

# Creating Futures

Celebrating Gifts in Wills at the University of Melbourne



DECEMBER 2020



## A holistic perspective provides opportunities for law students

**Michael Pearce SC is grateful for his good fortune and has committed to helping provide financial assistance to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who wish to study law.**

Michael was a late starter to tertiary study. After completing secondary school, he completed only one year of an Arts degree at the University of Melbourne before deferring.

He travelled to the UK, where he taught French and English at a primary school, and to Germany, where he had previously spent time as an exchange student.

“I am a great believer in misspending some of your youth,” he says.

Michael originally planned to pursue a career in journalism, but jettisoned the idea following one of Australia’s seminal moments – the 1975 constitutional crisis. He was in the UK, observing the crisis with great interest and resolved to transfer across to law studies.

Upon returning to Australia, Michael resumed his Bachelor of Arts and commenced a Bachelor of Laws. This time, study was a more enjoyable experience and he graduated from the University in 1981. Michael ascribes much of his enjoyment of university life to maturity. He believes that the so-called Melbourne Model at the University of Melbourne – which leaves the vocational education component largely to postgraduate courses – offers contemporary students the opportunity to enjoy a similar study path.

“It gives you time to grow up a bit and get a good general education,” he says.

Michael believes passionately in the importance of a broad education. He argues that sound employability comes from possessing a well-rounded knowledge and a flexible mindset.

“There is no doubt that graduates require specific qualifications, but there is value in more generalised skills too.”

Michael’s post-University life reflects this philosophy. The vocational skills received through law have formed the backbone of his career, which began with an articulated clerkship at a Melbourne-based firm. In 1984 he was seconded to Canberra, where he worked in the Commonwealth Attorney General’s Department. He then undertook postgraduate research in the area of international law through the Australian National University.

This period of Michael’s life emphasised the importance of travel and a curious mind, as he completed much of his postgraduate degree overseas. Michael returned to Germany (where he was a research assistant at the University of Hamburg), before heading to the USA and the world of commercial law. His career has been varied and successful since what he describes as the days of ‘misspent youth’ – he is currently a practicing Senior Counsel in commercial, administrative and employment law.

Michael’s fortunate journey across continents and careers motivated him to provide today’s students with outstanding opportunities. Funding circumstances have shifted considerably since the 1970s, when Michael benefitted from a free university education. He now wants other bright minds to thrive with the possibilities offered by a University of Melbourne education,

providing regular gifts to the Melbourne Law School for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. While the funding mix from governments and individuals is complex, Michael hopes his support for scholarships will make a difference.

He has also pledged to extend this giving through a gift in his Will.

Professor Pip Nicholson, Dean of Melbourne Law School, is delighted that Michael has made this commitment.

“Melbourne Law School deeply appreciates gifts in Wills, like Michael’s, as they ensure that talented students, irrespective of their background, can access MLS’s world class legal education,” she says.

“By leaving a gift in your Will, you are securing access to MLS for generations of students.”

In the meantime, Michael is looking towards life after work. Idleness will certainly not be a problem as he intends to do some writing and continue in his role as Honorary Consul for Germany, a position he has held for the past eight years. His connections to Germany run deep.

“I feel quite at home in Germany,” he remarks, citing not only his experiences there, but also his interest in its rich history, culture and language.

On learning a foreign language, he quotes Goethe who praised the endeavour: *‘Wer fremde Sprachen nicht kennt, weiss nichts von seiner eigenen’* (‘He who knows no foreign languages knows nothing of his own’).

“I’m a great believer  
in misspending some  
of your youth.”

MICHAEL PEARCE SC



## A message from our Vice-Chancellor

Dear Heritage Society members,

This year has been unique for everyone. In a decades-long career I have never seen the world turned so upside down as it was by the onset of COVID-19. I am sure we all feel the same.

During this time, I have learned some valuable lessons – particularly about the strength of community that surrounds a great university like Melbourne, and the incomparable value of our mission as an outstanding institution of higher education.

There have been so many examples of both. One was the spontaneous generosity of so many alumni who made donations to support the many students who were hard hit financially by the impact of this new disease.

Another was the stellar work by researchers at The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity to make early breakthroughs in growing the SARS-COV-2 virus, boosting the collaborative scientific effort worldwide to understand and fight COVID-19.

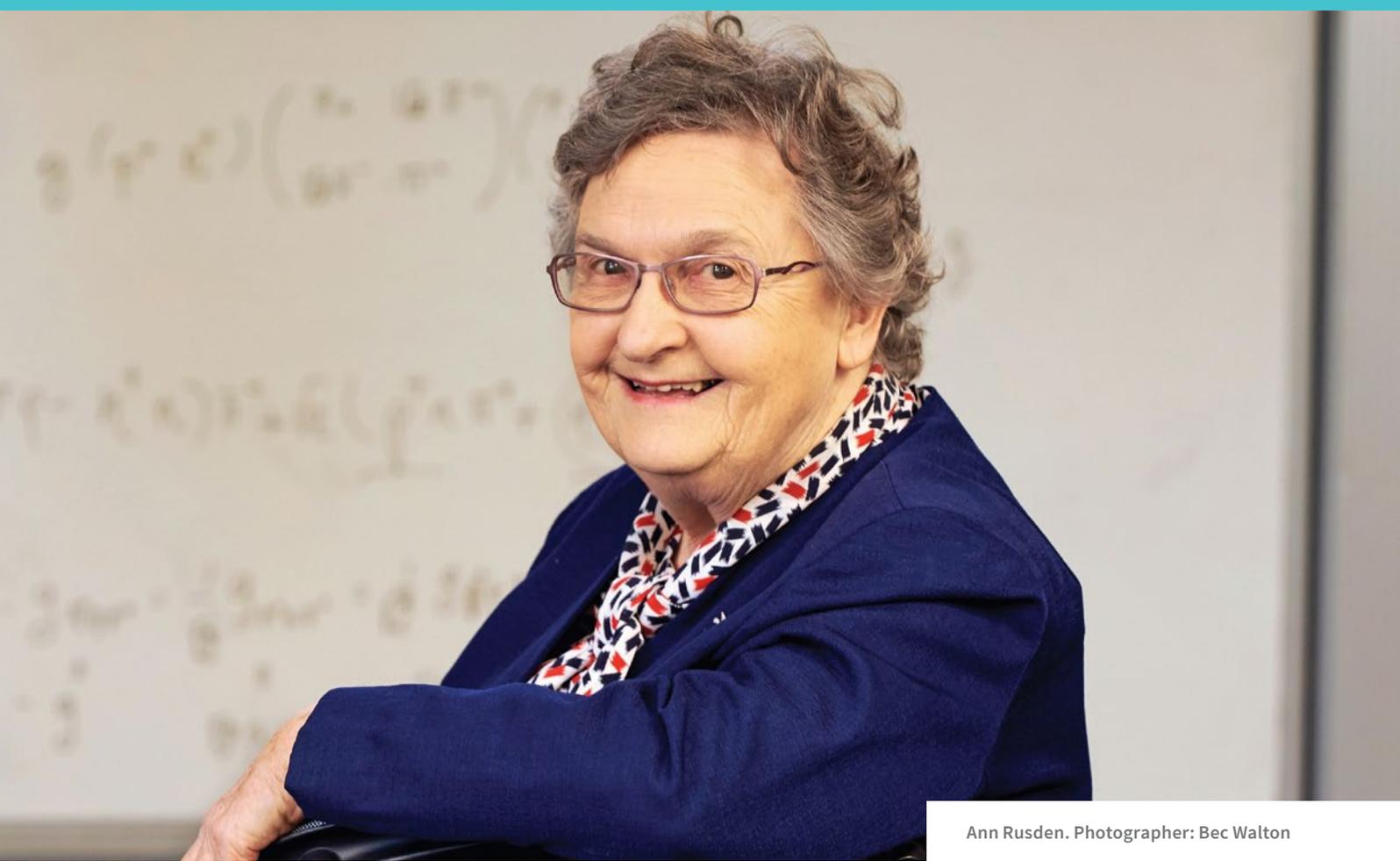
In similar vein, our students and staff members have done fantastic work taking our learning and teaching online for the necessary period of lockdown, along with as much of our research as possible, rapidly and without fuss.

Overall, the University has made extraordinary contributions throughout 2020. We have been able to achieve this in the face of COVID-19 because of our enormously strong human base in education and research across many different disciplines.

You, as members of the Heritage Society, have played an important part in helping to maintain our strong University community. Your pledge to support us in the years to come is greatly appreciated, and will help us fulfill our mission to remain an outstanding institution of higher education.

I thank you for your continuing support.

**PROFESSOR DUNCAN MASKELL**  
VICE-CHANCELLOR



Ann Rusden. Photographer: Bec Walton

## Children of the stars

**Through a gift in her Will, Ann Rusden hopes that more people like Associate Professor Michele Trenti can continue to ask the big questions.**

Ann Rusden believes in the power of education.

Born and raised in the Latrobe Valley town of Yallourn, Ann came from a home that valued learning, as demonstrated by her mother (a nurse) and father (a civil engineer).

Ann made her mark early when she won a Commonwealth Scholarship to study at the University of Melbourne. It was an astonishing achievement, as she was one of only two students in her class at an all-girls school to matriculate in science – a statistic that reveals much about society’s different educational expectations for women in the 1950s.

Ann studied physics at the University, where she was a non-resident member of Janet Clarke Hall – at the time the women’s college associated with Trinity College and home to her science tutorials.

Teaching became Ann’s profession. She had accepted a secondary teaching position before completing her studies and a long career in education followed. Ann taught in England and became Principal at Camberwell High School. Physics became her teaching passion.

“I loved teaching physics – getting the students enthused about the subject,” Ann says.

“That’s one of the rewards of the profession, seeing children develop and succeed.

“I got very involved in physics education, as a member of the Physics Standing Committee, which helps write the Victorian physics curriculum.”

While she’s no longer at the front of the classroom or in the Principal’s chair, Ann continues to devote herself to helping others flourish and grow. She’s an active

volunteer and has served on a number of committees at the University for decades.

Ann's passion for physics continues with a gift in her Will. One day, her gift will support research in astrophysics, a field that currently fascinates Associate Professor Michele Trenti from the School of Physics. Through his research, Michele is helping to discover the mysteries of the universe. He is following his childhood dreams, which began when he would marvel at the night sky at home in Italy. From that curiosity, a universe of possibilities opened up.

"What fascinates me most is how vast space is," he says.

"There are 100 billion stars in a typical galaxy like the Milky Way, the one we live in, and we think there are 100 billion galaxies in the universe. These numbers are really challenging to visualise, even for professional astronomers."

**"That's one of the rewards of the profession, seeing children develop and succeed."**

**ANN RUSDEN**

After completing his PhD in Italy, Michele has held research positions on both sides of the Atlantic. He now studies the formation and evolution of galaxies, stars and black holes across cosmic time, "with a particular focus on the first billion years after the Big Bang, so 13 billion years ago."

As a Principal Investigator of observing programs on the Hubble Space Telescope, Michele is using data from the telescope to find these distant galaxies.

"Our space telescopes, like Hubble, are time machines," Michele says.

"Because the speed of light is finite, we can look at distant galaxies and how the universe was in the past."

Using a combination of computer and theoretical modelling, Michele is striving to paint a clearer picture of the evolution of galaxies across time.

While astrophysics may focus on the cosmos, Michele

says the pursuit of knowledge in space is firmly grounded in our inherent desire to pursue the unknown.

"I think space exploration is deeply tied to the human drive to pursue curiosity and explore our environment," he says.

"We have always been explorers trying to push the boundaries of our knowledge, and now space is the current frontier."

Michele sees wide application to space research.

"Space research really forces you to take a long-term approach – to plan ahead, solve problems effectively, identify and mitigate risks," he adds.

"This is a skill that's beneficial for society as a whole. I think it's extremely important for humanity to consider what is best for the planet long-term, rather than just for short-term gain."

This long-term, multifaceted approach to space research appeals to Ann. She hopes that her future giving will attract and support world-leading researchers such as Michele.

"Physics will be essential to help future generations answer the big questions, as it will be the gateway to solutions that are delivered through technology or mechanisation," she says.

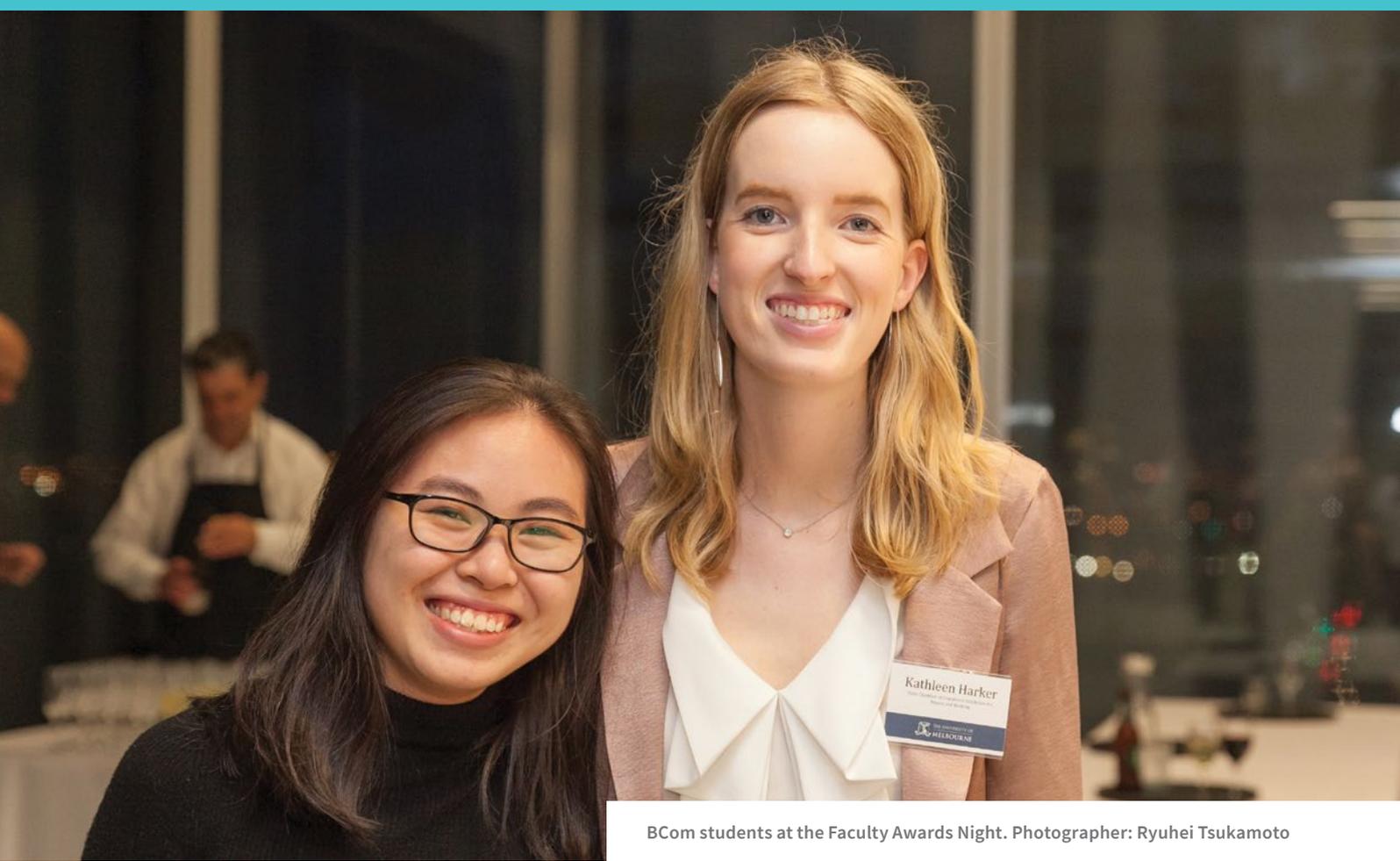
"I really am very interested in education itself, as it has been critical to my life's journey. It's very important to me that we have a leading university here in Melbourne."

While Ann's personal affiliation with the University runs through her veins, Michele reminds us how that interconnected nature extends even deeper through time and space.

"My atoms, your atoms, they were once part of the stars that enriched, chemically, the universe, and allowed the formation of the elements that are necessary for human life," he says.

"We are all children of the stars!"

Though Michele and Ann grew up under different blankets of stars, they share a common passion for learning and knowledge – a passion that, thanks to Ann's generosity, will shine through for many others.



BCom students at the Faculty Awards Night. Photographer: Ryuhei Tsukamoto

## Encouraging young women to make their mark in business

**Shelley Jones' passion for education resulted in a purposeful and fulfilling career. She wants to provide young women with similar opportunities to benefit from a University of Melbourne education.**

Shelley is passionate about education, and even more passionate about the education of young women. She was brought up in a family that valued education above all else. Her American father was a psychologist who taught in upstate New York technical universities and whose research was widely published in psychology journals. After her father died prematurely, her Australian mother returned to Australia with Shelley and her sister.

The family settled in Heidelberg and after an initial couple of years at Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School, Shelley moved to University High School where she embraced the richness of a multicultural environment and enjoyed the benefit of some inspiring, committed

teachers. After four wonderful years of learning, she moved across the road to study at the University of Melbourne.

Whilst her passion was to study education, her mother persuaded her to take a degree in commerce instead. She told Shelley that she had to study commerce so she could look after herself.

“I struggled with it at first, but I persevered and developed some great friendships,” Shelley recalls. She also remembers the lecture halls being dominated by boys and because she was small, she sat in the front rows, only to have the occasional paper plane land on her head!

Shelley was fortunate to receive a full Commonwealth scholarship which was critical to her ability to study at university in the first place. After her father's death, the family struggled financially so Shelley knows only too well how difficult financial disadvantage can be.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1972. Further Commonwealth scholarships then enabled her to follow her dreams and, cherishing the opportunity to remain at the University of Melbourne, she graduated with a Bachelor of Education (1974) and a Master of Education (1980).

## “I would like to look after lots of little Shelley Joneses!”

**SHELLEY JONES**

The journey that followed was wide-ranging. Shelley's human resources career took her interstate and overseas, including three years spent in Papua New Guinea. During the past decade, Shelley has run her own business strategy and management consultancy.

Shelley appreciated her good fortune and her wonderful time at the University of Melbourne. She wants today's aspiring female leaders to receive the same opportunities that took her on an extraordinary life journey, which is why she has decided to leave a gift in her Will to support female commerce students in

financial need. Mostly, she doesn't want them to be continuously worrying about money.

“If my gift can help women choose to do commerce, then good on them – they will get good jobs,” she enthuses. Her only regret is that she is unable to start looking after lots of little ‘Shelley Joneses’ at the University in her lifetime. However, her legacy – the value of education and the value of security and stability for students from disadvantaged backgrounds – gives Shelley reassurance. After a lifetime of working and being responsible, she says she feels centred, peaceful: “I know where the money is going.”

Professor Paul Kofman, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics, sees firsthand the widespread and enduring impact of scholarships to students in the Faculty. He observes that, as Australia's number one ranked faculty for business studies, its purpose is to address real-life business and economic challenges that threaten long-term prosperity and fairness.

“One way of addressing the modern challenges faced by students is to increase access to a University of Melbourne education to those who stand to benefit enormously, but who are held back by socio-economic circumstances or lack of encouragement,” he says.

“Bachelor of Commerce scholarships, such as those supported by Shelley Jones, will support our best and brightest students financially and give them access to mentoring, internships and other opportunities that we know are key to success as graduates.”

### PLANNING YOUR GIFT - LIVING BEQUESTS

A ‘living bequest’ is a special gift commenced during your lifetime and finalised with a gift in your Will. It can be a very effective pathway towards achieving your vision to create a better future. Through a living bequest, you and your family can have the pleasure of seeing the impact of your gift in your lifetime.

Please contact the Gifts in Wills Team if you would like to discuss this way of giving.

[bequests-office@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:bequests-office@unimelb.edu.au)

03 9035 3489

# What we did to survive lockdown

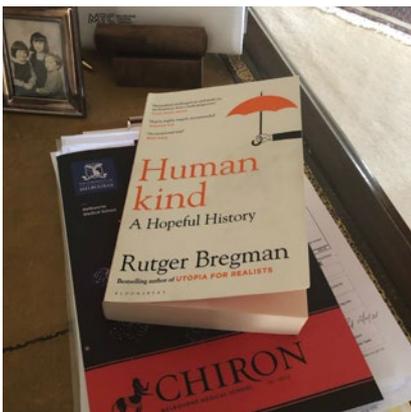
Despite the obvious challenges of lockdown, many of us have embraced the opportunity to move and grow in new and creative ways. Here's what some of our Heritage Society members have been up to:



## Marie-Louise Hekel

Sad days for my adopted home state of Victoria. Locked-down - in cold, miserable weather --- with a few snowflakes --- what was I to do? I armed myself with oil pastels, pen and ink, textured paper and my emotions. This is how I expressed my feelings. Then I smiled.

*Photo: Smiling through tears and snowflakes*



## David Penington

A lot of the problem is boredom, but I have spent time reading several really deep books between daily walks in an adjacent park and coping with clusters of emails.

*Photo: Deep reading*

## Amanda Baric

Well the first lockdown was winter vegetable planting season, so we got stuck into it with much enthusiasm to take our minds off the potential threat to health, education and work. We have missed face to face student contact at the clinical school and had to flex up to everything via zoom. The students have done a fantastic job supporting each other and are now looking forward to some clinical contact. I am looking forward to seeing them all again as we emerge. Sadly, my garden is getting less attention, but we have had some yummy vegetables over winter.



## Cynthia Rowe and Bruce Rowe

The house is the cleanest it has ever been since lockdown, not for hygiene reasons but because we saw dust, rust, tarnish, cracks in the walls we had never noticed before, never had time to notice. Poisonous *verdigris*... Out came dusters, drop-sheets, paint brushes, hammers, and gap filler. Our preferred *eau de parfum* is now the odour of Dulux infused with a *soupeçon* of O-Cedar polish. Long may it continue!

*Photo: Bruce's faux fruit polishing handiwork*



## Yolande Kerridge and David Jay

We leapt into exotic cooking and takeaways – like agnolotti stuffed with veal, pork and rabbit, and beautifully textured rilette and Bouillabaisse for shared Skype dinners with friends. We also indulged in MIFF! Our final marathon film was the entire archival footage of Stalin's funeral parade! Need we say more!

*Photo: Rediscovering the art of formal dining*

## Max Stephens

Zoom meetings with colleagues and friends were invaluable. Being at home made me notice a lot of repair and maintenance jobs around the house. I was able to get these underway before the real lockdown started with suitable help. John's team at University House provided a great home delivery service with a change of menu every week. Of course I improved my own cooking skills. Still surviving well. But keen to escape the strict lockdown.



### Merrilyn Julian

For all its attendant anxieties, lockdown has brought many gifts, highlighting the importance of family, community and the preciousness of the natural world. For me, this has meant immersing myself in the beauty of my bushland home – establishing a veggie garden, mastering the dark art of sourdough, discovering tiny orchids.

*Photo: Merrilyn's bounty, with a smile*



### Hans Prem

I learnt to play chess at a young age, and always wanted to make my own chess pieces. Inspired by Frank Gehry, armed with 3D CAD and access to a host of on-line 3D printing service providers, I created some pieces, printed in the Netherlands and delivered to my door.

*Photo: Bringing chess into the 21st century*

### Anne Spurrirt and Sue Yates

DIY Pop-up Corona-pub: A sunny winter afternoon, a West facing veranda and a 1.4 metre long table. Add a few socially-distanced friends, a bottle of wine, or two. As envious walkers pass by, a neighbour leans on the front fence to share a glass. Alas, not compatible with Stage Four.



### Viv Peut

"I helped make pink utes drive around a quarry by themselves".

With travel to mine sites in Western Australia tightly controlled to maintain ongoing production and contribution to the national economy, Roy Hill's autonomous vehicle program was moved to Perth for initial testing. The vehicles were programmed to drive around a track, reverse and park - simulating the huge haul trucks that the autonomous technology is destined for. Roy Hill is a great supporter of breast cancer research, hence the colour.

*Photo: Driving autonomous technology in style*



### Susy Cato Gashler

I run my eye over an assortment of still unread books and plays that I have collected over the years, or inherited, each one screaming out "choose me, choose me, it's my turn!" And then I spot John Mortimer's *Clinging to the Wreckage*. Should this be next, I wonder?...

*Photo: Portsea seagulls politely practicing social distancing*



### Tess Cafarella

A time of being who you really are, of mining your inner resources and finding

That there is raw material to fall back on to make life nourishing, rich and beautiful.

A time of discovering what is truly important.

A time to contemplate, to ponder on what is happening to our beautiful planet, and why.

*Photo: Tess in the company of her best friends*

# Heritage Society Members 2020

The University of Melbourne is grateful to our generous alumni and friends who include the University in their Will.



Bill Adam PSM OAM	Roberta Ann Cowan	Sue Girling-Butcher
David Adams	Keith Crowley	Sir James Gobbo AC
Elizabeth Alexander AO	Jenny Cummins	Tanya Graham
John Anderson	Peter Cummins & Karin Illenberger	Glenys Greenwood
James Angus AO & Helen Angus	Sue Cunningham & Howard Moore	Tom Griffith
Allyson Anthonisz	Judy Davey	Ken Hager
Karen Armitage	Helen Davies	Neil Hallam
Su Baker AM	Glyn Davis AC	Bronwyn Halls
Amanda Baric	James Davis & Taryn D'Costa	The late Barbara Hamer
Michael Bartlett	John Dawson & Carmel McDonald	Brita Hansen & Frank Halley
Chris Barton & Elaine Ong	Denise de Gruchy	John Harcourt OAM
Pauline Baxter	Christina Dennis & Carole Popham	Roy Hardcastle AO & June Hardcastle
John Baylis & Dorothy Baylis	Prudence Dobbin	David Harding
Caron Beaton-Wells	Meredith Doig OAM	Peter Hardy Smith OAM
Sarah-Jane Beavitt	Brian and Ann Dooley	Ronnie Harrington
Warren Bebbington AM	Elizabeth Douglas	John Harry
Ronda Bird	Pamela Dowsing	Charles Hart
Jane Bloom	Peter Doyle	Brenton Harty
Geoffrey Boag	Diane & Lyle Drayton	William Harvey
Lesley Boston AO	Julian Driscoll	Susan Haslam
Barry Bourne	Michael Duke	Helen Hayes
Graham Brawn	Pamela Eddey	Margaret Healy PSM
Bern Brent	Betty Edington	Peter Hekel & Marie-Louise Hekel
Des Bright & Ruth Bright AM	Peter Eichfuss	Anne Hellstedt
Lindsay Brunson	Kenneth Eltham	Mark Henry & Jennifer Henry
Tess Cafarella	Carolyn Evans & Stephen Donaghue QC	Keith Higgins
Tina Cafarella & David McCall	Harold Fabrikant	John Hockley & Anne Powell
Robert Cahn	Richard Falkinger AO	Fay Hodgskiss
Meryl Calver	Helen Farrell	Roderick Home AM
Rose-Mary Cassin	Barbara Fenner & Bradley Fenner	John Houghton
Suzy Cato-Gashler	Stephen Flew	Merilyn Howorth & David Howorth
The Hon Alex Chernov AC QC & Elizabeth Chernov	Susan Flynn	Judi Humberstone & Lloyd Humberstone
Michael Clough	Ian Frazer AC & Caroline Frazer	John Humphrey
Wendy Cobcroft	Andrew Freeman FACS	Sharon Hurst & Peter Levy
Ian L Cochran	Helen Freeman	Gary Israel
Ross Coller	Patricia Fullerton	Anne Jabara
Matt Collins AM QC & Leonard Vary	Peter & Betty Game	Raymond Jensen
Stuart Colvin	Julian Gardner AM	M R (Taffy) Jones AM PSM
Anton Cook	Lionel Gell AM	Stephen Jones & Janet Ruby
Martina Copley	Glen Gersch	Marjorie Josephs-Wilks
Terry Corbett	Liyan Gfrerer	Fiona Judd & Julian Davis
Graham Corr & Robyn Corr	Geoffrey Gibson	Merrilyn Julian
	Helen Gillett	George Karoly FACS

Margaret Kelleher	Jim Morrison	Glenda Shannon
Maureen Kepalas	Geoffrey Mottershead	Linda Shardlow
Geoffrey Kerr	Victor Mulder	Elizabeth Shaw
Yolande Kerridge & David Jay	Jane Munro AM	Anne Shirley-Peel
Marina Keskevich	M L Murnane AM	Marian Simpson
Philip Kissick	Christopher Murray	Colin Smith
Robyn Krause-Hale	Alida Natoli	Graeme Smith OAM
Jane Kunstler	Dorothy Neessen	Max Smyth
Kerry Landman	Adrian Newton	Richard Southby KLJ, CStJ & Janet Southby
John Langford AM	The Hon Alastair Nicholson AO RFD QC	Anne Spurrirt & Susan Yates
Frank Larkins AM	Peter Nicholson	Geoff Stansen & Karen Stansen
Ada Lau	Tracey O'Brien	Max Stephens
Kathleen Le Lievre & John Le Lievre	Pam Oliver	Robert Stewart AM
Trevor Lee	Gayle Osborne	Ann Stocker
Jillian M Lenne	Leonie Osowski	Barbara Stopp
Jennifer Lewis	Ettore Pacini	Clive Stratford
Jill Liney	Marilyn Panichi	Ian Sullivan
Lara Lipton & John Deadman	Sandra Pankhurst	Stan Tarka
Janice Lockwood	Geoffrey Park	Rosalind Terry
Michael Loftus-Hills & Hilary Royston	Kenneth Park	Gail Thomas
Denis Long	Richard Parker	Michael Togias & Christine Politis
Harold Luntz AO	John & Mary Parrott	Max Tomkins
The Hon Peg Lusink AM	The late Lyndal Pascoe	Julie Tomlinson
The late Betty C Lynch OAM	Wayne Patten & Marion Patten	Richard Trembath
Leon Mann AO	Michael Pearce SC	Christine Tursky Gordon
Ieuan Mapperson & Kathleen Mapperson	Sharon Peers	Dayle Tyrrell
Jon Martin & the late Helen Martin	David Penington AC	Marija Udovic
Rob Martin	Caroline Perkins	Murray Vagg
Allan Mawdsley OAM	Patricia Warren Petch	Sara Vidal
Andrew McAliece & Richard Simmie	Viv Peut	Margaret Walker
Isabel McBryde AO	Mai Pham	Sir John Walsh of Brannagh
Christine McCarthy	Robert W. Phillips	Catherine Walter AM
Helen McCausland	Jock Plenderleith	Jack Warin
Anne McCoy AM	Margaret Pont	Joy Wellings
Margaret Loughnan McCutcheon	Deborah Power	Pera Wells
Derek J McDougall	Maria Prendergast	Julie Weste
Jeanette McInnes	Andrew Prentice	The late Ronald L White
P H McKeon	Tony Price	James Wilkinson
Valerie McLaine	Sandra E Pullman	Peter Williams AM
Tom McNair	Kevin Redmond	Patricia Wilson OAM & Bill Wilson APM OAM
Kenneth McNaughton	Geoffrey Rees	Norman Wodetzki & Meryll Wodetzki
Ross Menhennitt	Ian Reiher	Debra Wood
Anthony J Merrett	James Richardson	Caroline Woodhouse
Andrew Michelmores AO	Ronald Ridley & Thérèse Ridley	Elinor Wrobel OAM
Peter Mikelaitis & Tanya Mikelaitis	Andrew Roberts	Peter Yeung & Judy Pui-Ling Yeung
Vaughan Millar	Ron Rosanove & Elizabeth Rosanove	Brooke Young
Anne Miller & Edward Miller	Mrs Kingsley Rowan	Robert Zahara
Shaun Miller	Cynthia & Bruce Rowe	Jenny Zimmer AM
John Milne	Leslie Rowe	
Rick & Margaret Milne	Ann Rusden	
Pierina Morano	Christian Ryan	
Megan Morgan	The late Ron Rye	
Graham Morris & Prudence Sanderson	The late Max Schnapp	
Penelope (Penny) Morris AM	Maureen Semmens & Barry Semmens	
		218 anonymous benefactors



UoM Symphony Orchestra. Photographer: Stephen McCallum

## Passing on the musical baton

**Dr Alexandra Cameron MBE was an extraordinary woman whose commitment to musical education revolutionised access to music for budding performers across Australia. A gift in her Will to the University of Melbourne extends her generosity beyond her lifetime.**

Alexandra was a pioneer in musical education, whose legacy was an increase in opportunities for young musicians and improved performance standards. She was devoted throughout her long life (she lived to the age of 107) to improving the quality of, and access to, music education in schools.

This was dedication on a national scale. Alexandra taught piano in various schools throughout Queensland, South Australia and Victoria, and lectured in music education at the University of Melbourne.

Alexandra was instrumental to a complete revision of the Australian Music Examinations Board requirements for music across senior schooling. No student went untouched by her legacy, with her vision on the Secondary Schools Music Curriculum Committee ensuring that a music syllabus was available to all six years of secondary schooling in Victoria.

In 1966, Alexandra was appointed to the Board of Secondary Inspectors and became the first Inspector of

Music for high schools in Victoria. This position enabled her to lobby successfully for the introduction of free tuition on an orchestral instrument. Schools across the state consequently formed orchestras and bands that were hitherto pipe dreams, releasing previously untapped musical talents.

Elite junior musicianship flourished under her watch. She established a State Secondary Schools Orchestra (later becoming the Melbourne Youth Orchestra) and a Saturday Music School. Other ensembles followed, some of which have had a profound legacy, including the Education Department's Melbourne Holiday Music Camp (alternatively known as January Music Camp) and the Australian Youth Music Festival.

Alexandra's powers were undiminished in retirement. She established the Chamber Strings of Melbourne, inspired by a proposal from a group of Melbourne Youth Orchestra string players studying at the University of Melbourne. She continued to tutor extensively and contributed to several professional organisations.

Her generosity was legendary. Alexandra promoted overseas travel for young musicians and – often anonymously – purchased instruments for students. Many performers received subsidies for overseas orchestra tours and, in some instances, were privileged to have Alexandra pay for their travel outright.

Alexandra's career in musical education and philanthropy was the second act in a career that began with her own performance ambitions. Born in Allora in Queensland's Darling Downs in 1910, she grew up in a musical family that greatly valued education. She was a talented musician in her own right and, after boarding at Saint Hilda's Girls' School in Southport, completed her Associate and Licentiate Music Diplomas, Trinity College, London by her 18th birthday.



Photo from the Estate's private collection

The life of a musical performer and teacher before the Second World War was peripatetic. Alexandra moved to Adelaide to become a teacher, which she combined with study (music and education) at the University of Adelaide. War interrupted her studies and for several years she served on continuous full-time war service in the AIF both in Australia and New Guinea. She volunteered to remain in New Guinea after the war ended to nurse natives who had been badly treated by the Japanese for assisting the Australian soldiers. She then returned to Melbourne where she worked as a rehabilitation officer. Determined to complete her degrees, Alexandra enrolled at the University of

Melbourne and graduated with a Bachelor of Music (1950) and several teaching qualifications: Diploma of Education (1953), Bachelor of Education (1956) and Master of Education (1970).

Alexandra was esteemed at home and abroad. She studied in London under Harold Craxton, a noted pianist and composer, at the Royal Academy of Music. The Victorian Government awarded her a State Education Department Travel Scholarship to study teacher training in the USA and UK, while the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology bestowed an honorary Doctor of Education. She was eventually honoured as a Member of the British Empire in the 1979 Queen's Birthday Honours for outstanding service to music education and administration.

The efforts and struggles entailed in Alexandra's journey inspired a gift in her Will that supports talented musicians and encourages them to widen their musical and cultural horizons. The Dr Alexandra Cameron Scholarship is awarded annually to a student of Music or Music Education who has completed their undergraduate degree and wishes to pursue further study. In keeping with Alexandra's values and passions for music, the recipient must also be involved in their faculty's wider musical life – be it as a member of the University of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Strings of Melbourne or other chamber groups.

The inaugural Dr Alexandra Cameron Scholarship recipient is Jakub Kurek, an accomplished pianist who, like Alexandra, commenced formal piano study at high school. With his talent quickly identified, Jakub received entry to the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School after just two years' tuition. He studied with South African pianist Len Vorster and received tutelage from eminent musicians.

Jakub's undergraduate degree at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music has been enjoyable under Professor Ian Holtham's guidance. He wishes to eventually undertake postgraduate research on the life and work of Polish American pianist Zygmunt Stojowski. In the meantime, the Cameron Scholarship enables him to focus on his studies and upgrade his piano.

From now on, Alexandra's generosity will be far from anonymous.

# A French-US connection leads to innovative biomedical research in Australia

**Réjane Langlois was, according to friends who knew her well, a force of nature. She had an enormous appetite for knowledge and adventure, character traits and passions which are now beautifully captured in her legacy gift to the University of Melbourne.**

Réjane was born in France, one of twin sisters. She moved to Australia in 1975 as part of a two-year job exchange program with a French tyre company and never left. Of course, she did have occasion to return to France, but she only ever went as a tourist. As a person of notable pragmatism, it was her way of acknowledging a new chapter in her life as an Australian.

By all accounts, she was a very curious and fiercely independent woman. She had a brilliant mind and was fascinated by life sciences research. She read and researched voraciously about neurobiology in particular and was once heard to say that she would have liked to be a scientist to understand the brains of birds. She even named her cats after legendary scientists Charles Darwin and Sir Ernest Rutherford.

Trained as a graphic artist with an eye for detail, Réjane enjoyed observing and capturing the natural life cycles of living things through photography.

Réjane lived the later part of her life on Raymond Island where she enthusiastically embraced bushwalking, bird watching, scuba diving, kayaking, aviation, and driving fast cars. On the latter point, she developed notoriety for speeding around the island in her restored 1960 Austin Healy!

Her passion for scientific research engaged Réjane most fully. She collected books and journals and articles about brains, in particular, and was excited by the sheer opportunity for discovery in the area of neuroscience.

She survived breast cancer but, tragically, was later diagnosed with lung cancer. After her second diagnosis, she had a very clear understanding of where she would like to direct her legacy. She met with University of Melbourne researchers because she wanted to offer creative opportunities to expand knowledge in medical research so that some good may come of it in the future.

There is no doubt, then, that Réjane would be delighted to meet young and dynamic researcher, Matt Faria. Formerly a software engineer with degrees in both computer science and biological science from the US, Matt decided on a change of career in order to “make a difference.”

After some global investigative research, he joined the University of Melbourne to undertake his PhD in biomedical engineering. The Réjane Langlois Fellowship in Biomedical Engineering provides the opportunity to deepen his research interests over a three-year period.

Matt investigates how nanomaterials interact with human cells. He is driven by the desire to develop more targeted clinical treatments. He explains, for example, that the problem with current chemotherapy drugs is that they target both cancer cells and normal healthy cells. Matt hopes that his research will help design new drugs that target only problematic cancer cells – a discovery with the potential to improve other drug applications.

Traditional grants make this form of translational research difficult to fund. A funding gap exists between basic (pre-clinical) and medical (clinical) research, meaning that researchers like Matt must source alternative revenue streams to put innovative ideas into practice.

Matt is confident that his research will lead to the delivery of new and improved therapies in the future. He understands that the work he does will have real global impact and possibly lead to further discoveries and applications.

Australia is lucky to welcome this talented young man, naturalised in May 2020. Réjane, herself a naturalised Australian, would be proud to know that her legacy is honoured in this way.

## A selection of realised bequests 2019-2020

**The University of Melbourne is grateful to our generous alumni and friends who include the University in their Will. Recent estate gifts received in 2019 and 2020 include:**

**Margaret J Adams** (BA Arts, 1949) left a bequest to the Bronwyn Jane Adams Memorial Award Fund. This award, established in memory of her late daughter, recognises outstanding professional staff and helps them pursue work-related activities.

**Brian** (BDSce 1949) and **Ann Dooley** left a bequest to the Melbourne Dental School which will enhance teaching and learning facilities and provide support for students and early-career researchers.

**Lawrence Owen Esson** championed local and national organisations in support of education, medical research, humanitarian aid and disability services. His gift supports health and medical research activities in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences.

**Sylvia Gelman** was a distinguished educator; her bequest to the Melbourne Graduate School of Education adds support to the Manuel Gelman Awards for Teaching Excellence (Languages and Music) in memory of her late husband.

**Vera June Lawrence** (BSc 1944) was a dedicated science student and a resident at Ormond College. Her bequest will support science students through the Dean's Fund for Science Scholarships.

**Rose Margaret Mant** (GDipMus 1953) pursued her life-long love of music through piano and flute. Her bequest to the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music provides music scholarships to enable students to pursue a similar joy.

**Ian Hamilton Munro**, an active member and committee member of Melbourne University Football Club, left a bequest that will support the Uni Blues.

**Kathleen Margaret Peace Rankin** (BA 1970) had a special interest in the French language. She left bequests to add capital to the DH Rankin Essay Prize, established in the Faculty of Arts in honour of her father, Donald Hamilton Rankin, to the DJM Rankin Prize for engineering students, established by Kathleen's father, to the Graduate Union and also to support glaucoma research.

Several other bequests from engineering alumni will support engineering scholarships: **John Norman Mann** [BE(CivEng) 1948] worked with the Victorian state water supply commission. **Eric Stokes** [BE(CivEng) 1952] enjoyed reunions with classmates who bonded through their years at the University's Mildura campus. **Victor Leslie Sykes** [BE(CivEng) 1951] worked as an engineer in London, then with the firm Hardcastle and Richards in Melbourne. **Owen James Tassicker** [BE(ElecEng) 1949, ME 1951 Engineering] worked at the Electric Power Research Institute, CA, USA for three decades. **Graham Donald Watsford** [BE(Mech) 1957] enjoyed a very satisfying career in engineering, designing aircraft for the Department of Defence at Fisherman's Bend.

# Dear Heritage Society Members

Warm wishes to you all, and a special welcome to those who have joined the Heritage Society during 2020. What a year it turned out to be!

In order to minimise the spread of COVID-19, the Gifts in Wills team and our colleagues across the University have been working from home since late March.

We have been thinking of you throughout the year, doing our best to remain connected with you and helping you stay up-to-date with activities across the University. It has been wonderful to hear your reflections on attending public lectures via Zoom and watching video performances from our music and performing arts students. We know that many of you enjoyed tuning into the series Life Beyond Coronavirus: The Expert View which featured some of our leading academics from a range of disciplines across the University.

It was heartening to see our wonderful community of alumni and friends come together in response to the pandemic and donate so generously to the COVID-19 Emergency Appeal. This has provided thousands of students with much-needed financial assistance and supported critical and timely research to diagnose, treat and slow the spread of COVID-19. Thank you.

Please know that your commitment, loyalty and philanthropic support of the University is hugely valued and appreciated, particularly in these challenging times. The impact of philanthropy on our ability to continue to provide a world-class education, excel in research and engage with the wider community is greater than ever.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

So, what can we expect in 2021? As the COVID-19 situation across Australia stabilises, the University is planning a gradual, phased return of staff and students to our campuses. We look forward to welcoming you back onto campus with great joy when it is safe to do so. Until then, please continue to enjoy the University's outstanding online offerings, and remember that we are only a phone call away.

With warm regards for a safe festive season and a happy, healthy year ahead.

## The Gifts in Wills team

Jennifer, Emily, Sarah, James and Sarah



**Dr Jennifer Henry**

Senior Manager, Gifts in Wills  
T: + 61 3 8344 3640  
E: jennifer.henry@unimelb.edu.au



**Dr Emily McCaffrey**

Senior Manager, Gifts in Wills  
T: +61 3 8344 5904  
E: emily.mccaffrey@unimelb.edu.au



**Sarah McCarthy**

Senior Manager, Gifts in Wills  
T: +61 3 9035 3299  
E: s.mccarthy@unimelb.edu.au



**James Davis**

Gifts in Wills Officer  
T: + 61 3 9035 7561  
E: james.davis@unimelb.edu.au



**Sarah Balis**

Gifts in Wills  
Administration Officer  
T: + 61 3 9035 3809  
E: sbalis@unimelb.edu.au