FOREWORD

The Australian National University (ANU) is an education-intensive research institute of international distinction.

A high proportion of our resources are directed towards maintaining research and research training of exceptional quality and our research concentration leads to a unique environment within an Australian university. Our academic profile is not driven by what, in the end, are ‘profitable’ student study choices and patterns—our profile is driven by what are important issues, topics and disciplines on which to conduct research—strategically and for the long-term as necessary. This form of ‘learning’ feeds our educational programs; our students are educated in a unique research-intensive environment by researchers amongst the world’s leaders in their fields.

The benefits of this experience are evidenced by the ANU Undergraduate Research Journal. The breadth and depth of the articles chosen for publication by the editorial team and reviewed by leading ANU academics demonstrates the quality and research potential of the undergraduate talent being nurtured at ANU across a diverse range of fields. The culture of discovery that pervades our students’ educational experience helps us to foster future generations of researchers and the ANU Undergraduate Research Journal harnesses some of the best work of this emerging community of scholars.

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