

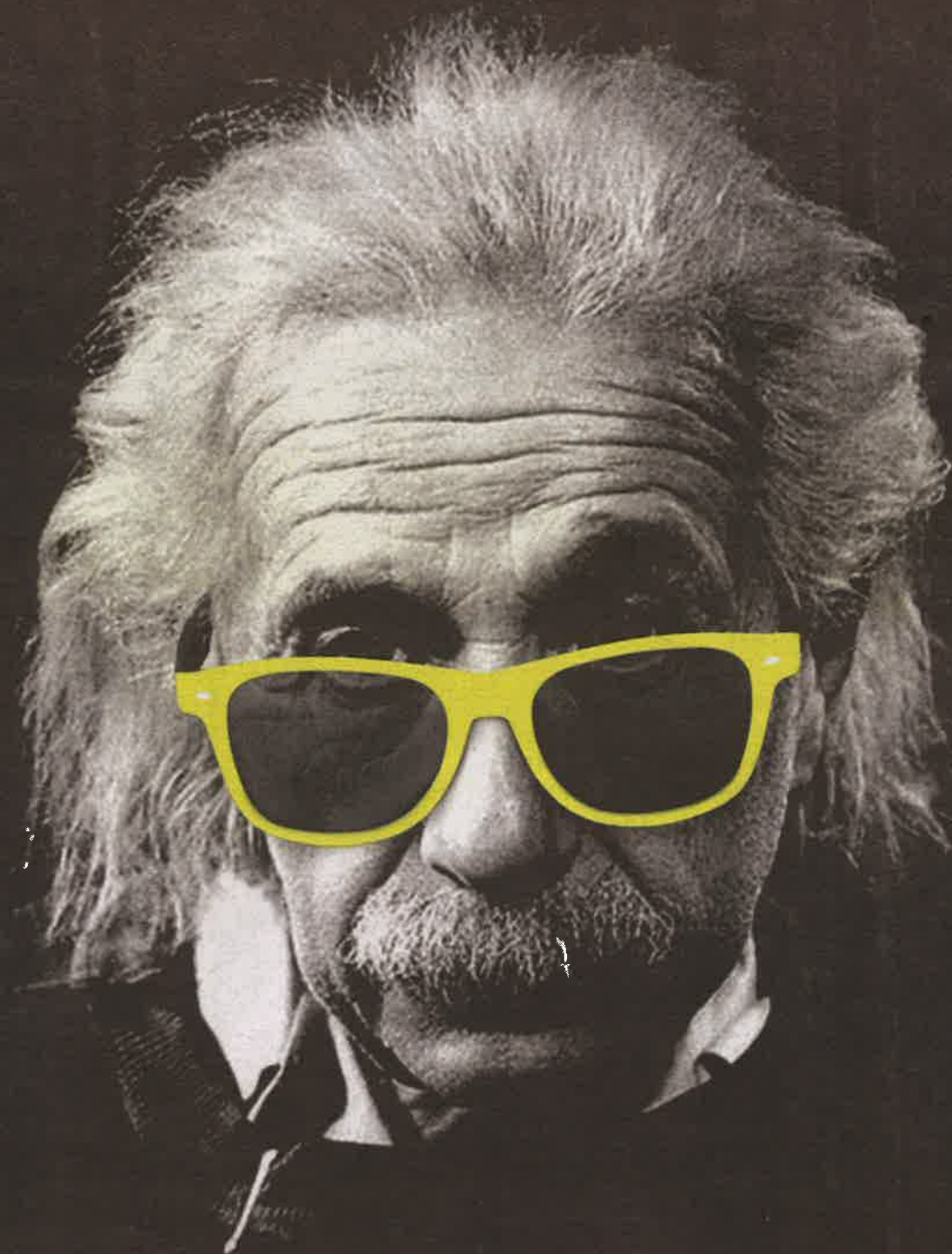
SundayMail

QUEENSLAND'S 50 TOP THINKERS



MEET THE PEOPLE WHOSE IDEAS,
INNOVATIONS AND INVENTIONS
HELP MAKE THIS THE SMART STATE

M A R C H . 8 . 2 0 1 5





CHANGING LIVES

He's only 24 but Chris Eigeland is making a name for himself as someone who will shape the future. He says he's not alone and believes that Gen-Y is the generation that will change the world for the better

CHRIS EIGELAND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

CHRIS Eigeland is a true global citizen. Although based in Brisbane, the 24-year-old has lived in London, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Haiti, East Timor, Vietnam and the US during the past four years.

A double-degree (law and politics) graduate from Griffith University, Mr Eigeland is one of Queensland's leading young social entrepreneurs, establishing successful small businesses with the goal of helping people in developing countries.

One of his first initiatives, The Schoolbag, created jobs in poor nations while enabling the distribution of free education supplies to more than 45,000 students – and counting.

Mr Eigeland and a group of 20-something friends are running

GoCatalyze, a start-up offering a suite of digital business services to benefit charities overseas.

Their next project is the launch in China of building blocks incorporating low-energy Bluetooth technology to gather data on how preschool children play and learn.

"There is often a perception that Generation-Y is the 'me' generation, but my experience is exactly the opposite," Mr Eigeland says.

"The majority of millennials believe they have a duty to change the world for the better.

"There is an increased potential in our generation to use technology, not only to further their careers, but to have an impact halfway around the world in a way that just didn't exist a generation ago," he says.

The 2011 Queensland Young Volunteer of the Year is one of the World Economic Forum's under-30 "global shapers".



TIM CARMODY LAW

THE controversy that engulfed the appointment of Tim Carmody as Chief Justice of Queensland obscured a remarkable success story.

The son of a meatworker/bookie who grew up in a Housing Commission home in Inala, the one-time high school dropout has risen to be the state's top judicial officer.

He returned to complete his schooling, then studied law while working as a police officer and, later, a clerk in the Public Defender's Office. As a young barrister, his roles included counsel assisting the Fitzgerald Inquiry. A stint as Queensland Crime Commissioner was followed by appointment as a Family Court judge.

He headed the Child Protection Commission of Inquiry which reported in 2013 and soon afterwards was made Chief Magistrate, then Chief Justice. It was a controversial appointment, but an ex-colleague, former Family Court of Australia chief justice Alastair Nicholson has described him as "deep-thinking, reliable, innovative and sensible".



RICHARD COTTEE BUSINESS

RESOURCES entrepreneur Richard Cottee is cooking with gas.

Long before the term "coal seam gas" became a trigger phrase for debate and discord, Mr Cottee was pioneering the \$60 billion liquefied natural gas industry.

When he joined Queensland Gas Company as managing director in 2002, it was a fledgling exploration company worth \$20 million. Eight years later, it was sold to the giant international BG Group for a whopping \$5.6 billion.

Now he is chief executive of Central Petroleum, a listed company with oil and gas deposits. With Queensland's gas deposits predicted to be flat out supplying enough LNG to meet the export demand through Gladstone, domestic manufacturers along Australia's east coast will be seeking sources.

Mr Cottee's plan is to supply their needs via a massive pipeline linking Central Petroleum's gas fields halfway across the continent near Alice Springs to the national gas grid.

Watch this space.



KARYN WALSH COMMUNITY WORK

KARYN Walsh can't count the nights she has laid awake thinking about those who don't even have a bed.

More than 35 years' experience working with people struggling with homelessness, disability, poverty, domestic violence and many other issues have made her an acknowledged leader in Queensland's community services sector.

Ms Walsh's relentless commitment, evidence-based approach and ability to articulate arguments to politicians and other decision-makers have produced a raft of policy changes and funding initiatives.

As chief executive of Micah Projects in South Brisbane for two decades, she has spearheaded its development as one of the state's leading and most innovative not-for-profit organisations.

Ms Walsh was president of the Queensland Council of Social Service for eight years and helped lead the Brisbane Domestic Violence Service and set up Lotus Place, a resource centre for "forgotten Australians" and former child migrants.



GEOFF BROWN DEFENCE

AS A boy in Toowoomba, Air Marshal Geoff Brown used to build model fighter aircraft. Today, he is a high-flyer in charge of the real thing as the country's Chief of Air Force.

His passion for flying was honed in gliders above the Darling Downs and by the late-1980s, his cockpit skills were such that he was a pilot in the Roulettes aerobatic team. Rising quickly through the ranks, Air Marshal Brown was given responsibility for commanding all FA-18 and C-130 operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

The 34-year RAAF veteran was appointed to the top job in 2011 and his contract was extended for another year last July.

But he will leave his mark well beyond that. Last month, he unveiled "Plan Jericho" – a 10-year blueprint to transform the RAAF into one of the world's most technically advanced air forces.

The strategy positions the RAAF as the lead military division fighting international terrorism, with the introduction of F-35 Joint Strike Fighters and, reportedly, unmanned "Reaper" attack drones.