



Australian
National
University

YOUR GIVING
MATTERS

Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian National University (ANU) acknowledges, celebrates, and pays our respects to the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people of the Canberra region and to all First Nations Australians on whose traditional lands we meet and work, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this publication may contain the images, words and/or names of people who have passed away.

Image background: Scarred tree near the ANU Chancelry. This tree is a Yellowbox and is thought to be some 300 years old. The tree includes a large cultural scar facing the road, likely for a canoe or raft, and a smaller scar on the opposite side. Photo by ANU.

Cover story

An ANU School of Art and Design student working in the world-renowned ANU Glass Workshop, creating a prototype of the ANU Vice-Chancellor's Award.

In 2023, thanks to the Christine and Stephen Procter Fellowship, internationally acclaimed glass artist Alexander Rosenberg was able to travel to Australia to share his knowledge and passion with students at ANU.

Read the full story on pages 32 to 33.



Image: An ANU School of Art and Design student working in the ANU Glass Workshop. Photo by Megan Steele-Ferguson/ANU.

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Your giving matters

Message from the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor

Thank you for being a valued member of our philanthropic community at The Australian National University (ANU). Your giving creates real impact, and changes lives and communities in Australia and beyond for the better.

We are both inspired by the many ways that alumni, donors and volunteers engaged with ANU throughout 2023. This has included contributing to a wide range of causes, attending on-campus events, utilising ANU Connect to share career insights, donating through workplace giving, and confirming bequests. These make an extraordinary difference.

Supporting students was at the forefront of your efforts. Many first-time donors gave to the Student Urgent Relief Fund (SURF) during the *\$23 for 2023* appeal to provide ANU students with immediate relief when faced with unexpected financial hardship. Through the generosity of donors, there were individuals – including Trisha Toangwera Aruhuri, featured in the SURF story in this report – who were able to continue their education at ANU despite daunting challenges.

Contributions both large and small to the Kambri Scholars Program helped the University continue its commitment to Indigenous education. Earlier

this year, Wesfarmers Limited partnered with ANU to provide transformative and unrivalled educational opportunities for Indigenous Australians, with a \$5 million commitment to the Program – the largest single contribution to a scholarship for Indigenous students in the history of the University. It will be matched by ANU, ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students ongoing access to a world-class university education for decades to come.

The 2023 ANU Report to Donors celebrates the impact of your kindness, generosity and vision, through whichever way you have chosen to give. At a time when support for students, researchers and staff was especially critical, your ongoing philanthropy created meaningful change.

We look forward to sharing many more examples of the power of philanthropy at ANU in the years to come. Thank you once again for your support.



The Hon Julie Bishop
Chancellor



Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell
Vice-Chancellor and President

| Photo by ANU.

2023 giving by numbers



Total funds committed by donors
\$36.40 million



Total given to support students
\$10,011,270



Total number of gifts
1,847



1,582
donors gave to ANU

THANKYOU

A glimpse of our donor community



1,452
individual donors



130
organisational donors



909
donors who are also
ANU alumni



535
made their first-ever
gift and joined the
inspiring community
of donors



120
donors located around
the world



1,462
donors located in
Australia



\$323,120
was given to ANU by
staff, through
the workplace
giving program



\$13,853,499
total funds raised for
ANU through bequests

You give, they achieve

In 2023, the University's philanthropic community came together through appeals to provide financial assistance to the ANU student community.



\$253,592
was given
through appeals



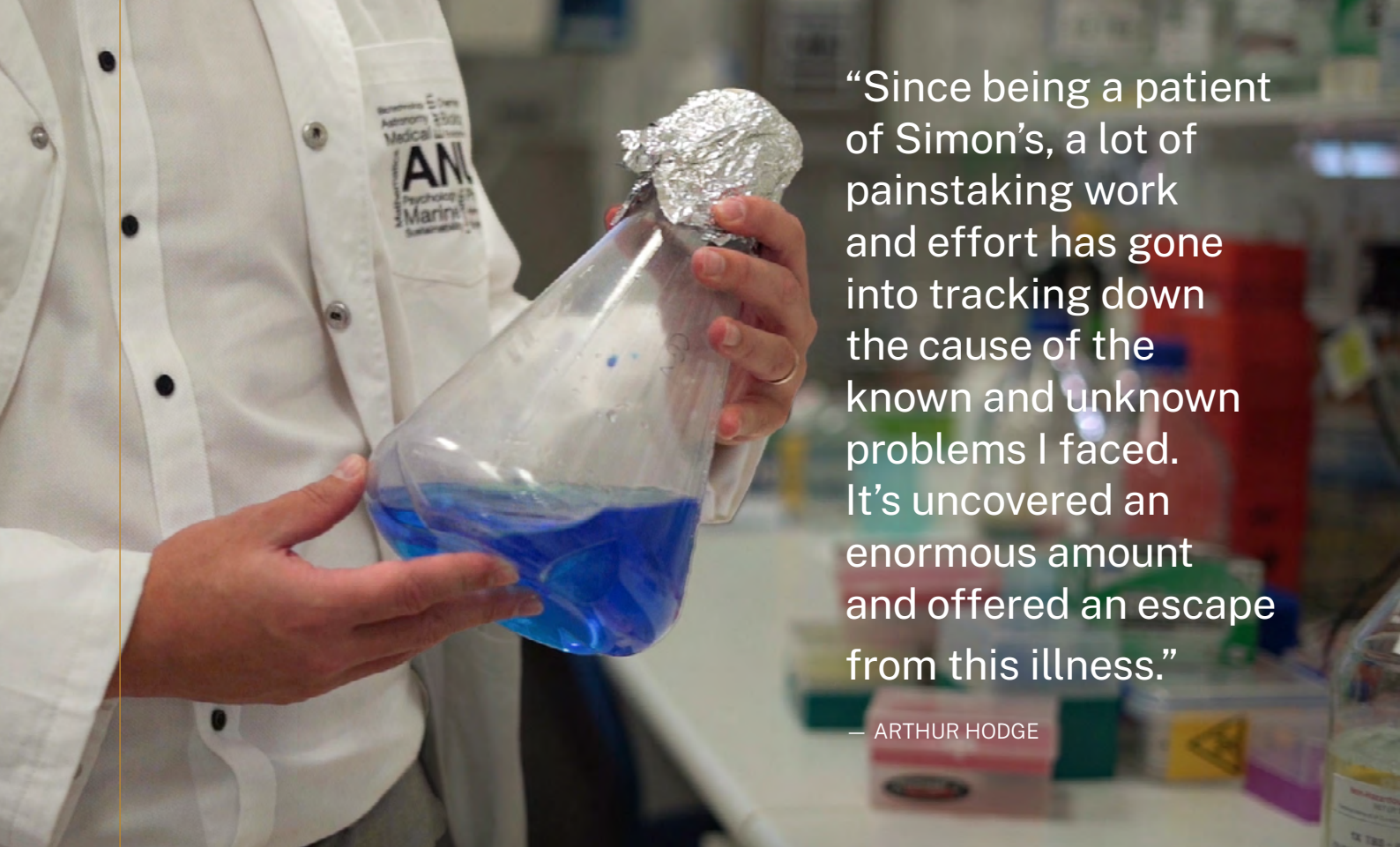
705
donors gave to appeals



286
made their first-ever gift to ANU
through an appeal

Image: 2023 Celebration of Giving event. Photo by ANU.

*All figures in this report refer to activity in the ANU Foundation in 2023 unless otherwise specified.



“Since being a patient of Simon’s, a lot of painstaking work and effort has gone into tracking down the cause of the known and unknown problems I faced. It’s uncovered an enormous amount and offered an escape from this illness.”

— ARTHUR HODGE

Personalised medicine brings healing and hope

One in 10 Australians are affected by immune-mediated disease, and often immune-suppressing treatments make patients more unwell than the disease. Researchers at ANU and the Canberra Hospital have developed a personalised medicine platform for immune disease, and now, thanks to philanthropic support, there is new hope for patients.

For 20 years, Arthur Hodge, one such patient, battled debilitating pain, misdiagnosis and unanswered questions. The cause behind his complex illnesses remained a mystery. Willing to try anything to restore his health, Arthur was referred to Dr Simon Jiang and the ANU Personalised Medicine and Autoimmunity Laboratory in 2017 for a new approach to diagnosis and treatment. This personalised medicine program has proven transformational for Arthur and other patients like him, bringing healing and hope in the face of overwhelming health challenges.

Dr Jiang is at the forefront of improving patient outcomes. Conventional management of autoimmune and kidney disease assumes the causes are similar for everyone. As a result,

treatments are imprecise and not always effective, and can also have significant side effects. That’s why Dr Jiang and his team are focused on identifying disease-causing genetic variants in individuals like Arthur.

The discoveries made in the ANU Personalised Medicine and Autoimmunity Laboratory are improving patient care at an accelerated pace. The lab’s unique combination of world-class facilities and scientific expertise in genetics, protein biology, immunology, and immune and kidney health makes it the only one of its kind in Australia. Through his commitment to understanding the cause of illness and developing tailored treatments, Dr Jiang is rewriting the narrative for patients.

Dr Jiang laments the barriers that patients face because of a lack of research funding. He says that the number of patients across the country is increasing, leading to a high load of patient care for doctors and professionals, and a need for additional financial aid.

Fortunately, Dr Jiang has seen enthusiastic philanthropic support from many in the ANU community, who are keen to see his team take their methods to as many patients as possible. Among the program's major supporters are John Hindmarsh AM and Rosanna Hindmarsh OAM (BA '93), and Rob and Jenny Ferguson. Their generous gifts, along with contributions of all sizes from the wider ANU donor community, have been crucial in helping Dr Jiang and his team further their research, share their findings, and secure additional support.

“We’re pleased to support Simon and the team and delighted by the progress they’ve made already. It’s great to see Canberra and ANU at the cutting edge of the personalised medicine revolution, transforming patients’ lives.”

— JOHN HINDMARSH AM AND
ROSANNA HINDMARSH OAM

In 2023, the McCusker Charitable Foundation made a generous \$1.5 million commitment towards funding three positions at the lab and aiding collaborations with health organisations across Australia, such as hospitals in Western Australia and Indigenous organisations in Cairns and Alice Springs. Two McCusker Postdoctoral Research Fellows were appointed in 2023, as well as the McCusker Senior Research Technician. These new additions to the team will lead transformative research that will enable help for more patients and their families.

The lab has also seen confidence from the scientific community, having received several highly competitive grants to further expand this research.

Whereas Dr Jiang’s expertise is in immune and kidney disease, the possibilities for personalised medicine are vast. Thanks to his team and the donors who share their vision, patients who feel as if they have tried every medicine to no avail have renewed hope.

Image left: Simon Jiang in the lab. Photo by ANU.

Image below: L-R: Gemma Hart (PhD student), Simon Jiang, Arthur Hodge and Lorraine Hodge. Photo by ANU.



Engineering students advance humanitarian solutions

Advancements in technology and engineering often remain out of reach for the most vulnerable communities. For those in developing countries and remote communities, engineering solutions could be a lifeline to better access to clean drinking water, stability and safety, and protections against extreme weather brought about by climate change.

The newly established McCusker Prize in Humanitarian Engineering recognises undergraduate students striving to create social impact through humanitarian engineering, a field that provides a connection between engineering and well-being. The prize is made possible through the generous support of the McCusker Charitable Foundation, which aims to improve human health by supporting research and innovation.

ANU Engineering student Nicholas Bull won the 2023 McCusker Prize for his research on water purification. Nicholas engaged in two research projects to improve water quality, reduce water-borne bacteria and improve health outcomes for households, hospitals, and schools in Timor-Leste. His work in collaboration with Abundant Water and Engineers Without Borders Australia investigated the effectiveness of portable ceramic water filters in treating contaminated ground and surface water. A second project involved the design and construction of an experimental configuration for a hollow fibre membrane filter. Nicholas says the recognition and encouragement provided by the McCusker Prize have bolstered his drive to focus on humanitarian engineering after graduation.

A team of ANU School of Computing students were also awarded the 2023 McCusker Prize for their development of FireApp, which enables the rapid deployment of resources and assets during the early stages of bushfires when intervention has the highest likelihood of success.

Technical Lead of the project Ben McLean specifically sought out such a project to work on because of its humanitarian and social aspect.

“Our project being recognised and supported by ANU and the McCusker Charitable Foundation has helped secure the future of FireApp. For that I am grateful,” says Ben.

Through their company, Emergiq, the team hope to expand the app to help with other natural disasters, such as floods and earthquakes. Their aim is to maximise emergency resources and minimise the human and environmental cost of natural disasters.

Through supporting research and innovation, the McCusker Prize is ensuring that researchers who want to bring engineering solutions to communities who need them most are empowered to do so.

“This award has provided me with the opportunity to conduct a research trip to Timor Leste in 2024. This will generate a deeper understanding of the context in which the filters are used, helping to identify the most appropriate experimental approaches and maximise the humanitarian impact of our teams’ work.”

— NICHOLAS BULL

Image right: ANU Engineering student and 2023 McCusker Prize recipient Nicholas Bull.
Photo by ANU.





University House fellowship continues a legacy of giving

A new residential fellowship celebrates and honours the lives and legacy of Mrs Helen Crompton and Emeritus Professor Robert (Bob) Crompton AM, two distinguished members of the ANU community who had longstanding ties to University House.

When ANU alumnus Malcolm Crompton AM (BSc (Hons) '74, BEc '83) shares memories of his parents, Helen and Bob, a strong theme that emerges is their common interest in a life of service, supporting others, and giving back to the University community. Along with his wife, Heather Crompton (BSc (Forestry) '77), Malcolm is now honouring his parents' legacy through a generous gift to establish the University House Visiting Fellowship, in honour of Helen and Bob Crompton. This residential fellowship celebrates the spirit of Helen and Bob's remarkable contributions to ANU.

Many in the ANU community will already know of Bob's dedication to physics—he was an outstanding academic leader and ambassador for his discipline, working hard for Australian science to be recognised internationally and lobbying tirelessly for fundamental research to be better funded. He is especially remembered by colleagues for the egalitarian nature of his support and encouragement for young physicists, students, and workshop and laboratory staff alike.

Helen was a founding member of the ANU Club for Women at University House, taking a great interest in the welfare of her community, and offering extensive practical and personal help to ANU newcomers. Helen was also a passionate environmentalist and a member of the social and intellectual community of the Ladies Drawing Room.

Both Helen and Bob played a vital role in building the inclusive community and collegiate culture of University House over many decades, with Bob serving in a formal capacity as Acting Master at times.

In creating the University House Visiting Fellowship in perpetuity, Heather and Malcolm

aspire to provide future generations of talented scholars with a sense of the warm welcome and supportive, collegiate network on campus that Helen and Bob helped provide for so many emerging scholars and their families over the years.

Established as a partnership between University House and the ANU Australian Studies Institute, the Fellowship encourages candidates to demonstrate that their research has applicability to real-world problems, and the potential for beneficial impact—for example, upon society, the economy, the environment, to policymaking, to our health, or to our culture. This breadth of possibilities reflects the diversity of Helen and Bob's personal and professional interests, their social values, and their shared belief in creating equality of opportunity for all.

Helen and Bob's own philanthropic legacy at ANU is as diverse as their interests. It includes the Robert and Helen Crompton Endowment at the ANU Research School of Physics to help postgraduate research students to undertake study overseas, and the Crompton Undergraduate Scholarship at the ANU School of Music, which supports first-year students in keyboard. Bob also supported the National Brain Injury Foundation for many years following his retirement from ANU, for which he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

It is fitting that Helen and Bob's memory, and their love for University House, is now being celebrated with an inspiring act of philanthropy by Heather and Malcolm Crompton. This marks a new generational chapter in the Crompton family's contribution to the ANU community.



McMichael Award empowers climate health research

In a world grappling with escalating climate crises, the McMichael Award at ANU continues to drive essential climate health research. The award was established through the generous support of Associate Professor Judith Healy, along with the broader ANU donor community and matched investment from the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH).

The McMichael Award serves as a catalyst for collaboration and knowledge exchange by fostering future leaders who are dedicated to confronting the profound health challenges exacerbated by climate change. Two such leaders received the award in 2023.

Associate Professor Amy Dawel, from the ANU School of Medicine and Psychology, and Dr Annabel Dulhunty, from the ANU Crawford School of Public Policy, each received the 2023 McMichael Award in recognition of their respective groundbreaking research projects on the health impacts of climate change.

Associate Professor Dawel's research unveils crucial insights into the intricate dynamics of child mental health following environmental catastrophes, shedding light on the pivotal role of caregiver relationships in fostering resilience amidst adversity.

"We are now facing a time where extreme weather events are going to become more and more common, whether that's a bushfire, flood, or extreme temperatures," says Associate Professor Dawel. "These are placing increased stress on people, which has knock-on effects for their local communities. We need to be using this information to build resilience and resources that help minimise impacts on families' mental and physical health."

Meanwhile, Dr Dulhunty's work spotlights the overlooked needs of marginalised communities in India, particularly women, within the context of climate adaptation.

"There is a clear link between climate change and violence against women; we have less scholarship on the diverse policy responses and the different ways climate adaptation plans and strategies can respond to the needs



Image: Back L-R: Associate Professor Amy Dawel, Professor Mark Howden (Director, ANU Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions), Professor Russell Gruen (Dean, ANU College of Health and Medicine). Front L-R: Dr Zoe Leviston (2022 recipient of The McMichael Award), Associate Professor Judith Healy, Professor Hilary Bambrick (Director, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health), Associate Professor Aparna Lal (Director of The McMichael Award), Dr Annabel Dulhunty. Photo by ANU.

of women and the most vulnerable in disasters,” says Dr Dulhunty.

The McMichael Award is named in honour of Associate Professor Healy’s husband, the late Professor Tony McMichael AO, a former Director of NCEPH, joint winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and world authority on the impact of the environment on human health. With the support from the award, both Associate Professor Dawel and Dr Dulhunty are continuing Tony’s legacy of sparking crucial conversations, paving the way for more inclusive climate policy responses and driving tangible impact in communities worldwide.

“Our world needs a next generation of researchers to tackle and collaborate on the huge threats that face us, but also promising opportunities to promote better population health.”

— ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JUDITH HEALY



Protecting our forests and communities

In recent years, devastating bushfires have ravaged landscapes, destroyed homes, and threatened lives across Australia. In the face of this escalating crisis, researchers at ANU have been at the forefront of pioneering efforts to understand and mitigate the impacts of wildfires on our environment and communities. Central to these efforts is the invaluable support of the ANU donor community, whose generosity has fuelled ground-breaking research led by Professor David Lindenmayer.

The support of ANU donors has enabled Professor Lindenmayer and his team to research the intricate complexities of fire ecology, uncovering critical insights into how human activities affect the flammability of our forests. In a landmark study conducted in collaboration with Curtin University, Professor Lindenmayer and his colleagues explored the often-overlooked link between forest disturbance, prescribed burning, and increased fire risk.

What they discovered was both illuminating and concerning: disturbances such as logging and prescribed burning, intended to reduce fuel loads and mitigate fire risk, can in fact

make our forests more susceptible to wildfires. By disrupting the natural ecosystem and removing key elements that regulate fire behaviour, these activities can inadvertently fuel the very fires they were meant to prevent.

Thanks to the support of ANU donors, Professor Lindenmayer's research has not only brought these critical issues to light but has also paved the way for transformative change in fire management strategies. By challenging conventional approaches and advocating for a more holistic understanding of fire ecology, Professor Lindenmayer and his team are driving a paradigm shift in how we approach wildfire prevention and response.



Crucially, the impact of this research extends far beyond the realm of academia. By informing policymakers, empowering land managers, and engaging with communities, Professor Lindenmayer and his colleagues are working to protect our forests and safeguard the well-being of those who call them home.

But perhaps most importantly, the support of ANU donors has enabled Professor Lindenmayer and his team to offer practical forest management strategies to overcome these challenges. By arming us with knowledge, insights, and innovative solutions, they are

identifying a future where our forests are resilient, our communities are safe, and our natural heritage is preserved for generations to come.

These outcomes highlight the profound impact that each and every contribution can have on our shared mission to protect the natural world and fuel a movement for positive change—one that will leave a lasting legacy of resilience, stewardship, and hope.

Image left: Professor David Lindenmayer. Photo supplied.

Image top: Currowan Bushfire. Photo supplied.

Helping families in times of crisis

The Australian bushfires of 2019-2020 were a fearful time for many, especially for expecting mothers who were unsure how the exposure to smoke and stress would affect their unborn babies. These uncertainties increased as the COVID-19 pandemic followed.

Through the generosity of our donor community, including the Australian Medical Council, the Finley River Fund, and a group of ANU alumni from Fiji who banded together to donate, an ANU-led study is addressing these uncertainties.

Mother and Child 2020 (MC2020) is a multi phase, collaborative project started in 2020, involving a multi-institutional team of 30 researchers, three local health districts, and Indigenous health services in the ACT and Southeast NSW region. It aims to identify the health challenges and long-term implications for these affected families, and advance knowledge, policies and practices in responding to future crises. The effects of the bushfires on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their babies are given particular focus as a severely affected group within this region.

MC2020 has consisted of online surveys with over 3,300 responses so far, with close to 50 mothers having further in-depth interviews to date. The initial four surveys focused on the effects of the bushfires on mothers and their pregnancies.

Mothers exposed to the bushfires experienced significant negative impacts on their mental well-being, with additional impact occurring through the pandemic. More than 75 per cent of participating women reported at least one acute bushfire exposure, and 63 per cent reported severe smoke exposure. These participants had higher depression, anxiety, and stress compared to the Australian average. Findings have highlighted the importance of primary health care for pregnant women, newborns, and mothers during extreme environmental events.

Data from the fifth survey, collected at the end of 2022 and studied in 2023, has now accounted for how fathers and families as a whole have been affected. The team leading

this fifth survey, Dr Liana Leach, Dr Amita Bansal, and Dr Amy Dawel, collected data from 289 mothers and 93 partners, which allowed them to explore how the events recorded in the early waves of the MC2020 study are impacting participating couples – their relationship, their parenting, and their mental health and well-being.


A sixth survey focusing on the well-being and health effects on children born during these times of crises is expected to follow in 2024. The MC2020 team hopes that further funding will also allow for in-person health checks on the children from participating families.

The generosity of donors to this study reflects the desire to improve interventions and outcomes of those most affected by natural disasters, even as they increase in frequency. Together, the MC2020 researchers and the ANU donor community empower women, their families, communities and health care professionals to raise their concerns and tell their stories.

“The work that has been done has been done with a small budget. Without the philanthropic support that we’ve had to date, we wouldn’t have been able to achieve what we have.”

— PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER NOLAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR RESEARCH, ANU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PSYCHOLOGY, AND PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF THE STUDY

Image: Mother and child.
Photo by Thiago Cerqueira, UnSplash.com.



“As natural disasters increase in frequency due to climate change, more research to identify the impact on families is critical. This study will give us a clearer picture of how family dynamics impacted children’s emotional and social behaviour in the wake of the bushfires and COVID-19.”

— DR AMITA BANSAL, RESEARCH FELLOW,
ANU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND
PSYCHOLOGY, AND CO-LEADER OF
THE STUDY

The world's most extraordinary birds

Australia is home to 800 species of some of the world's most extraordinary birds, with 370 of those found nowhere else on earth. Yet many of these avian wonders are teetering on the brink of extinction. The ANU donor community's support of the Difficult Birds Research Group (DBRG) is helping to protect Australia's most endangered birds.

DBRG's key mission is to understand the threats against and prevent the extinction of 'difficult birds' – birds that are all extremely endangered, hard to find, live in rugged terrain and move around the landscape.

Daniel Appleby, a PhD student in DBRG, is doing great work teaching zoo-bred Regent Honeyeaters to sing like wild birds. With female Regent Honeyeaters tending to favour familiar song patterns in mate selection, there's a risk that zoo-bred birds – which develop distinct song patterns from those observed in the wild – might unintentionally contribute to a narrowing of the breeding pool. Daniel's work ensures the species' genetic diversity, long-term health and adaptability. His past four years of tutoring have yielded positive results, with Daniel's zoo-bred Regent Honeyeaters sounding increasingly like their

wild counterparts. This strategy has been adopted and will continue within the breeding program.

Daniel's new strategy is just one of the many successful efforts from DBRG throughout 2023. These include publications, fruitful field trips, monitoring and nest protection efforts. DBRG's research continues to improve reintroduction of species into the wild, species' population management and conservation, and protection of resources that birds are reliant on.

With the indispensable support of donors, DBRG will continue developing innovative techniques in conservation and safeguard Australia's most 'difficult' endangered bird species.

Image: The Regent Honeyeater.
Photo by Liam Murphy, DBRG



\$15,063 given to support the Difficult Birds Research Group



55 donors



Indigenous communities reclaim their past for their future

Located within the ANU College of Health and Medicine, the National Centre for Indigenous Genomics (NCIG) aims to establish a national resource for appropriate and respectful genetic and genomic research that will benefit Indigenous Australians. Historical biological samples are repatriated in line with community wishes, working with community leaders to map out the many cultural considerations needed to return the samples in an honoured and respectful way. Data collection is also used in research for projects enhancing health outcomes for Indigenous Australians through the avenues of DNA, genetics, and genomics research.

Ross Mandi Wunungmurra, a distinguished Yolngu man, was wholly dedicated to instigating real change, unity, and progress in his community. His advocating for the benefits of genomics for his people, and for the repatriation of samples collected from members of his community over 50 years ago, led to the return of over 200 Yolngu samples in 2019. In 2023, thanks to donor support, a fund has been set up to honour his legacy.

The R M Wunungmurra Community Repatriation Fund was established to further support NCIG's efforts in the repatriation of biological samples to Indigenous communities. The ANU donor community can now join in honouring Mr Wunungmurra's legacy by supporting the fund and empowering NCIG to continue this vital work, returning samples to their rightful place and perpetuating Mr Wunungmurra's vision of unity and progress for generations to come.

NCIG is overseen by an Indigenous-led governance board and is providing a model for international best practice for the collection, use and storage of biospecimens from Indigenous communities. Repatriation efforts like those led by Mr Wunungmurra can be expensive, but the R M Wunungmurra Community Repatriation Fund will assist with these costs.



Image: Memorial and burial poles from Galiwin'ku installed at the John Curtin School of Medical Research.
Photo by Jamie Kidston/ANU.

\$10 million funding boost for Australia's future Indigenous leaders

Designed and led by Australia's top Indigenous educators, the Kambri Scholars Program is empowering Indigenous youth across the country to embrace life-changing education at ANU.

A transformational gift of \$5 million was committed by Wesfarmers Limited and documented in the inaugural corporate partnership supporting Kambri in early 2024, providing additional Indigenous students with financial, academic and pastoral support throughout their time at university.

"As the inaugural corporate partner to the Kambri Scholars Program, we see an opportunity to support practical measures that will impact and deliver benefits for Indigenous communities," says Rob Scott, Wesfarmers Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.

"The Kambri Scholars Program helps to make an excellent education more accessible for talented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, wherever they live in Australia, delivering benefits far beyond this partnership."

The donation from Wesfarmers stands as the largest single contribution to a scholarship for Indigenous students in the history of ANU. This generous commitment is matched by the University dollar-for-dollar, bringing the total contribution to \$10 million and ensuring sustained support for Indigenous students to access world-class education for generations to come.

"A university degree can have a profoundly positive impact on individuals, their families and their communities," says ANU Chancellor, the Hon Julie Bishop.

"The Kambri Scholars Program is helping to create the next generation of Australia's Indigenous leaders, setting them up for success at university and in their future careers."

— THE HON JULIE BISHOP, CHANCELLOR

Thomson Fleming, a Barkindji and Malayangapa man from Broken Hill, received a Kambri Scholarship in 2020. Now an ANU alumnus, he reflects on how the Kambri Scholars Program changed his life for the better.

"Growing up in a single mother household with five siblings, including a younger sister with cerebral palsy, I faced numerous challenges such as domestic violence, housing instability, and financial hardships," says Thomson.

"My aspirations to attend university were seemingly out of reach due to family commitments and financial limitations. However, discovering the Kambri Scholars Program presented a life-changing opportunity."



Thomson graduated from ANU in 2022, with a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in accounting, finance, and management. He has moved into full-time employment at Ernst and Young, where he works in the Turnaround and Restructuring Strategy Practice and the Indigenous Sector Practice.

Through his work, he has delivered advice in areas such as financial management, restructuring and turnaround, and corporate governance. He works on highly sensitive engagements with deeply affected stakeholders, predominately in the Indigenous, mining and health sectors.

For Thomson and others, the Kambri Scholars Program is more than financial aid; it is a pathway to a brighter future. The program acts as a catalyst for personal and professional growth and empowers Indigenous youth to realise their full potential and become agents of positive change. Thanks to the support of donors who see that education is the key to equality, the program continues to sow the seeds of hope and resilience, nurturing a generation of leaders poised to shape a brighter, more inclusive future for Australia.

Image: Kambri Scholar Alumnus Thomson Fleming (BComm '22). Photo by ANU.



\$6,108,996 raised for the Kambri Scholars Program



56 Kambri Scholarships awarded from inception to the end of 2023



Kambri Scholars intake by year
10 (2020) **13** (2021) **17** (2022) **16** (2023)



Kambri Scholars from remote/regional Australia **29**



Kambri Scholars from metropolitan Australia **27**

Image: Mount Stromlo pines seen from the forest floor. Photo by Lannon Harley/ANU.

Giving without restrictions

While every year brings its own challenges, the same commitment remains from ANU to support students on their path to success. In 2023, donors who made an unrestricted gift to ANU through the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Priorities Fund or the ANU Fund ensured this commitment could continue.

Established to allow the University to be responsive to issues as they arise, and to allocate funds towards tackling the areas of greatest immediate need, gifts to these funds ultimately supported the Kambri Scholars Program in 2023. The decision to allocate funds in this way was made at the direction of Distinguished Professor Brian Schmidt, the former Vice-Chancellor and President of ANU, who demonstrated a strong commitment to equality of access to education during his tenure.

Unrestricted giving helps build programs like the Kambri Scholars Program, which continues to bring

Indigenous students like Thomson Fleming from all over Australia to pursue their education at the University. Today, ANU has one of the highest graduation rates for Indigenous students among Australian universities (for the full story on Thomson Fleming and the Kambri Scholars Program, see previous page).

We are grateful to those who trust ANU with an unrestricted donation. These contributions ensure support is allocated to the areas that need it most.



\$50,031 given to support the VC's Strategic Priorities Fund



63 donors to the VC's Strategic Priorities Fund



\$66,718 given to support the ANU Fund



69 donors to the ANU Fund

Providing experiences for students travelling abroad

Experiences outside the classroom are enriching and leave lasting impacts on students' careers. Students at the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific continue to be given these empowering opportunities, thanks to The Sun Foundation establishing the Kirby Student Experience Grant.

Last year, 22 students received the grant, which supports students annually in global and domestic travel, conference attendance, study tours, or internship opportunities. Recipients in 2023 travelled to locations including Mongolia, Indonesia and Vanuatu to attend study tours, field colleges and short programs on archaeology.

Ansul Nagesh had been working multiple jobs while studying full-time to cover the expenses of a study tour to Mongolia, as part of his course, Modern Mongolia – Challenges to the Environment, Economy and Empire. The grant helped alleviate financial pressures associated with the tour.

"I would like to convey my sincere appreciation and thanks to The Sun Foundation for their generosity through the Kirby Student Experience Grant, which provided me with the funding to travel and truly immerse myself in Mongolia," says Ansul.

Mahealani Delaney did not realise how many doors her experience abroad would open for her. In November 2022, the Kirby Student Experience Grant allowed her to travel to Egypt for the 27th Conference of Parties at the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COP27), which is the main decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. She did so as a participant in the ANU Climate Alumni Leadership program.

Throughout her three weeks at COP27, Mahealani experienced what she calls a "really intense and awesome learning experience." She was able to attend closed Alliance of Small Island States discussions and large international negotiations. She featured on a panel at the Pacific Pavilion as a Papua New Guinea youth delegate, while also representing ANU. She was able to develop strong connections with and learn from fellow Pasifika scholars, experts, and mentors during this time.

"The opportunity to observe international climate negotiations first-hand has been unparalleled to anything else in my professional and education experience. I was able to understand the processes and politics that underpin climate negotiations, and how these play out in a practical sense," says Mahealani.

The Sun Foundation's continued support will allow the grant to expand to the ANU College of Business and Economics in 2024 and offer its students the opportunity to participate in business immersion courses, both nationally and internationally. This generosity continues to play a vital part in enabling ANU students to develop their cultural competencies and discover learning opportunities and connections beyond the University.

Image: HC Coombs Building. Photo by ANU.



A lifeline for students in need

Trisha Toangwera Aruhuri was a long way from home, studying a Master of Applied Anthropology and Development (Advanced) at ANU, when she received the diagnosis that would change her life. The support of the ANU donor community has been crucial to her recovery.

Trisha journeyed from Vanuatu to Canberra with dreams of making a meaningful contribution to the world. During her first semester of study, she received an unexpected diagnosis.

“I could not even feel that lump that they found,” says Trisha. “But two weeks later, after some tests, the results came back positive for breast cancer.”

For Trisha, the cost of chemotherapy was so large it cast a shadow over her recovery – until a ray of hope emerged in the form of the Student Urgent Relief Fund (SURF).

Today, Trisha is cancer-free and able to reflect on her experiences.

“I made the right decision by coming to ANU because I don’t know if I would’ve received this kind of support anywhere else at this critical point in my life,” she says.

“I cannot thank them enough from the bottom of my heart, for their generosity. I’m blessed with this chance in life,” says Trisha.

In 2023, 364 donors committed \$104,479 to the Student Urgent Relief Fund (SURF), a fund set up to support ANU students experiencing unexpected financial hardship. Along with the wider donor community, many ANU employees chose to donate to SURF through the University’s Workplace Giving Program. Other donors contributed as part of the University’s annual spring appeal, which called on the community to donate \$23 for 2023 to SURF. Everyone who donated – whether students, staff or members of the broader ANU community – is united by the fact that they are making a tangible difference in the lives of students, when they need it most.

Last year, 29 students were supported by SURF grants, thanks to donor support. Students use funding from SURF to cover urgent expenses like groceries, laptops, public transport, and medical expenses. Applications are open throughout the year, with no deadlines, and every effort is made to process them in a timely manner so that students can receive the support they need as soon as possible.

Through the generosity of donors, Trisha received the financial assistance she needed and was able to continue her education at ANU – but her story is only one of many. With the ongoing support of donors and the ANU community, students experiencing unexpected financial hardship can continue to be supported with immediate financial assistance through SURF, allowing them to thrive at university and beyond.



\$104,479 given to support SURF



364 donors



240 first time donors

The Student Urgent Relief Fund received the most support through our appeals in 2023, with the largest gift coming from Professor Ian McAllister through workplace giving.

| Image: ANU Student Trisha Toangwera Aruhuri. Photo by ANU.

“SURF is crucial in situations like mine. When you’re faced with crisis and bills that you never thought you would have encountered, being able to get immediate support and help is a blessing,”

— TRISHA TOANGWERA ARUHURI, 2023 STUDENT URGENT RELIEF FUND RECIPIENT







\$155,013 given to support the Staff Relief Fund



15 donors

Staff exemplify the ANU community spirit

The ANU Staff Relief Fund was established in 2020 in response to the financial insecurity caused for staff by the COVID-19 pandemic. Requests for assistance from this fund can relate to cost-of-living pressures, significant medical conditions and the expenses that come with them, or sole parents struggling with payments to meet their children's needs. Thanks to donor contributions, including many gifts from fellow ANU staff members, 41 recipients were supported by the Staff Relief Fund to deal with unforeseen adversity in their lives in 2023.

Franz Schroedl, a technical and radiation officer at the ANU School of Archaeology and Anthropology, found himself needing help when a number of problems came to a head at the same time. Assistance from the Staff Relief Fund helped him out of the situation.

Now, Franz has expressed his gratitude for the assistance he received by starting a recurring gift to the same fund that helped him when he needed it most.

"I was so grateful that someone could come to my aid. We may be meeting costs at one stage in our working career, but there will always be a time when we find ourselves in difficulty," says Franz.

Unlike a one-time gift, recurring gifts can be set to any frequency that suits the donor – such as weekly, monthly, or annually. Recurring gifts provide a steady and encouraging source of support.

Franz gives biweekly. He encourages others to consider the gratefulness they would feel to receive support if they were ever in need, and to give. He believes that giving even a small amount each fortnight to initiatives like the Staff Relief Fund can make a difference.

"The very least I could do was to pay it back. It gives me a good sense of pleasure knowing that I may be assisting others. We often take too much. Time to give back," says Franz.

Image: Aerial shot of The Australian National University, Acton campus. Photo by ANU.



Image: Professor Phillipa Weeks.
Photo supplied by the family.



\$25,050 given
to support the
Phillipa Weeks
Scholarship



48 donors

Alumni celebrate mentor's legacy

When Phillipa Weeks (BA '74, LLB '79, LLM '87) was awarded a scholarship to study at ANU, it was just the start of a successful academic career. She would go on to earn wide respect through her teaching and research, and eventually held the positions of Professor, Associate Dean and Head of School of the Law School at the ANU College of Law.

The Phillipa Weeks Scholarship was established in the beloved professor's memory after she passed from cancer at the age of 53. The scholarship was created to enable students from rural and regional areas to study law at ANU and follow in her footsteps.

In October 2023, a special event was held to encourage alumni from across the years to come together to celebrate Phillipa's memory and help grow the scholarship. The event was envisioned and headed by ANU alumni Shannon Finch (BA (Hons) '92, LLB (Hons) '94), Carolyn Hoy (BA (Hons) '99, LLB (Hons) '01) and Peta Stevenson (BA (Hons) '98, LLB (Hons) '99).

The evening became a reunion for those whose lives were touched by Phillipa. Alumni gathered included those who had given to the scholarship in the past and those looking to be part of its impact for the first time. Attendees connected, exchanged stories about their beloved professor, and expressed their hopes for the scholarship.

Georgie Juszczuk (LLB (Hons) / BIntSecSt '20) and Eloise McLean (LLB (Hons) / BComm '23), 2016 and 2018 recipients of the scholarship

respectively, spoke at the event about their time at ANU, which the scholarship and its supporters helped make possible.

"I have always appreciated the scholarship's emphasis on developing not just one's technical legal knowledge, but also fostering young lawyers with compassion, integrity, and a genuine joy for learning and practising the law."

— GEORGIE JUSZCZYK, 2016 RECIPIENT OF THE
PHILLIPA WEEKS SCHOLARSHIP

The Phillipa Weeks Scholarship is a testament to the willingness of alumni to improve the lives of the students who come after them, as well as contribute to the lasting influence of a beloved academic.

“It is very important that alumni, business and members of the general community support the University by contributing to scholarships, awards and prizes, campus teaching, and research activities.”

— EMERITUS PROFESSOR DAVID WILLIAMS AM



Securing the future of the arts at ANU

Emeritus Professor David Williams AM has enjoyed a distinguished career teaching and advocating for education and the arts. His support of ANU students started when he was Director of the ANU School of Art and Design (SoAD) from 1986 to 2006, which also saw him establish the Emerging Artists Support Scheme (see full story on page 34). He continues to manifest his love for the ANU community today, and this is exemplified through two significant contributions in 2023.

David's first gift in 2023 was a renewed commitment to the D & M Williams Travel Grant, founded by him and his late wife, Margaret, in 1980. This grant assists an undergraduate student to undertake an overseas exchange.

His second gift was towards the professional cataloguing and processing of the SoAD Collection and the appointment of a part-time Collections Officer. Thanks to David's generosity, the Art & Design Collection Room is now well underway, under the professional management of Collections Officer Adina West. The resultant catalogue of ceramics, etchings, lithographs, screen prints, drawings and more will tell significant stories about SoAD's history.

David also continues to support the ANU Art Collection and the Drill Hall Gallery in his role as Chair of the University Visual Arts Endowment advisory committee – on top of hosting regular campus Sculpture Walk Tours.

David's support and love for the University are helping to both preserve the past and secure the future of the arts at ANU, for which the University is grateful.

Image: Adina West, Collections Officer at the ANU School of Art & Design. Photo by Yun Hu/ANU.



Image: Alexander Rosenberg. Photo by Yun Hu/ANU.

Fellowship brings masters of glass to ANU

For Australian and international glass artists alike, the Christine and Stephen Procter Fellowship provides an incredible opportunity for recipients to work with and study glass abroad. Established in 2001, the Fellowship honours Stephen Procter, Head of the Glass Workshop at ANU from 1993 until 2000, and his partner, Christine Procter Nicholson, a founding donor of the Fellowship.

Thanks to donor contributions, 20 fellowships have been awarded to date, alternating each year between international and Australia-based artists. In 2023, Alexander Rosenberg was able to travel to Australia for the first time, for a residency based in the ANU Glass Workshop at SoAD and the ANU Environment Studio. Rosenberg is well-known from his television appearance as a finalist in the Netflix reality series *Blown Away*.

During his residency at ANU, Alexander shared his expertise on glass as a technological tool, and its historic role in sustaining human

life. He also worked towards creating new applications for the material to address the world's uncertain ecological future.

Travel and the experience of other cultures were very important to Stephen Procter. He would be gladdened to know that his and Christine's fellowship continues as a significant and exciting link between glass communities around the world, bringing artists like Alexander to Stephen's beloved university in Canberra and enabling Australian artists to share their talents abroad.



“I love working with students and look forward to my one-on-one interactions with them about their work. I hope they discover their passion and the kind of artist they want to be.”

— ALEXANDER ROSENBERG, THE
2023 CHRISTINE AND STEPHEN
PROCTER FELLOW

Image above and left: Alexander Rosenberg.
Photo by Yun Hu/ANU.

Our wonderful community of arts patrons

The breadth and scope of the Emerging Artists Support Scheme (EASS) is unique to SoAD. It boasts the strong support of a wonderful community of arts patrons, consisting of individuals, businesses, galleries and organisations. The generosity of this community offers assistance to graduating artists at the beginning of their independent careers, when it can be most valuable.

EASS is an institution at ANU, with patrons of the scheme supporting students at the end of their undergraduate programs, and during graduate studies, through a variety of awards, exhibition opportunities, and the commissioning and acquiring of new artworks. The scheme was founded in 1988 by Emeritus Professor David Williams AM, who was Director of SoAD at the time, and has grown exponentially in the three decades since. Last year, multiple philanthropically supported scholarships, prizes and grants were given out as part of EASS.

Among these, **the John and Elizabeth Baker Honours Scholarship** was awarded to Beth O'Sullivan, who is looking for an environmental solution to coral reef restoration practices, which often use concrete (see full story on page 36).

Niamh Armstrong received both **The Janet Wilkie Memorial Prize for Art History and Theory Honours**, established in 1983 in memory of Janet Roulston Wilkie, and **The Kate and Bill Guy Art History and Theory Honours Prize**, established by the family of Kate and Bill Guy to encourage students who excel in the field of Art History and Theory.

"I grew up in Narooma, a rural town on the Far South Coast of NSW, and for as long as I can remember I've always been interested in everything creative. I spent weekends drawing, painting and reading. It was only the natural next step to study Art History and Curatorship at ANU," says Niamh.

"I have always envisioned a career in academia. These prizes have encouraged me greatly to continue on my path in academia. During the stress of my Honours year, I was unsure about continuing on to complete a PhD, but the prizes have given me the belief that I can achieve it. Thank you."

The Nigel Thomson Travel Grant, established by Rosanna Hindmarsh OAM in memory of her brother, artist Nigel Thomson, enabled Bachelor of Design student Anne-Marie Mansour to study in New York.

"The support from the Nigel Thomson Travel Grant is beyond impactful to me and my practice. The intensity of my courses while on exchange has improved many of my foundational skills through coursework I hadn't had much exposure to in the past. These skills have been able to feed the development of my personal painting practice," says Anne-Marie.

Anne-Marie also won **The School of Art & Design Drawing Prize**.

The COX Architecture Prize includes the opportunity to have an exhibition at the COX Gallery, Canberra, in addition to a monetary prize. The 2023 recipient, Melissa Nickols, used post-consumer waste cardboard as a base to make three-dimensional pieces, alongside methods such as hand crafting and laser cutting. Her collection, entitled "Never quite as it seems" was displayed between March and April 2024 at the COX Gallery.

"The exhibition at COX Gallery which goes along with the prize is such a great opportunity so early in my art career," says Melissa.

By contributing through EASS, donors continue to offer countless opportunities for graduates and continuing students. This bolsters the prominence of art and design in our region and helps nurture the University's graduates to find their voice in the national arts scene.

Image: ANU School of Art & Design. Photo by ANU.



SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN

Student designs help for coral reefs

Some might think SoAD may not have a huge role to play in the fight against climate change, but Beth O'Sullivan, a student at SoAD, is proving that design can play a crucial part in saving our magnificent coral reefs.

John (PhD '75) and Elizabeth Baker established the annual John and Elizabeth Baker Honours Scholarship in 2022, to support an Honours student in any discipline at SoAD.

In 2023, Beth was the inaugural recipient of this scholarship, which she has used to support and continue her Honours research, including further tests, development, and analysis.

Beth, who has a degree in science where she majored in ecology and specialised in genetics, chose to pursue her research through the Design Honours program, because it gave her the opportunity to experiment and explore freely, taking advantage of design methodologies and applying them to scientific, ecological and sustainable scenarios.

Beth is looking for an environmentally friendly solution to coral reef restoration practices that often use potentially damaging concrete. She

has researched and developed a new low CO₂ emission biomaterial that has the potential to be used as a settlement substrate for small-scale localised reef restoration and recovery.

"The world recognises the urgency to preserve and protect the reefs, which led me to research and develop a calcium carbonate-based biomaterial that has a lower carbon footprint than concrete and other materials currently available to industry," says Beth.

Beth is now pursuing a PhD in Arts and Social Sciences at ANU. Her work, like much of the incredible advances and life-changing research that takes place at ANU, would not have been possible without the University's generous donor community.

Image: Beth O'Sullivan tests her substrates and designs in the reef tank. Photo by Nic Vevers/ANU.

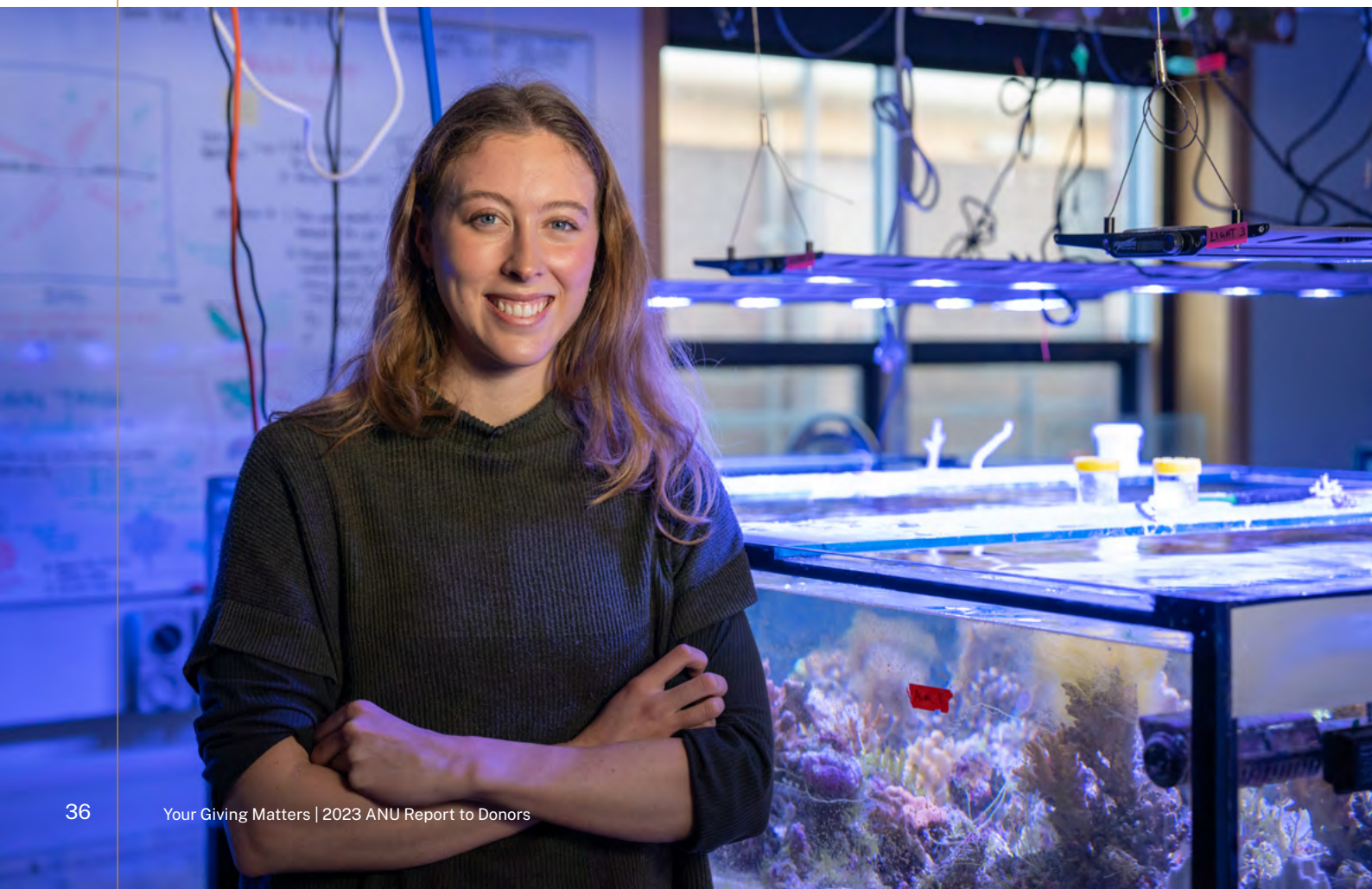




Image: L-R: Jeremy Nicholson, Declan Jackson, Lachie Simpson, Eric Bell, Hayden Watling. Photo by ANU.

Scholarship gives cricketers the full ANU experience

The demands of a university education are already challenging, before adding the pressures of playing sport into the mix. The ANU Cricket Club (ANUCC) Scholarship helps students strike this balance.

Established by alumnus David Carland (MEc '74, PhD '78), the scholarship brings talented students from regional areas to study, live on campus, and play cricket at a competitive level at ANU. It has been supported through the years by club alumni and friends.

Lachie Simpson, a 2022 ANUCC Scholarship recipient, is pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics. He made the move from Perth to ANU after his high school coach told him about the scholarship. ANU having a strong team was already exciting, but the scholarship and the community around the club were key draws for Lachie.

Hayden Watling, a 2023 ANUCC Scholarship recipient, grew up in Tumut, NSW. Living in a small town, he did not have the resources to come to ANU to play the sport he loved at the level he wanted. The scholarship gave him the help he needed to pursue a Bachelor of Health Science. It relieved the stress around paying for accommodation and daily needs, so he could focus on studying and developing himself on the cricket team.

“[Being on a cricket team] improves your personal skills, determination and work ethic,” says Hayden.

Thanks to its donors, the ANUCC Scholarship continues to empower student athletes like Lachie and Hayden to come to ANU, connect with others who share their passion, and improve their career outcomes – all while playing the sport they love.

“[The scholarship creates] a great culture around driven ANU students. It has provided so many of us with such an incredible opportunity.”

— LACHIE SIMPSON, ANUCC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



\$23,960 given to support the ANU Cricket Club Scholarship



5 donors

Living bequest ensures rural students have a fair go

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

This was the advice of 100-year-old Joy Wheatley (BA '69) when she was interviewed for the *Canberra CityNews*. Joy and her husband, Norm (BA '69), who recently passed away at the age of 102, have always been passionate about supporting rural students to come and study at ANU. In 2023, they decided to bring their bequest forward and establish a lasting endowment, giving them the opportunity to experience the impact of their generosity during their lifetimes.

The Joy and Norman Wheatley Rural Scholarship, established in 2023 by Joy and Norm, will support rural, regional, and remote undergraduate students who are pursuing a degree in the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences. The scholarship was awarded for the first time to two students in 2024.

Hailing from rural backgrounds themselves, Joy and Norm were the only ones in their families to have attended university, despite growing up in households of seven and 10 siblings respectively. This motivated the couple to ensure that today's rural youth, who often still face barriers to higher education, can get a fair go to study at ANU.

Joy and Norm's journey showcases the impact that individuals can make through education and philanthropy. Their generosity will continue to open doors for many years to come, creating opportunities for rural students who may have otherwise faced obstacles on their path to education.

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





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

Scholarship for rural doctors is a gift that keeps on giving

For five years, the Bill Nicholes ‘Willigobung’ Scholarship for Medicine has empowered students from remote and rural areas to come to Canberra to study medicine at ANU.

Made possible through a generous bequest from Bill Nicholes, the scholarship supports two new students studying graduate medicine per year, and continues to support them for the duration of their four-year degree. At least one of those students always hails from a rural, regional or remote area of Australia, to honour Bill’s legacy and rural background as a farmer.

In 2023, the scholarship was awarded to Cecilia Moriarty, an aspiring doctor from a small, rural town outside Wagga Wagga, NSW. The scholarship has ensured her children are taken care of while she focuses on becoming a general practitioner and acquiring specialisations related to her interest in emergency medicine response. She is already looking forward to what skills and experiences she can bring back to serve her hometown.

Eliza Cowley, 2021 scholarship recipient, knew that pursuing her dreams to go to medical school would mean she had to live far away

from her farming family in Goondiwindi, QLD. Being awarded the scholarship meant that she did not have to rely on her parents for financial assistance to come and study in Canberra. Like Cecilia, she is looking forward to working in a regional or rural setting once she graduates.

Bill’s vision was that his bequest to ANU would provide for medical students like Cecilia and Eliza. Having cared for his parents through their old age at their farm ‘Willigobung’ at Tumbarumba, NSW, and having experienced several medical issues himself throughout his life, he was passionate about supporting future doctors. Though he passed in 2016, his legacy lives on through the students his gift continues to assist and the communities they go on to serve.

Reflections on a lifetime of love for ANU

When Sarah O’Callaghan (BSc (Hons) / LLB ‘02) came to ANU as an undergraduate in 1996, she had visions of becoming an environmental lawyer. Instead, what was supposed to be a few years studying science and law turned into decades of adventures at the University.

Some of Sarah’s most treasured memories are focused around the ANU Research School of Earth Sciences (RSES). Not only did she learn a lot about rocks, but she made lifelong friendships, and some wonderful memories of field trips from as close as State Circle in Canberra to as far as the Atacama Desert in Chile.

RSES was also the first place Sarah worked at ANU; she became a staff member after finishing her degree in 2002. From there, Sarah went on to various roles with the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society, the ANU College of Science, Siding Spring Observatory, and Facilities and Services.

In 2018, Sarah realised that she had no will and testament, and no children. She made the commitment to bequeath her estate to the University and direct it to establish scholarships in perpetuity for female students to study earth science. As she worked with the ANU Gift and Estate Planning team on her

bequest, Sarah also began a recurring gift to the Earth Sciences Opportunity Scholarship as a wonderful way to see the impact of her giving on students in her lifetime.

Today, Sarah supports the ANU student community as the Head of Residence at Ursula Hall. Through her service and continuing generosity, Sarah enables students to live their own adventures at the University and to go on to exciting futures.

“One thing that has not changed in all my years [at ANU] is that I believe in this place – in its purpose and the legacies that will be left for future generations.”

- SARAH O’CALLAGHAN

Image: Sarah O’Callaghan. Photo by ANU.





Have you considered a gift in your will to ANU?

The ANU Springbank Circle recognises and celebrates benefactors who leave a lasting impact through a gift to ANU in their will. Donors receive news about upcoming events and activities taking place across the University, as well as opportunities to connect with talented students, researchers and academics who are supported through philanthropy.

A gift in your will provides enduring support for learning, education and research beyond your lifetime. If you have included the University in your will, or you are thinking about doing so, please let us know. We would be delighted to learn more about your areas of interest and show you the type of impact your future gift will have. It will also give us the opportunity to thank you for your gift during your lifetime.

Please contact the Gift and Estate Planning team for further information, or to arrange a confidential discussion.

Image: 2023 ANU Springbank Circle Long Lunch.
Photo by ANU.

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The gift of time and talent

We are thankful for the members of our ANU alumni community who make time to give back to the University. Our network of over 500 alumni volunteers supports events, organises reunions, fosters mentorship and connections and extends the spirit of ANU to people across the globe.



I am so thankful for my time at ANU over 20 years ago. I learned so much about who I was and what I could become. Now, I am in a position of immense privilege – and to give back is fitting. It is a way to show my gratitude, to encourage another generation of students, to stay connected to my own past, and to keep reminding myself and others that Canberra is more than our national capital – it is a wonderful city in its own right that is home to one of the world's best universities.

Robert Wood (BA (Hons) '05, BEc '05)
ANU Alumni Ambassador (Perth) and ANU Connect Adviser
Director of Writing at the Centre for Stories



ANU has a special place in my heart. It was where I studied, met a great network of friends, and realised my passion in international relations. Being a volunteer allows me to share with the rest of the community and further afield the holistic education experience ANU has to offer.

JJ Chen (BAAsianSt '05, BSc '05, MStrat '09)
ANU Sydney Alumni Network Member and ANU Connect Adviser. Founder of Captain Bagrat Media Production and Associate at Fitzpatrick & Co Advisory



Studying at ANU matched my belief that a life-long learning process should fulfil the need of body, mind, and soul. It developed us holistically – in academic achievement, mental and social resilience, and physical capacity. I believe that all ANU graduates have been influenced by the University's motto, or what I call the ANU DNA: "First to learn the nature of things." I am happy to initiate volunteering activities, to help strengthen and share that ANU DNA, and to continue that spirit of learning and connection.

Sitta Rosdaniah (PhD '15)
Chair, ANU Indonesia Alumni Network
Head of Division of Economic & Industry Research for The Ministry of State-owned Enterprise, Republic of Indonesia

Alumni sharing and growing with ANU Connect

Great things happen when ANU alumni connect to one another. Beyond sharing experiences, alumni can open doors for those at an earlier stage in their careers and expand their professional networks.

ANU Connect is a new online platform launched in 2023, which facilitates these opportunities. Made and designed exclusively for ANU alumni, the platform allows users to search for alumni by sector and professional expertise, book one-on-one coaching sessions, and share career insights—all within the same user-friendly interface.

For Advisers—alumni willing to offer advice—it is a hub for sharing professional experiences and career and industry insights through short videos and on-demand video calls. Advisers set availability for calls, allowing other alumni to book coaching slots with them.

For Learners—alumni seeking advice—it is an invaluable resource for seeking career guidance,

workplace tips, connections and exclusive one-on-one coaching.

The platform already has 233 Advisers signed up, offering tangible support to those earlier in their careers. With the support of the University's active and dedicated alumni volunteer community, ANU Connect will only continue to grow as an easy and enjoyable online space to connect, be inspired, and learn from fellow alumni across the globe.

ANU Connect is free for all alumni to access and is available at: anu.edu.au/alumni/benefits-services/anu-connect

Contact us

Please contact the Alumni Engagement team if you are interested in volunteering at ANU and would like more information about the various opportunities through which you can contribute your time and experience.

Alumni Engagement

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E alumni@anu.edu.au

W anu.edu.au/alumni/get-involved

Image: Aerial shot of University Avenue, Acton campus.
Photo by ANU.

The ANU Foundation: stewarding your philanthropy

The ANU Foundation is the governance framework for all gifts made to ANU. It ensures that the University maintains the highest standards in relation to its fundraising activities and that gifts made to ANU are managed in the most ethical and transparent manner.

The ANU Foundation Board is the key oversight body for the ANU Foundation, advising the ANU Council and the Vice-Chancellor on the governance, management and performance of the University's fundraising activities. The Board holds the University accountable for the financial and risk management of all gift funds within the ANU Foundation, ensuring that monies are disbursed and activities supported in line with donor wishes for the life of each gift.

Further details about the ANU Foundation and the University's Gifts and Fundraising Policy can be found online at anu.edu.au/giving.

Members of the ANU Foundation Board*

David Olsson, Chair

Michelle Melbourne, Deputy Chair

The Hon Julie Bishop, Chancellor

Genevieve Bell, Vice-Chancellor

Naomi Flutter, Pro-Chancellor

Michael Lonergan, Chief Financial Officer

Alex Furman, Vice-President (Advancement)

Jane MacLeod, Council appointee

Penny Winn, Council appointee

Cath Ingram, Council appointee

William Moisis, Student appointee

Image: University Avenue, Acton campus. Photo by ANU.

*Current at the time of publication, June 2024.



Thank you for your trust and support

Thank you for entrusting ANU to enact real change in society. Your philanthropic support of students, research and programs is making a difference every day.

On behalf of the ANU Foundation Board, I hope you enjoyed reading the 2023 ANU Report to Donors and the many stories about the impact of your giving.

Last year, 1,582 donors gave an amazing 1,847 gifts. You gave to support students who were facing unexpected hardship, advancing technology to create better access to clean drinking water, grappling with the climate

crisis and its repercussions, and beginning their careers as artists. You enabled research into personalised medicine, protecting our forests and communities from the impacts of bushfires, and safeguarding some of our most endangered bird species.

In 2023, we also farewelled Professor Brian P. Schmidt, a passionate advocate for philanthropy, as he concluded his role as Vice-Chancellor. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Brian for his tremendous contributions to the University and express our enthusiasm about working with ANU Vice-Chancellor and President Genevieve Bell.

Likewise, I wish to acknowledge the hard work and leadership of Robyn Watts, my predecessor as Chair of the ANU Foundation Board. In her almost 16 years with the Board, Robyn was instrumental in laying the groundwork of philanthropy at ANU.

If you have any questions or feedback about this report, I invite you to contact Donor Relations on donor.relations@anu.edu.au or +61 2 6125 2670.

Thank you once again for being a valued member of our philanthropic community. I look forward to seeing what the University accomplishes with your support in 2024.

David Olsson

Chair, ANU Foundation Board

| Image: David Olsson. Photo supplied.

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Cover image: An ANU School of Art and Design student working in the ANU Glass Workshop, creating a prototype of the ANU Vice-Chancellor's Award.
Photo by Megan Steele-Ferguson/ANU.



The 2023 ANU Report to Donors is printed on 100% recycled paper, in commitment to the ANU Below Zero initiative.

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