pickett Conductor Rhonda Salway Business Manager  
Warwick Adeney Concertmaster

## Violin I

Sally-Ann Djachenko  
Glenn Murray  
Kylie Hinde  
Neridah Oostenbroek  
Helentherese Good  
Donna Rooney  
Sophia Jones  
Alison Brown  
Tom Riethmuller  
Natalie Pammenton  
Emily Masciocchi#

## Violin II

Katie Sillar\*  
Celine Crellin  
Jen Vandenburg  
Geraldine Campbell  
Rebecca Karlen  
Joanne Leask  
Josephine Pollicina  
Ken Fraser  
Juilianna Kim  
Helen Carvolth

## Viola

Loreta Fin\*  
Michele Adeney  
Karen Gordon  
Li-Ping Kuo  
Malcolm Cole  
Tam Fraser  
Tuuli Rantanen  
Yuri Djachenko  
Yuri Djachenko

## Cello

Evalyn Legried\*  
Robert Manley  
Daniel Chiou  
Oliver Scott  
Chris Patrick  
Samantha Knutsen  
David Freisberg

## Bass

Danica Inglis\*  
Brendan Scully  
Elias Kokkoris  
Tina Rogers

## Flute

Michal Rosiak\*  
Elinor Hillock

## Piccolo

Brijette Tubb

## Oboe

Jenny Flottmann

## Oboe/Cor Anglais

Bernie Girard

## Clarinet

Macarthur Clough\*  
Christy Dykes

## Bassoon

Karen Ruprecht\*  
Katherine Willison

\* Principal  
# Somerville House

## Horn

Jessica Piva\*  
Hannah Waterfall  
Andrew Kopittke  
Kerry Thomas

## Trumpet

Chris Hudson\*  
Bella Geeves  
Chris Williams

## Trombone

Daniel Riek\*  
Stuart Bent

## Bass Trombone

Todd Burke

## Tuba

Andrew Bell

## Timpani

Matthew Conway

## Percussion

David Adelt\*  
Cara Daily  
Tina Liu

## Piano

Brendan Murtagh

## Harp

Ellena Papas

## Guitar

Michael Anderson

## Production Crew

Geoff McGahan Sound Engineer

Stage Manager and Lighting Engineer provided by QPAC.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all QPAC staff and technical crew.



Nikita Pogrebnoy—Viola

Patricia Shih—Violin 1

Yuel Yawney—Violin 2

Sungyong Lin—Cello

One of the most dynamic and exciting world-class ensembles of its generation, the Borealis String Quartet has received international critical acclaim as an ensemble praised for its fiery performances, passionate style, and refined, musical interpretation. Founded in Vancouver, British Columbia in the fall of 2000 and rapidly establishing a stellar reputation, the Borealis has toured extensively in North America Europe and Asia and performed to enthusiastic sold-out audiences in major cities, including New York, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Rome, Mainz, Shanghai, Taipei, Beijing, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and, of course, in their home town of Vancouver.

The Borealis has continued to receive awards and rave accolades from presenters, renowned musicians and critics alike for their artistry. The Borealis was the only classical group to be selected for the Great Canadian Dream Competition which was televised across the nation and as a result, were the only classical musicians to perform for the Prime Minister of Canada at the Parliament Hill in Ottawa for an audience of over 75,000.

Since then, they have performed on every music series in Canada. Amongst other awards, their most recent CD was also nominated for the prestigious Golden Melody Award in Asia.

In addition to performance, the Borealis has frequently served as jury members for competitions and most recently at the 2012 EGre National Competition. The Borealis was the String Quartet-in-Residence at the University of British Columbia for over 10 years and as Visiting Scholars at Green College from 2000-2004 during which time they often performed for dignitaries including the Dalai Lama.



### Resonance of Birrale

Conductor:

Paul Holley OAM

Rehearsal accompanist:

Brendan Murtagh

Joshua Clifford

Daniella Curcuruto

Carl Flottmann

Andy Francis

Bridie Hoey

Kate Holley

Peta Lakeman

Kate Leinenga

Samuel Mosely

Jessica Ruhle

Katelyn Suschinsky

Phillip Suschinsky

## Voices of Birrale

**Founder: Julie Christiansen OAM**

**Artistic Director: Paul Holley OAM**

Voices of Birrale is a not for profit community arts organisation that believes singing together strengthens community, with choristers collaborating to create expressive music and audience's feeling inspired by the beauty and infectiousness of joyous performance. Based in Brisbane, the name Birrale is derived from an indigenous word, Birralii, used in the language of the Yuwaalaraay and Gamilaraay people from North-West NSW and South-West QLD, meaning 'child/children.' What began as a children's choir over 29 years ago now comprises ensembles which have attained a remarkable level of professionalism and are highly acclaimed by national and international audiences. Catering for 5 year olds to 35 year olds in it's ensembles, almost three hundred choristers meet together weekly to have fun making music.

In these concerts Birrale is represented by members of Resonance of Birrale a choir comprising young adults aged 18 - 35 years who collectively bring a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and musical leadership to the Voices of Birrale program. This ensemble performs music from classical to contemporary with a special emphasis on Australian choral music and love performing with other arts organisations like QSO and the Qld Pops Orchestra.

Voices of Birrale are currently accepting enrolments for their 2025 season – [www.birrale.org](http://www.birrale.org).



*Sing WITH*  
**BIRRALEE IN**  
**2025**

2025 - ENROLMENTS  
MON - PREP

**BIRRALEE PICCOLOS**  
Prep - Year 1

**BIRRALEE KIDS**  
Year 2 - 4

**BIRRALEE SINGERS**  
Year 5 - 7

**BRISBANE BIRRALEE VOICES**  
12 - 18 years

**BIRRALEE BLOKES**  
12 - 25 years

**RESONANCE OF BIRRALEE**  
18 - 35 years

REGISTER

Paul Holley is the Artistic Director of Voices of Birrale and is a choral conductor and music educator. His personal warmth and passion for choral music have inspired many singers to discover and develop their skills as choral musicians. As well as his work with Birrale he also conducts the national youth choir Gondwana Chorale and is a sought -after conducting teacher, workshop presenter and mentor to younger conductors. He was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in January 2016 for his services to choral music.



A descendant of the Wakka Wakka people from Queensland, Didgeridoo player **Chris Williams** began his music studies from an early age.

He studied Classical Trumpet at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music and also earned a Masters degree in Classical Trumpet Performance at the Royal College of Music in London.

Chris has appeared as guest principal trumpet with the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Queensland Pops Orchestra and the Australian Youth Orchestra. He was nominated for the Australian Freedman Fellowship Award for Jazz and for the Australian Young Achiever Award twice.

Currently Artist in Residence with the Southern Cross Soloists, Chris is regarded as one of Australia's leading Didgeridoo soloists. As a Didgeridoo soloist, Chris has performed extensively throughout Africa and Europe.

Solo Didgeridoo performance highlights include Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, Israel, the Vatican and Didgeridoo Concerto with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

From 2022, in partnership with the Southern Cross Soloists, Chris has embarked on an ambitious project to collaborate with established composers to commission three new works for didgeridoo and classical music ensemble every year for the next 10 years. A number of works so far in the "Didgeridoo Commissioning Project" have been nominated for APRA AMCOS Awards. Current and previous composers include Sean O'Boyle, John Rotar, Leah Curtis, Joe Twist, Matthew Dewey, and James Morrison.

He lives on the beautiful Sunshine Coast/Gubbi Gubbi country with his family.



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**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

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The Honourable John-Paul Langbroek MP  
Minister for Education and the Arts

Sharon Schimming  
Acting Director-General, Department of Education

QPAC rests on the lands of the Jagera and Turrbal peoples. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this country and recognise their rich cultural heritage and enduring connection to the land, waters and skies. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are this country's original storytellers, and it is our privilege to continue to share stories and be a place of gathering on this land that has been a meeting place for millennia.

**THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS**

**QPAC warmly thanks our key donors who help us engage broadly across the state and continue enriching lives through performing arts.**

Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax AC, Dr Lee and Professor Peter Coaldrake AO, Leigh Tabrett PSM, Susan Rix AM, Julian Myers, Dr Sally Pitkin AO, Dare Power, Dr Cathryn Mittelheuser AM, Sandi Hoskins, Lance and Suzanne Hockridge, Leigh Wheeler, Judith Musgrave Family Foundation, Queensland Community Foundation, de Groot's Charitable Fund, Joachim and Paula Erpf, Dr Colin and Mrs Noela Kratzing, Barbara Snelling, Frank and Karen Alpert, Dr Ailbhe and Dr Frank Cunningham, Jenny Morton, Klaus Beckmann and several donors who wish to remain anonymous.

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