



Gala Lunch, Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland

Saturday 15th July 2017, 12:30pm–3:00pm

The Women's College, St Lucia Campus

Dr Catherine A. Lawrence, President, Alumni Friends

Good morning, and welcome. On behalf of everyone here today, I wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we meet, and offer our respects to their Elders—past, present and future.

I also wish to acknowledge and remember our many 'absent friends'.

If we are yet to meet, hello. My name is Cathi Lawrence, and I am the current President of Alumni Friends. It is a great pleasure to welcome you all today, and in particular to welcome our Guest of honour, Dr David Malouf AO, and also Madonna King. I am delighted to also welcome and thank our Patron, The Honourable Penny Wensley AC, and also Mr John Story AO, our former Chancellor, (and Mrs Georgina Story) for joining us today. I also acknowledge Professor Iain Watson (who is today representing the Vice-Chancellor), and UQ's current Alumnus of the Year, Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO.

Forgive me.. It really is quite humbling to be in the presence of so many of our Foundation members, past presidents, and recipients of the UQ Alumnus of the Year award. So apologies for not reading out the full roll call. But welcome, one and all.

As the first Alumni Association to be founded in Australia, *Alumni Friends* has had a major impact on The University of Queensland—and not just because we have donated the equivalent of over \$8m to support UQ's educators, researchers and students.

Our Golden Jubilee is a special milestone. Which means that 2017 is certainly 'all things 50'. ... 50 student bursaries (5 awarded, 45 to go!!), a \$50,000 donation to the Fryer Library, our 50 Stories project... and.... it feels like 50 events with exhibitions and concerts at libraries and museums across UQ. But I think its fair to say that we have all been looking forward to this very special occasion—the highlight of our celebrations...

One of the reasons why today is so very special is it gives us the opportunity to recognise the support of four very special Foundation Members. It was a difficult task. There are so many special members and volunteers who have given their time (and money) to support Alumni Friends, and thus support the University. But, as you will see from your program, we have four special members who we congratulate today (and I would like to invite our Patron, Penny Wensley, to present each of them with their small token of our esteem). Please do read their citations in your program to have just a small sense of their contributions. But join me now in congratulating them each individually... first...

Don Barrett. Don is the oldest registered practising teacher in Queensland, is the longest serving Dean in the history of UQ, and has been the Secretary of *Friends of Antiquity* since 1989. It is a pleasure to acknowledge Don's impact as a Foundation Member of our Association. We thank him for his exceptional service to *Alumni Friends*, to *Friends of Antiquity*, and to The University of Queensland...

Clearly 1953 was a great year, as both Don and Joan Cribb were awarded their Masters degrees in 1953....

Joan Cribb has studied, taught, researched, and volunteered at The University of Queensland (UQ) since 1947—a 70-year commitment that includes over 40 years of volunteer work for *Alumni Friends*, and supporting 19 of the 20 of our UQ Alumni Book Fairs.® Without the work of volunteers such as Joan, we would not have been able to be quite so generous to the researchers, educators and students of UQ. We are delighted to recognise and thank Joan for her important contribution to the life of the University (and to the work of *Alumni Friends*) ...

Steve Papas... Since his graduation in 1956, Steve Papas has spent a significant amount of his 'leisure' time supporting UQ (including two years as Warden of Convocation). And he has been a great ambassador for *Alumni Friends*. He is not only a Past-President, but has been a Member of the Executive Committee since 1984, and is Convenor of the Three Score Club. In addition, Steve has a strong connection with Friends of Antiquity (elected a Patron in 2010). Steve's story on our 50 stories website includes the line "In a sense we have never left". We are glad you haven't Steve... thank you...

Dalma Jacobs is our most recent graduate of these four special recipients (graduating in 1965). In addition to a 40-year career at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Dalma has been very active with many important organisations, including 52 years with Graduate Women Australia. She has also been an important member of our association, holding a number of senior roles... including 20 years on our Executive and time as a President, and Treasurer. In recognition of this continued and very active role, we are delighted to publicly acknowledge and thank Dalma for her leadership and support....

Thank you, Penny, and congratulations again to Don, Joan, Steve and Dalma. We describe our Association as '*Connecting and Giving Back: Celebrating, Supporting, and Encouraging UQ's Future Alumni*'. I know we are here to celebrate the hard work of our many volunteers and members. But I know we also have a lot of fun while supporting UQ. Perhaps we should now enjoy our lunch...

Introduction to 'In Conversation'

It is lovely that this special event gives us the opportunity to hear from two of UQP's authors, both accomplished alumni who have studied at The University of Queensland.

Dr Malouf was the inaugural UQ Alumnus of the Year (award supported and created by Alumni Friends), and we are most grateful that he generously agreed to join us today.

Our program includes a short summary of information on David. A Queensland icon, Dr David Malouf AO has been described as an 'influential artist', a prolific writer, and a 'celebrated poet. I prefer 'literary legend'.

And I know we are in safe hands for what will be a fabulous discussion, as we are delighted David is today 'in conversation' with Madonna King. Madonna is one of Australia's most accomplished journalists and broadcasters, and has recently launched her 7th book. So, please join me in welcoming Dr David Malouf AO, and Madonna King to the stage. Madonna....

Close of 'In Conversation'

I know that you will all join me in thanking David and Madonna for a fascinating discussion. Wonderful to hear so many stories about time at UQ... I hope it has had everyone reflecting on your own connection with UQ, and the impact that tertiary education has had on your own lives.

If you feel inspired to share some of your stories, can I encourage you to look at our website. The 50 Stories project has been made possible thanks to the hard work of some recent UQ Graduates and interns—in particular Hayley Baxter and Hannah Towers. If you haven't yet had a look at the *fifty stories* website I encourage you to do so, and perhaps share your story of connection with the University. There is a small exhibition at the SS&H Library and next week we launch a competition in the next semester to encourage current students to participate.

We have a small gift to thank Madonna and David for joining us today. And I hope you will join me once again in a round of applause....

And now time for dessert and coffee...

Yellow dots...

Three special tables. Generous support of UQP. Thank Jill Eddington...

And everyone else not home empty-handed... clear out prior to move so some special mementoes...

Close

It is a great privilege to be President of *Alumni Friends*. I get to spend time with some special members and volunteers, and see the working of UQ at close hand.

I hope you will forgive me if I just say thank you to some special people who made today possible... long list of acknowledgements in our program but I'd like to thank John, Hannah, Hayley, Juliet, Teagan, and in particular the fabulous Jane Atkins...[gift]

Of course, we don't just work hard to connect engaged alumni and friends to support the endeavours of the 'future alumni,' educators and researchers of The University of Queensland (UQ). We also have fun. Today has been so wonderful... thanks to all of you.

Have a safe journey home.