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Springbank Circle update

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ANU Advancement

Message from the Vice President (Advancement)

As we settle in to 2021, many of us are ready to move on from the events of last year. However, I want to reflect briefly on ANU life in 2020, a year when our community was more important than ever. Thank you for being a part of it.

The smoke haze from the summer bushfires had barely cleared when our campus was hit by damaging hail. Then, in a matter of weeks, COVID-19 was upon Australia and our campus was closed. Through what felt like a continuous flow of challenges, ANU staff not only supported each other, they also supported local and global communities. Many of our academic and research staff were seconded to government agencies nationally and internationally. Our experts assisted with and led efforts to control the spread and impacts of COVID-19. Our donor community rallied to support staff and students experiencing financial hardship.

Our role in the national pandemic recovery continues, with many of our staff and students working on research and tools to support and educate the public. From bushfire recovery research to student scholarships and support, ANU will continue to play a vital role in ensuring a better future for us all.

I know that every person in our community has felt the effects of last year. I continue to be impressed by the generosity our



Vice-President (Advancement), Barbara Miles

donor community has shown in response to these events. I do hope that through the challenges of 2020 you and your loved ones found ways to stay connected and find your “new normal”.

While we were unable to see you in person last year, you were in our thoughts, and we look forward to seeing you on campus again this year. Thank you for your continued support of the University.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara".

Barbara Miles

Vice-President (Advancement)
The Australian National University

A return to the wild for recovered koalas

Soon after bushfires devastated New South Wales in January 2020, thin, dehydrated and starved koalas arrived at ANU in need of medical attention. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, they received much needed special care. In June, researchers released two koalas back into their habitat at Two Thumbs Wildlife Sanctuary.

With much of the landscape still burnt, it is not yet clear how the koalas will adapt to this changed environment. A partnership with the Minderoo Foundation, through a donation of \$257,000, is assisting researchers to continue monitoring how koalas adapt.

“We will examine how fire affects the nutritional quality of koala habitats and eucalypt trees after a fire,” says ANU researcher Dr Kara Youngentob. “Our research is critical for the development of strategies that minimise bushfire impacts of wildlife.”

The returned koalas were fitted with GPS collars so researchers can understand how they are using their recovering habitat. Researchers will also examine how fire impacts eucalypt leaf chemistry and nutrition for koalas.

“We’ve already discovered koalas can digest new epicormic growth [buds that lie dormant under the bark of a tree and emerge after fire] from some of the trees that they usually eat,” says ANU co-researcher Dr Karen Ford.



Image by Ben Keogh, ANU

“Our research is critical for the development of strategies that minimise bushfire impacts of wildlife.”

“A lot of our initial conservation work and ongoing research was made possible by a \$100,000 donation from Two Thumbs Wildlife Sanctuary and its trustee, James Fitzgerald. What’s also really touching about this generous gift is it was made in memory of Ian McBeth, Paul Clyde Hudson and Rick A DeMorgan Jr. – the three US firefighters who lost their lives fighting fires near the Two Thumbs Wildlife Sanctuary earlier this year, says Dr Youngentob.

With koalas facing extinction and habitat loss, this research is an important part of protecting the species. The support from donors is not just a gift to ANU, it is an investment in the long-term survival of an Australian icon.

A legacy in motion

The late Emeritus Professor John Love, whom you may have known, established the Love Scholarships during his lifetime. The Love Scholarships offer a helping hand to students who have faced life circumstances that pose a serious and sustained challenge to their ability to participate in university studies. This is a flagship scholarship program at ANU, promoting and supporting equity and diversity at the University.

It's not often we see someone's legacy have so profound an impact in such a short space of time. Since they were first awarded in 2016, the Love Scholarships have done just that. Professor Love's legacy has been hugely important for Elijah Smith, a 2020 recipient. Elijah wanted to share his gratitude for this transformative experience. He says it better than we ever could, so here he is, in his own words.

My name is Elijah Smith, and I'm from a small regional town called Freeling, 15 minutes from the Barossa Valley region. As you can imagine, moving to Canberra was the greatest change in my life so far. Nonetheless, the move has given me many more opportunities and friendships that I otherwise would not have experienced. I am studying a Bachelor of Public Policy and hope to pursue a career in social policy after I graduate.

From my first day at ANU, I was immersed in a culture of friendship at Davey Lodge, where I reside. The group we have formed is one of welcoming spirit and kindness, like nothing I

have seen before. I truly know that these are the friends I will keep for life. I have also immersed myself in the ANU community by joining a number of societies.

I would like to share with you my circumstance and why this scholarship means so much to me. Financial pressures have been part of my life since I can remember. I learnt to respect the limited resources I had, and make the most of every cent. Moving to ANU with this burden of financial insecurity was my main concern before receiving the Love Scholarship. Now, I have peace of mind knowing that I have a secure financial circumstance that can support my studies.

I was also a carer for my father after he had a stroke whilst I was in high school. This experience and learning curve has served as the bedrock of my maturity and emotional capabilities. I have taken the skills that I have developed and transferred them to my everyday life. I have made from the circumstance what I could and believe I have made myself better because of it.

I am greatly humbled and honoured to receive the Love Scholarship, and incredibly grateful for the generosity of donors. I hope as I progress through my studies, this award will allow me to highlight the voices that feel silent, because if a regional lifestyle has taught me anything, it is that we are better together than we are apart.

Kindest regards,
Elijah Smith



Photo above: Elijah Smith, 2020 Love Scholarship recipient

John McNaught – a gift of friendship

To give without seeing impact within your lifetime is a truly thoughtful and selfless act. It is what makes Springbank Circle members such a special group within the ANU community. For John McNaught, being part of the Springbank Circle was a life-changing experience.

After a 20-year battle with cancer, John McNaught passed away in September 2020. A student and then a staff member for 11 years, John had a long history with ANU, full of happy memories. Becoming a Springbank Circle member gave him an opportunity to reconnect with ANU, a place for which he held great fondness.

John joined the Springbank Circle in July 2019, wanting to leave a legacy that would support cancer research. The cancer treatment John had undergone disfigured his face, which caused him to feel self-conscious in public. Upon joining the Springbank Circle, John rediscovered life at ANU.

“It has been a great joy for me, through you, to reconnect with the ANU for which I have always been grateful for the gifts it has given me, both as a former student and employee, and now in my retirement.”

His love for classical music brought him along to the Whitworth Roach Competition, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He also attended events such as the 2019 Springbank Circle lunch and a student residence reunion. John commented on a number of occasions how much he enjoyed the opportunities provided to him by ANU.

Along with a new social calendar, John gained a new friendship with Rachel Hunter from ANU Advancement. In an email to Rachel in 2019, John expressed the happiness being connected to ANU gave him.

“It has been a great joy for me, through you, to reconnect with the ANU for which I have always been grateful for the gifts it has given me, both as a former student and employee, and now in my retirement.”

Like many donors, John’s legacy came from a personal experience. Through telling his story, John not only formed a friendship with Rachel, but also inspired her to become a donor. Rachel now gives to cancer research, having lost her sister to cancer. Rachel had the opportunity to share this with John, and he was incredibly happy and thankful. While he will not know the impact of his financial donation, he did know the profound and lasting impact of his friendship.

What's happening on campus

The ANU campus is open again, with students and staff having adapted to new COVID-19 precautions. Here are a few things that you can do on campus:

- Cafes and restaurants remain open across campus.
- Drill Hall Gallery – *Nicole Ellis: Fabrications* covers 30 years of Ellis' art-making. The exhibition will run from 19 February to 11 April. The Drill Hall Gallery is open 10am – 5pm, Wednesday to Sunday.
- National Film and Sound Archive – *Starstruck: On Location* features striking images from iconic Australian films. The exhibition is open at the NFSA from 10am – 4pm daily.
- You can also access the many trails and walking tours around our beautiful campus using the ANU Walks App.

If you are in Canberra and would like to visit us, we would love to meet you for a coffee and have a chat.

Please call the Gift and Estate Planning team to make a time to meet.





2019 Springbank Circle Long Lunch, aMBUSH Gallery, Kambri

The Springbank Circle Long Lunch

We are delighted to announce that the Springbank Circle Long Lunch will be held on Saturday 4 September 2021.

We hope to host you on campus in September, with a formal invitation to follow.

Please contact us if you would like to pre-register your interest in attending.

Would you like to share a story?

We missed seeing you at events in 2020, sharing conversations and hearing your stories. While there is no replacement for talking in person, we wanted to offer an opportunity for you to share your thoughts with us and the ANU community.

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of ANU. Over that time, many stories have been amassed and experiences had. As an important member of our community, we thought you might like to share a story or a piece of advice that could inspire other ANU community members. Please use the enclosed envelope to return this page to or send us your responses by email to donor.relations@anu.edu.au. We would love to hear from you.

What did you miss about ANU in 2020?

What advice would you give a current or future ANU student?

What is your fondest memory or favorite story from your time as a student?

As a donor, how would you explain the power of generosity?

Your stories and knowledge are precious to us, and we will only use them with your permission. Please let us know your preference below:

- I give permission for you to share my story and advice in accordance with the ANU Privacy Policy
- Please check with me before sharing my story or advice

Name: _____





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Contact us

For further information on the Springbank Circle program, or if you would like to update your personal information or bequest details, please contact:

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Painting on cover: Yannima Pikarli Tommy Watson, *Untitled* (detail) 2016, acrylic on Belgian linen, 151 x 244 cm ANU Art Collection. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Craig Edwards in memory of Edmund Charles Edwards and Alan Edmund Edwards, teachers.

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