

supporting Indigenous students for over 30 years



Edition
04

THE Roberta Sykes

July 2014

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of three Roberta Sykes Scholarships, a scheme assisting Indigenous Australians to pursue post-graduate study at leading overseas universities.



The three recipients are: Monash University graduate Michael Bryden, University of Newcastle graduate Nathan West, and Flinders University graduate Kristopher Wilson.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Cover Story	1
Message from the Foundation	2
How to Donate	3
Meet the Scholars	4
Foundation Board Members	5
Application Information	5

Michael Bryden, a descendant of the Palawa people of Tasmania, has been accepted to undertake an MPhil in Criminological Research at Trinity College, Cambridge. He graduated with First Class Honours in a Bachelor of Arts (Criminology and Politics) from Monash, maintaining a High Distinction average throughout his degree. Michael was a participant on the Aurora Indigenous Scholars International Study Tour in 2011 and 2013.

Nathan West, a descendant of the Biripi people, has been accepted to the MPhil in Social Anthropology at Clare College, Cambridge. He completed his Bachelor of Construction Management at University of Newcastle with First Class Honours, maintaining a Distinction average throughout his degree.

Nathan was a participant on the Aurora Indigenous Scholars International Study Tour in 2013.

Kristopher Wilson, a descendant of the Arabunna people, has been accepted to undertake a DPhil in Cyber Security (Law) at Jesus College, Oxford. He completed his Bachelor of Laws (Honours) at Flinders University, and Master of Laws (Media and Technology) at the University of New South Wales. Kristopher received the Ken Wanganen Medal from Flinders in 2012.

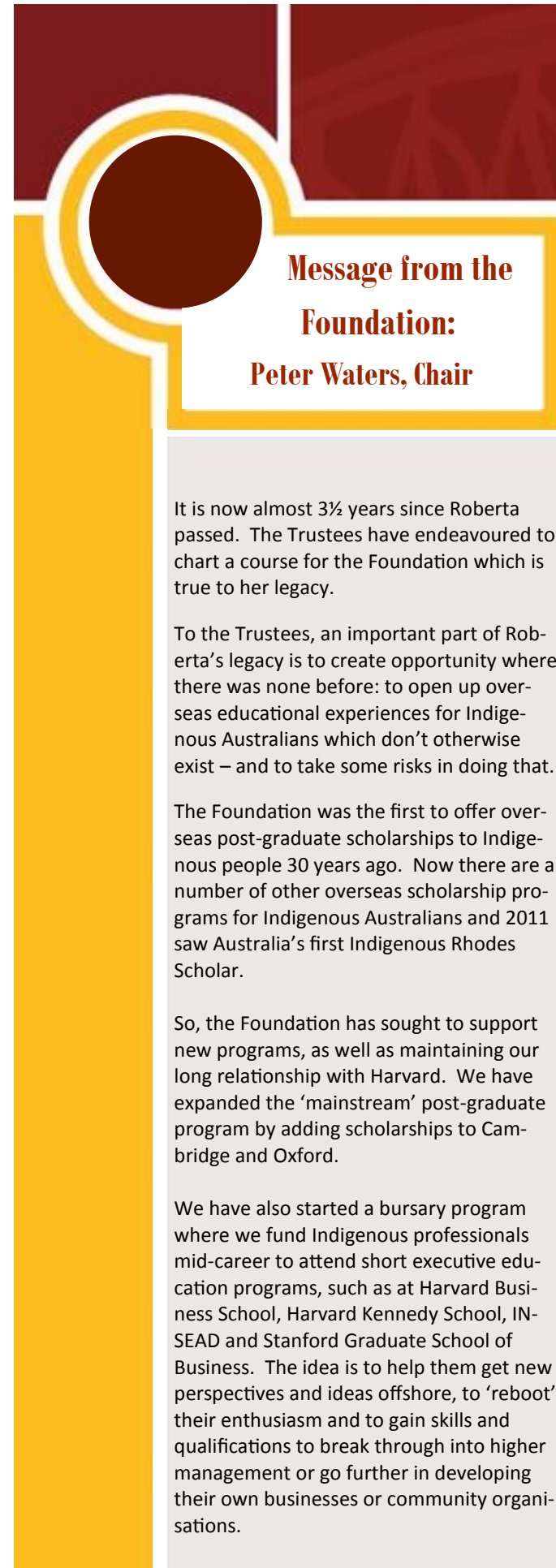
Speaking about the scholarships, the Chair of the Foundation, Peter Waters, said: "The Trustees are honoured to support these three exemplary Indigenous scholars in their studies at Cambridge and Oxford later this year. Twenty years ago, Indigenous scholars were confined to a narrow range of disci-

plines. Today however, scholars are branching out across a variety of fields.

The Roberta Sykes Scholarships promote the vision of a better future in which more Indigenous people assume positive roles across a spectrum of career and leadership opportunities.

We acknowledge that it is largely due to the generosity of our donors that our recipients are able to realise their aspiration of overseas study. I sincerely wish to thank the Australian Government, the University of Oxford, the Cambridge Commonwealth, European & International Trust, Cambridge Australia Scholarships, the University of Canberra, Justice John Basten and the many others who have made these outstanding awards possible."

The scholarships to Cambridge and Oxford cover all fees and living expenses, and are valued at over \$70,000 for the period of one year.



Message from the Foundation: Peter Waters, Chair

It is now almost 3½ years since Roberta passed. The Trustees have endeavoured to chart a course for the Foundation which is true to her legacy.

To the Trustees, an important part of Roberta's legacy is to create opportunity where there was none before: to open up overseas educational experiences for Indigenous Australians which don't otherwise exist – and to take some risks in doing that.

The Foundation was the first to offer overseas post-graduate scholarships to Indigenous people 30 years ago. Now there are a number of other overseas scholarship programs for Indigenous Australians and 2011 saw Australia's first Indigenous Rhodes Scholar.

So, the Foundation has sought to support new programs, as well as maintaining our long relationship with Harvard. We have expanded the 'mainstream' post-graduate program by adding scholarships to Cambridge and Oxford.

We have also started a bursary program where we fund Indigenous professionals mid-career to attend short executive education programs, such as at Harvard Business School, Harvard Kennedy School, INSEAD and Stanford Graduate School of Business. The idea is to help them get new perspectives and ideas offshore, to 'reboot' their enthusiasm and to gain skills and qualifications to break through into higher management or go further in developing their own businesses or community organisations.

Here are some of the short courses we have funded:

- **In April 2012**, Cissy Gore-Birch-Gault, Chair of the Balangarra Aboriginal Corporation, attended the Harvard Kennedy School course "Mastering Negotiation";
- **In October 2012**, Damein Bell, Acting CEO at Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and past Director of Native Title Services Victoria, attended the Harvard Kennedy School course "Creating Collaborative Solutions: Innovations in Governance";
- **In May 2013**, Hans Bokelund, CEO of Goldfields Land & Sea Council, attended the Harvard Business School course "Strategic Negotiations: Deal making for the long term";
- **In July/August 2013**, Suzanne Ingram, Senior Research Fellow at The George Institute for Global Health, attended the Banff Centre course "Science Communication";
- **In July 2013**, Merredy Quinn-Bates, Aboriginal Health Education Officer with Hunter New England Health, attended the New Parsons School of Design course "Design Management";
- **In July 2013**, Kevin Smith, CEO of Queensland South Native Title Services, attended the Harvard Business School course "Strategic Perspectives in Non-profit Management";
- **In February 2013**, Duane Vickery, Managing Director of Education, Training and Management Perspectives Pty Ltd, attended the Harvard Kennedy School course "Authentic Leadership Development"; and
- **In May 2014**, Lesley Nelson, Director of Indigenous Banking Solutions at Westpac Banking Corporation, attended the Stanford Business School course "Executive Program for Women Leaders".

How to DONATE

We have managed to do this on limited funds. We have been successful at leveraging our funds with funding from the Australian Government, other philanthropists and contributions from the overseas universities.

We direct fund on average about 40% of our scholarships and the rest is from our partners. Over the last couple of years, we funded scholarships and bursaries to the value of over \$600,000 of which the Foundation kicked in \$240,000. In other words, for every dollar of our own funds we spend, we have managed to raise another \$2.50.

I would like to thank our partners: the Harvard Club of Australia; the Australian Government; the Telstra Foundation; the Becher Foundation; Chief Executive Women; the Cambridge Commonwealth, European & International Trust; Cambridge Australia Scholarships; the University of Oxford; Justice John Basten; the University of London; and New York University.

Although we have been successful at 'driving the dollars further', we are running down our corpus. The Trustees have taken the view that we should not prolong the life of the Foundation by preserving our capital where that means turning away opportunities to make a difference now.

However, at our current spend, the Foundation probably has another 2 or 3 years of life unless we can raise some more funds.

Donations can be made by credit card or cheque

1. Credit Card donations are accepted online at www.givenow.com.au. The website allows you to give a one-off donation or for those wanting to give a regular, monthly donation it also has a direct debit facility.
2. Cheques can be made out to "The Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation" and mailed to the Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation, 100 Botany Road, Alexandria NSW 2015.



You have been a loyal supporter of Roberta and her legacy. So, there is no polite way to say this, please reach into your pockets and help!

Peter Waters, Chair

Meet the current Scholars

Sarah Bourke



Sarah is currently undertaking an MPhil in Medical Anthropology at Keble College, Oxford. She graduated from ANU in 2013 with First Class Honours in a Bachelor of Arts (researching Biological Anthropology) and with a Bachelor in Psychology. She was the 2012 National NAI-DOC Scholar of the Year.

Sharon Davis



Sharon is currently undertaking an MSc in Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition at Green Templeton College, Oxford. Sharon graduated with a Bachelor of Education, specialising in Aboriginal Studies, from the University of Notre Dame in Broome in 2012. She was the first Indigenous recipient of the University's Vice-Chancellor's Medal: School of Education, for outstanding academic results in 2010.

Bridget Hughes



Bridget is currently studying an MPhil in Educational Leadership and School Improvement at the University of Cambridge. Bridget graduated from James Cook University in 2011 with a Bachelor of Education (Honours) degree and has worked as a Research Assis-

tant for the Stronger Smarter Learning Communities – Central and Far North Queensland project.

Kathleen Jackson



Kathleen is our second Roberta Sykes Harvard Club Scholar, currently undertaking a PhD in History. She graduated from the University of Newcastle in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts with Distinction and a Bachelor of Laws. Kathleen has previously won the Sarah Wheeler Prize for History and was a Youth Representative for the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2011.

Taryn Lee



Taryn is currently undertaking an MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London. She graduated from Victoria University in 2012 with a Bachelor of Laws degree, and from the College of Law with a Diploma of Legal Practice. On completion of her Master's in the UK, Taryn intends to return to her role as a Senior Adviser on Indigenous Policy and Projects at the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.

To read more about the Scholars visit:

www.robertasykesfoundation.com.au

and click on 'Current Scholars'

Foundation Board Members

DONISHA DUFF

Descended from the Moa and Badu Islands (Torres Strait) and the Yadhaigana and Wuthathi people (Cape York), Donisha was appointed a Trustee of the Foundation following her 2011 Roberta Sykes Fellowship to Harvard Business School as part of her MBA at the Australian National University.

TIM GOODWIN

A member of the Yuin people of the South East Coast of New South Wales, Tim was the inaugural 2011 Roberta Sykes Harvard Club Scholar. He graduated from Harvard Law School with a Master of Laws in 2012.

JILPIA JONES

Jilpia is a Walmadjari woman born through the Aboriginal traditional birthing practice from the Great Sandy Desert of the Walmadjari Nation.

GREG LEHMAN

A descendant of the Trawulwuy people of the north east of Tasmania, Greg was a 2012 Roberta Sykes Scholar. He graduated from the University of Oxford with an MSt in the History of Art and Visual Culture in 2013.

SHIREEN MALAMOO

Shireen was born in Plantation Creek, North Queensland and now lives and works in Redfern, Sydney. She has been a lifelong campaigner for the rights of Indigenous people.

RICHARD POTOK

As well as being the Executive Director of the Foundation, Richard is the Director of the Aurora Project and Executive Director of the Charlie Perkins Trust.

PETER WATERS

Peter Waters has been a Partner at Gilbert+Tobin for over 15 years. Peter's long association with the Foundation began in the 1980s as a junior lawyer.

The full biography of each Trustee can be viewed at: www.robertasykesfoundation.com/trustees.html

Application Information

The Foundation is always keen to talk to prospective applicants about the types of support we offer to Indigenous Australian students for overseas post-graduate study.

The Foundation offers four types of support for overseas study:

- 1) The Roberta Sykes Harvard Club Scholarship (up to \$60,000 per annum)
- 2) The Roberta Sykes Scholarship (up to \$30,000 per annum towards a degree at an overseas university)*
- 3) The Roberta Sykes Fellowship – overseas research (up to \$20,000 for overseas study as part of an Australian postgraduate degree)
- 4) The Roberta Sykes Bursary for short executive education programs (up to \$20,000)

Application information for the scholarships can be obtained from Tess Crellin:

tess.crellin@auroraproject.com.au or (02) 9310 8421

Or visit our website

www.robertasykesfoundation.com.au

*Note that due to partner contributions, Scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge are valued at over \$30,000