

Liveris Academy Update

JUNE 2025

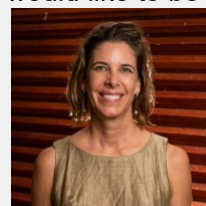


Much has happened since we have touched base; this edition of the Liveris Academy Update contains:

- **Academy news:** Director Letter
- 2025 Scholarship Recipients
- Meet the Inaugural Student Executive Group
- 2025 Distinguished Speaker Series
- Scholar experiences
- Alumni Updates
- What's on the academy bookshelf?

Please share this eNewsletter with contacts who may be interested. Anyone who would like to be included on our mailing list should let us know by emailing: liverisacademy@uq.edu.au.

Best wishes,
Kate Regnault, Academy Coordinator



Academy news

ACADEMY DIRECTOR, Professor Tim Kastle



Dear Friends of the Academy - This newsletter is packed with news, so I won't take much space here at the start so that you can hear more from our Scholars, alumni, and stakeholders. We continue to celebrate graduations and the accomplishments of our alumni, welcome new members to the Liveris Academy, and work together to achieve impact. You can learn all about this in the stories below.

The Andrew N. Liveris Academy for Innovation and Leadership was founded in recognition that there is an urgent need for leadership to help us meet a rising number of global challenges, including:

- a requirement to hit net zero targets by 2050
- navigating and addressing unstable geopolitics in a G Zero world,
- making smart use of digitalization while avoiding its pitfalls,
- resisting the strong pull towards short-termism, and
- finding equitable ways to structure the international economy.

Our mission is to meet this need. If you know a current or potential UQ student that aligns with this mission, please encourage them to keep an eye out for the announcement next month that applications for scholarships commencing in 2026 are open, and to put in an application.

The fact that you're reading this newsletter shows that you're probably aligned with this mission too. If there are things that we should do together to meet these challenges, please get in touch!

-Tim Kastelle

Director, Andrew N. Liveris Academy for Innovation and Leadership

Connect with me on LinkedIn: [Connect with Tim](#)
[Connect with the Liveris Academy.](#)

2025 Scholarship Recipients

In February we welcomed a significant group of scholars to the Academy, following a rigorous application and interview process.

Congratulations to 2025 Incoming Liveris Academy Scholars!
(left to right, top row to bottom)



- Aditya Anand
- Henna Bardolia
- Skyla Davis
- Clancy Toms
- Jane Brewster
- Jasper Chong
- Alia Gallet--Pandelle
- Kyuss Greaves
- Eleanor Hewitt
- Tinko Huston
- Reuben King
- Naomi Kutash
- Preston Laurie
- Chun Tsung Lee
- Michael Murray
- Billy Neale
- Kevin Perera
- Jordan Royal
- Emily Schultz
- Adeeba Shaik

- Henry Wang
- Dimity Whitaker
- Annelise Whitbread
- Shuangbin Zhang

Meet Our New Scholars

Meet the Liveris Student Executive Group

This year the UQ Liveris Academy Scholar Executive Group (SEG) has been established to represent the broader Liveris Scholar cohort; we would like to introduce the Inaugural SEG here:

- [William Deeley](#) - President
- [Liam Heffernan](#) - Vice-President
- [Natasha Miric](#) - Events Coordinator
- [Joshua Ryu](#) - Events Coordinator
- [Ella O'Connor](#) - Community Coordinator
- [Chloe Mather](#) - Community Coordinator

The Liveris SEG acts on behalf of the broad Liveris Scholar cohort, bringing relevant issues to the Internal Steering Committee, to ensure the voices of Liveris Scholars are front and centre.



In a very short period, this group have identified and initiated a collection of well attended, student-led events and activities, contributing great value to both formal and informal aspects of the academy and its community. These have included an alumni panel, a peer mentoring event, a global experience information session, social hikes, as well as a handful of thoughtful, fun social events centred around crosswords, cards, PowerPoints, and some sort of food product!

2025 Distinguished Speaker Series

Zoë Black, Co-Founder and CEO - Happy Paws Happy Hearts

Zoë Black is a renowned advocate for social change and Founder and CEO of Happy Paws Happy Hearts, a social enterprise dedicated to supporting individuals and animals facing isolation. Her career began in multi-billion dollar commercial projects before she redirected her passion towards community organisations, including delivering life-changing telecommunication services for the deaf and hard of hearing in Australia. Her commitment to social change has earned prestigious recognition including a Westpac Social Change Fellowship, Social Impact Leadership Australia, and being named the first Social Entrepreneur



In Residence for the University of Queensland.

Under Zoë's leadership, Happy Paws Happy Hearts has scaled across Australia from Darwin to Hobart, with a mega-site in Brisbane recognised as the largest social inclusion site in the country. The organisation has delivered over 240,000 hours of social connection while simultaneously supporting tens of thousands of rescue and assistance animals on their journeys. Their reach extends to people with disabilities, veterans, first responders, older Australians, and youth at risk.

In keeping with her mission of bringing people and animals together, Zoë humorously describes herself as a mixed breed—a Kelpie x Beagle, embodying the qualities of rounding people up to confront challenges while demonstrating unwavering focus when pursuing goals. Her work continues to make Happy Paws Happy Hearts a beacon of positive change across Australia.

Happy Paws Happy Hearts~[Connect with Zoe Black on LinkedIn](#)

Kimberly Camrass, Sustainability Lead - Boeing



Dr Kimberly Camrass is a sustainability professional with a PhD in Regenerative Futures.

In her current role as Regional Sustainability Lead at Boeing, Kimberly drives efforts to decarbonise aviation across Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. This includes a strong focus on policy development for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and emerging flight technologies, including electric and hydrogen.

Kimberly is Boeing's representative on the Federal Government's Jet Zero Council and is also driving aviation sustainability through partnerships with industry, State Governments and the research sector.

Kimberly has extensive experience in the development and implementation of policy, strategy and programs to achieve positive environmental, social and governance outcomes. Prior to joining Boeing, she was the Director – Climate Positive Brisbane 2023 within the Queensland Government, shaping initial sustainability planning for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Kimberly is an Adjunct Fellow at the University of the Sunshine Coast and is engaged in strategic foresight and futures work globally to drive innovative thinking around regeneration and sustainability. She is a published author, with works covering a range of themes, including futures studies, regeneration, sustainability and leadership.

[Connect with Kimberly on LinkedIn](#)

Jackson Hills, QShelter

Jackson has spent 15 years working in not-for-profit and community organisations. This includes 12 years with Tennis Australia, the Australian Football League (AFL), and the Australian Sports Commission. He has been actively involved with the Trish MS Research Foundation, The Salvation Army, Starlight Children's Foundation, and several other charities.

After working in the sports industry, Jackson moved into local and state government roles. Jackson has recently led the policy and strategic engagement efforts at Q Shelter, Queensland's peak body for housing and homelessness services, including leading the



organisation's advocacy efforts and engagement with all levels of government.

In addition to sitting on the Boards of Common Ground Queensland and the Property Industry Foundation, he is an executive committee member of National Shelter and has, in the past, acted as a mentor to young people at the Gold Coast Youth Foyer.

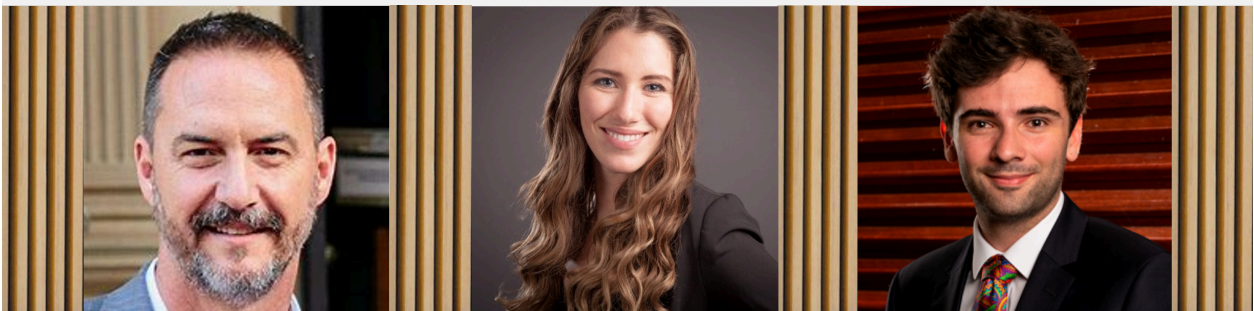
[Connect with Jackson on LinkedIn](#)



In addition, [Andrew N. Liveris](#) kicked off the year with a wide-ranging in-person conversation with scholars, covering topics like the state of democracy in the world, the impact of new technologies on business, and leadership lessons from Andrew's career.

The following people also contributed to the series:

- [Professor Emerita Polly Parker](#), Professor Emerita, University of Queensland
- [Associate Professor Nadja Kunz](#), The University of British Columbia, Canada Research Chair
- [Professor Deborah Brown](#), Professor in Philosophy, The University of Queensland
- [Professor Peter Ellerton](#), Curriculum Director, UQ Critical Thinking Project
- [Christian Hynes](#), Senior Manager, Monitor Deloitte
- [Nelson Prichard](#) (Liveris Alum), Analyst - Strategy consulting Monitor Deloitte



Scholar Experiences

The following global experiences were funded, or partially funded, by Liveris Academy Travel Support Grants.



Megan Barkman - Puttick Scholarship for Women in IT and Engineering

Megan spent a semester studying civil engineering at Politecnico Di Milano, in Italy. She shares her first solo travel experience and reflects on her time living in Milan, the people she met and the friends she made. It's a great read. [Read about Megan's time away here](#)



Joshua Ryu - Liveris Undergraduate Scholar

Through the UQ Startup AdVentures Program, Josh was fortunate to be able to explore the facilities of leading tech companies in the San Francisco Bay Area, including NVIDIA, Adobe, Meta, Tesla and Salesforce. There were some great learnings, and being there in person, it was hard to comprehend the amount of impact these companies have on the world. [Read more about Joshua's trip here](#)



Ella O'Connor - Liveris Undergraduate Scholar

Ella reflects on a transformative three-week academic exchange at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University. Beyond the academic rigor of exploring technologies like Natural Language Processing, she discovers the true magic of Oxford lies in its cobblestone streets, ancient libraries, impromptu punting adventures, and the unexpected friendships. [Read Ella's reflection of her experience here](#)



Ella Proberts - Ravago Group Scholar

Ella travelled to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA) to complete a short course in scriptwriting for actors; her aim was to expand her level of storytelling beyond what she had learnt in her journalism and international relations degree at UQ. [Ella shares the experience here](#)

[Read more Academy News](#)

Alumni Updates

Liveris Valedictorians



Since our last eNews several Liveris Scholars have been recognised as valedictorians across various academic programs, showcasing the exceptional caliber and achievements of the Liveris cohort.

We are keen to share their speeches:

- Valedictorian for the Faculty Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences : [Ella Proberts](#). Ella was also recently named the Australian Press Council's student journalist of the year.

[Connect with Ella on LinkedIn](#)

- Valedictorian for the Faculty of Science: [Max Foreman](#). Max was also awarded the Australian Universities' John Monash Scholarship, and has commenced his PhD in Atomic and Laser

Physics at the University of Oxford.

[Connect with Max on LinkedIn](#)

- Valedictorian for the Faculty of Engineering, Architecture & Information Technology: **Simeon Gover**. Simeon is currently exploring the world, you can follow his travels on [substack](#).

[Connect with Simeon on LinkedIn](#)

ALUMNI PROFILE: Amber Spurway



Amber joined the Liveris Academy in 2021 after being awarded a Liveris Academy Undergraduate Scholarship. She completed a Bachelor of Engineering in December 2023.

We recently met and had the chance to catch up on what Amber has been up to for the last 18 months.

[Read our conversation here](#)

Michaela George - *Molecular Maverick!*



Molecular Maverick Award

Launched at the end of 2024, [UQ Molecular Maverick award](#) recognises and supports a PhD students in chemistry-related disciplines who demonstrate exceptional entrepreneurial potential.

It also celebrates individuals who are passionate about their research and driven to translate their discoveries into innovative and impactful business solutions.

Just this month, Michaela joined four other rising-star PhD contenders, including current Liveris Scholar, [Diana Sanabria](#), to pitch to an industry panel, for a \$5000 cash prize.

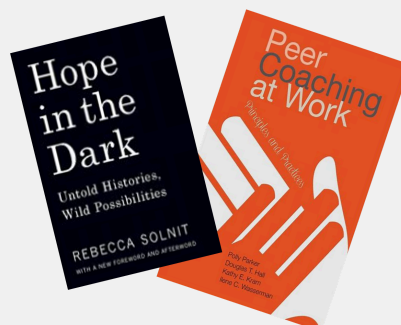
Michaela delivered a powerful pitch and won! The central focus of her PhD at the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology – how smart biomaterials might be able to modulate immune response during healing - stole the event.

[Congratulate Michaela on LinkedIn](#)

What's on the academy bookshelf?....

Hope in the Dark, The Untold History of People Power - **Rebecca Solnit**
[find it here](#)

Peer Coaching at Work, Principles and Practices - **Polly Parker, Douglas T. (Tim) Hall, Kathy E. Kram and Ilene C. Wasserman**
[find it here](#)





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