

2020 Report to Donors

YOUR GIVING MATTERS



Australian
National
University

ANU Advancement

Contents

| | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 03 | Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor's message | 12 | Saving an Australian icon |
| 04 | Today's Indigenous scholars are tomorrow's leaders | 14 | A lasting gift of friendship |
| 06 | Caring for our colleagues the ANU way | 16 | Backing the next generation of rural leaders |
| 08 | Easing the landscape for difficult birds | 17 | The ANU Foundation |
| 09 | Giving stability to our students | 17 | Talent is everywhere, opportunity is not |
| 10 | National university supported by our global community | 18 | Giving by numbers |

For other inspiring stories on the impact of your giving in 2020, please scan this QR code to visit ql.anu.edu.au/donor-report



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose traditional lands we meet, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

Image on cover: Koala being reintroduced to the Two Thumbs Wildlife Sanctuary from the story *Saving an Australian Icon* on page 12. Photo by James Walsh, ANU.



Image above: The Hon Julie Bishop, ANU Chancellor, and Professor Brian Schmidt, ANU Vice-Chancellor and President. Photo by Lannon Harley.

Thank you for all you made possible in 2020

Your support provided certainty in a very challenging year.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of our University. Thank you for contributing to our story so far, and we look forward to celebrating our milestone together.

As ANU moves towards our vision for 2025 and beyond, we are grateful to you for being key partners in our growth and future.

Boosted by our donors' generosity, the Kambri Scholars program proudly welcomed new Indigenous students to ANU. These students would not have been able to attend university without such generous support.

Together, we will advance research that transforms society. We will continue to provide a world-class experience for our students. We will strive to achieve equity – within ANU and in society – and we will continue to meet our unique responsibilities as Australia's national university.

Thank you for all that you make possible.

The Hon Julie Bishop
Chancellor

Professor Brian P. Schmidt
AC FAA FRS
Vice-Chancellor and President



“At ANU, I finally felt that the two worlds I had been navigating — my Indigenous culture and academic studies — had come together. I really thrived in an environment where Indigenous excellence and cultural strength was celebrated.”

— LEILA SMITH (ABOVE) (BA (HONS) '07)
CEO, AURORA EDUCATION FOUNDATION
AND 2004 JOSEPH AND LINDSAY CROFT
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Today’s Indigenous scholars are tomorrow’s leaders

To deliver on our responsibility to our nation’s First Peoples, ANU is committed to increasing the recruitment and success of Indigenous students. Through a range of scholarships, grants and pastoral support from the Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre, ANU has one of the best graduation rates of Indigenous students in Australia.

Inspired by the generosity of our donors, the Kambri Scholars program was launched in March 2020 to support the next generation of Indigenous scholars, who go on to enrich their communities and give back to Country. The program includes a range of holistic and culturally aware support programs to help Indigenous students get the most out of their studies.

“I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all donors who support students to attend ANU. Without this support, students like me wouldn’t be able to continue their studies.”

— WILLIAM KEPA
2020 EMMANUEL AND JENNY NOTARAS
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

ANU seeks to establish a \$50 million endowment for the Kambri Scholars program, including a University commitment to match donations dollar for dollar. This will ensure support for Kambri Scholars in perpetuity, and help make ANU the first choice for more Indigenous students to study before they go on to fulfilling careers and lives.

Over the past five years, donors have given generously to The ANU Fund. In late 2020, \$500,000 was distributed from The ANU Fund to support the Kambri Scholars program.

“Supporting impactful programs like Kambri Scholars will have the effect of providing continued support and career pathways across generations of First Nations people. University education provides a critical role in enablement and self-determination.”

— PHILLIP JENKINSON
CEO BAIDAM SOLUTIONS &
JAMIESON O’REILLY, FOUNDER,
DVULN - DONORS TO THE
KAMBRI SCHOLARS PROGRAM

“When academic institutions like ANU try to bridge the gap for Indigenous students through supportive programs, they are providing a foot in the door for so many who otherwise might not have even considered university a place for them. Thank you so incredibly much for your generosity and kindness.”

— REBECCA BEUTEL
2018 RECIPIENT ELSPETH YOUNG MEMORIAL
GRANT RECIPIENT, 2019 JUDITH WRIGHT
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Thank you for your support. You are helping increase the number of Indigenous students at ANU, who will go on to fulfilling careers and lives.

For more inspiring stories and interviews with Kambri recipients, please visit the full Report to Donors at ql.anu.edu.au/report-to-donors





Image above: Professor Matthew Colless, Director, Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, on site at Mt Stromlo Observatory

Caring for our colleagues the ANU way

The impact of COVID-19 was felt by all in the ANU community, with many of our staff facing unexpected financial hardship. The Care for your Colleagues appeal was launched to mobilise financial support, above and beyond the University's existing programs, for fellow staff members experiencing such hardship. When Professor Matthew Colless invited University staff to help out, the ANU community came forward to help our colleagues in need.

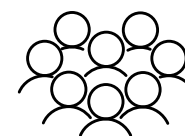
“I have always been proud of being a part of the ANU community, but this support has made me the University's lifelong brand ambassador. Thank you to all the donors.”

— AN ANONYMOUS BENEFICIARY

To view Matthew's video and more, please visit our full Report to Donors at ql.anu.edu.au/report-to-donors

“The emergency fund has been a very timely mental and physical support. Your generosity has helped people like me to continue seeking a better life during a very difficult time. Thank you.”

— AN ANU CASUAL STAFF MEMBER



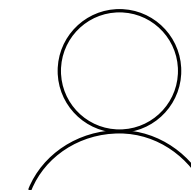
72 donors



\$152K+ funds raised for staff support



33 new donors



63% donated by professional staff



21 new workplace giving donors (regular giving through payroll)



37% donated by academic staff



Easing the landscape for difficult birds

The unprecedented weather conditions of 2020 were exceptionally challenging for ‘difficult birds’ — Australia’s most endangered birds. The added threat of climate change has made the iconic superb parrot particularly vulnerable. These much-loved birds need hollows in large trees to protect their nests. Potential shortages of suitable hollows in landscapes where large trees are rare pose a threat to parrot populations.

Supported by donors, the Difficult Birds Research Group at ANU has developed a GPS backpack-like device that attaches to the parrots. This will help researchers understand the movement of the birds, and identify and protect the rare and valuable nesting trees. By better maintaining the landscape, this research could offer a helping hand to superb parrots.

Image background: The Superb Parrot.
Photo by David Stowe.

Giving students stability

A university education changes lives. In 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19, many students had to make difficult choices between continuing their education and addressing basic needs. According to a report by the ANU School of Research & Methods, 65.1 per cent of 18- to 24-year-olds were feeling anxious or worried due to the impact of COVID-19.

When we called on our community to help, alumni and donors responded with immense generosity by giving to the ANU Student Urgent Relief Fund. This particularly helped international students, students from rural and remote areas, and those who are also carers. It supported a variety of expenses like house rent, groceries, internet access, and urgent travel needs.

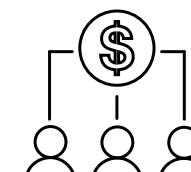
The generosity has helped ANU students to keep learning and stay connected with the ANU community.

“I had some of my best years at ANU. Our students are the future leaders of the world and we need to make sure they can enjoy the full university experience.”

— JANICE TAN, ANU (CBE) ALUMNA AND DONOR



\$195,509
funds raised



\$152,000+
funds disbursed



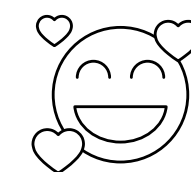
103 students
received urgent relief



\$1,500 average amount
to help students



Application reasons
Loss of student employment; accommodation and travel costs; emergency accommodation due to COVID impacts; cost of materials and IT to support remote study.



Warm welcome to **126 new donors**, who started giving by providing urgent support to students.



National university supported by our global community

Our ANU alumni are a true reflection of our University's values. From helping members of the ANU community affected by the pandemic, to supporting students with the greatest financial need, our international alumni have made an impact right through 2020.

When Sarah Backhouse (BJapS '95, BEc '95), President of The ANU Foundation USA, heard about the challenges being faced by the ANU community due to COVID-19, she felt compelled to provide support.

"I wanted to contribute to the relief funds for the students and staff at ANU to help ease the economic hardship caused by COVID-19," said Sarah. "As an ANU alumna, I am grateful for the education and experiences I gained, and wanted to do my small part to pay it forward to the ANU community."

The generosity of the ANU community—here in Australia and across the world—has helped to support 58 staff with \$96,500 disbursed through the Care for your Colleagues appeal.

Jane MacLeod (BA '83, LLB '85) feels lucky to have been part of a generation that received a free university education. Along with a group of other UK-based ANU alumni, Jane has provided funding for the London Alumni Scholarship, to help talented students overcome financial barriers and enjoy a fulfilling university experience at ANU.

"Our world is facing enormous challenges, and we will only address them for the benefit of everyone if more of us are able to access and value the intellectual freedom that thrives in the university environment."

Sarah and Jane represent one of the key strengths of ANU—our generous global community that actively cares for and supports our staff and students here in Australia.

"I wanted to contribute to the relief funds for the students and staff at ANU to help ease the economic hardship caused by COVID-19."

— SARAH BACKHOUSE



Image above: University House in the 1960's.

“Our donors, friends and ANU alumni have a vital role to play in restoring the building to its iconic status as an emblem of mid-twentieth century design”

— PETER KANOWSKI

Renewing University House – the heart of ANU

“It is building number one on campus,” says Peter Kanowski, Master of House at University House.

University House is the ceremonial heart of ANU, and truly one of Canberra’s unique locations and experiences. Modelled on the colleges at Oxford and Cambridge, it is where the University meets and celebrates, and also where guests and visitors are treated to a boutique hotel experience.

The hailstorm of 2020, followed by heavy rain, caused significant damage to University House, including to its original tiles and glass, and the electrical infrastructure.

“In the minds of the academics and senior public servants who created ANU, University House fulfilled an important role,” says Peter. “It was the only place where graduate students and academics lived, and the place for the exchange of ideas for the political and intellectual community of Canberra. It continues to be a home to visitors from around Australia and the world.”

University House’s heritage-listed character reflects the excellence of architect Brian Wilson, designers Fred Ward and Derek Wrigley, and botanist and forester Lindsay Pryor. Over the years, members and friends have given generously to enhance its art collection, making it a shining showcase of Australian art.

In late 2019, the University approved refurbishment of University House to renew the building while respecting its heritage. The extreme weather events and pandemic of 2020, however, put a hold on these planned refurbishments. For the first time in its history, University House was closed completely. Our donor community has now come forward to support renewal efforts.

“Our donors, friends and ANU alumni have a vital role to play in restoring the building to its iconic status as an emblem of mid-twentieth century design,” says Peter. “With the right amount of support, we hope to refurbish it into a twenty-first century expression worthy of its standing in 1954, when it opened. We are grateful to our donors for helping in our efforts to renew the heart of academic and social life at ANU.”

Saving an Australian icon

In January 2020, koalas affected by bushfires arrived at ANU in desperate need of special care. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, they received that care and two have been released back into their habitat at Two Thumbs Wildlife Sanctuary.

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

This research was made possible by a \$100,000 donation from Two Thumbs Wildlife Sanctuary and its trustee, James Fitzgerald. A partnership with the Minderoo Foundation, through a donation of \$257,000, is further supporting the research.

With koalas facing habitat loss and extinction, this research is an important part of protecting the species.

Image background: Koala being reintroduced to the Two Thumbs Wildlife Sanctuary. Photo by James Walsh, ANU.

To learn more about the koala’s rehabilitation and watch Hamish and Bear’s return to the wild, please visit ql.anu.edu.au/report-to-donors

A lasting gift of friendship

John McNaught wanted 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.

Becoming a member of the Springbank Circle introduced John to a new community and gave him a sense of belonging. He rediscovered life at ANU through a calendar of social events, from classical music shows to lunches.

John also gained a new friendship with Rachel Hunter (Development Manager, Gift & Estate Planning) from ANU Advancement. He expressed his happiness at reconnecting with ANU.

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

Before John passed, Rachel shared with him how he had inspired her to become a donor. Such is the lasting impact of their friendship.



Image above: Springbank Circle members and guests at the 2019 Springbank Circle Long Lunch held at the aMBUSH Gallery

A gift in your Will will provide 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.

Sarah McCarthy

Head of Advancement Gift & Estate Planning

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Image above: Simone De Nys

Backing the next generation of rural leaders

Rural inventor and philanthropist George Alexander AM set up the George Alexander Foundation in 1972, and it continues to support undergraduate scholarships at ANU. The Foundation aims to reduce some of the significant geographic barriers to tertiary education faced by rural and regional students.

Current scholarship recipient, Simone De Nys, always had an interest in international relations, languages and politics. The scholarship enabled her to move from Townsville in North Queensland to Canberra, to study a Bachelor of Arts & International Security Studies at ANU.

“I decided to pursue a degree that catered to all my interests,” says Simone.

With the security of a scholarship, Simone could pursue international study opportunities at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan, and a semester exchange at the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

Simone believes in giving back to her university community, and is a member of the executive for the Rural, Remote and Regional Students' Society (RRRS), a social support network for ANU students.

“I am infinitely grateful to The George Alexander Foundation for all of their help, support and understanding throughout my time at university,” said Simone.

The ANU Foundation

Thank you for your support and the trust you have put in ANU through your giving. We are committed to honouring this trust by ensuring your gift is managed in the most ethical and transparent manner.

The ANU Foundation is the governance framework for all gifts made to the University. It ensures that ANU maintains the highest standards in relation to its fundraising activities and that gifts made to the University are properly used and appropriately accounted for.

The ANU Foundation Board is the key oversight body for the ANU Foundation, advising ANU Council and the Vice-Chancellor on the governance, management and performance of the University's fundraising activities. This ensures monies are disbursed and activities are supported in line with donor wishes and for the life of each gift.

Further details about the ANU Foundation and the ANU Gifts and Fundraising policy can be found online at www.anu.edu.au/giving

Talent is everywhere, opportunity is not

To create opportunity for students with immense potential, regardless of their background, the Support Australia's Students campaign was launched in 2018, with a goal to raise \$15 million.

Thanks to the generous support of our alumni and donor community, \$17.6 million has been raised so far. Scholarships, prizes and travel grants have been established to recognise talented and gifted students, while emergency bursaries have been established to provide urgent relief to students facing financial hardship.



Funds raised for student support in 2020
\$6,949,721



Funds raised for Support Australia's Students since 2018
\$17,600,605



Number of donors who have given so far since 2018
2,717

Giving by numbers



Funds raised and pledged in 2020
\$32,260,000



Largest donation made in 2020
\$10,730,000*



Given by ANU Staff through workplace giving
\$534,695



Total number of donors in 2020
1,747



Number of international donors
192



Number of Alumni donors
965



Number of donors who gave their first gift in 2020
627



Number of corporate and foundation donors
103

“Just one open-handed gesture from the donors and ANU had such a huge impact on my life during such a difficult time.”

— AN ANONYMOUS BENEFICIARY

All figures refer to activity in the ANU Foundation in 2020 unless specified otherwise.

*A gift from alumnus Craig Edwards of paintings by leading Western Desert artist Naata Nungarrayi, following Craig's significant donation of Indigenous art in 2018, plus a generous donation to support the ANU Art Collection and Drill Hall Gallery.



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