



A microscopic look at nerve cells growing in Assoc Prof Turnley's lab

A \$140,000 bequest from the late Mrs Mary Goldsworthy (GDipEd 1942, BSc 1942) has enabled two University of Melbourne neuroscientists to carry out vital research in finding treatments and a cure for brain diseases such as Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Associate Professor Ann Turnley (BSc(Hons) 1988, PhD 1992) who leads the Neural Regeneration Laboratory at the Centre for Neuroscience, is using half of the bequest to look at how nerve cells can grow, connect and be used to repair the brain after injury or disease.

'Brain injury, neurological disease and even brain deterioration due to ageing (including memory loss) are huge burdens both socially and economically. By focusing on a specific molecule that makes nerve cells regrow and reconnect, our research will enable people to lead fuller more active lives', explains Assoc Prof Turnley.

She is looking to a future where scientists can regenerate new brain nerve cells that function effectively in a patient's brain. 'A key focus of our team is to investigate ways to increase the number of nerve cells derived from brain stem cells, in order to replace cells that are lost in neurodegenerative diseases, ageing or brain injury.'

Dr Simon Murray (BSc(Hons) 1988), a leading researcher at the Centre for Neuroscience, will use the other half of the bequest to find a way to encourage oligodendrocytes, a type of brain cell that insulates nerve cells, to reverse the effects of de-myelination (the breakdown of this insulation) associated with Multiple Sclerosis.

Ultimately Dr Murray's research could have much broader applications and assist anyone suffering from a brain disease.

'We are making substantive inroads in discovering approaches and therapeutics that will improve the lives of the people with these diseases', he says.



Top: Associate Professor Ann Turnley is investigating how nerve cells can grow and reconnect to repair the brain after disease

Bottom: Dr Simon Murray is finding ways to insulate nerve cells

Aided by this generous bequest, both Assoc Prof Turnley and Dr Murray can continue to work towards finding cures for neurodegenerative conditions and brain injuries which impact on the lives of thousands.

To find out more about research activities at the Centre for Neurosciences, visit: cns.unimelb.edu.au/research



Sue's Message

Dear members,

I have often commented on the active lives led by many of our members. This is currently being exemplified by Heritage Society member Dr Jan Smith (GDip(SocialSc) 1966, BA(Hons) 1966, MA 1984), who is making her second attempt to climb Mount Everest - what an inspiration to us all!

In other news, you may have read in *The Age* that the philanthropic income received in 2010 hit a record high with a total of \$46.7 million.

Over half of this amount came from two very large bequests - one for research in the Faculty of Science and the other was spread across five faculties (see the *Record-Breaking Bequest*

story below for more details). This once again, demonstrates the importance and long-term impact that bequests can have on all aspects of university life.

Finally, thank you to all those who responded to the Bequest Survey in April. If you haven't done the survey, it's not too late - we're happy to accept responses up until the end of June. When all the data is collated, a summary of the findings will be provided in the next newsletter.

Until then, I hope you enjoy this edition of the *Heritage Society Newsletter*.

With best wishes,

Ms Sue Girling-Butcher
Bequests Manager



Coming up: Morning Tea with an Expert in 2011

Thursday 21 July

**Rwanda: Never Again?
with Mr Ian Howie**
(BCom 1969)

Mr Howie will share his experience working with a nation recovering from genocide.

**Thursday 22
September**

**Memoir and Music,
with Anna Goldsworthy**
(PhD(Music) 2004)

Gain an insight into Dr Goldsworthy's memoir and be treated to a special musical performance.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Ms Lisa Flower, Special Events & Stewardship Officer, rsvp-event@unimelb.edu.au, **+61 3 8344 1750**.



A student studying in the Rowden White Library

In August 2010 the University became trustee of the AE Rowden White Foundation, and received more than \$16 million from the estate of Sir Alfred Edward Rowden White, CMG. This is the largest bequest received by the University in its history.

Sir Rowden (MBBS 1899, PhD 1906, LLD 1962) studied Medicine, was a resident in Ormond College, and during a long career as a physician was also a clinical instructor at the University. His will specified that his Foundation was to assist research at the University in medicine,

dentistry, engineering, science, agriculture and veterinary science.

From his death in 1963 and until being passed to the University in 2010, the Foundation was privately administered, for more than 40 years supporting myriad projects and equipment purchases in these fields, including a Varian 600 MHz NMR spectrometer (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance imaging equipment). Sir Rowden also donated his book collection to the Student Union, establishing the Rowden White Library at Union House in 1938.

University Staff Member Invests in the Future of International Learning

For Associate Professor Jane Munro, a University staff member and advocate for the transformative power of education, leaving a bequest to the University was a natural choice.

‘Education should be supported, it shouldn’t be restricted to those who can easily afford the cost’, says Assoc Prof Munro who has been the Head of International House for over seven years.

Education has been an important aspect of Assoc Prof Munro’s life. Prior to her current role, she was a teaching fellow at Harvard University, the Principal of Firbank Grammar School, a board member of the Melbourne Festival and Opera Australia, Director of The English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students, and Convenor of The Victoria Women’s Council. Recently she completed a term as Convenor of the Advisory Council at the ABC.



Associate Professor Jane Munro at last year’s Heritage Society Annual Luncheon

She has also been on the receiving end of philanthropic gifts, being awarded not one, but several scholarships in her lifetime; first as a secondary student then as an undergraduate at the University of Sydney, followed by a masters and PhD at Harvard University.

‘I’ve been very fortunate in my education to receive scholarships and opportunities’, says Assoc Prof Munro, a woman versed in three languages. And in what seems a fitting anecdote, Assoc Prof Munro recalls that as a Harvard student she sung in a paid choir which was established through a bequest.

Although Assoc Prof Munro cites her relationship with the University of Melbourne as the main reason for leaving a bequest, she also says that trust was an important factor.

‘I think one of the main concerns people have is whether their money will be properly applied’, says Assoc Prof Munro. ‘I think it’s important to leave an unrestricted bequest. The University is very scrupulous and I am confident that they will know what to do with my money when the time comes.’

She urges others to give so that the University can continue to provide opportunities to students, and create facilities and resources.

‘Government funding isn’t enough’, says Assoc Prof Munro. ‘It wouldn’t matter if it’s 1955 or 2011; the University needs an enormous amount of philanthropic support to sustain itself.’



Head of International House Associate Professor Jane Munro, pictured with student Sarah Chester

Needless to say, the International House experience is very dear to her heart and she firmly believes that the University will fulfil the college’s mission.

‘The International House mission is about growing and learning together; it’s studying together, living together, learning about each other’s cultures and making friends for life.’

Through a bequest to the University, Assoc Prof Munro is leaving a legacy for greater cultural understanding that will extend well beyond her lifetime.

For further information about International House, visit: ihouse.unimelb.edu.au

Arnhem Land Dogs

In the first Heritage Society event for 2011, Dr Elizabeth Tudor (BVSc(Hons) 1973) shared her experiences working on the Western Arnhem Land Dog Health Program (WALDHP).

She explained that many Indigenous communities in Australia have significant dog populations with little or no veterinary care. The WALDHP was established to enable staff and students to visit these areas and improve the health of the dogs through culturally appropriate care.

The program's success is two-fold; these communities

benefit from the team's visit and the Vet Science students learn a lot from their 'hands on' experience.

'Not only do our students get to practice desexing dogs and treating parasite infestations, they also get to learn about the human-animal bond in a different way', she said.

Dr Tudor also explained that the students who participated in the program often ended up coming back to these communities.

Relationship building, especially over time, was vital to what she described as 'a partnership model for sustainability'.



Top: Dr Pam Oliver, Professor Ken Hinchcliff, Mrs Jenny Cummins and Ms Sue Girling-Butcher



Bottom: Science student Ms Louise Sundermann with Heritage Society regulars Mr Ron McIntyre and Dr Geoffrey Mottershead

Student Reflection

'Dr Tudor's work is an inspiration to all students, showing how our work can not only benefit individuals, but entire communities.'

Ms Louise Sundermann, 2nd Year Science student

The Boyds: 'Footprints of a House'

In May, Dr Brenda Niall AO (BA(Hons) 1952) talked about the art of writing a biography using the example of the Boyds, one of Australia's most famous artistic dynasties.

Dr Niall recounted that the Boyd family presented her with 'so many characters and too many stories', so she decided that instead of writing a linear narrative she would dedicate each chapter of the biography to a Boyd and their home.

Quoting the architect Robin Boyd, she spoke about the 'strange sort of possessive love' that the Boyds had for their homes. She used their extraordinary attachment as a reference point, 'zooming in like a camera would, to focus on a particular period of time.'

She illustrated the effectiveness of using a central theme, such as the family home, to write a complex and compelling biography.

For more photos and event information, visit: unimelb.edu.au/alumni/giving/bequests/heritage



Mrs Gretta Wilkinson (right) and her guest Mrs Dorothy Wheeler



Dr Brenda Niall (right) in conversation with Mrs Anne Miller

Bequests

For information about including the University in your will, please contact

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Events

To find out about Heritage Society events, or provide feedback on the newsletter please contact

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