

# ANU Springbank Circle

ANNUAL DONOR NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2023  
CELEBRATING YOUR ENDURING GIFTS



Australian  
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University



Image: Students in class at the ANU College of Business and Economics. Photo by ANU.

## Supporting future businesswomen and ensuring a lasting legacy

For Sheryle Moon, it all started with a government scholarship. The scholarship made it possible for her to go from Wagga Wagga to Sydney to pursue an undergraduate degree in economics. This led to her undertaking a Master of Management - Technology at the ANU College of Business and Economics.

Today, Sheryle and her husband, fellow ANU alum Olaf, are ensuring women are afforded the same opportunity to get an education and start a career as she was. The Moon Family Scholarship for Women in Economics supports domestic, female-identifying students intending to study a Bachelor of Economics at ANU with a lasting commitment to empowering women in this field.

Sheryle's career has taken her to all sorts of heights, and she has remained connected to ANU all the while. She won the Telstra Business Woman of the Year Award in 1999 and was awarded a distinguished Alumni Medal in 2006. She has served on several boards over the years, including the ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science formerly and the ANU College of Business and Economics currently.

For Sheryle and Olaf, ANU is a family affair – their children have all studied and worked at ANU at one point or another. But they want to ensure that more people are afforded the same opportunities. They are passionate about being part of the University's mission to ensure everyone who is eligible for an ANU education can access one.

Given Sheryle's experience balancing family and career, they wanted to especially support women, who often see their careers disrupted due to childbirth and caring for children and family. Their decision to establish their scholarship in support of this cause, and the ultimate fulfilment of their commitment through a bequest, is a culmination of their family's legacy of generosity and deep connection to the University.

**“Educational philanthropy ensures growth of the university and shapes its community's social, economic, and technological development.”**

For Sheryle and Olaf, philanthropy is more than just creating one opportunity for one student. Through philanthropy, they can make a meaningful contribution in support of the University's strategic direction and growth, such as advancing gender equity and opportunities for women in leadership.

Sheryle and Olaf are glad to be able to network with those who believe in that same vision, through the ANU donor and alumni community and the ANU Springbank Circle. It is yet another link to the University that they love so much, and they encourage others in the community to consider their legacies and get involved in the University's important mission.



Image: Olaf and Sheryle Moon at the 2023 ANU College of Business and Economics Prizes and Scholarships Lunch. Photo by ANU.

# A message from the Vice-President (Advancement)



Image: Alex Furman, Vice-President (Advancement), ANU. Photo supplied.

This past year has been a momentous journey for ANU and our cherished donor community.

In the first half of 2023, our community supported the mid-year appeal by donating more than \$160,000 for student scholarships, helping ensure every eligible student can come to ANU and pursue a life-changing education.

In the second half of the year, our community came together once more, giving over \$80,000 to support the ANU Student Urgent Relief Fund, which continues to provide students facing unexpected crises with immediate and vital financial assistance so they can return their focus to studying.

Furthermore, 16 new students received financial support to commence their studies at ANU in 2023 as Kambri Scholars. The ongoing progress of the Kambri Scholarship Program exemplifies our commitment to ensuring all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have the opportunity to flourish with a university education.

As we look to 2024, we warmly welcome our next ANU Vice-Chancellor and President, Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell AO FTSE FAHA, an individual of extraordinary expertise and dedication to academic excellence.

Professor Brian P. Schmidt AC FAA FRS will formally step down as the 12th Vice-Chancellor of ANU on 31 December 2023. We are so pleased to share that Professor Schmidt intends to return to research and teaching in astrophysics at Mt Stromlo Observatory, in the ANU Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics. He is proud to be staying within the ANU community, which he joined almost 30 years ago, and where he undertook his Nobel Prize winning research.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for another memorable year. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at the ANU Springbank Circle Long Lunch this October. Your commitment to ANU enriches the academic landscape and fosters an inclusive environment where diverse perspectives converge, allowing ANU to thrive as a hub of knowledge, innovation and impact.

On behalf of the University, I wish you a joyous festive season, and a healthy and happy 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Furman".

**Alex Furman**  
**Vice-President (Advancement)**  
**The Australian National University**

## Joy and Norm are giving rural students a fair go

“Do what you have to do, give it your best shot and go on learning until the day you die.”

This is the advice for students from 99-year-old Joy Wheatley, as she and her husband, 102-year-old Norm bring their bequest forward to support rural students to come and study at ANU. The Joy and Norman Wheatley Rural Scholarship will be awarded for the first time next year.

Joy and Norm were once exactly like the students they are so keen to support – hailing from rural backgrounds, Joy and Norm were the only ones amongst their seven and ten siblings respectively to attend university. When they came to Canberra, they both had to work during the day and study at night to meet the demands of studying as mature aged students.

Nevertheless, they had a flourishing life at ANU, making lasting connections with their study group. Norm switched over from studying economics to a Bachelor of Arts to be with Joy in order for them to support each other through their studies.

No strangers to philanthropy, having previously donated to ANU in support of University House, Joy and Norm were considering their legacy and how they could do more. Receiving the 2022 ANU Report to Donors inspired them to contact ANU Advancement to enquire about leaving a legacy gift to support rural students. After learning more about how they could establish an endowed scholarship, Joy and Norm decided to bring their bequest forward, giving them the opportunity to experience the impact of their generosity during their lifetimes.

**“It is satisfying to see it while we are alive. And it makes it easier for our executors.”**

Their lasting legacy will be the Joy and Norman Wheatley Rural Scholarship, and the couple look forward to meeting their inaugural scholarship recipients.

The scholarship provides support for rural students studying a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Arts (Honours) at ANU, with a preference to support students wishing to study Australian history or philosophy. Through their gift, they are ensuring that rural kids like they once were get a fair go and have the same opportunities to nurture their talents and fulfil their potential.

In her lifetime, Joy has worked as a researcher, a typist, an archivist in the public service, and even a flight rigger in the Women’s Auxiliary Australian Air Force. Today, she cares for Norm at their home and reads through their collection of 1000 books. Reflecting on their decision to support rural students at ANU in perpetuity, Joy puts it best: “People are hard-wired to be kind to each other.”



Image: Norman and Joy Wheatley at their home.  
Photo by ANU.



Image: Christmas in July –decorated with the 2023 Ursula Hall Student Leadership Team with Sarah O'Callaghan as the star at the top. Photo by Rowena Wedd.

## Sarah O'Callaghan reflects on a lifetime of love for ANU

My friends sometimes tell me that I failed at being an adult because I never left university. I came to ANU as an undergrad to study science and law in 1996, and while I had visions of becoming an environmental lawyer, I ended up working at ANU instead.

Some of my most treasured memories of being a student here are focused around the then Department of Geology, now the ANU Research School of Earth Sciences. Not only did I learn a lot about rocks, I also made lifelong friendships and have some wonderful memories of field trips from as close as State Circle to as far as the Atacama Desert in Chile.

It was also the first place I worked at ANU – I became a staff member the same year I finished my science and law degrees in 2002. What followed was a variety of roles in Geology, the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society, the ANU College of Science, and even a year as Site Operations Manager at Siding Spring Observatory.

After nearly a decade working in Facilities and Services, I wanted to get back to a more

student-focused role. I am now the Head of Residence at Ursula Hall – you don't get much more student-facing than that. I really enjoy supporting our residential community of students – they are both our present and our future.

Early in 2018, I had the realisation that I was in my early 40s with no will and testament and no children. I made the commitment to bequeath my estate to ANU, and, after a very small amount of contemplation, I made the decision that it be used to establish scholarships in perpetuity for female students to study earth science.

As I worked through the bequest with ANU Advancement, I also began contributing to an equity scholarship for current students at the ANU Research School of Earth Sciences, which is a lovely way to see the impact that scholarships can have on our students.

It's true I never left uni, but it's because I love ANU. One thing that has not changed in all my years here is that I believe in this place – in its purpose and the legacies that will be left for future generations.

# Seven extraordinary alumni shaping a better world

The Australian National University (ANU) recently announced the 2023 winners of its prestigious ANU Alumni Awards, honouring seven extraordinary alumni.

The awardees serve as an inspiration to current and future generations, embodying the University's ethos of excellence, leadership, and service to their communities.

Honoured for their exceptional achievements during a reception held at the heritage Hyatt Hotel Canberra on 27 November, it gives us great pleasure to share with you the 2023 ANU Alumni Award recipients.



## **Alumnus of the Year: HE the Hon Dr Kevin Rudd AC**

HE the Hon Dr Kevin Rudd AC (BA Asian Studies Hons '81, LLD '16), winner of Alumnus of the Year, is recognised for his unparalleled dedication to diplomacy, exceptional leadership in global governance and commitment to fostering international cooperation and progress. His foundation in international affairs, built during his time at ANU, continues to shape his 2023 appointment as Australia's Ambassador to the United States.



## **Young Alumna of the Year: Sophia Hamblin Wang**

Sophia Hamblin Wang (BlntBus Hons '09), joint-winner of ANU Young Alumna of the Year, is recognised for her ground-breaking work developing technology that safely captures and converts industrial CO2 emissions into solid building materials.



## **Young Alumna of the Year: Sophie Trevitt**

The late Sophie Trevitt (JD '16, MLLP '19), joint-winner of the ANU Young Alumna of the Year, is remembered for her tireless advocacy for social justice, particularly in fighting for the rights of incarcerated Indigenous children.



## **Indigenous Alumna of the Year: Professor Marcia Langton AO FASSA FTSE**

Professor Marcia Langton (BA '84, HonLittD '19) is winner of the ANU Indigenous Alumna of the Year, for her pivotal role in advancing Indigenous rights in Australia – most recently, advocating for the establishment of a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament.

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### International Alumna of the Year: Dr Suharti

Dr Suharti (PhD '13) is the 2023 ANU International Alumna of the Year, honoured for her transformative work in Indonesian education and governance and for implementing evidence-driven policies and championing gender equality in her home country of Indonesia.

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### Student Volunteer of the Year (Postgraduate): Sharrada Segeran

Recognising exemplary commitment to community service, Doctor of Medicine and Surgery student Sharrada Segeran is recognised as this year's ANU Student Volunteer of the Year (Postgraduate) for her substantial work establishing the Mind Matters Network and increasing mental health literacy in Malaysia.

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### Student Volunteer of the Year (Undergraduate): Tom Gibbs

A Bachelor of Medical Science (Honours) student at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, Tom Gibbs' commitment to volunteering with St John Ambulance ACT, North Canberra Hospital, and Canberra NightCrew, is recognised as winner of the ANU Student Volunteer of the Year (Undergraduate) for his dedication to ensuring community safety and health.

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As outstanding leaders, change-makers, entrepreneurs and social advocates, ANU alumni create lasting change in the world and inspire our students. Their diverse accomplishments underscore the power of education, leadership, and unwavering dedication to shaping a better world.

## University House restoration

Since 1954, University House has been at the heart of social, intellectual, and ceremonial life at ANU. Sadly, the heritage-listed precinct sustained severe damage in the 2020 hailstorm.

Our generous ANU alumni and donors have given \$362,000 to help restore, preserve and enhance this iconic cultural asset, and to create future learning, teaching and research programs.

University House is expected to reopen progressively from mid-2024.

To contribute, please call **Donor Relations** on +61 2 6125 2670 or click [here](#).

## ANU Connect

ANU Connect is an online platform for ANU alumni to share career insights and professional experiences through short on-demand videos and one-on-one video calls.

Whether you are looking for career advice or want to mentor others, ANU Connect provides numerous ways to give back to the ANU alumni community. You can seamlessly network, search for alumni around the world by their sector and professional know-how, and even record your own advice to share with others.

Learn more by visiting [www.kintell.com/g/anu-connect](http://www.kintell.com/g/anu-connect)



Image: Eliza Cowley and Cecilia Moriarty. Photo by ANU.

## Scholarship for future rural doctors is a gift that keeps on giving

Bill Nicholes was a farmer. As with many farmer families in rural or regional areas across Australia, he lived and worked in the same place throughout his life – ‘Willigobung’, his family’s farm near Tumbarumba NSW.

Bill’s father had acquired the land in 1951 as a Soldier’s Settlement block following his service during WWII. Over the years, the family established themselves as successful apple growers. Bill lived with, and cared for, his parents at their farm, even as their health deteriorated with age. Bill also suffered from medical conditions throughout his life but remained at Willigobung until his death in 2016.

These experiences may have been what inspired Bill to bequeath a gift

to ANU to support students studying graduate medicine. His bequest led to the establishment of the Bill Nicholes “Willigobung” Scholarship for Medicine.

The scholarship provides two new students every year with scholarship support for their four-year degree. To honour Bill’s legacy and rural background, one of the two scholarships is reserved for a student from a rural, regional or remote area of Australia.

Five years on, the Bill Nicholes “Willigobung” Scholarship for Medicine has been awarded to nine students. Thanks to Bill’s generosity, students can come to Canberra from afar to study medicine at ANU and become the future doctors who will give back to and improve the lives of their home communities.



“I have had to face some very tough situations over the years, and it left me wanting to be able to do more to help. So here I am!”

-CECILIA MORIARTY

Cecilia is grateful to be the 2023 recipient of the scholarship, as it has provided essential financial support for her family while she puts in the long hours required to follow her chosen career path.

Coming from Wagga Wagga, Canberra felt like a big city to her and her family. The scholarship's aid helped them navigate their new home. Today, her children have settled into a new school and are enjoying extra-curricular activities and opportunities. The scholarship means that Cecilia does not have to work weekends, so her family has more time to spend together.

Cecilia is looking forward to being a GP and acquiring specialisations to do with her interest in emergency medicine response. She is already looking forward to what she can bring back to her hometown.

“I am so grateful to receive this scholarship as it means that I don't have to rely financially on my parents to attend university and live away from home.”

-ELIZA COWLEY

Pursuing her interest in medical school and rural medicine meant Eliza had to live far away from her farming family in Goondiwindi QLD. Being awarded the scholarship in 2021 empowered her, as it meant that she did not have to rely on her parents for financial assistance to live and attend university in Canberra.

She has found her time here and her third year of placements in Goulburn rewarding. Eliza is looking forward to working in a regional or rural setting once she graduates.

She is grateful for the life-changing opportunity Bill Nicholes' bequest has made possible for her and many other students at the ANU School of Medicine and Psychology.



Image: Spending time with her children. Photo by Cecilia Moriarty.

Image: 'Munda' - Eliza Cowley's family farm in Queensland. Photo by Eliza Cowley.



## The ANU Springbank Circle

The ANU Springbank Circle recognises and celebrates the lasting impact you are making through a gift in your will.

In October, the Honourable Julie Bishop, ANU Chancellor and Professor Brian P. Schmidt, ANU Vice-Chancellor and President, hosted the ANU Springbank Circle Long Lunch. Our Springbank Circle donors and guests enjoyed hearing from three of our students who were participants in the Three Minute Thesis competition. Terri Warner, Nick Bariesheff and Saishyam Ramesh each did a fantastic job narrowing their research down to a short and concise pitch.

We look forward to providing you with more opportunities in 2024 to visit our campus and connect with world-renowned researchers, inspirational students, and dedicated staff. We will also keep you updated with events, news, and activities taking place across the University.

You can view photographs from the 2023 lunch by clicking [here](#).

## Have you considered a living bequest?

A gift in your will is a wonderful way to provide enduring support for learning, education and research beyond your lifetime.

Living bequests give our donors the opportunity to experience the positive impact of their giving during their lifetime. This special way of giving allows you to make an initial gift now, with the fulfilment of your commitment provided through your estate.

Donors who have decided to plan their philanthropy in this way, have been able to meet the recipients of their support and personally see the difference their giving can make to their chosen area. Joy and Norm Wheatley will experience this first-hand, when their scholarship is awarded for the first time in 2024 – enjoy reading about their enduring gift to support rural students on page 4.

If you would like to learn more about how to commence a living bequest, please contact the Gift and Estate Planning team for a confidential discussion.

## Realised bequests 2023

**We would like to acknowledge the generosity and foresight of the following members of the ANU community and the fulfilment of their bequests in 2023.**

**Elizabeth Anderson** bequeathed a gift to support medical research at the John Curtin School of Medical Research.

**Margaret and John Banks'** legacy will provide enduring support for postgraduate students in the fields of forest science and forestry at the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society.

**Susanita and Earl Dudley's** bequest will support scholarships for students at the ANU Mathematical Sciences Institute.

**William Nicholes** established the Bill Nicholes "Willigobung" Scholarship for Medicine, ensuring students from rural and regional areas of Australia can study graduate medicine at the ANU School of Medicine and Psychology.

**Jenny and Bruce Pryor** directed their bequest to enable research into dermatomyositis and related diseases at the ANU Centre for Personalised Immunology.



Image: Roger Nixon, Jacqui Pinkava and Shirley Kral at the 2023 ANU Springbank Circle Long Lunch. Photo by ANU.

## Season's Greetings

Warmest greetings to you, our ANU Springbank Circle donors, and welcome to those of you who joined us in 2023.

As this year comes to a close, we reflect on a big year of change and new beginnings for the ANU community.

We celebrated your generosity and the talents of some of our young researchers at our annual lunch. At the same time, we farewelled ANU Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Brian P. Schmidt AC FAA FRS who many of you will have met at our donor and alumni events over the years. Professor Schmidt will be stepping down from his position at the end of the year, returning to research and teaching at Mount Stromlo. He will continue to be involved in the University's philanthropic and engagement activities in the future.

We were pleased to see many of you engaging with ANU activities and events throughout the year –including a packed house for Mana Wāhine, our August panel event in Llewellyn Hall that celebrated women in leadership across politics, the arts, sport, and beyond, moderated by journalist Laura Tingle, and with the Honourable Julie Bishop, ANU Chancellor, Dame Jacinda Ardern, Rena Owen and Bronte Campbell.

Many of you continued to show your commitment to supporting opportunities for students and researchers across a variety of areas and disciplines, including chemistry, astrophysics, cancer research, music, and classical history. Thank you.

Sadly, this year we lost some dear friends from our ANU community, including Christine Whitworth Roach, Professor John Lovering AO, and Emeritus Professor Jack Golson. Their legacies will continue through the valuable contributions they made to their families and communities, and the students and researchers they supported.

Thank you for choosing to make a lasting commitment to the work of the University, and for fostering the talents and discoveries of future generations.

We look forward to providing you with more opportunities to be involved with the ANU community in 2024.

We wish you an enjoyable festive season and a happy year ahead.

**Best wishes**  
**Sarah, Rachel and Debbie**

## Contact us

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