

# ANU Springbank Circle

ANNUAL DONOR NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2022  
CELEBRATING YOUR ENDURING GIFTS



Australian  
National  
University

## A love for jazz leads to a new legacy for ANU School of Music students

ANU Alumna Michele Foster recently established a student support endowment for the ANU School of Music to further the education and professional development of jazz music students. To ensure her endowment grows over time and supports future generations, Michele has included a bequest in her will to provide future funding through her estate.

Michele shares her story:

“I briefly studied political science at the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences in the late 1980s. Over the years, I have continued to attend events at the University.

In recent years, I have come to appreciate jazz music and have loved attending live performances. When live music was on hold due to COVID

Image: ANU School of Music graduate and jazz/contemporary vocalist, pianist and teacher, Tahlia Makunde. Photo by ANU.

lockdowns, we saw how hard-hit musicians and artists were in keeping their livelihoods going. I missed live music so much!

When it came time to refresh my will recently, I thought about what I valued, and high on the list were education and music. Hence, the idea of supporting the ANU School of Music was born.

I have made my bequest specifically to support students of jazz music because the genre gives me much pleasure. On my return to Canberra in 2017, I became aware of the enormous talent coming out of the ANU School of Music – from teachers, students and alumni. From my interactions with Kim Cunio and with teachers and students, I believe that the structure of learning in the School of Music supports a diverse, multidisciplinary and culturally-connected future for professional music.

I was delighted to learn about the different ways the School could use my bequest, for prizes, bursaries, scholarships, exchanges, and more. This moved me to make a living bequest, an initial donation to start what will become the bequest from my will. I'm glad that this is all set up now, so that when the time comes for my bequest to be realised, it

will be a simple matter. It is a great peace of mind.

As a new member of the ANU Springbank Circle community, I love being on campus, meeting other donors and hearing about the uplifting activities of the University.

I am inspired when I see students perform, and excited knowing that they are our future professional musicians and teachers. I'm thrilled that my bequest will make a lasting impact. I look forward to making more connections within ANU, and I hope that my contributions will enable more students to study and excel in jazz music and performance."

Associate Professor Kim Cunio, Head of the ANU School of Music, is grateful for Michele's generosity. "Michele's jazz endowment is the first of its kind for the School. What Michele has shown us all is that each of us can make a lasting contribution to what we most believe in. We thank Michele for her belief in the excellence of the School and for this special commitment to our students, which will ensure they fulfil their musical potential in jazz and beyond for many years to come."

Image: Associate Professor Kim Cunio, from the ANU School of Music. Photo by ANU.



Image: ANU Alumna Michele Foster at the 2022 Springbank Circle Long Lunch. Photo by ANU.



## Message from the Executive Director, ANU Advancement

It has been wonderful to connect with many of you again throughout 2022, as the ANU campus came back to life and we entered a new sense of normal.

We have many highlights and achievements to reflect upon.

Last March and April, we celebrated ANU Alumni Week with our global alumni community, with both on-campus and virtual talks, tours, exhibition openings, and networking events.

In August, the Hon Julie Bishop, ANU Chancellor, hosted a live virtual address from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the ANU School of Music's Llewellyn Hall.

Our ANU Giving Day in September was a great success. More than 400 members of our community came together to raise \$174,298 in support of a range of priority initiatives – including Indigenous Australian justice and education, gender equity, and women in leadership.

In October, Professor Brian P. Schmidt, ANU Vice-Chancellor and President, welcomed our Springbank donors back for the Springbank Circle Long Lunch and Celebration of Giving. I know many of our guests enjoyed reconnecting with each other and hearing from some of our academic leaders. It was a wonderful opportunity for us here at ANU to express our gratitude for your support, in person. We have certainly missed that!

We also celebrated the achievements of some extraordinary individuals from our community with the Alumni Awards in November. I do encourage you to read about this year's remarkable recipients.

One of our top priorities is to increase opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to attend the University. We are



Image: Norm Bradshaw, Executive Director, ANU Advancement. Photo by ANU.

pleased to share that, thanks to our donors, 17 new students will receive financial support as Kambri Scholars to commence their studies at ANU next year. We will continue to grow this program and provide more Indigenous Australians with scholarships and pastoral support to help secure a better future, for them and the nation.

I hope you enjoy reading some of the stories from our ANU Springbank Circle community in this newsletter.

On behalf of all of us at ANU, thank you for your generous commitment.

Warm wishes for a joyous festive season and a healthy and happy 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norm Bradshaw', written in a cursive style.

**Norm Bradshaw**  
**Executive Director, ANU Advancement**  
**The Australian National University**



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

## Xiang Li reflects on how higher education has changed her life

Xiang Li studied at ANU from 2010-2012, as an international student from China. She was attending prospective student interviews held by international universities in Beijing and was considering studying at universities in the US, Singapore, UK, and Australia, when a photo of the ANU campus caught her eye.

“ANU had this fantastic photo of University Avenue, which grabbed my attention,” Xiang reflects. “I learnt that ANU has the best business school in Australia. I went for the interview and got my first offer from ANU doing my Master of Business at the College of Business and Economics.”

It was Xiang’s first time living abroad, and she initially struggled with English and adapting to life and study in a new country. Eventually, she graduated from the ANU College of Business and Economics with a Master of Business, Master of Management and Master of Project Management.

“I often get asked, ‘why did I take so many studies, isn’t one degree enough for a job?’ ‘They were more than just degrees’ is my answer. What I got from studying at ANU was a broader vision of seeing the world and myself.”

Xiang’s time at ANU has had a lasting impact on her life. Her fond memories include cooking Christmas dinner as a senior resident of Toad Hall, taking ‘Brian’s Bus Tour’ during orientation, and dodging ducks and rabbits while walking around the beautiful campus. She also treasures the lifelong connections she made – “One of the best things about studying in my course was connecting with other students. I still connect with people I met at ANU.”

Since graduating, Xiang has worked in the disability sector as a consultant and educator. She has worked in disability inclusion education in universities such as ANU, RMIT and the University of Melbourne.

She has volunteered as a mentor to university students, is an award winning artist –she won the Local Emerging Art Prize in the 2021 Wyndham Art Prize –and worked on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. She has also since graduated a Master of Art Therapy at La Trobe University and is currently working as an art therapist.

Xiang found her passion for art and mental health awareness through her work.

“Education provides more than a degree and jobs,” says Xiang. “It opens a door of possibilities to explore the world and ourselves, to make positive changes in the society. I learnt about equality, suitability development, and how to be a better citizen.”

This belief in the power of education, and her passion for providing opportunities for more women to gain an education and forge successful careers, has motivated Xiang to

include a gift to ANU in her will to support gender equity for women.

**“I always believed that education would provide a person with the opportunity to make a difference and a better future. As an ANU alumna, I would like to support more women to have better educational opportunities, especially in disciplines where women are underrepresented.”**

— XIANG LI

Image: ANU students. Photo by ANU.



## 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, we welcomed you back for the first time in two years for the ANU Springbank Circle Long Lunch, hosted by Professor Brian P. Schmidt, ANU Vice-Chancellor and President.

We hope to provide you with more opportunities in 2023 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 2022 lunch at <https://bit.ly/3OKmt2g>.

## 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 see first-hand the difference their giving can make to their chosen area.

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

## Realised bequests 2021–2022

**We would like to acknowledge the recent passing of the following members of the ANU community and express our gratitude for their foresight and generosity:**

**Alan Beck** left a bequest to the ANU Research School of Earth Sciences to support PhD students undertaking research into physics of the solid earth.

**Alan Thomas Bishop** bequeathed funds to the John Curtin School of Medical Research through the Greater Good Foundation to support medical research.

**Lisa Barbara Welch Drummond** established a student prize in honour of Professor Peter Rimmer at the ANU College of Asia & the Pacific, which recognises excellence in mapping and geography.

**Kenneth George England** bequeathed his residual estate to the John Curtin School of Medical Research, which the School will direct to support fellowships for early-to mid-career researchers.

**Howard Carl Hansen** established the Hansen Scandinavian Australian Friendship Endowment through the Perpetual Foundation. ANU will receive annual support for research and student mobility initiatives that foster relations between Australia and Scandinavia.

**Kent Keith** directed his bequest to support the Keith Family Research Endowment in Clinical Haematology at the ANU College of Health and Medicine.



## Gender equity fund backs women scientists

ANU law alumnus Richard Miller was thinking about his estate plans and how he could give back to ANU through his will. “As a young man who had left school at 15 years, entered the RAAF at that age and had to study at night school to gain entry, ANU gave me an opportunity that I will not forget.”

It was during an ANU Springbank Circle event at the John Curtin School of Medical Research (JCSMR) in 2015 that Richard learned about how women medical researchers taking a break from their career to have a baby struggled to return to work. With the in-person nature of medical research, childcare responsibilities meant these women faced greater career gaps compared to researchers in other fields.

Immunologist Professor Carola Vinuesa had just provided the seed funding for the JCSMR Gender Equity Fund to help female early- to mid-career researchers facing these challenges.

As the father of two daughters and with a strong objective of supporting women in their careers, Richard’s lifetime contribution to the fund was both an honour and a practical answer to his intentions. “A woman should be able to see her future as both a scientist and a mother; she should not have to elect.”

Since 2015, the fund has supported six female scientists. This year, JCSMR expanded the fund to include support for PhD students.

Dr Yvette Wooff from the Clear Vision Research Lab received assistance from the fund. “I am grateful to have people like Richard who listen, and selflessly aid in enabling young mothers like myself to achieve all of our career goals. I am lucky to have never felt like being a mum has held me back.”

You can donate to the JCSMR Gender Equity Fund at <https://bit.ly/3u63a9Z>.

## 2022 ANU Alumni Awards, celebrating our outstanding leaders

The annual ANU Alumni Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of our most remarkable alumni. Since 2013, we have celebrated the incredible success of more than 90 ANU alumni.

This year, the award recipients are not just achieving excellence in their fields; they are changing people's lives, in their local communities and across the globe.

### We present to you the extraordinary recipients of the 2022 ANU Alumni Awards.



**Heidi Yates (BA '05, LLB '05, GradDipLegPrac '06)**  
**2022 ANU Alumna of the Year**

Heidi's ground-breaking work as ACT Victims of Crimes Commissioner has amplified the voices and upheld the rights of marginalised communities calling for justice, in the ACT and beyond, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, LGBTQIA+ families, multicultural communities, victims with disabilities, children and other vulnerable victims. "All of us—wherever we are, whatever skills we have—have the potential to drive change."



**Mikaela Jade (MAppCybernetics '21)**  
**2022 ANU Indigenous Alumna of the Year**

Mikaela is a Cabrogal Woman and the founder and CEO of Indigital, Australia's first Indigenous Edu-tech company. Indigital specialises in digital skills training programs designed through an Indigenous cultural lens, including the Indigital Schools program that connects students with Indigenous Elders and cultural knowledge while teaching them new tech skills. Mikaela aims to create a meaningful pathway for Indigenous peoples into the digital economy and the creation of future technologies.



**Dr Mari Pangestu (BEc '79, MEc '81, HonLittD '13)**  
**2022 ANU International Alumna of the Year**

Mari has over 30 years of experience in academia, international organisations and government, specialising in international trade and investment. She is now at the World Bank as Managing Director of Development Policy & Partnerships, which helps developing countries plan for green, resilient futures. "I am in a global position where what we do can make a big difference," she says.





**Kieran Pender (BA '16, LLB '18, GDLP '19)**

**2022 ANU Young Alumnus of the Year**

From Kieran's global research into bullying and sexual harassment in the legal profession, to his current role as a senior lawyer in the Human Rights Law Centre, he has advocated for the protection of victims of bullying and sexual harassment, and defended Australia's whistleblowers. Kieran is also a mentor and lecturer at the ANU College of Law. "It's a huge honour to wake up every day and work on things that I'm passionate about," he says.



**Prime Ragandang (PhD IntPolStratStds)**

**2022 ANU Student Volunteer of the Year (Postgraduate)**

In his home region of Mindanao, Philippines, Prime is sharing his knowledge of peacekeeping and sustainable development with students through his youth-led organisation, the BHOLI Youth Centre. Through storytelling, games, and other creative expressions, the Centre offers school programs that foster individual and community resilience and offer connection and hope. "As scholars, we have this responsibility of helping address the community issues and community challenges that we see in our backyard."



**Clare McBride-Kelly (LLB Hons, BAS)**

**2022 ANU Student Volunteer of the Year (Undergraduate)**

Clare and her friends founded The Refugee & Migrant Swimming Project, in memory of their friend, Najeeb. Clare has since spent hundreds of hours fundraising and providing free, culturally safe and trauma-informed swimming and water safety lessons to refugees and migrants. "It's been amazing to see how people's confidence in the water has translated into a sense of community and inclusion," says Clare.

## University House restoration

Since its founding in 1954, University House has been at the heart of the University's social, intellectual and ceremonial life.

The heritage-listed precinct sustained damage in the 2020 hailstorm. With thanks to the contributions of many ANU benefactors, we have raised close to \$100,000 for our Friends of University House Fund, which will help to restore, preserve and enhance this iconic cultural asset.

If you would like to contribute, please contact:

### Donor Relations

T +61 2 6125 2670

E [donor.relations@anu.edu.au](mailto:donor.relations@anu.edu.au)

or visit <https://bit.ly/3iKjbA1>

## 2023 ANU Alumni Week – save the date!

Save the date for 2023 ANU Alumni Week, taking place on the beautiful ANU campus, from Saturday 18 to Friday 24 March 2023.

This weeklong celebration is your opportunity to reconnect with old friends, meet new alumni and enjoy everything ANU has to offer, as we highlight the University's expertise and legacy all in one big week. We invite you to join us and take part in a range of thought-provoking talks, unique tours, and special events.

### Alumni Relations

T +61 2 6125 5004

E [alumni@anu.edu.au](mailto:alumni@anu.edu.au)



## Unrestricted legacy will ensure vital environmental research

Rosalind and Benjamin Walcott's connection with the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society goes back to when they first met Professor Frank Fenner at a neighbourhood Christmas party in Red Hill.

"We said hello to him most mornings as we walked our dogs past his house. Frank was always very polite, reserved, neatly dressed in his khaki gardening clothes and usually on his knees weeding his lawn," says Ros. Not long after, Ros and Ben read that ANU was naming a school of the environment in his honour. "This seemed appropriate to us after his distinguished career in so many aspects of environmental science."

Ros and Ben both had parents who were interested in the natural world, and they inherited that interest. While they lived in Long Island, New York, they designed their

own garden, made their own fair share of mistakes and learned about plants over thirty years. When they returned to Canberra 20 years ago, Ros and Ben decided to create an Australian native garden and learn about a whole new suite of plants. This time, they enlisted the help of garden designer, Helen Cohen, who integrated the garden's design into the plan of their new house designed by architect Wal Kostyrko.

Since then, Ros and Ben have generously welcomed thousands of people into their garden, and were, for many years, part of Open Gardens Australia. Ros says, "We had expected that the garden would be a private delight, but from the start people from the neighbourhood were interested in the development of the garden."



Image: Dr Dejan Stojanovic, Professor Saul Cunningham, and Rosalind and Benjamin Walcott at their spring garden tour, October 2022. Photo by ANU.

To celebrate Fenner’s 15th anniversary in October, they hosted ANU College of Science donors for a spring garden tour, with talks from Professor Saul Cunningham, ecologist and Director of the Fenner School, and Dr Dejan Stojanovic, conservation biologist and Research Fellow with the Difficult Birds Research Group.

When it came time to think about the impact they wished to make through their legacy, a bequest to the Fenner School was a natural choice for Ros and Ben.

“We chose to support the Fenner School because we believe its work is essential for the future of Australia. We want the Fenner School to decide on what is important to them, so we have made our bequest free of restrictions. There is no more important research than

“We chose to support the Fenner School because we believe its work is essential for the future of Australia... There is no more important research than discovering how the ecosystems of Australia work in concert with our unique flora and fauna over time as the climate changes.”

— ROSALIND AND BENJAMIN WALCOTT

discovering how the ecosystems of Australia work in concert with our unique flora and fauna over time as the climate changes. Basic ecological research forms the basis for decisions to be for the future of the planet. We hope that our gift will foster this type of basic research in the future.”

“We are incredibly grateful for the Walcotts’ generosity,” says Professor Cunningham. “They already give something beautiful to the School by opening their house and garden to co-host events. Their further commitment of an unrestricted bequest will help enormously. They know that academics scramble for every research dollar. Their bequest will give us the flexibility to focus on what’s most impactful, research and education.”



## Season's Greetings

Greetings to you all and welcome to those of you who joined our ANU Springbank Circle community in 2022.

As this year comes to a close and a new year approaches, we are feeling grateful.

We were finally able to welcome our Springbank donors back for events and activities, such as the Long Lunch, and the Whitworth Roach Classical Music Performance Competition, which is one of our favourite events on the ANU School of Music's calendar and is supported by Ms Christine Roach.

We also met with many alumni and donors personally, in their homes, on campus, and interstate, to discuss their individual and unique legacies.

For those with whom we could not meet in person, we enjoyed staying in touch by telephone, video calls, letters and email.

Sadly, we have lost some dear friends over the past couple of years, from our ANU

donor, alumni and academic communities. Their legacies will continue through their wonderful work, and the impact they made through the initiatives, students, and researchers they supported during their lifetime and through their estates.

Each of you has chosen to make a lasting contribution to the work of the University and foster the talents of future generations. Many of you also choose to support your areas of interest with annual or regular gifts. On behalf of everyone at the University, thank you for your continued support and generosity.

We look forward to providing you with more opportunities to engage with the ANU community in 2023.

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

**Warm regards**

**Sarah, Rachel and Debbie**

Image: Kellie Takenaka, Carol Keil, Brian Keil and Siew-Gim McGregor at the 2022 ANU Springbank Circle Long Lunch. Photo by ANU.

## Contact us

### Gift & Estate Planning



**Sarah McCarthy**  
Head of Advancement

T +61 2 6125 2110  
E sarah.mccarthy@anu.edu.au



**Debbie Wilson**  
Senior Development Officer

T +61 2 6125 7623  
E debbie.wilson@anu.edu.au



**Rachel Hunter**  
Development Manager

T +61 2 6125 9231  
E rachel.hunter@anu.edu.au

### ANU Advancement

The Australian National University  
Buildings 71 & 71T  
28 Balmain Crescent, Canberra ACT 2600