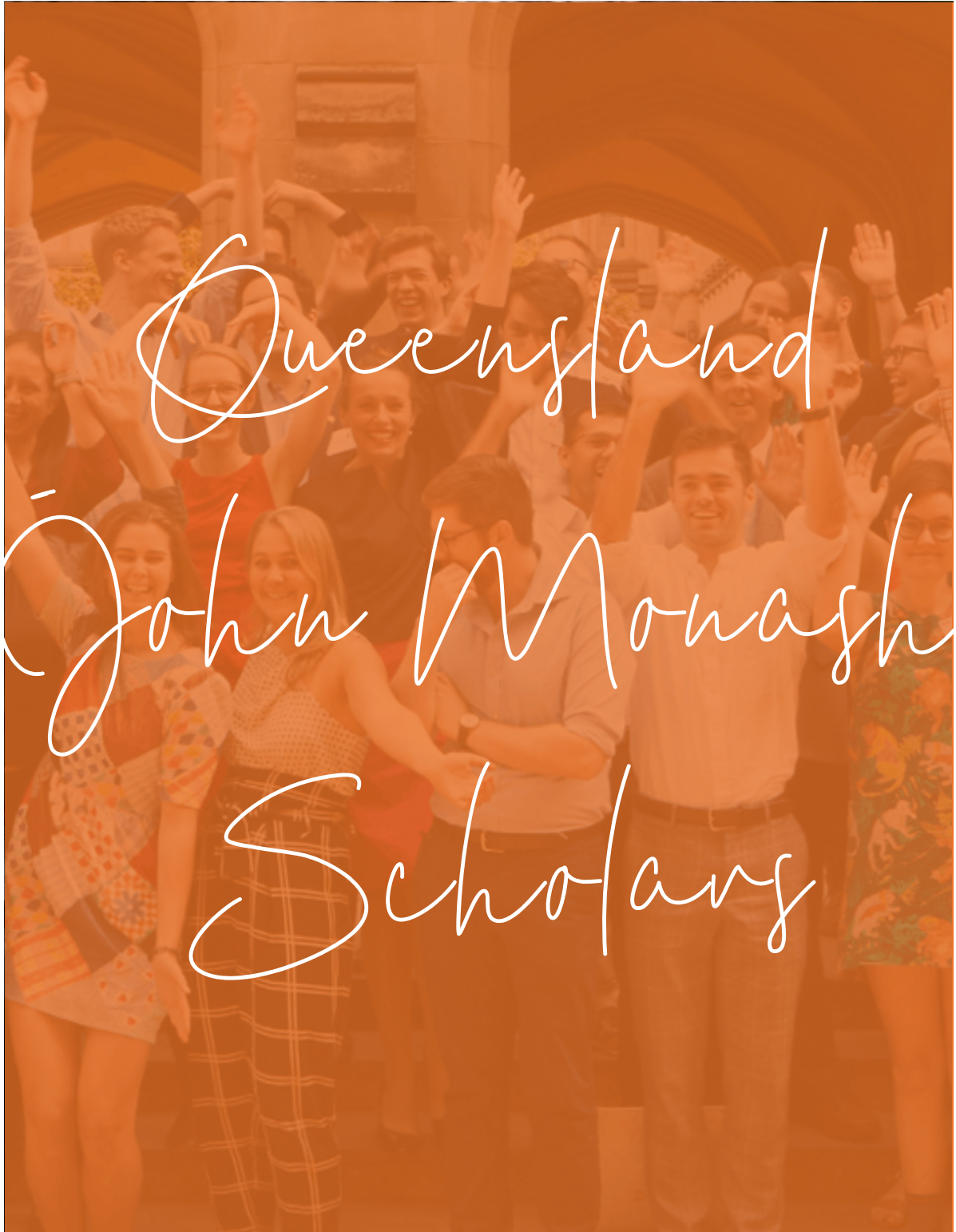




General Sir  
**John Monash**  
Foundation

100 Years  
of  
Service



2004 - 2024

# John Monash Scholars

Established in 2001, the General Sir John Monash Foundation provides postgraduate scholarships to outstanding Australians to study overseas. The Foundation's mission is to encourage the academic excellence of our nation's brightest individuals and to foster the growth of their leadership qualities for the benefit of Australia's future.

Supported by Australians for Australians and awarded in the name of a great Australian, the John Monash scholarships are prestigious and highly sort after. Thirty-six Scholars from Queensland have been received scholarships since 2004/



## **Dr Katherine Rock**

2004 John Monash Scholar  
*Former Head of Patents, Xero*

Katherine is a registered patent attorney in Australia and New Zealand and the former Head of Patents at Xero. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Patent and Trademark Attorneys of Australia and serves on professional committees, including the CHIPs ANZ chapter leadership. She earned a DPhil in Engineering Science from Oxford, an MBA with distinction from Cambridge, and a Master of Intellectual Property from UTS. Katherine was the top graduate in her Engineering and IT degrees at Griffith University and is currently pursuing a Master of Economics at the University of Queensland.



### **Dr Tim Trudgian**

2006 John Monash Scholar  
*Professor, UNSW Canberra*

Tim obtained a DPhil in mathematics from Oxford in 2010. He returned to Canberra in 2012, after a two-year post-doc in Canada, as an ARC Early Career Research Fellow at ANU then an ARC Future Fellow at UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy. His research is analytic number theory. His two sons are named after former Australian Test cricketers and have both developed the full Trudgian-esque armoury of offside shots.



### **Dr Alice Chang**

2008 John Monash Scholar  
*Psychiatrist, Edgehill Clinic*

Alice earned her Master's Degree in Public Health from Cambridge University in 2009, focusing on rural health issues, especially chronic diseases in rural Australia. Her dedication to youth health began early, recognised as Young Queenslander of the Year in 2003, and as a Young Australian of the Year finalist in 2004 and 2006. Alice is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in Cairns, committed to the wellbeing of Indigenous youth in regional areas. She specialises in infant mental health and is pioneering the first infant mental health service in Far North Queensland. Alice is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, coordinates a rural eye health program, and is an Associate Lecturer at the University of Queensland and James Cook University.



### **Dr Tim O'Shea**

2009 John Monash Scholar  
*Assistant Professor, Boston University*

Tim is an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Boston University and leads the Glia Engineering Lab. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Medical Engineering and Master's Degree in Engineering Management from QUT. Awarded a John Monash Scholarship in 2009, Tim pursued a PhD in Medical Engineering and Medical Physics through the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology program. Under Professor Robert Langer, his PhD research developed injectable biomaterials for spinal cord injury therapies, earning several awards. Post-PhD, Tim held a postdoctoral fellowship at UCLA, focusing on glial cell roles in injury and foreign body responses. His work has been published in prestigious journals such as *Nature* and *Advanced Materials*.



### **Dr Katie Quinn**

2009 John Monash Scholar  
*Associate Director of Bioinformatics, Guardant Health*

Katie is a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in Biomedical Informatics at Stanford University. She specialises in utilising emerging electronic health data to enhance patient outcomes, with a current focus on analysing health impacts of multi-drug treatments through large insurance claims databases. Katie completed her PhD at MIT, where her research involved quantitative modeling to explore gene expression dynamics.



### **Dr Joe Gattas**

2010 John Monash Scholar  
*Associate Professor at the University of Queensland's School of Civil Engineering*

Joe is an Origami Engineer and Senior Lecturer at the University of Queensland, where he leads the Folded Structures Lab, which he founded in 2014. With a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Oxford, Joe's research focuses on applying origami techniques to create and enhance thin-walled structures. His lab, supported by \$1.2 million in grants, includes six PhD candidates and 15 undergraduate/master's students. They explore efficient applications of folded materials in modular housing, packaging, and automotive and aircraft components. Additionally, Joe contributes to the Australian Research Council Future Timber Hub, advancing digital design and manufacturing for tall timber buildings.



### **Professor Jodi Gardener**

2011 John Monash Scholar  
*Brian Coote Chair in Private Law, the University of Auckland*

Jodi holds the Brian Coote Chair in Private Law at the University of Auckland. She earned her Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of International Relations from Griffith University and completed a DPhil in Consumer Protection at Oxford as a John Monash Scholar. Before academia, Jodi practised as a solicitor specialising in consumer protection. She has held prestigious roles at the University of Cambridge, Columbia Law School, and the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law. She is a Senior Research Fellow at the National University of Singapore. Jodi's research focuses on creating fair lending policies and regulatory responses to irresponsible lending, and integrating social policy with banking and finance law.



### **Dr David Smerdon**

2011 John Monash Scholar  
*Senior Lecturer, School of Economics, University of Queensland*

David is a researcher with a passion for applied economics, behavioural science and policy solutions. His work spans academic disciplines and often focuses on wicked problems, such as cheating and dishonesty, gender inequality, and policy challenges in developing countries such as female genital cutting and refugee integration. David is skilled in multiple analytic tools including lab and field experiments, big data analysis, applied econometrics and machine-learning. His broad research portfolio has built experience in working in developing countries and collaborating with governments, industry and NGOs across a range of topics. Outside of his work, David is a chess grandmaster and is Australia's highest-ranked player in rapid chess.



### **Jessica Denniss**

2013 Australian Universities' John Monash Scholar  
*Linguist, University of Toronto*

Jessica has a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Arts in Linguistics and has worked as a linguist then senior linguist in Port Hedland. During this time she worked with the Yinhawangka people to record and document their critically endangered language, spoken today by only a handful of people. She has played a leadership role in her region and her discipline, and her work addresses the loss of indigenous linguistic diversity in Australia (only 20 of 250 languages are still being passed on to children).



### **May Samali**

2014 NSW Premier's John Monash Scholar  
*Founder, Human Leadership Lab*

May is the founder and CEO of Human Leadership Lab, a global company specialising in leadership development. With roles as a coach, facilitator, researcher, speaker and investor, she helps unlock leadership potential in organisations and individuals. Previously May was CEO of Ventures at High Resolves Group, leading global teams and technology ventures. She was also the first employee at the Urban Innovation Fund in Silicon Valley and has experience as a lawyer in Sydney. May holds certifications as a Co-Active Coach and Professional Certified Coach, and is a Fellow at Harvard Medical School's Institute of Coaching. She earned a Master in Public Policy from Harvard and first-class degrees in Law and Economics from the University of Sydney. Her work has been featured in publications such as Forbes and the Stanford Social Innovation Review.



### **Catherine Drummond**

2014 Chairman's Circle John Monash Scholar  
*International lawyer*

Catherine is an international lawyer dedicated to using international law to uphold critical rights and values. She represents clients before prominent international courts, including the International Court of Justice, the European Court of Human Rights, and the International Criminal Court, as well as international arbitration tribunals. Catherine teaches public international law at the University of Cambridge and is a former Australian high jump champion, nominated for Australian of the Year in 2012. She holds an LLM in Public International Law from Cambridge, where she was the Whewell Scholar, and a dual Bachelor of Laws/Arts from the University of Queensland. Admitted as a Barrister in England and Wales, she is pursuing a PhD at Cambridge, focusing on breaches of international law.



### **Dr Dylan Morris**

2015 Zelman Cowen John Monash Scholar  
*Vascular Surgery Research Registrar*

Dylan holds an MBBS (Hons) from James Cook University and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Anatomy and Dissection. He developed a strong interest in cardiovascular research and clinical trials at the Queensland Research Centre for Peripheral Vascular Disease, where he has published nine papers, including a first-author publication in *Heart*. Dylan served as Editor-in-Chief of the Australian Medical Student Journal and co-founded the James Cook University Surgical Interest Group. After completing his medical internship at Townsville Hospital in 2015, he moved to the UK to pursue a DPhil at Oxford's Clinical Trial Service Unit. His research focuses on using big data to understand carotid artery disease and its link to stroke, and he contributes to the Asymptomatic Carotid Surgery Trial-2 and a meta-analysis of clinical trials on asymptomatic carotid disease management.



### **Stephen Dietz**

2016 Susan and Isaac Wakil Foundation John Monash Scholar  
*Director, FTA Services Branch, DFAT*

Stephen holds degrees in law and international business from Bond University, a Master of International Affairs from the ANU and a Master of Laws from Columbia Law School. He is a career diplomat and serves as Director in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's FTA Services Branch. Since joining DFAT in 2009, he has served as a trade negotiator and international lawyer in Canberra, London, Geneva and New York. Stephen has also held appointments as Associate to the Hon Justice John Dowsett AM QC at the Federal Court of Australia, Congressional Fellow to US Senator Bob Casey and visiting fellowships at Georgetown University Law Center and Columbia Law School. His studies at Columbia were supported by the Susan & Isaac Wakil Foundation John Monash Scholarship and focused on how the fourth industrial revolution and state capitalism are reshaping the global trade and investment landscape.





### **Abigael Mawby**

2016 Chairman's Circle John Monash Scholar  
*Lawyer, United Nations*

Abigael graduated with First Class Honours in a combined Bachelor of Laws/Arts from the University of Queensland. During her studies, she contributed to a project for the European Court of Human Rights, presented internationally on financial sanctions and human rights, and was part of the Australian team that won the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot World Championship. She also volunteered as a tutor for high school students from refugee backgrounds. Post-graduation, Abigael worked with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Tehran during the lifting of economic sanctions. As a John Monash Scholar, she completed her LLM at Columbia Law School, where she was named a James Kent Scholar, specialising in anti-corruption and international investment law. Abigael has practiced as an Associate at White & Case in investment treaty arbitration, assisted Amal Clooney's legal team with human rights advocacy, and currently works for the United Nations.



### **Dr Maja Arsic**

2017 BHP John Monash Scholar  
*Post-doctoral Research Fellow, CSIRO*

Maja has a Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours and the University Medal from Griffith University. She works in the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and volunteers in alpine vegetation research. She helped found the online magazine North. Maja's research into plants will contribute to development of new crop varieties to address food security. She has worked with the WWF and the university initiative, Green Steps, and attended the International Youth Leadership Conference in Prague in 2015. After her PhD, she plans to pursue a career improving crop yields and providing policy advice on Australian agriculture.



### **Dr Damon Binder**

2017 Chairman's Circle John Monash Scholar  
*Senior research fellow, University of Oxford*

Damon is a senior research scholar at the Future of Humanity Institute, which is part of the University of Oxford. He studies questions pertaining to the long-term future of humanity, and, in particular, existential threats to humanity. These are catastrophic events that could cause human extinction, such as the malicious or accidental misuse of advanced artificial intelligence systems or the development and use of nuclear and biological weapons. He hopes to better understand these threats in order to help mitigate them. Damon has a PhD in theoretical physics from Princeton University, where he studied highly symmetric quantum field theories and quantum gravity, and a Bachelor of Science from the Australian National University. When not researching, he enjoys running, cooking, reading history books and making historical recipes.



### **Dr Timothy Delport**

2017 Wesfarmers John Monash Scholar  
*Engineering Innovation Lead at Rendesco Ltd*

Tim holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Geotechnical) with First Class Honours from the University of Queensland, and an A.Mus.A on Piano. He has volunteered extensively, holding leadership positions in a number of organisations, and has provided academic and coaching support for Indigenous students. He has represented Australia for his age group in triathlon, and was previously a professionally ranked men's squash player (PSA). Tim is an Engineering Innovation Lead with Rendesco Ltd, the UK's leading renewable heat network provider. He is charged with improving the company's capabilities, acquiring further capabilities and inventing new technology to address the UK's net zero transition.



### **Dr Brett Parkinson**

2017 Woodside John Monash Scholar  
*Senior Manager, R&D, C-Zero*

Brett is a chemical engineer specialising in clean energy and decarbonisation technologies. As Senior Manager of R&D at C-Zero, a clean-tech company in California, he is pioneering technology that converts natural gas into hydrogen without CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by extracting hydrogen and leaving behind solid carbon, which can be permanently sequestered. This innovative process leverages existing natural gas infrastructure while providing clean, low-cost energy. Brett gained industry experience in Australia with Incitec Pivot, Momentive Specialty Chemicals, and the Dow Centre for Sustainable Engineering Innovations. He completed his PhD at Imperial College London as a Woodside John Monash Scholar. Joining C-Zero in 2020 as an early team member, Brett has been integral to the company's growth, focusing on addressing critical engineering challenges related to climate change and sustainability.



### **Dr Steven Ettema**

2018 Woodside John Monash Scholar  
*Quantitative Researcher, Squarepoint Capital*

Steven has a Bachelor of Civil Engineering with First Class Honours from the University of Queensland. He has worked as a numerical modeller and coastal engineer at BMT Group (an engineering science and technology consultancy), providing engineering and scientific services on a range of projects. This has included modelling a wide variety of coastal systems to improve environmental outcomes, such as developing numerical models for how turtle hatchlings interact with the environment. Steven's research at Oxford focused on improvements to tidal and wind turbines by applying principles used in the aerospace industry. Steven aims to inform energy policy and further develop renewable energy technologies in Australia.



### **Dr Heather Muir**

2018 ANZAC Centenary John Monash Scholar  
*Data Scientist, Vira Health*

Heather's academic journey has revolved around space: she has a Bachelor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering as Valedictorian from The University of Queensland. She then pursued an MPhil and PhD in Computational Physics at The University of Cambridge, focusing on atmospheric re-entry technologies for spacecraft. Alongside her technical pursuits, Heather has explored philosophical aspects of spacetime and relativity theory and has written extensively on education, science communication, and women's health for publications such as *The Conversation* (UK) and Australian newspapers. She co-produced *The Ovaryacting Podcast*, addressing female pain and gender gaps in science. Now a Data & Research Scientist in Femtech, she is dedicated to advancing women's health. At Cambridge, Heather excelled in sports, playing for the University Blues in Aussie Rules, football, cricket, athletics and orienteering, and previously competing in junior world championships for orienteering and holding Australian titles in orienteering and athletics.



### **Jordan English**

2018 Zelman Cowen John Monash Scholar  
*Teaching fellow. St John's College Oxford*

Jordan is a Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in Law at St John's College Oxford. His college teaching comprises trusts, land, and Roman law at the undergraduate level, and commercial remedies on the BCL/MJur. He has previously taught contract, tort, and restitution of unjust enrichment. Jordan has published widely in private law, including a book on the law of tracing, and his work has been cited by the High Court of Australia and the England and Wales High Court (Commercial Court). Jordan holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Queensland, and a Bachelor of Civil Law and a Doctor of Philosophy in Law from the University of Oxford. Before going to Oxford, Jordan worked as a solicitor at an international law firm and as an Associate to Justice James Edelman at the High Court of Australia. As an Indigenous Australian, Jordan is committed to increasing Indigenous representation in the law and being a role model and mentor for other Indigenous Australians.



### **Jessie Hughes**

2020 Lee Liberman John Monash Scholar  
*Creative Technologist*

Jessie is an internationally acclaimed Australian new media artist and creative technologist whose work has been showcased at the Sundance Film Festival, SXSW and the Tate Gallery. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interactive and Visual Design from Queensland University of Technology, with studies across the United States, UK and Japan. Jessie has collaborated globally with entities such as Oculus and Adobe to develop media projects aimed at driving social change. Recognised as one of Australia's Future Changers, she has led significant VR initiatives and represented Australia at the UN's Sustainable Development Goals Innovation Lab. Jessie also co-founded a data-analytics product for the music industry and regularly shares her insights on using technology for social impact. She works as a Design Strategist and Creative Technology Consultant, blending design, technology, and art for social innovation.



### **Holli Sargeant**

2021 BHP John Monash Scholar  
*PhD in Law Candidate, University of Cambridge*

Holli is a PhD Candidate in the Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge funded by the General Sir John Monash Foundation. Her research examines the consequences of algorithmic decision-making in finance. Holli works with various international organisations and not-for-profits to provide legal advice on the use of emerging technology to improve access to justice and uphold human rights.



### **Emily Ragus**

2021 Judith Neilson Foundation John Monash Scholar  
*PhD Candidate, UVA*

Emily has devoted her career to fostering a more equitable future. She holds a Bachelor of Nursing from Queensland University of Technology and an International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance from Fordham University, and a Masters of Global Development at Griffith University. With 15 years of experience in emergency nursing, including roles as a remote area nurse and helicopter trauma retrieval nurse, Emily coordinated the Queensland Australian Medical Assistance Team. As a Pre-Hospital Health Delegate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in South East Asia, she has educated vulnerable groups on first aid and pandemic control measures. Recognising the need for improved aeromedical coordination during mass casualty events, Emily was awarded the 2018 Winston Churchill Fellowship. Her research highlights the unique vulnerabilities faced by women during disasters, informing her intent to utilise gender empowerment theory for Australia's health diplomacy, supported by her John Monash Scholarship for a forthcoming PhD.



### **Dr Brett Shannon**

2021 Australian Universities' John Monash Scholar  
*Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Illinois*

Brett is an Occupational and Environmental Registrar (Royal Australasian College of Physicians), receiving his Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery from the University of Queensland. He also completed a Master of Applied Epidemiology at the Australian National University and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors course. He is a proud Ngugi/Quandamooka descendant and in 2020 completed his term as Chairperson of the Brisbane Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service. With his John Monash Scholarship, Brett is undertaking a PhD at the University of Illinois, Chicago, on the topic of occupational injuries. In 2022, his research on Indigenous occupational health was published in the British Medical Journal and he was invited to share his findings at the International Congress of Occupational Health, Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine and World Injury Prevention.



### **Sophie Rose**

2022 Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO John Monash Scholar  
*Assistant Curator, Queensland Art Gallery*

Sophie is Assistant Curator, International Art, at the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA). Since joining QAGOMA, she has helped realise several exhibitions of contemporary and historical art, including *Water* (2019-20), *Revelations* (2020-21) and most recently, *European Masterpieces* from the Metropolitan Museum of Art (2021). Sophie holds a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) in Art History from the University of Queensland and in 2018, was awarded a University Medal. In addition to her curatorial work, she is a regular contributor to *Art Asia Pacific* magazine, reviewing exhibitions in Brisbane and internationally. Sophie is passionate about the responsibilities of public art institutions and hopes to find new ways of engaging the civic sphere through using her John Monash Scholarship to support a Master of Arts at the Center of Curatorial Studies, Bard College. Primary among her interests are the exchanges between art and architecture, contemporary photography, and new approaches to materiality in art history.



### **Milan Gandhi**

2022 Lee Liberman John Monash Scholar  
*Research Fellow, ISD (Institute for Strategic Dialogue)*

Milan Gandhi has a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) from the University of Queensland and is a former Australian Law Student of the Year. With the support of his John Monash Scholarship, Milan plans to study a Master of Public Policy at the University of Oxford to identify policy solutions to safeguard Australia's democracy from the harmful effects of digital technologies such as social media platforms. Milan has occupied multidisciplinary roles as an advisor on law and policy and as an innovation strategist. Milan works for DMTC Ltd, assisting to drive innovation in Australia's national security and related sectors. He is the founder of *The Legal Forecast*, an organisation exploring the intersection between law and new technologies, and the chair of the Australasian Cyber Law Institute's Democracy and Public Knowledge subcommittee. Also an alumnus of Bond University's film program, Milan has a background in writing and directing.



### **Natalie Meiklejohn**

2022 Zelman Cowen John Monash Scholar  
*Program Educator, She Maps*

Natalie holds a First Class Honours Bachelor of Science in Ecology from the University of Queensland. Her research focused on the climatic tolerances of myrtle rust, an invasive plant disease threatening native Australian species. Natalie has served as an ecological research assistant and contractor and contributed to STEM education with She Maps, promoting diversity in STEM using drones. She volunteers with ReefCheck Australia and CoralWatch, emphasising science communication and community outreach. Recognised for her sustainability advocacy, Natalie received the Inaugural Tara Hunt Fellowship with 1 Million Women. Working with the NSW Government, she helps establish Renewable Energy Zones. Natalie's John Monash Scholarship supported her pursuit of a Master's program, enhancing her capacity to advance climate change mitigation through renewable energy, circular economy and nature-based solutions.



### **Nicholas Maurer**

2023 BHP John Monash Scholar  
*Senior Research Assistant, The University of Queensland*

Nicholas is a graduate physicist and engineer, receiving First Class honours and a University Medal for his studies at the University of Queensland. He is passionate about energy and education and aspires to make a difference in both fields. His research focuses on future decarbonised energy systems and he has published an award-winning paper on this topic. Nicholas worked in offshore wind for K2 Management and behind-the-meter energy for Fredon. As a senior UQ Outreach Ambassador, he inspired high school students to pursue tertiary education, with an emphasis on STEM disciplines and founded Lambda Learning to further engage students, particularly in mathematics. With the John Monash Scholarship, Nicholas will commence studying a PhD in Engineering. He loves to read, spend time outdoors and play sport of any kind. He is a father and husband and strives to live up to both titles.





### **Chris Raine**

2023 Zelman Cowen John Monash Scholar  
Mental Healthcare Entrepreneur

Chris is a mental health and addiction social entrepreneur. He was the Founder and CEO of Hello Sunday Morning, a non-profit that supports one of the largest communities in the world of people looking to change their relationship with alcohol. Hello Sunday Morning provides free access to peer and/or clinical support for any Australian looking to change their relationship with alcohol, in the moment they need it. Chris has a portfolio of roles in the mental health/addiction sectors including CEO of Australians for Mental Health, an advocacy organisation focused on mental health reform and Director of Clean Slate Clinic, a GP-led home detox service. Chris is a Young Australian of the Year (QLD), a Westpac Social Change Fellow and received a Skoll Scholarship to complete an MBA at Oxford University. As a John Monash Scholar, Chris completed a Master of Public Administration at Harvard University, which focused on outlining an investment thesis to build an impact investment fund focused exclusively on addiction and mental health.



### **Germain Tobar**

2023 Universities' Consortia John Monash scholar  
*PhD Fellow, Stockholm University*

Germain received a BSc (Hons) from The University of Queensland and as a Cambridge Australia Allen Scholar, a Master of Advanced Study in Mathematics from University of Cambridge. Germain is a physicist who is passionate about quantum science, both the fundamentals of the theory as well as how new quantum technologies can be applied to improve Australia's national security, health and computational capabilities. Germain's long-term aim is that his research in the foundations of quantum science will pave the way towards the development of new technological capabilities. Germain is studying a PhD in Theoretical Physics at Stockholm University, furthering his current research on foundational aspects of quantum science and the development of quantum technologies.



### **Emma Beal**

2023 Dame Quentin Bryce John Monash Scholar  
*Senior Associate, Boston Consulting Group*

Emma is committed to playing a leading role in what she calls Australia's energy trilemma - creating reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity. She plays an integral role in Boston Consulting Group's Climate & Sustainability practice, recently established in Australia and New Zealand, and which has advised on emissions strategies in both countries. Emma graduated with a Bachelor of Finance and Economics (First Class Honours) from The University of Queensland. She received the University Medal and was the Valedictorian in the School of Economics. "I believe that the power of data analytics is currently underutilised in its ability to integrate the low-carbon energy solutions required by the grid of the future. I want to influence and enhance the environmental, economic and social outcomes of the domestic energy transition."



### **Dr Praneel Kumar**

2023 John and Anna Belfer John Monash Scholar  
*Psychiatrist, Edgehill Clinic*

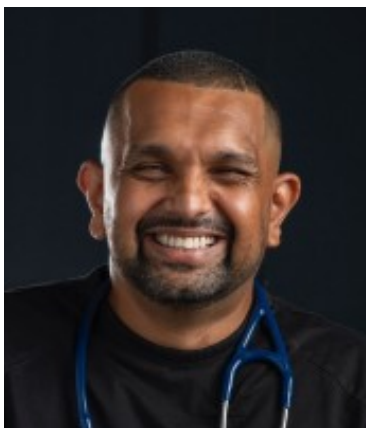
After moving from Fiji in 2001, Praneel completed a medical degree at Griffith University, graduating with the University Medal. He is completing his specialist training as an obstetrician. A defining professional experience occurred in 2022 when he delivered a stillborn baby from an unwell Indigenous mother from rural NSW. He is troubled by the statistic that a woman dies every two minutes due to largely preventable pregnancy complications. Praneel has undertaken numerous placements focusing on the health of mothers-to-be and babies in rural and remote areas, including in Papua New Guinea and the Northern Territory. "My goal is to lead change to improve maternal health outcomes in disadvantaged communities in Australia and our region."



### **Famin Ahmed**

2023 Queensland Government John Monash Scholar  
*Pro Bono Associate at MinterEllison*

By day, Famin is a pro bono lawyer at MinterEllison and provides assistance to society's most vulnerable, including women experiencing domestic violence. By night, she sews hats to raise money for Women's Legal Service Queensland. Famin studied at The University of Queensland, where she completed a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) and a Bachelor of Arts (Economics and International Relations). Recently she received a University of Queensland Distinguished Young Alumni Award. Famin is passionate about using her skills to improve the way the Australian legal and policy system deals with culturally diverse women experiencing domestic violence. "At the end of my career, I want to be remembered for the social change I created to help people suffering disadvantage, and the number of others I inspired to do the same."



### **Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM**

2023 Susan and Isaac Wakil Foundation JMS  
*Doctor (Emergency Department), Gold Coast Hospital & Health Service*

Dinesh was the first quadriplegic medical intern in Queensland. He is a doctor, lawyer, disability advocate and researcher. Halfway through medical school, he was in an accident that caused a spinal injury. Dinesh now works in the emergency department of a major Queensland hospital, as well as being a researcher and senior lecturer at Griffith University in spinal cord injury. Among a portfolio of achievements, Dinesh is a doctor for the Gold Coast Titans physical disability rugby team, was a senior adviser to the Disability Royal Commission and is a co-founder of Doctors with Disabilities Australia. Dinesh was Gold Coast Health's Junior Doctor of the Year in 2018, received the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2019, was the 2021 Griffith University Young Alumnus of the Year and Queensland Australian of the Year for 2021. His autobiography, *Stronger*, was published in 2022. "It was never my intention to become a doctor to earn a salary, but rather to give back to the community. As I build my career, I hope to gather resources to give more and more time freely to Australian communities that need it the most."

*"The privilege of education carries great responsibilities –it is given not for individual benefit alone, but to benefit persons for the higher duties of citizenship and for roles of leadership in all fields."*

**General Sir John Monash  
GCMG KCB VD**

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**The General Sir John Monash Foundation**

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