

A pair of hands, one at the top and one at the bottom, are shown holding a large, glowing blue ring. The ring is composed of many thin, concentric lines of light, giving it a sense of depth and movement. The background is a soft, light blue gradient.

AMP's Tomorrow Makers

2017

AMP Foundation
celebrating
25 years





AMP's Tomorrow Fund supports amazing
Australians doing great things.

Sharing in \$1 million in grants, these
inspirational individuals are working hard
to create a better tomorrow for everyone.

Meet AMP's
Tomorrow Makers 2017



Saba Abraham – social entrepreneur, restaurateur
Durack, Queensland

As a refugee from Eritrea, Saba appreciates the opportunities this 'lucky country' provides. She also understands that if you lack the contacts, language skills and confidence, it is not easy to find employment. This is why Saba set up a social enterprise in Brisbane's West End called Mu'ooz. Apart from serving African food, Mu'ooz provides hospitality training and employment opportunities for refugee women. It also helps women improve their literacy skills and connects them to the community. Saba has spent the past decade helping others, including the six children she has taken into her care. This grant will give her the means to continue.



Dor Achiek – community leader, youth advocate
Mount Druitt, New South Wales

As a former refugee who came to Australia as a teenager, Dor knows how easy it can be for young people to drift away from their culture. Believing that this cultural disconnection can lead to tension within families, Dor runs the South Sudanese Youth Cultural Activities Program to engage young people from South Sudanese backgrounds living in the Blacktown area. Although he works full-time and has a young family, the community support worker manages to fund and run regular cultural activities such as traditional wrestling, dance, folklore comedies and song contests. This grant will enable Dor to devote more time to the program.



Lana Borg – cook, community champion
Emu Plains, New South Wales

After cooking for firefighters during the 2013 Springwood bushfires, Lana realised there were plenty of people in the Penrith area she could help. This led to the grandmother and full-time aged care worker setting up Mama Lana's Community Foundation with her husband, Roger. Guided by the words 'kindness with no strings attached', they provide home-cooked meals six nights a week to people experiencing homelessness and disadvantage. Lana and her 200 volunteers offer more than just a meal: they also provide a book library and clothing as well as housing and employment support. Lana is using her grant to establish a permanent base where people can enjoy meals, support and good company.



Courteney Brown – budgeter, social media maven
North Booval, Queensland

When Courteney's husband Tazz left his army job, she tightened her young family's budget so they could survive on one wage. To cut costs, the customer contact centre consultant began trawling through catalogues and online to find the best grocery deals. Courteney enjoyed the process so much, she started sharing tips on Facebook, creating the Feed Your Family On A Budget page. By May 2017, 60,000 people were following for budget-slashing advice. This grant will help her share tips on how to feed a growing family with even more Australians.



Cindy Chen – community leader, entrepreneur
Fairfield West, New South Wales

Cindy grew up under the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, eventually making her way to Sydney's south-west with her three children. While volunteering at her local school's breakfast club, Cindy realised many of her fellow mothers were economically powerless. This led the professional caterer to set up Amok – a social enterprise which empowers Cambodian Australian women to move into employment and build confidence. Each week, women attend Amok to develop their skills and create Cambodian dishes. Cindy is using her grant to set up a permanent kitchen and expand the program.



Graeme Clancy – teacher, inclusive sports advocate
Varsity Lakes, Queensland

In 2012, special education teacher Graeme realised there were no team sports that students with intellectual disabilities could play with ease. His solution was to set up Touch Football Specialised – a sports program that was embraced by local schools and sports groups. Graeme now works with rugby league clubs to help individuals with intellectual disabilities play on match day with their peers. His league includes divisions for low-functioning children, who play using pool noodles and Velcro flags on a modified field, and an all-abilities competitive division family members can join. He is using his grant to publish and share a how-to guide to help others set up inclusive programs.



Kristina Cook – medical researcher, cancer scientist
Camperdown, New South Wales

In 2016, after completing her PhD in cancer drug development, Kristina's perspective on medical research changed forever when she was diagnosed with a rare carcinoid tumour in her appendix. She underwent major surgery in the same month she received a fellowship to set up a lab at the Charles Perkins Centre. The many weeks spent in hospital strengthened Kristina's resolve to change our understanding of cancer and decrease mortality rates. Now back to full health, she is using her grant to progress her research into the effect of low oxygen (hypoxia) on tumour growth. Kristina aims to make significant discoveries towards new anti-cancer drugs.



Anthony Cox – film editor, arts champion
Prospect, Tasmania

As a teenager who was bullied because of his sexuality, Anthony turned to movies to escape. They taught him there was a life outside of school and provided relatable heroes. With a Bachelor of Film and Television and a Masters of Film Studies under his belt, he set a goal to edit a feature film before he turned 35. He achieved it five years early, when he edited Downriver, a feature that screened at the Melbourne and Toronto film festivals. Anthony is using his grant to set up an editing studio in Launceston, where he hopes to work with local independent filmmakers.



Laura Dagley – medical research scientist
Parkville, Victoria

Laura's dad was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis when she was 16, inspiring her to become a medical researcher. Now working at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, she wants to improve the diagnosis of acute rheumatic fever (ARF) – a disease that has died out in the general population, but is highly prevalent in Australian Indigenous communities. Left untreated, this complication of strep throat infection can cause life-threatening damage to heart valves. Laura and her team have identified a protein signature of the disease and are hoping to develop a simple pin-prick test to diagnose ARF in remote settings.



Laura Egan – social entrepreneur, business champion
Katherine, Northern Territory

Having supported grassroots enterprise for many years in partnership with Aboriginal communities, Laura understands the great potential for native food, tourism and fashion enterprises to flourish in Katherine. She now wants to develop a start-up incubator that will support Aboriginal people to harness their cultural assets. Laura envisages this hub as a place where entrepreneurs can connect, access support, build their networks and share resources. The hub will also put Katherine on the map for innovation and help build economic independence in the local community. Laura will use her grant to design and garner support for the incubator hub.



Nigel Farrow – medical research scientist
Redwood Park, South Australia

Nigel was a career musician when his baby daughter, Ella, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. Driven by fierce fatherly love, he resolved to put down his guitar and become a medical scientist – despite never completing Year 12. A decade on and with a PhD, he is researching gene therapy and stem cells to prevent lung disease in people with cystic fibrosis. Nigel, who works with the Adelaide Cystic Fibrosis Airway Research Group, undertakes molecular studies to prove that treating lung-replenishing stem cells can sustain positive longer-term effects. He is determined that Ella, now 11, will be in the first generation of patients to see a cure for cystic fibrosis airway disease.



Andrew Gardner – neuropsychologist, concussion expert
Maryland, New South Wales

While earning a doctorate in clinical neuropsychology and a PhD in medicine and public health, Andrew's love of sport led him to focus on concussion. Realising that millions of young sportspeople have no access to specialised care if they sustain a concussive injury, Andrew is on a mission to reduce the risk. He co-founded the nation's first public health sports concussion clinic in Newcastle in 2013. Andrew gives his time every Tuesday to assess players for free and manages them back to daily activities and the field. This grant is funding a machine to test the vestibulo-ocular system, which is particularly vulnerable to concussion. Andrew hopes to create a full-time, multidisciplinary research clinic that will provide a model for national expansion.



Mark Gardner – micro-business advocate, proud dad
Dubbo, New South Wales

As a farm consultant, Mark understands the benefits of self-employment. When his daughter Emily, who has Down Syndrome, left school, he helped her establish a microbusiness. Go Get Em runs errands for several Dubbo businesses. Inspired by the confidence and quality of life this business has given Emily, Mark wants to pilot a microbusiness development program for up to 25 young people with disabilities in the Dubbo region. He believes this innovative response, coupled with the recently introduced NDIS, will have considerable economic and social benefits, enabling many more people to enjoy the dignity and independence that work brings.



Samantha Hall – built environment consultant
Cottesloe, Western Australia

While recovering from brain surgery at 26, Samantha vowed she would make an impact on the world. This led her to switch to a career in science, and eventually take on the challenge of improving the health of Australian workplaces. Samantha has created a cloud-based software application called Rate My Space. Through an app, employees can give feedback about their work environment, helping companies to create healthier, more functional spaces. Samantha trialled Rate My Space across 66 Curtin University buildings, resulting in 1,000 staff providing feedback. She is using her grant to share it with other universities, schools and offices.



Bigali Hanlon – community builder, gardener
Roeburn, Western Australia

Born in the East Pilbara, Bigali was stolen from her family in 1946. As a young adult, she re-connected with them in Wittenoom, which is where she found bush cucumbers growing in a creek bed, sparking her interest in native plants. The Yindjibarndi elder is now bringing this plant and others to the community garden at Roeburn's Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi Cultural Centre. Growing medicinal and bushtucker plants, it will be a place where generations can share knowledge and good company. Bigali is using her grant to visit and learn from other botanists in Alice Springs, and ultimately make Roeburn known as the home of Australia's second-only native botanic garden created by Aboriginal people.



Troy Hawkins – body transformation specialist, motivator Cranbourne, Victoria

Troy was born with spina bifida, which severed the nerves and weakened his legs and back. He did not walk until he was four, and then only with the aid of a walker and crutches. Yet his sporty family encouraged him to be active. Troy coached children in wheelchairs in his teens, which is when he set his heart on becoming a personal trainer. Despite being told he was 'physically incapable', he completed a Certificate III and IV in fitness. Today, Troy motivates people of all abilities to reach their physical and health goals through his NDIS-registered business, All Inclusive Body Transformations. This grant will help Troy to grow his business.



Dave Horsley – film festival director, mental health advocate Coffs Harbour, New South Wales

In 2014, Dave and his wife Kate moved from Brisbane to Coffs Harbour to follow their dream and establish Screenwave – an organisation that connects people through film. Soon after they moved into the community, Screenwave partnered with Headspace Coffs Harbour to start the REC Ya Shorts Youth Film Festival. Designed to destigmatise mental health support services and develop regional filmmakers, it includes free in-school filmmaking workshops, a short film competition and a screening tour. It also offers development pathways, connecting workshop attendees with film courses and industry contacts at screenings. This grant will help Dave grow the youth festival throughout New South Wales and, eventually, share the workshop program online.



Tomonori 'Tom' Hu – scientist, start-up director Woollooware, New South Wales

When Tom was completing his PhD at the University of Sydney, he developed a compact spectrometer to quickly analyse chemicals. It became clear he had created something special, so the physics academic set up a company to develop it. Using infra-red light to identify chemical composition, Tom believes the Miriad spectrometer has great potential to analyse food, resources and even air quality. Working out of the CSIRO in Lindfield, Tom aims to transition from start-up to a full-scale company. Tom is now working on a new model and, with the help of this grant, he hopes to sell his spectrometer worldwide.



Ram Khanal – medical student, humanitarian
Albury, New South Wales

Ram was born in a refugee camp in Nepal after his parents fled Bhutan, where they faced persecution for their Lhotshampa ethnicity. During his 16 years in the camp, he saw many of his young friends die from a lack of basic healthcare. He promised himself that, should he ever receive an education, he would study medicine. Ram's life changed in 2009 when his family settled in Albury. Although he had little schooling behind him, within two years he was school dux. He went on to complete a Bachelor of Medical Science and was named Albury City's Young Citizen of the Year in 2016. Ram is now studying medicine at the University of Wollongong. This grant will help him to fulfil his childhood dream of being the best doctor he can be.



Bronwyn King – radiation oncologist, anti-tobacco campaigner
Elwood, Victoria

Each year, 15,000 Australians die from tobacco-related illness. As an oncologist who has seen the suffering tobacco wreaks first-hand, Bronwyn realised she could do more to save lives by tackling the root cause. Bronwyn works collaboratively with dozens of Australian financial institutions to eliminate pension fund investment in tobacco. Not content with more than \$2.5 billion of tobacco industry assets being divested by Australian financial institutions so far, Bronwyn is on a mission to make Australia the world's first country with a tobacco-free superannuation industry. She is more than halfway there, and will use her AMP Tomorrow Fund grant to help reach her goal.



Alexandra Kiroi – rhythmic gymnast, future Olympian
St Kilda East, Victoria

A rhythmic gymnast since age six, national title winner by 12 and a national team member from age 14, Alexandra is a huge advocate for her sport. The 15-year-old believes rhythmic gymnastics not only teaches children coordination and promotes good health, but also encourages complex thinking and discipline. After a successful 2017, which saw her win gold in Singapore and achieve the highest ranking by an Australian at a grand prix event, Alexandra is hoping to compete at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and World Championships. Now training up to 50 hours a week to achieve her goal, she will use this grant to help with travel costs.



Brett Krause – forest builder, community champion
Tully, Queensland

Brett grew up in South Eastern Queensland, where his parents operated a sawmill. His early experiences in the forests and mill inspired him to plant trees – and on a large scale. Believing direct action comes from leading by example, Brett is on mission to plant 20,000 native trees on unused and degraded land. He will use the Miyawaki system of intensive forest building, which involves planting different tree species closely in large pits. Working with volunteers, he plans to build a forest for the community while creating habitat for endangered and threatened species. In the process, a creek that flows to the Great Barrier Reef will be rehabilitated.



Rowan Kunz – educator, social pioneer
Hornsby, New South Wales

Almost half of the current jobs in Australia are predicted to be automated in the next 20 years. Through his Art of Smart education business, Rowan wants to help young people prepare for this new world of work. He is developing a free online platform that will bring careers advice into the 21st century by providing aggregated data on the availability of roles and university places, ATAR requirements and skilled migrant intakes. It will also share real stories from professionals to help teenagers set realistic expectations. Rowan is using his grant to develop this resource and equip a million young Australians for the workforce.



Thomas Kuys – engineer, entrepreneur
Adelaide, South Australia

Thomas devised Stemtap, a suite of technologies that makes the teaching of STEM subjects easier, as part of a 2015 University of Adelaide engineering project. Further research by the Stemtap team revealed the supply of STEM graduates is not meeting the demand, and educators are increasingly teaching outside their field. Stemtap consists of hardware that high school teachers who are not tech-confident can easily connect to a program that teaches maths, science and technology in an engaging way. Stemtap's first project, which helped students learn coding by designing a set of local traffic lights, was a hit with students in the test phase. Thomas is using his grant to manufacture the hardware and prepare the product for national release.



Natasha Maguire – family respite provider, mother
Yass, New South Wales

When Natasha's daughter, Maya, was battling a very rare form of cancer, the family sought respite at a Sydney children's hospice. It was a place to escape the daily grind and concentrate on making memories. After Maya passed away, Natasha, her husband Mark and daughter Amelia decided to honour her memory by creating a retreat where families of children with life-threatening illnesses can spend precious time together. Maya's Rest, which opened in 2015, is also a place where grieving families can connect with people who understand what they're experiencing. Natasha and Mark have drawn on their savings and community support to offer families free accommodation, meals and activities. This grant will help them to support more families in need.



Yirrmal Marika – singer, songwriter, role model
Geelong, Victoria

A Yolngu man, Yirrmal sings songs that have been passed down since the Dreamtime. His father, Witiyana Marika, was a founding member of the pioneering Yothu Yindi band. Yirrmal left his Arnhem Land home in 2011 for Geelong, where he has been furthering his education and leadership skills. It is Yirrmal's ability to convey what country means to an Indigenous person that make him an inspirational performer with great global potential. This grant will enable him to work on a new album with a number of musical mentors, including Neil Murray and Shane Howard of Goanna fame.



Sam Marwood – social innovator, scientist
Albury, New South Wales

Like many farm kids, Sam moved to Melbourne to pursue a career. Dismayed to see rural communities losing young residents – largely because moving back onto the land is unaffordable to many – the environmental scientist set up Cultivate Farms with a friend. This social enterprise matches retiring farmers with younger people who want to farm but lack the financial means. The aim is to work towards a solution that suits both parties and benefits the community. This grant will help Sam take Cultivate Farms to the next level.



Harry Mitchell – jazz pianist, composer
North Perth, Western Australia

Harry started playing jazz piano when he was eight. After gaining first-class honours at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Harry has gone on to play with Australian jazz luminaries as well as Rolling Stone Charlie Watts and Hank Marvin of The Shadows. In 2017, he was named Young Australian Jazz Musician of the Year and Ignacio, a composition from his self-titled debut album, won the 2016-17 WAM Jazz Song of the Year. Harry is using his grant to record his second album with three jazz greats and have it mastered in New York by Grammy Award-winner Nate Wood.



Huy Nguyen – engineer, social entrepreneur
Werribee South, Victoria

Having contracted polio as a baby in Vietnam, Huy has used a wheelchair since age five. Now an advocate for people with disabilities, this systems engineer has developed a platform that trains disability support workers using a virtual 3D environment. Accessible on mobile devices and websites, Enabler features virtual intelligent characters with disabilities that support workers can interact with to learn from and test their skills. It can also simulate emergency and challenging scenarios to prepare workers. This grant will allow Huy to roll out the system to at least 5,000 users, helping to save disability organisations money and provide easily-accessible training.



Tayanah O'Donnell – climate adaptation expert, author
Wright, New South Wales

Tayanah has long been interested in how coastal communities are adapting to climate change. Drawing on her legal and social science backgrounds, she recently completed a PhD examining how two coastal regions – Port Stephens and Lake Macquarie – are responding to a changing environment. Tayanah's research examines the relationship between law and climate adaptation from government, private sector and community perspectives. She is now working on a book featuring stories of coastal adaptation and new academic insights, as well as evidence for industry, government and the community at a critical time. This grant will help Tayanah undertake further fieldwork and analysis in order to produce her book.



Simone Patterson – refuge operator, counsellor
Gold Coast, Queensland

Simone spent almost 30 years working in community services, as a social worker and counsellor, in Sydney. When she moved to the Gold Coast, she was dismayed to discover that domestic violence was just as prevalent there. Understanding that women often stay in violent relationships for fear of leaving pets behind, Simone set up The Sanctuary – a refuge that welcomes animal companions. The pets stay with women and children in units, which Simone and her loyal supporters have made welcoming and secure. The refuge also offers support services to help women build healthy, safe and independent futures.



Sean Pollard – snowboarder, Paralympic hopeful
Bunbury, Western Australia

In 2014, Sean was attacked by a shark while surfing off Kelps Bed, near Esperance. The young electrician survived, but lost his left arm and right hand. Never one to give up, Sean decided to take up snowboarding. Having skateboarded and surfed all his life, he easily transitioned into the sport. Sean has rapidly risen up the para-snowboarding ranks in the past couple of years, and strong results earlier in 2017 have put him in a good position for the 2018 Winter Paralympics. This grant will help Sean through the events leading to PyeongChang, after which he hopes to share his story of courage and determination with community groups and schools.



Nathan Quinell – chef, author, disability champion
Pottsville, New South Wales

Nathan lost his hearing at age eight, as a result of contracting chickenpox as a baby. At 16, soon after losing his sight, he started a chef's apprenticeship at a Taree hospital. Nathan went on to build a career in hospitality and now teaches at the Murwillumbah Community College, with his guide dog Keno by his side. A passionate disability advocate and believer in the power of food to connect people, he is working on a cookbook aimed at people of all abilities. Having tested his modern Australian dishes with his students, Nathan will use his grant to publish an accessible book so everyone can experience the joys of cooking.



Vanessa Rauland – carbon nerd, researcher
Fremantle, Western Australia

In 2011, when Vanessa was completing her PhD in Low Carbon Cities, she and a colleague were asked to calculate South Fremantle Senior High School's carbon emissions. It went on to become the first certified carbon neutral school in Australia. Driven by the desire to help more schools, the Low Carbon Schools Program was born. Following a two-year pilot in collaboration with Curtin University and the CRC for Low Carbon Living, the next version is about to launch. Known as the ClimateClever Initiative, it will build STEM skills and enable students to calculate and compare their school's carbon emissions, audit buildings and manage low-carbon initiatives.



Jodi Rowley – conservation biologist, frog lover
Queenscliff, New South Wales

Since 2001, Jodi has dedicated herself to conserving frogs – one of the most threatened animals on Earth, which directly impacts on human health. She completed a PhD in frog ecology at James Cook University, radio-tracking rainforest frogs to find out why some species were declining from a disease and others weren't. After a decade studying frogs in Southeast Asia, Jodi has turned her attention back home. As the Curator of Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Biology at the Australian Museum and UNSW, she wants to preserve our unique frogs for future generations. She is building a team of young scientists to help her achieve this. This grant will help Jodi to resource her lab.



Bec Sandridge – singer-songwriter, regional champion
Northcote, Victoria

Bec has come a long way from singing Blink-182 covers as a teenage busker in Wollongong. After winning Triple J Unearthed's Yours and Owls Festival Competition in 2015, the once-shy folk singer has transformed into a star with a great pop sensibility. She has toured the nation, played a string of successful gigs in the UK and Europe and had two of her songs featured in commercials. Bec is using her grant to record her first album, which she will share globally. And while she wants to take on the world, bringing her music to regional audiences is a priority.



Olga Shimoni – scientist, innovator
Ultimo, New South Wales

Coeliac disease affects the body's ability to process gluten, a protein found in wheat, rye and barley. While the disease can be managed through a gluten-free diet, diagnosis is challenging. It's thought that around 75% of coeliac disease sufferers are undiagnosed. Olga is part of a University of Technology Sydney team that has developed a breakthrough to detect coeliac disease biomarkers in saliva. With the foundational research complete, she is looking to develop a diagnostic tool that could be available at pharmacies and used to test for the disease at home.



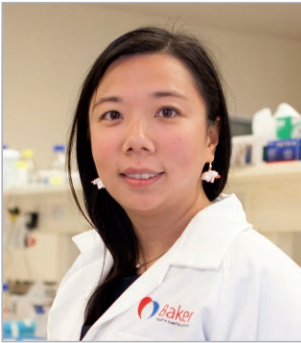
David Suggett – marine biologist, coral researcher
Broadway, New South Wales

David has devoted his career to studying coral reefs, which are home to more than a quarter of the world's marine life. With the Great Barrier Reef showing signs of deterioration from ocean warming, acidification and deoxygenating, this researcher is interested in coral populations living in extremes. David believes these 'super corals', which thrive in hot, acidic and deoxygenated mangroves, are of huge importance to reef management as they could provide enhanced resistance to climate change. David will use his grant to investigate 'super coral' sites in Australia and establish how these resilient populations could help restore the Great Barrier Reef.



Emma Tomkinson – social impact analyst
Claremont, Western Australia

A mathematician, former teacher, statistician and social impact analyst with a Masters in Operational Research from the London School of Economics, Emma is interested in social impact measurement for developing evidence-based policy. While living in London, Emma created the Social Impact Bond Knowledge Box for the Centre for Social Impact Bonds at the UK Cabinet Office. On her return to Perth, she established Community Insight Australia – a social enterprise that collates and maps publicly-available social data and presents it in an easy-to-read report. Emma is using her grant to share the tool with more non-profits so they can tailor effective services.



Xiaowei Wang – medical researcher, imaging innovator
Melbourne, Victoria

While working as a hospital cardiac technologist, Xiaowei realised that imaging technologies such as ultrasound and MRI scanners, were capable of more. Now working from the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, Xiaowei wants to overcome limitations of imaging by testing the use of 19-Fluorine agents to highlight anomalies. It would also enable doctors to obtain better diagnosis and provide immediate treatment for heart, stroke and blood vessel diseases. She will travel to Germany to learn from leading 19-Fluorine MRI experts with the view to establishing this technology for cardiovascular imaging in Australia. This grant will enable Xiaowei to receive this vital training.



Kai Watts – soccer star, inclusion advocate
Wagga Wagga, New South Wales

Kai believes the beautiful game is for everyone. One afternoon in 2017, he and some of his Wagga Wanderers team mates were kicking a ball around when a few Yazidi children gathered to watch. After getting to know the boys, he found them places on a local team. Despite training every night, Kai also coaches a dozen Yazidi boys two nights a week. He plays centre back for the Western Sydney Wanderers Under 14 team and will try out for the Under 18s in 2018. This grant will help Kai travel to Sydney to move closer to his A League dream and cover the uniforms and fees of 12 refugee players.



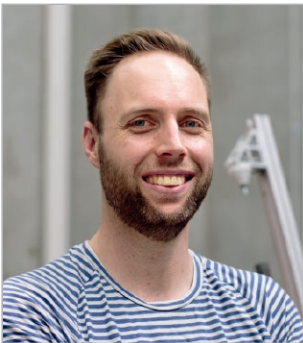
Nipuni 'Nip' Wijewickrema – disability advocate, social innovator
Yarralumla, Australian Capital Territory

Nip's commitment to her social enterprise, GG's Flower, stems from the heart. She established the floristry business to ensure her sister, Gayana, would have fulfilling employment after school. Gayana was born with Down syndrome and struggles to communicate verbally. However, her winning smile and the huge high-fives she gives when delivering flowers speaks volumes. With the help of florist step-mum, Geetha, GG's Flowers – and its spin-off hamper business – now provides meaningful employment in a supportive environment for more people with special needs. Nip is using her grant to buy a portable flower cool room, which will enable GG's Flowers to cater for corporates and events further afield.



Jo-Ann Wolles – Indigenous chef, entrepreneur
Kogarah, New South Wales

Jo-Ann is a Wiradjuri woman who started her cooking career at age 14. During the past 20 years she has done everything from work at The Hilton to share a TV screen with seafood supremo Rick Stein. In 2014, Jo-Ann founded Goanna Hut – a catering business that promotes Indigenous food. Her 'modern Koori fusion' signature dishes include Davidson plum vanilla swirl ice-cream, emu sausage rolls, kangaroo red wine pies and bush tomato scones. She now wants to launch her Goanna Hut retail range with three Australian teas using native spices. This grant will help provide the ingredients, marketing and packaging to get Goanna Hut Bush Medicine Teas off the ground.



James Woolcock – bicycle designer, engineer, manufacturer
Mitcham, Victoria

When the Toyota Tech Center he worked at as a design engineer closed, James and two bike enthusiast colleagues seized the opportunity to move into bike manufacturing. Only one of two world-renowned Australian bespoke bike makers, their company – Bastion Cycles – crafts frames from 3D-printed titanium and carbon-fibre. In collaboration with an Australian Institute of Sport engineer and Monash University, James designed a hand-cycle for Paralympian Stuart Tripp that helped the Rio silver medallist achieve strong results in 2017. James is using his grant to invest in equipment that will enable Bastion to create high performance hand-cycles for Australian para-athletes, giving them the winning edge.



Ella Wooldridge – triathlete, aspiring Olympian
Kirkham, New South Wales

Ella's decision to take on triathlons is not a surprise, given her family. Her mother Carol, has represented Australia in the sport, and her sisters are junior triathletes. A strong and disciplined athlete, Ella has a promising future in the sport. She has been selected into the NSW Triathlon Identification squad, which puts her on the path to becoming an elite triathlete. Working with a coach, she is learning how to best approach events and balance sport, school and life. As Ella is in it for the long haul, she is also learning how to remain injury-free and motivated.

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