

REPORT TO DONORS

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

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“Thanks to your help, we are able to make significant contributions to solving global, social, economic and environmental challenges.”

FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Every day I am inspired by the generosity and enthusiasm of our supporters.

AS THE University of Melbourne prepares for a new Vice-Chancellor, it is wonderful to reflect on the extraordinary commitment you and so many others have shown in supporting the University.

By the end of 2017, 23,397 people had made gifts totalling \$746.6 million to *Believe – the Campaign for the University of Melbourne*. This outstanding generosity has made so much possible.

The impact can be seen across the University and beyond. New scholarships, programs and research centres are being developed in a wide range of disciplines. The outcome of this will be long-lasting: thanks to your help, we are able to make significant contributions to solving global, social, economic and environmental challenges. As one of the world’s leading universities, we believe we have a responsibility to do so.

It has been inspiring to see the increasing involvement of people throughout the University community. In 2017, over 28,000 of our alumni and friends were involved in the life of the University – participating in events, mentoring our students, and giving their valuable time and expertise as volunteers on boards and committees.

For all that you have contributed to the University, and all that this makes possible, I thank you.

GLYN DAVIS AC
VICE-CHANCELLOR

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

BELIEVE – THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

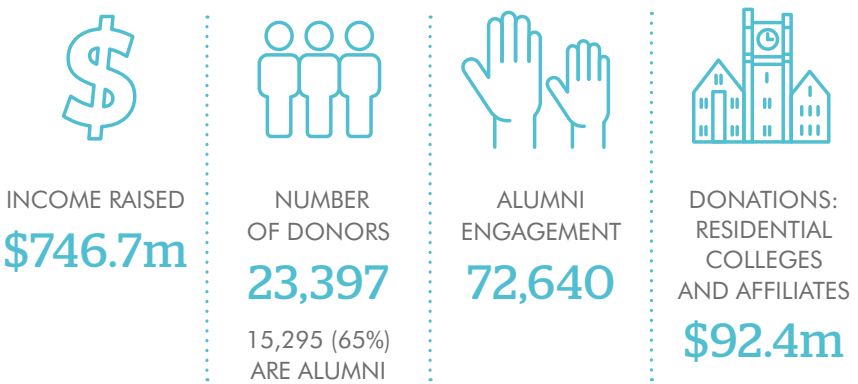
You are part of a visionary community – a global network of supporters whose vision and passion allow the University to make a true difference to our world.

Thanks to your gifts, made through Believe – the Campaign for the University of Melbourne, so much has been made possible. Your inspirational generosity – whether in the form of financial

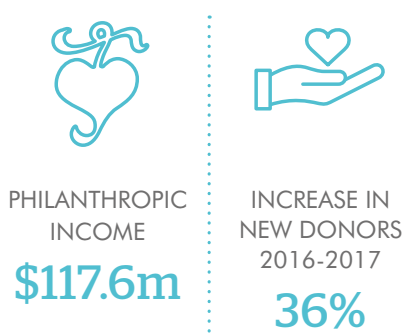
donations or gifts of time – is helping students from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue their dreams, enabling some of the world’s brightest minds to carry out ground-breaking research, and transforming communities around the globe.

The figures on these pages are impressive, but the impact of your giving goes far beyond the numbers. Quite simply, you are changing lives. Thank you.

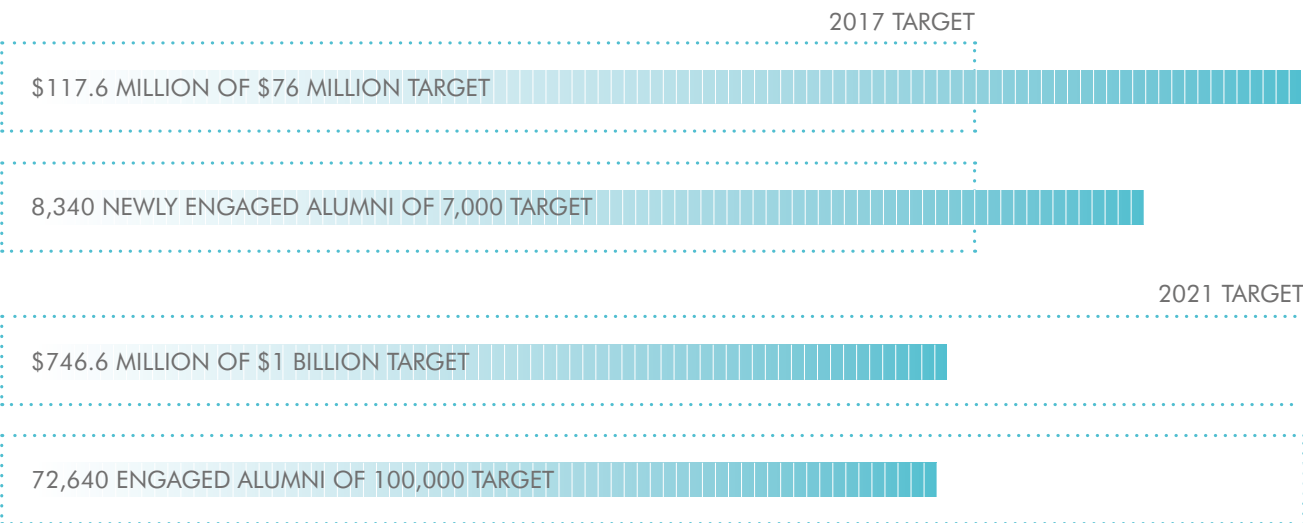
CAMPAIGN IN NUMBERS 2008-2017



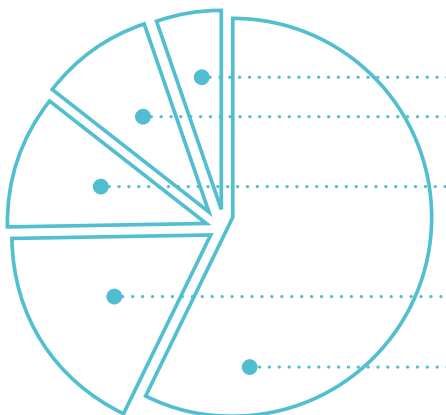
2017 IN NUMBERS



CAMPAIGN GOAL PROGRESS



HOW YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE



Thanks to you, we have been able to progress a wide range of initiatives that benefit our students, researchers and the wider community.

\$374.8m RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY
Gifts that drive innovation and tackle humanity’s biggest questions through the creation of academic positions, research programs and institutes

\$115.5m STUDENT SUPPORT
Help developing the leaders of tomorrow, through scholarships, awards, financial aid grants and projects supporting Indigenous student education

\$70.3m COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Support for initiatives that enrich our cultural and social life, such as Melbourne Theatre Company, University art collections and public lecture programs

\$59.9 LEARNING SPACES & CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT
Funding for the creation of first-class educational environments with high-quality equipment where students and researchers can excel

\$34.1 MULTI-PURPOSE GIFTS & UNRESTRICTED FUNDS
Donations used to support the University’s highest priorities, and those with broad-reaching impact across disciplines

These figures represent gifts to University funds 2008-2017 and do not include gifts to affiliated colleges or institutions. Data as at 19 March 2018.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

University of Melbourne alumni help in so many ways to support students, programs and activities across the University. Here are just some of the ways more than 3,500 alumni volunteers supported Advancement programs in 2017.

1,806
ALUMNI GAVE STUDENTS ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL AND LIFE MENTORING

1,013
ALUMNI PROVIDED GOVERNANCE, GUIDANCE AND GOODWILL ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

554
ALUMNI GAVE THEIR TIME ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO HELP ORGANISE OR SPEAK AT EVENTS

509
ALUMNI OFFERED TO SHARE THEIR STORIES AND EXPERIENCES THROUGH PROFILES AND INTERVIEWS IN UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

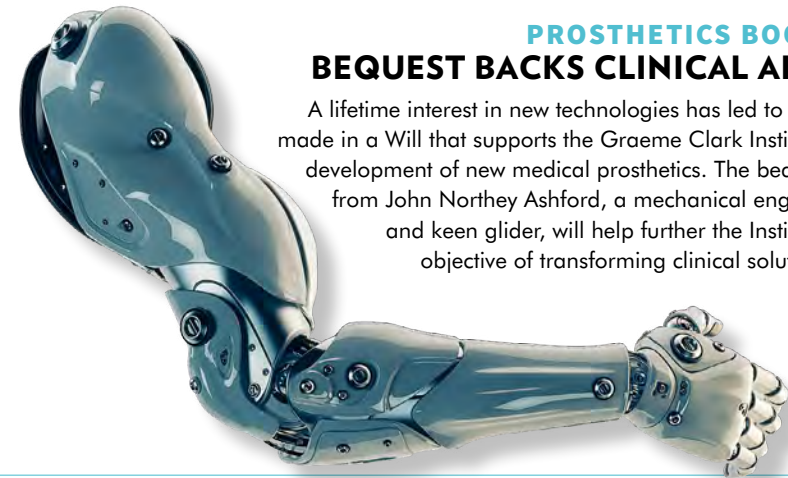
ON THE FARM
HELP FOR DOOKIE
ACCOMMODATION

For the first time in several years, agriculture students were able to spend a semester at the Dookie Campus. The value of this immersive rural experience proved so great that the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences has launched a scholarship appeal and residential accommodation fund to allow more students to benefit.



PROSTHETICS BOOST
BEQUEST BACKS CLINICAL AIMS

A lifetime interest in new technologies has led to a gift made in a Will that supports the Graeme Clark Institute’s development of new medical prosthetics. The bequest, from John Northey Ashford, a mechanical engineer and keen glider, will help further the Institute’s objective of transforming clinical solutions.



Cuttings, printed papers on ply, by Dr Elizabeth Gower.

ARTISTIC LICENCE
FELLOWSHIP MARKS ART’S 150TH AT VCA

The ART150 Fellowship was established with proceeds from the sale of artworks donated to the 9x5 NOW exhibition, part of the ART150 celebrations marking 150 years of art at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA). Works included this piece by Dr Elizabeth Gower, artist and senior academic. The inaugural recipient of the Fellowship was Aya Hamamoto (MContpArt 2017).

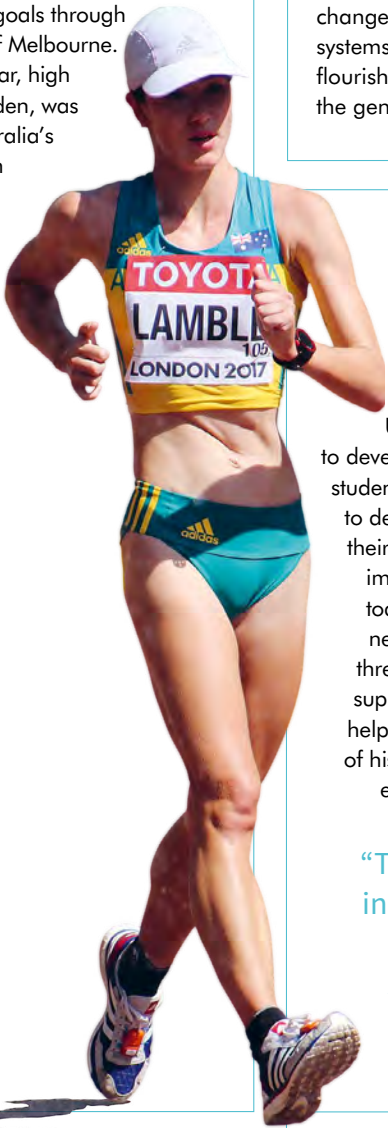


EARLY CHILDHOOD
SCHOLARSHIP
FOR INDIGENOUS
EDUCATORS

A passion for advancing reconciliation and promoting the welfare of young Indigenous Australians has led to a lasting legacy. Professor Emeritus Collette Tayler, a visionary and inspirational leader in early childhood education, made a gift shortly before she passed away. The resulting scholarship will help Indigenous students obtain a qualification in Early Childhood teaching, conduct research, and develop educational experiences to benefit young Indigenous children and their families.

SPORT
KEEPING HIGH
ACHIEVERS
ON TRACK

Race walker Regan Lamble, the 2017 Andrew and Geraldine Buxton Athletics Scholarship recipient, combined her studies with elite athletics last year representing Australia in the IAAF World Championships in London and placing first in the Australian University Games 5000m Walk. In 2018, Regan is commencing study in the Master of Social Work. The Andrew and Geraldine Buxton Athletics Scholarship seeks to support high achieving student athletes to pursue both their athletic and academic goals through the University of Melbourne. Inaugural scholar, high jumper Joel Baden, was selected in Australia’s Commonwealth Games team to compete on the Gold Coast in April, 2018.



TOWARDS SOCIAL EQUITY
EMPOWERING AGENTS FOR CHANGE

The Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity is a leadership program working with social change makers and community-based nation builders to shift attitudes, change systems and create opportunities to help Indigenous peoples and communities to flourish. Fifteen inaugural Fellows commenced the program in 2017, supported by the generosity of The Atlantic Philanthropies.

MAKING HISTORY
NEW CHAIR LIFTS
HISTORY PROFILE

The Hansen Trust has been established to transform the teaching of history at the University of Melbourne. It aims to develop a passion for History within students and the broader community, to deepen student engagement with their learning and to emphasise the importance of history in the world today. Appointments in 2017 to a new Hansen Chair in History and three new Hansen Lectureships, all supported by the Hansen Trust, are helping to reinvigorate the teaching of history at the University and build excellence and innovation in the Faculty of Arts.



“The establishment of the Hansen Chair is a game changer in a country where the success of a scholar is measured by his or her distance from the undergraduate classroom. As Hansen Chair, I am working to help return teaching to the status it deserves and I am relishing the challenge.”

Professor Mark Edele, Inaugural Hansen Chair in History

MEDICAL RESEARCH

THE QUEST ETERNAL

Donations are helping drive ground-breaking research that will make cancer more treatable.

IN as little as five years some of the worst cancers won't be fatal conditions.

One man working towards making this a reality is Professor Sean Grimmond, an international genomics expert who joined the University of Melbourne in 2016 as the Bertalli Chair in Cancer Medicine, thanks to a generous donation from Neville and Diana Bertalli.

Professor Grimmond is the inaugural Director of the University of Melbourne Centre for Cancer Research (UMCCR). He champions the University's cancer research strategy and is driving unprecedented collaboration between scientists and clinicians across the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre – the largest concentration of cancer researchers in Australia.

Recruiting Professor Grimmond was a major coup for the University and is enabling the rapid acceleration of this strategic research priority. The Bertallis' investment is playing an integral role in combatting a global health issue.

Despite significant advances in the treatment and management of common cancers such as breast and skin, there has been little progress in the past 50 years for some of the rarer and more challenging cancers. With increasing rates of obesity among the population, the prevalence of some of these cancers is also on the rise.

But, Professor Grimmond says, scientists are now at a tipping point where genomic research and technology will radically alter this course.

"Until now, we've largely been reliant on the microscope to understand the nature of diseases. We have determined the nature of cancer by identifying where it is growing and what the cells look like, but it has told us little about the root cause of the disease.

"Genomics is changing that by allowing us to analyse cancer at the DNA level, and the massive shift in computer technology is making it possible. It is becoming the microscope of the 21st century."



Other philanthropists are taking notice and, in 2017, the UMCCR under Professor Grimmond's leadership was the recipient of multi-million dollar investments from both the PMF Foundation and the Li Ka Shing Foundation. Professor Grimmond says these gifts will "enable unprecedented cancer discovery, accelerate translation of genomics into the clinic and ultimately improve outcomes for cancer sufferers".

Professor Grimmond and his team are now using genome discovery and precision oncology to unlock the secrets of some of the most challenging cancers, including upper gastrointestinal cancers, which can affect the oesophagus, stomach, gall bladder, liver, small intestine and pancreas.

While the PMF Foundation has made an important five-year commitment to support Professor Grimmond's precision oncology program more broadly, the Li Ka Shing Foundation hopes its gift will assist in making advances specifically in upper gastrointestinal cancer research.

The foundation's \$US3 million (\$A3.97 million) donation will enable the genomes of 250 patients with upper gastrointestinal cancers to be sequenced over three years. The study will collect genetic information from these patients that will contribute to a global knowledge base, enabling cancer specialists to better understand the cancers and determine more effective personalised therapies to treat them.

The project is led by Professor Grimmond and Professor Alex Boussioutas, Deputy Director of Gastroenterology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. By 2021, they plan to be using pioneering methods to grow human cancer tissue as 'organoids' so they can test their responsiveness to drugs before administering them to patients. It is also possible that decoding patients' tumours will reveal matches to existing drugs that currently treat other cancers.

According to Professor Boussioutas, the ultimate goal is to one day prevent cancers altogether with the use of genomics.



Professor Sean Grimmond, main, and with Professor Alex Boussioutas (top right). Above, Professor Grimmond meets then US Vice-President Joe Biden at the opening of the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre in 2016.

"As a clinician, prevention is the Holy Grail we are working towards," he says.

While there will still be ongoing challenges for Professors Grimmond and Boussioutas, as patients and their cancers become resistant to therapies, they remain committed and optimistic about the future of innovative cancer care.

"Cancer will increasingly become a chronic disease that we will be able to keep at bay," says Professor Boussioutas. "It is already starting to happen."

ENGAGEMENT

ON A PATH TO POLITICS

A University initiative is empowering women to join the political arena.

WHEN Stephanie Amir first entered politics as a candidate for Darebin Council in Melbourne's north, she had a secret weapon.

In 2016, at the same time that she was campaigning, Stephanie was participating in the University of Melbourne's Pathways to Politics Program for Women, a non-partisan graduate program that aims to redress the under-representation of women in Australian parliaments.

Stephanie says the program was very helpful during a campaign that could sometimes be "a bit cutthroat".

"To have Pathways to Politics was really valuable in terms of feeling supported during the stress of the campaign," she says.

Modelled on the Harvard Kennedy School's program 'From Harvard Square to the Oval Office', Pathways to Politics is the first initiative of its kind based in an Australian university.

Initiated by the Women's Leadership Institute of Australia and made possible by a generous donation from the Trawalla Foundation, the program was launched in 2015 by the Hon Julie Bishop MP, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, the University of Melbourne and Carol Schwartz AM, the program's founder and Trawalla chair.

Currently, women occupy fewer than 30 per cent of Australian parliamentary positions. This is a figure that the UN has declared the minimum level necessary in order for women to affect governmental policy and decision-making.

Pathways to Politics has been designed to address this shortcoming by encouraging and supporting female graduate students and alumni with political aspirations.

Stephanie, who worked as a scientist and then a policy advisor, was inspired to enter politics because she felt there was a lack of evidence-based policy making in government, particularly with regard to environmental issues.



PICTURE: CHRIS HOPKINS

Her campaign was ultimately successful, and she's been a councillor in the City of Darebin for 18 months now. It's a responsibility she has embraced wholeheartedly.

"Being a councillor, you have lots and lots of different roles," Stephanie says. "In some ways, it's like being on the board for a huge organisation that runs over 100 different programs and services, but you also have a role as a community advocate, a representative, and almost a bit like a magistrate making decisions for planning."



Councillors Stephanie Amir (left) and Sarah Mansfield (above) drew insights from the Pathways to Politics program for their forays into local government. The program was founded by leadership dynamo Carol Schwartz (top).



A positive of working in local government, Stephanie says, is that she's looking after spaces that belong to her own community and neighbours, which gives her a sense of pride and connection.

"Darebin is very multicultural, very diverse, and that's something that I really like," she says. "And it's fun being able to put those ideas into practice and seeing things I talked about during the campaign come to fruition."

Hearing from a variety of women MPs who spoke on Pathways to Politics panels had been invaluable. Their stories helped Stephanie remain encouraged during the tough times, gave her examples of how to stand up to sexism, and were a reminder that, just as earlier female politicians had paved the path for her, she could, in turn, lead the way for future generations.

Then there were the program's practical lessons, such as understanding how other party structures worked; also, different models of pre-selection and policy processes.

"It was helpful in thinking about politics and democracy more broadly," Stephanie says.

Pathways to Politics has produced a number of success stories. Alongside Stephanie, Susanne Newton, another 2016 participant, was also elected to Darebin Council. Two other fellows – Olivia Ball and Dr Sarah Mansfield – ran as candidates in the 2016 federal election, achieving significant electorate swings.

Olivia then ran as the Greens candidate for Melbourne Lord Mayor, placing second behind Robert Doyle. Meanwhile, Sarah was elected to the Greater Geelong City Council.

Sarah had applied to Pathways to Politics while running as a candidate in the federal election, and was thrilled to be accepted.

"At the start of the program, it was incredible to see how many exceptionally accomplished women admitted to lacking confidence to get involved in politics," she says.

"By the end of the program, and since graduating, many of the participants have gone on to nominate for preselection, get preselected, or succeed in getting elected. I think this demonstrates the powerful impact that having exposure to positive role models can have for women."

As for Stephanie Amir, she's now the program manager for Pathways to Politics in addition to her role at Darebin. Further down the track, she hopes to add to her political achievements by getting elected to the Victorian parliament.

"Women deserve to have the right to be in public office just as much as men do," she says. "By getting elected and then helping other women to get elected, we're contributing to positive change."

MENTORING

SOUNDING BOARD

Alumni are engaging with the University in myriad ways; mentoring is a standout.

STUART COLVIN
VOLUNTEER, MENTOR, DONOR

There are many things Stuart Colvin wishes he had known earlier in life, particularly about what he refers to as his “purpose”. Now, with time on his hands and a wealth of experience under his belt, the Bachelor of Science graduate (1969) is mentoring students with the aim of helping them identify what drives them – before they enter the workforce.

“I’m trying to give back the things I have learnt,” says the director of leadership and financial literacy at Colvin Associates International. “There are a lot of things I wish I’d known then. I think, why can’t I give that [knowledge] back to people earlier in their life?”

Having returned to Australia after living abroad for 44 years, Stuart was inspired to get involved in the University’s various mentoring programs. While living in the US, he had envied many of his associates who had remained deeply connected with their universities long after graduating.

On reconnecting with his own alma mater some years ago, Stuart was pleased to discover a culture of nurturing and encouraging of next-generation entrepreneurs. He started getting involved, albeit from long distance, by donating to various University programs, but soon decided that should his circumstances change he would love to expand his involvement by becoming hands-on.

Now back in Australia, he has become very engaged with the University, continuing to donate, attending lectures and masterclasses, and mentoring students such as Leonard Zou. Leonard was in the final year of his Bachelor of Science when he was paired with Stuart through the University’s Science Industry Mentoring program, which connects students from the Faculty of Science with alumni and industry professionals.

Leonard was trying to determine what to do once he’d completed his Bachelor degree; Stuart was perfectly placed to lend a hand.

“He was trying to decide between postgraduate study or going into the workforce,” says Stuart. “He felt as though it was a real unknown.”



The pair met up and, together, looked into Leonard’s career and study options, working on his CV and teasing out what really motivated him.

Stuart says a key aspect of his role was simply to listen and ask questions – “just being able to talk it through allowed him to reach his own decision.”

Stuart had asked Leonard to focus on what was important to him. In doing so, he hoped Leonard would be better prepared for the ever-changing nature of the workforce, by identifying what mattered most. Chuckling, he quotes the oft-banded prediction that people entering the workforce today are likely to have tasted eight different careers by the time they reach retirement age.

“I try to help them through more purpose-thinking because they are going to be changing jobs,” he explains. “I remember when I started work, it was expected that I’d work for the same company for my entire career. I nearly did.”

After working chiefly in software development over three decades, much of that time with IBM, Stuart formed a tech start-up with two partners called eScholar LLC. This allowed him to develop and put into practice his understanding of leadership and mentoring, during which time he and his wife started their own leadership training business.

Enriched by this experience, Stuart encourages his mentees through various programs – including also Access Connections and Welcome to Melbourne – to focus on “purpose-driven thinking”.

It was during one such discussion that Stuart learnt that Leonard hoped to use his maths and science knowledge to help others.

“I was helping him think through where he wanted to go in life,” says Stuart.

“Most people don’t have a clear purpose in life at that age. So we talked a lot about charitable efforts and a couple of charities that were looking for people like him.”

Inspired by their conversations, Leonard volunteered for an NGO to help combat human trafficking.

The pay-off for Stuart has been the reward of knowing that he was able to help guide Leonard through his decision-making. “I really liked that I could throw a couple of ideas out that he could move forward with.”

SUE PEDEN
VOLUNTEER, MENTOR

In 2014, when Sue Peden started thinking about additional ways that she might give back to the community, mentoring loomed as a no-brainer. “[It’s such] an easy way to contribute and something that’s really constructive and helpful for young people,” she says.

The prospect of being able to connect students with someone in their chosen field really appealed to Sue, a non-executive director and communications consultant with several years’ experience running her own business.

“For a lot of people coming into marketing or communications, they at least know someone who can introduce them to find out more about it,” says Sue, who graduated in 1987 with a Bachelor of Commerce. “But most of the mentees I work with have no connections like that at all.”

Working with the University’s Access Connections program, which matches alumni with students from regional or disadvantaged backgrounds, Sue has mentored six students; most recently, Media and Communications and Psychology student Chloe Tan.



Science graduate Leonard Zou catches up with mentor Stuart Colvin (far left), while marketing executive Sue Peden (top) has helped make connections for Chloe Tan.

Drawing on her many business connections, Sue was able to open a door for Chloe that gave her valuable insights.

“I was really after a practical experience and insight to my field of studies,” says Chloe. “So I applied for Access Connections and got paired with this amazing mentor.

“And that got me an internship, which really gave me an indication of what my future employers wanted from me and how I could improve on that. So, that was really a confidence boost.”

Sue and Chloe were paired at the beginning of 2017 and met twice during the official mentoring period and again several times towards the end of the year.

Sue says that although her six students have each wanted something different out of the mentoring experience, her role has remained fairly consistent; connecting them to someone in their preferred field, to help them decide if it’s what they’d really like to do. It may seem a relatively modest gesture, but is one that can have a huge impact in the lives of mentees.

“The students who apply for the program tend to be those who don’t have really good connections in Melbourne,” Sue adds. “Some are from outer suburban or regional areas, so they aren’t really tapped into the Melbourne business world.”

Having developed friendships with her mentees, Sue delights in learning of their progress and says she looks forward to seeing where Chloe’s future leads her.

“They’re great, young people; they’re all fantastic. They’ve all got a different story and they’re all on slightly different paths, so I think that aspect [of mentoring] is really enjoyable.

“They’re all really enthusiastic, that’s the other thing. They are very gracious and grateful.”

SCHOLARSHIPS

GIVING BACK

Three Melbourne alumni in New York continue their relationship with the University through scholarships.

MELBOURNE-raised Frank Azzopardi moved to New York City in September of 2001, a little more than a week before terrorists attacked the World Trade Center. It was a terrible time, but one that bonded him to the city and its people.

"Whether you've been here five minutes, five years or your whole life, everyone almost instantly feels a connection to the city and everyone finds a community," Frank says.

"In New York, people are completely agnostic as to where you're from," he adds. "It's all about merit and what you bring to the table."

Now a partner at renowned international law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell in Manhattan, Frank is part of a tight-knit group of Melbourne Law School alumni that have made the Big Apple their home.

Frank, Matt Edmonds and Malcolm Price are on the board of the University of Melbourne USA Foundation, which raises funds for scholarships and experiences that facilitate the exchange of students between Australia and the US.

"They're both wonderful human beings," Frank says of his fellow alumni. "Matt is one of my great friends in the city and Malcolm is just a tremendous role model for any Melbourne student who's looking to have a successful career in the US."

Frank himself is one of eight Australian partners at his firm.

"Australians tend to do well in the legal market here because there's almost an inbuilt pragmatism and commonsense approach to practice," he says. "And one of the things that Melbourne graduates should never take for granted is just how internationally renowned the institution is, especially the Law School."

All three have also donated to law scholarships to support a new generation of Australian legal scholars. Matt established the JAMAKEPE Foundation Scholarship, which supports a Melbourne Law School student undertaking an exchange program in the US.



Malcolm Price, Frank Azzopardi and Matt Edmonds step out in New York. The Melbourne Law School alumni have financed scholarships for Amani Green (top), Juris Doctor (2017) and 2017 recipient of the JAMAKEPE Scholarship; Jacquie Katona (above), Juris Doctor student and 2016 recipient of the Frank and Nicole Azzopardi Scholarship; and Matthew Bradford (below), Juris Doctor student and 2016 Price Scholarship recipient.



PICTURES: DAREN JAMES



Malcolm and his wife, Catherine, founded the Price Scholarship, which awards assistance to law students from regional Australia.

Frank and his wife started the Frank and Nicole Azzopardi Scholarship, which supports an Indigenous Australian student.

Frank was motivated to start the scholarship to give back to the University program that changed his life. Born in Malta, Frank migrated with his family to Melbourne's northern suburbs when he was a one-year-old. He says he never dreamed that someone of his financial background could make it into such a prestigious university.

"The idea of going to Melbourne University just seemed elusive given my circumstances and the quality of my high school," he says. "But I just persisted and worked hard and just kept raising my expectations in terms of what might be available to me."

He adds: "The day I got accepted into the Law School was really the first day of the rest of my life. It really did completely change my whole trajectory in life and just opened up a world of opportunities for me."

After completing a Law/Commerce degree, Frank backpacked through Europe, where he met Nicole, a recent law school graduate from Philadelphia. Several years later, they moved to New York.

He says his success at Davis Polk has allowed him to give back to the school that gave him so much.

"One of the principal reasons I wanted to do law was to be in a position where I could help people and give something back," he says. "I've been incredibly fortunate in my career because not only do I get to do this amazing work for this great law firm but I also get to leverage those skills and give back to the greater good."

Frank serves on the Board of Directors of Pro Bono Net, a non-profit organisation that helps low-income people access legal help. He is also part of the Global Lawyer program, where University of Melbourne students brought to the US can visit Davis Polk and learn about job opportunities.

He says his work with the University of Melbourne USA Foundation has kept him connected to the University community, and he wants to see it continue to flourish.

"Academic institutions in Australia are facing decreasing government funding and they don't have the historical underpinning of philanthropy that really sustains the US academic system," he says. "So, we're trying to change mindsets and help the University out so it can maintain that reputation of pre-eminence."

Frank says he hopes his scholarship will provide students like him with a degree that could change their lives.

"If I can help just one or two students stay the course over their legal education, and provide them with the idea that someone believes in their talent, believes in their career and is willing to support them, that's tremendously gratifying to me," he says.

PICTURE: DAVE GIFFIN

THE ARTS

CALLING THE TUNE

Computers do the conducting as musicians explore a new frontier in how technology is intersecting with music.

ALISTAIR McLean loves the ephemeral and experimental nature of improvised music, though he knows it can be off-putting to people unfamiliar with it.

"I felt a lot of the time that when we were playing quite conceptual improvised music, we just rocked up to a jazz club and played it and expected everyone to understand it," says Alistair, a musician and PhD candidate at the Victorian College of the Arts.

He was inspired instead by the work of contemporary classical musicians, who made more of an effort to appeal to audiences.

"Their communication with their audience is really great," he says. "There's a lot of thought and attention put into how to present work, how to get audiences engaged with challenging music and things that might be quite conceptual."

That was the genesis for the Australian Creative Music Ensemble (ACME), a group of improvisational artists dedicated to exploring new ideas – but in a way that is approachable to both musicians and non-musicians alike.

Alistair applied for and received the Alan C Rose Memorial Trust Scholarship, which funds a musical project intended to provide benefit to the community.

He says he wanted ACME to work in a way that was similar to fine artists participating in a group exhibition.

"In a group exhibition, you might have a central theme or a central question, but you don't ask everyone to respond in the same way."

The scholarship went towards the creation of *no new noise*, a program of three new works, which asked composers to respond to a provocative central question: how long will it be before musicians are replaced by artificial intelligence?

As part of the performance, musicians relied on a customised computer program to direct them via a series of commands that were displayed as icons on a screen.

"There's a lot of talk around artificial intelligence replacing manual labour jobs, but there hasn't been a lot of thought about how this might impact on creative jobs, or specifically on music," says Alistair. "As musicians, I think we feel like there's already been a lot of technical changes that have already changed the industry for us."

He cites the advent of recorded music, which limited the demand for live performance, and computer programs that can mimic the sounds of live instruments.

Featuring compositions by Alistair and two of his ACME colleagues, Joe O'Connor and Reuben Lewis, *no new noise* debuted in October 2017 at the Melbourne Festival.

The performance featured eight ACME musicians, including a vocalist, in the repurposed Substation multi-arts building in Newport, Melbourne. They used visual elements, such as icons on a gaming board, and an explanatory program to make the central idea of the performance as explicit as possible.

In Alistair's piece, *electric sheep*, audiences could watch as a customised computer program directed the ensemble through a series of commands, such as "play freely" or "rudely". Playing at the whim of a computer-conductor made for a series of humorous non-sequiturs; tricky transitions from "obnoxious" to "dreamy", for example.

"A lot of the joy in that piece is where the computer intelligence fails," says Alistair. "You've got musicians who need to find a way to play their way out of a very silly set of instructions."

"It's often quite funny, but it still presents one way that this change could happen and we could be directly influenced by artificial intelligence as composers and musicians."

Reuben's piece, *I know that I know*, stemmed from his conversations with online chat bots, which helped him compose. Joe's work, *Partial Disclosure*, examined the idea that music is usually already changed by its interaction with technology.



PICTURES: RAPHAEL RUZUA CREATIVE



Alistair says he wanted audiences to think about the ways music has already been affected by technology, whether it has been recorded, processed, amplified or altered.

"When you capture a voice in a microphone, it gets turned into electrical energy, then you convert it into a digital signal and it's ones and zeroes," he says. "Already, there's hundreds of processes going on that are changing things but we're used to that and we don't even notice it."

"We'd be much better off to approach it with an open mind rather than avoiding it and hoping it doesn't happen."

The granddaughter of the scholarship's namesake attended the performance.

Alan Rose was the founder of Rose Music Pty Ltd and a great supporter of early career artists, particularly in helping to further their education through masterclasses. The Alan C Rose Memorial Fund was established in 1979 by public appeal in memory of his life and work.

"Obviously the funding is a huge gift," says Alistair, "and for [the family] to attend the concert and engage was really appreciated." He hopes that people who saw the performance would be inspired to reconsider improvised music as a form of art that can be dynamic, progressive and important.

"There's a lot of really exciting music that people would love and be interested in if there was an avenue to engage with it."

GIFTS IN WILLS

PRESERVING THE WORD

A generous gift in a Will is helping prevent the irreplaceable loss of culture, identity and scientific knowledge that comes with the disappearance of language.

PROFESSOR Rachel Nordlinger has crisscrossed the country as part of her mission to help Aboriginal communities preserve their languages. With the help of the elders who were its last fluent speakers, she created the only dictionary of the Wambaya language that for thousands of years has been spoken throughout the Barkly Tablelands region of the Northern Territory.

"For them, to hold this book, which was 350 pages long and represented their knowledge, was really powerful and emotional," says Professor Nordlinger.

"I think it must be incredibly lonely to be one of the last speakers of your language and to feel that weight of responsibility – that you're carrying 30,000 years of heritage and it could go with you."

Professor Nordlinger and her team at the University's Research Unit for Indigenous Language (RUIL) want to help lift that weight. They are working to support, maintain and learn from more than 100 Aboriginal languages still being spoken in communities across Australia.

"Language is really closely connected to people's sense of identity, community and history, so there's a very emotional element to language being lost," she says.

Her team also believes that the cultural, historical and scientific knowledge contained within Aboriginal languages is irreplaceable.

"Knowledge, like histories, songs and ceremonies, is often tied up in a particular language," she continues. "If the community stops speaking the language and switches to English, they don't translate all of the stories and songs and ceremonies."

The Unit will now be able to continue this work in perpetuity, thanks to a generous gift from the estate of a man who also understood the power and value of language.



The late Duncan Leary graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1955 with a Bachelor of Arts. He met his life partner, chef Ernest Lanz, in Geneva, Switzerland, before the couple returned permanently to Melbourne in the 1960s.

A man of tremendous erudition, Duncan maintained a strong association with the University for the rest of his life, studying many subjects through Melbourne's continuing education program, including a number in the fields of Aboriginal history and culture.

Though we know little about his connection to Indigenous languages, it is clear that Duncan was a passionate linguist, speaking five languages in addition to English. His bequest is one of the largest ever given to the study of Indigenous languages.



"It really is an extraordinary gift," says Professor Nordlinger. "It will really enable us to make a significant difference to the work we are already doing."

Aside from their cultural and historical significance, Professor Nordlinger says languages contain centuries of scientific knowledge of use to researchers in a range of fields. Speakers of the Wambaya language, for example, gave her words for native trees that had not been identified by non-Indigenous botanists.



Professor Rachel Nordlinger, in the field and above, is helping preserve 30,000 years of Indigenous heritage, thanks to the generosity of Duncan Leary, pictured far left with partner Ernest Lanz (left).

"There's a lot of knowledge about the environment and the flora and fauna of the country where people live that's all tied up in the language," she says.

Professor Nordlinger says the study of Indigenous Australian languages can also help researchers learn more about how language develops in the brain.

"Most of the research around the world about how languages are learned comes from children learning English or German or French," she adds. "We then assume that kids all learn language in the same way."

"But it can work very differently when children are learning different languages, such as Aboriginal languages. That's important for us to know because it tells us something about how the brain works."

Professor Nordlinger says she hopes to use some of the gift to increase the number of Indigenous people working with the University's linguistics program, and to increase the public's awareness of the importance of Aboriginal languages.

"I don't think Australians really understand what a sort of treasure they are," she says. "They are so important to Indigenous people; it's really a very positive way we can engage with Indigenous communities."

MEDICAL RESEARCH

BREAK THE SILENCE

A special appeal has helped put researchers on the brink of developing a life-saving blood test.

EVERY day in Australia, six families experience the devastating loss of a child to stillbirth. One in 130 Australian families are affected. Despite huge advances in many aspects of maternal care, the number of lives lost to stillbirth remains alarmingly high.

However, research being undertaken at the University of Melbourne is aiming to change that and to break the silence around stillbirth. A simple blood test that could help identify babies most at risk of stillbirth is tantalisingly close.

This potentially life-saving work has recently been supported by more than 800 donors to a University fundraising appeal.

While all the exact causes of stillbirth are not yet fully understood, it is known that one of the biggest contributors is fetal growth restriction, which can occur when the fetus does not receive enough placental nutrition or oxygen within the womb. This can happen for many reasons, but the end result is the same: a fetus that fails to grow well, and is three to four times more likely to be stillborn.

Measuring the mother's abdomen and using ultrasound still only detects around 20-30 per cent of small babies, so the research team is focusing its efforts on finding ways of establishing if the placenta is working effectively to identify babies at risk of being stillborn.

The research is being led by Professor Susan Walker, Sheila Handbury Chair of Maternal Fetal Medicine, Head of the University's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Director of Perinatal Medicine at the Mercy Hospital for Women, and Professor Stephen Tong, leader of the Mercy-based Translational Obstetrics Group.

Together with their team of clinicians and scientists, they are undertaking a major clinical study to better identify babies experiencing fetal growth restriction.

"We have identified a distinctive signature in the mothers' blood that can indicate when a baby is destined to be born small," says Professor Walker.



Professor Susan Walker is leading research into a new blood test that will help reduce the rate of preventable stillbirth.

Thanks to 808 donors – more than 500 of whom had never previously made a gift through the University – \$110,989 has already been raised to support this important work.

Every dollar generously donated to this appeal is being used to further refine and develop the blood test that will assess placental health and identify babies previously not recognised as being in jeopardy.

It is the team's hope that, through the support of donors, more of these babies will be brought safely home.

Many families affected by stillbirth also took the time to share their stories of loss with the team, and their enthusiasm for Professor Walker's work.

One Melbourne woman wrote about her tragic loss in 1964. Receiving the appeal gave her the long-awaited opportunity to tell her story and look for closure to the tragedy she had experienced more than 50 years ago.

Like many who experience this tragedy, her baby was at full-term, but when she arrived at the hospital nursing staff could not find a heartbeat. She wrote that she could "still hear the dismayed gasp of the midwife" as she realised the baby had died.

At the time, medical staff told the grieving mother that her daughter's death was probably due to a defect of the heart or central nervous system, but offered no possible cause for such a defect.

"After four days I was sent home ... I was not given a chance to hold my baby ... Nobody asked what I wanted," she wrote. "I learned the hard lesson that anyone can be a statistic.

"Yes, it was a silent tragedy, but the information about your research has prompted me to break my silence and do what I can to prevent others having to suffer the loss of a newborn baby."

Professor Walker says she was grateful to those who shared their stories. "It is a reminder to us that even though many of these stories date back over several decades, families never forget the babies they were unable to bring home."

Through the support of generous donors, and the incredible work of Professor Walker and her team, we're one step closer to reducing preventable stillbirth.



"Using the most sophisticated techniques, we have isolated both genetic and protein markers originating from the placenta. Measuring these markers of placental health will enable us to identify babies that are not growing well, or where that placenta is not functioning optimally.

"By identifying babies at risk, monitoring them closely, and expediting delivery, we hope to bring on the day when the rate of stillbirth falls – a day which has not occurred for the last three decades."



INNOVATION

DRIVING SOLUTIONS

Identifying how collusion works promises to boost competition where it is least expected — in regional communities.

BIG data innovations are helping shine a light on issues affecting regional Australia, and a University of Melbourne academic is at the forefront of the transition.

Support from the Samuel and June Hordern Endowment helped Dr David Byrne undertake groundbreaking research into “tacit collusion” in Perth’s petrol market.

Tacit collusion can occur when, without explicitly talking to each other, companies raise prices in tandem. A dominant company might raise its prices, for example, and then other companies, seeing what it is doing, raise theirs accordingly.

It is different to explicit collusion, which is illegal.

Along with a colleague from the University of Sydney, Dr Byrne secured access to information on the price of petrol at every single pump in Perth from 2001 to 2015.

The result was a complete set of data, a relative rarity in the world of economics. “For years, economists have studied collusion after it’s already established,” says Dr Byrne, a senior lecturer in the Department of Economics and a director at the University’s Centre for Market Design. “Having super rich micro data on prices that researchers haven’t previously had access to allows us to study the evolution of pricing behaviour over time.

“Perth is the context for this, but these data sets are now emerging in retail markets around the world, especially regional ones.”

Dr Byrne’s research found evidence of “tacit collusion” among petrol companies in raising prices. He does not suggest that any explicit collusion took place. But it didn’t have to – companies could see what dominant market players were doing, and adjusted their prices accordingly.

Dr Byrne found that the companies doubled their profit margins between 2010 and 2015, from 5 per cent to 10 per cent, costing a typical petrol consumer around \$150 to \$200 per year.



“It shows how companies, without phone calls, are able to co-ordinate,” he notes.

Thanks to the emergence of big data sets like this one, researchers are beginning to paint detailed pictures of how regional markets work. This is something of a breakthrough in economics, where data has often been concentrated where people are – in cities.

“It’s like we have a new microscope allowing us to gain insights into what regional market competition looks like,” he says enthusiastically.

Dr Byrne is currently partnering with the NSW government on a research project analysing petrol data in all urban and regional markets across the state. The research makes use of the state’s FuelCheck website, which was designed to give consumers up-to-the-minute information on petrol prices at every pump in NSW.

Dr Byrne says that high petrol prices are a major problem in regional markets, where there’s less competition than in the cities.

“There’s very good reason to believe, based on research I’ve done in Canada on petrol, that we will potentially find even larger issues in rural places, where markets are even more concentrated.”

The rise of big data might be ushering in research breakthroughs, but it’s also creating all sorts of opportunities for collusion-like activities. Information that’s available to researchers and consumers is also available to companies.

Dr Byrne notes that, in a legal context, collusion can currently only be proved if it can be established that firms communicated with each other.

“The definition in the law is that the medium for communication is words. Phone calls, emails ... that sort of stuff.”

So, what happens when companies start using big data and algorithms to change their prices automatically based on those of their competitors? We could very well see “battling algorithms”, operated by companies and regulators, duking it out to adjust prices or detect collusive behaviour. And while that might play out on a global stage, the impact on regional Australia would be profound.

Dr David Byrne collected price data from Perth petrol pumps over more than a decade to understand the genesis of “tacit collusion”.



PICTURE: STEVE MCKENZIE

“We already worry in rural markets that tacit collusion exists because there’s so few petrol stations who all watch each other,” he says. “This would only exacerbate some of these problems and bring them to even larger markets.”

Established in 2011 by the Aranday, Yulgilbar and Myer Foundations, the Samuel and June Hordern Endowment supports activities that increase linkages between the Faculty of Business and Economics and rural Australia.

Funding from the endowment helped Dr Byrne’s research in two very different ways. Crucially, it helped the researchers promote their findings more broadly, and talk directly to governments. They presented workshops on their case study to regulators far and wide: from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to the US Federal Trade Commission in Washington DC.

Thanks to this profile building, the case study was featured at a 2017 OECD conference for global antitrust agencies.

“If you just wait for governments to find the research they’ll eventually find it, but it could take years. We just went out and got things rolling. [We are now] informing an ongoing debate around big data and algorithmic collusion.”

The funding also helped the researchers buy “auxiliary data” to firm up their findings by contrasting the Perth data with other markets.

“This funding is contributing to solving a massive societal challenge that will affect not just Australians but people around the world,” Dr Byrne says. He both recognises and relishes the challenge algorithmic collusion poses to researchers and regulators.

“It’s a hard problem, but universities hit their stride when people are working on the hard problems that societies are facing.”

SUSTAINABILITY

IT'S PERSONAL

A unique University project is empowering people to join in the battle against climate change.

LINH Do believes in the power of individuals to effect change, and she has the personal experience to prove it. She was 15 in 2006, when she started a successful campaign to swap all the incandescent light bulbs in her school for more energy-efficient ones.

The campaign spread to schools across the country and the following year Linh was invited to attend a three-day activism training workshop hosted by former US Vice-President Al Gore, just a year after the release of Gore's Oscar-winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.

"It was an extremely formative experience," she says, "just to see the diversity of people in the room and the multitude of possible ways that one could approach climate change."

"We had people like me, school students, as well as teachers, engineers, doctors, farmers, all sorts of people who understood the implications of what climate change will mean in the coming decades."

The training session Linh attended became the foundation for Gore's Climate Reality Project, a global non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting grassroots action on climate change.

More than a decade later, Linh serves as the project manager for its Australian branch, which is now hosted by the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute at the University of Melbourne.

"It feels like coming full circle," Linh says.

The University of Melbourne office works as the co-ordinating hub for the Climate Reality Project in the Asia-Pacific Region. It's a big task, but Linh says the organisation is still committed to helping individuals fight climate change within their own communities.

"At Climate Reality we're all about empowering people to go out there and create change in a way that makes sense for them, and recognising that there is no cookie-cutter approach," she says.

"Everyone has a role to play no matter how small or big that role is."



PICTURE: STEVE MCKENZIE

Linh says the Climate Reality Project focuses on talking to the public about climate change. And it also works to build a diverse group of Australian Climate Leaders – people who have participated in Gore's training sessions – to take action on climate change in their local communities.

"That's everything from the individuals who are going out there trying to change local government policy through starting a petition or engaging with their community, or hosting a town hall, to the people who end up running for public office," she says.



"You probably encounter our Climate Leaders in everyday life without necessarily realising it."

For example, the Climate Reality Project Australia supported the work of Natalie Isaacs, founder of 1 Million Women, which calls on women to take practical action on climate change. It has worked with local activists, such as Peter Hormann, an Honorary Research Fellow at the University, who organises community climate stalls at local markets. Other examples of Climate Leaders include ABC radio host and singer Clare Bowditch, landscape designer and television personality Jamie Durie, and journalist Indira Naidoo.

Linh says the Climate Reality Project places an emphasis on local initiatives because they personalise climate change, which can feel like an overwhelming and impenetrable problem.

"People trust the message when they trust the messenger, which is important given how complex climate change is as an issue and how abstract and scientific."

The project is integral to the work of the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, which aims to connect sustainability research to public discourse about climate change. Don Henry AM, Melbourne

Enterprise Professor of Environmentalism and international board member of the Climate Reality Project, is also based at MSSSI.

It is the first time that a global branch of Climate Reality has been hosted within a university.

"It's been really exciting to have access to experts who are doing cutting-edge innovative research – in terms of the scientific impacts and the various solutions to climate change," she adds. "And we're helping them communicate that information to a broader audience."

The project, which moved to the MSSSI from the Australian Conservation Foundation in 2016, is still in its early days at the University, but Linh hopes to focus on making connections between the academic world and general public.

"Bridging what's happening in the academic world and translating that into things that are much more accessible and relatable to people has been a really exciting opportunity for both us and also the University of Melbourne," she says.

"Universities are big places of experimentation and this last year has been a really good opportunity to experiment with different forms of engagement, different forms of change making in a really vibrant community that's constantly changing."

Main image: Linh Do, of the Climate Reality Project, on the Parkville campus with Professor Don Henry; and, above, appearing alongside former US Vice-President Al Gore and Darrell Wade, Co-Founder and Executive Chair of Intrepid Group, at the 10-year celebration of Climate Reality.

The Melbourne Chapter of the Climate Reality Project has received support from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

SCHOLARSHIPS

THINKING GLOBALLY

Chukwuma Okonkwo, Master of Public Policy and Management student and recipient of a Faculty of Arts 110 Scholarship, shares his story.

Growing up in Nigeria in a less privileged background presented me with financial and academic challenges, but also helped me realise the value of education.

FROM NIGERIA TO AUSTRALIA

Before I came to Australia I was working on policy for the Nigerian government under the Minister of Finance. I thought it was important to formally study policy making and develop the practical skills I felt I was lacking.

There was an election in Nigeria in 2015 and the government that I worked for lost the election. When you are working for a political party and they go, you go too. I was debating what I wanted to do next. Did I want to stay in Nigeria and find another job? Or should I formalise my policy-making experience? I decided to pursue further study and arrived in Melbourne soon after.

It was tough arriving in a new country, but lots of things about life are tough and you just have to adjust. I decided to apply for the 110 Scholarship because it had become very difficult for me to survive in my new environment.

MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

It's really hard to express how I felt when my application was successful; to say that I was excited would be an understatement.

The scholarship wasn't just a beacon of hope, it was a launch pad. It gave me the motivation and support I needed to continue.

The scholarship has also inspired me to someday give back to people. It gives me motivation to give back to the community who gave so much to me. I made a promise to myself that at some point in my life I want to set up a scholarship fund. It's something that I've seen a lot of people in the University community do, especially alumni.

There are so many students who are facing financial challenges. It doesn't matter how much you give, every little bit will gradually make a significant difference.



The scholarship I received represented an answer to my call for help when my cry was loudest. My academic pursuit this year would have been impossible without it.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The reason I started studying the Master of Public Policy and Management was because I wanted to return to Nigeria and work for the government. I am also hoping to continue my studies and pursue a doctorate in public sector development. One of the great things about public policy is that it's global. But I'm especially interested in developing countries.

I am committed to my academic pursuit. I hope that someday I might be able to give back to the University and help to give other people an opportunity like the one I have been given.

The Faculty of Arts 110 Scholarship, commemorating 110 years of the Faculty, aims to ensure that an Arts degree continues to be accessible to all students, no matter their background. The scholarship nurtures a new generation of thinkers and leaders and is only possible due to the 214 donors who believe in increasing access and equity for students who may struggle to find the means to come to the University.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your support of the University of Melbourne.

Your generosity is transforming the lives of so many students and making an impact across the University community and wider society. We particularly wish to thank those donors within our recognition societies who together make an outstanding contribution to the work of the University.



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In recognition of those who have remembered the University in their Will

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ON THE COVER

Alistair McLean applied for and received the Alan C Rose Memorial Trust Scholarship, which funds a musical project intended to provide benefit to the community.

“The funding is a huge gift . . . there’s a lot of really exciting music that people would love and be interested in if there was an avenue to engage with it.”

COVER PICTURE: RAPHAEL RUZ/UA CREATIVE