



The Power of Purpose

The University of Melbourne acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live: the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples (Burnley, Fishermans Bend, Parkville, Southbank and Werribee campuses), the Yorta Yorta Nation (Dookie and Shepparton campuses), and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus).

The University also acknowledges and is grateful to the Traditional Owners, Elders and Knowledge Holders of all Indigenous nations and clans who have been instrumental in our reconciliation journey.

We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent, with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work and learn every day with Indigenous colleagues and partners.

In making this Acknowledgement of Country we commit to respectful and responsible conduct towards all others according to the Traditional lores of this land, particularly at times of formal ceremony.

Acknowledgement of Country



Contents

Click on a story below

Thank You		
From the Vice-Chancellor	5	
From the Executive Director, Advancement	6	
Student Success		
Narrm Scholarship Program brings dreams within reach	9	
Staying the course with alumni support	11	
Global fintech leader empowers innovation	13	
Cartographer’s legacy nurtures next-gen geographers	15	
Igniting confidence for women in STEM	17	
Revolutionary Research		
Strengthening global pandemic preparedness	21	
New hope in the quest for HIV cure	23	
Fuelling careers for researchers with care duties	25	
The power of early-career collaboration	26	
Medieval research follows in Knight’s footsteps	27	
A legacy of languages	29	
Community		
65,000 years of Australian art	33	
Safeguarding the future of cultural conservation	35	
Song of the Cricket resonates in Venice	37	
Inspiring next-gen Indigenous engineers	39	
Transforming the future of healthcare	40	
Taking strides in sport and science	41	
Stay in touch	43	



Since joining the University of Melbourne as the 21st Vice-Chancellor in February 2025, I have been delighted by the sheer breadth and depth of philanthropic work we are undertaking as a community.

◀ Professor Emma Johnston AO, Vice-Chancellor



As I read through this publication, I am struck by the fresh energy that each impact story carries. It speaks to a growing momentum in our donor community: a renewed sense of curiosity, commitment and a desire to make a profound investment in the future.

◀ Joanna Watts, Executive Director (Advancement)

I have had the privilege of meeting many of you, our valued donors and volunteers, and I am encouraged by your vision and generosity. It has been thrilling to witness the direct impact of your support as I meet the students, researchers and staff whose work is catalysed as a result.

Let me thank you for three things in particular.

Firstly, thank you for opening doors of opportunity for under-represented students and helping us change narratives of disadvantage.

Secondly, thank you for enabling emerging researchers to bring disruptive, world-changing approaches to otherwise intractable problems, in critical areas such as climate change and threats to health.

Finally, thank you for ensuring that our cultural preservation work is uplifted and expanded, helping future generations to become more richly informed by the past.

The University of Melbourne's collective purpose is to better the world. As a scholarly community, we do this by building a vibrant, diverse ecosystem of people, ideas and resources.

We do it also by strengthening our connections with others, in local, national and global communities, and enhancing people's lives through our work of enquiry, learning and discovery.

It is due in no small part to you, our donors, that we are able to do this with excellence.

Thank you.

It is an honour to thank you for trusting the University of Melbourne to deliver the impact and change you wish to see in the world. You will see many of these incredible outcomes highlighted in the pages that follow.

Through your donations, many of you are building bridges of opportunity for talented students who are traditionally under-represented. Gyan's story of receiving a Narm Scholarship not only demonstrates the difference that receiving financial support made in enabling his move far from home, but how participating in the bespoke enrichment program gave him an instant community and sense of belonging.

Many of you are generously supporting bold researchers to discover and develop innovative ways to safeguard humanity's future. Scientists at the Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics, for example, are developing novel antiviral therapies to ensure we can respond swiftly when the next pandemic strikes. It is also staggering to think of the hope that Dr Ceva's breakthrough HIV research will bring for millions of people globally.

I also wish to acknowledge those of you whose support enables visionary and vital cultural work at the University of Melbourne. The 65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art exhibition is nothing

short of a watershed moment for global recognition of the significance, brilliance and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and cultural expression.

To every single one of you – thank you.



Your generosity enables the brightest students to pursue their dreams and thrive at the University, shaping them into the confident and capable graduates we send into the world.

Student Success

THANK YOU

STUDENT SUCCESS

REVOLUTIONARY RESEARCH

COMMUNITY

STAY IN TOUCH



STUDENT SUCCESS



▲ Gyan Angon, 2024 Narm Scholarship recipient

Narm Scholarship Program brings dreams within reach

Community support for the Narm Scholarship Program helps students like Gyan create a home away from home – and supports their dreams of building a better world.

During a family trip to Melbourne in his Year 11 summer break, Gyan explored the University of Melbourne’s Parkville campus and fell in love with the grounds, culture and facilities.

But at the same time, he felt daunted by the prospect of relocating to a new city away from his close-knit family and support network.

“I come from Mt Isa: a small, red dirt mining town,” says Gyan. “But if I were to describe it for more than just its scenery: it’s a lovely, tight-knit community where everyone looks after each other.”

Gyan aspired to study architecture, motivated by the desire to create spaces inspired by his upbringing, where people and communities feel safe and connected.

At the end of Year 12, Gyan was working at his cafe job in Mt Isa when he checked his emails and saw that he had received an offer for his dream course: the Bachelor of Design at the University of Melbourne.

“I screamed and showed my boss and coworkers. I was so happy – I just thought ‘it’s all coming together.’”

The moment was made even sweeter when Gyan realised he had also received a Narm Scholarship to support him through his entire undergraduate degree.

The Narm Scholarship Program provides talented students like Gyan with an annual living and accommodation allowance, a one-off relocation allowance and ongoing enrichment activities and support to help them thrive at the University of Melbourne.

To date, more than 900 members of the University donor community have contributed to the Narm Scholarship Fund. Gifts of every size have pooled together to ensure that over 1,500 Narm Scholars are bringing their dreams to life at the University of Melbourne.

The power of community to build confidence and capacity

During his first year of studies, Gyan says the Narm Scholarship Enrichment Program helped him foster a new community away from home. The Enrichment Program includes social activities, a dedicated common area, learning skills workshops and career readiness activities. These bespoke offerings have been specifically designed with the needs of under-represented students in mind: to build confidence and self-efficacy, and a strong sense of cohort and belonging on campus.

Now in his second year of study, Gyan is embracing the opportunity to give back to the Narm Scholarship Program. Gyan helped welcome the next cohort by working as a host at the pre-orientation camp for Narm Scholars who commenced in 2025.

“*Seeing all the new cohort get together and make new friends was such a gratifying experience*”

“While it’s nice to be independent, being able to support — and be supported by — others is such an amazing experience. It can’t be traded for anything else.”

Fostering a values-driven future

Gyan credits the Narm Scholarship Program with enabling his self-growth, reflection and discovery. This, he feels, is especially significant given that he is so far from home. Gyan intends to enrol in the Master of Architectural Engineering after his Bachelor of Design.

“What I’ve learned from studying architecture is to build empathy for people and consider how the practice can affect social groups,” he says. “In the future, when I do get into my career, I hope to make my life goals and values merge together.”

To the donor community who continue to support the Narm Scholarship Program, with gifts of all sizes, Gyan says: “I am incredibly grateful for what you have given me. I feel that this opportunity has shaped me fundamentally as a person.”



▲ Left and right images: Gyan at the pre-orientation camp for Narm Scholars

Watch Gyan’s story online →

Staying the course with alumni support

Recipient Ava Thornton with one of the Young Alumni Scholarship donors Henry Dow



The MLS Young Alumni Scholarship, created by recent graduates, supports Juris Doctor students facing disadvantage and disability – and is helping young recipients like Ava thrive at law school.

When Ava first arrived at Melbourne Law School, she brought with her a drive shaped by rural life, along with a deep uncertainty about whether she belonged.

Raised on a small hobby farm outside Swan Hill, Ava spent her childhood always “on the go” – riding horses, making forts, doing “doughies” in the paddock behind the wheel of a beat-up car.

She’d never imagined herself at Australia’s top law school, let alone in a city like Melbourne. But an encounter with a teacher’s daughter in Year 11, who had studied law at the University of Melbourne, inspired the young Ava to do the same.

“From that moment onwards, it was Melbourne University’s JD or nothing,” Ava says.

Her parents threw their support behind her dream, even taking on a second income growing plants for a local nursery to help cover her relocation costs.

But despite her ambitions, the first semester of law school overwhelmed Ava. She found herself juggling part-time work, homesickness, and the creeping feeling that she couldn’t handle the workload in the same way as her peers.

“I was struggling to stay on top of the work and pay rent,” she recalls. “My mental health suffered. I had already been thinking about leaving the degree. I just thought law was something that obviously wasn’t for me.”

That changed when she was awarded the MLS Young Alumni Scholarship, which offers support to JD students in financial need who also have a disability or a long-term illness.

“*When I got awarded the scholarship I immediately started crying, I felt this huge rush of support*”

The scholarship was transformative. It allowed Ava to reach her full academic potential, as she no longer had to worry about making rent and was able to prioritise her health.

“My grades in second semester skyrocketed and I just had so much more confidence in myself,” Ava says. “I honestly don’t know if I would still be doing the degree if I didn’t receive the scholarship.”

The power of peers

The MLS Young Alumni Scholarship was created by a group of recent graduates – Josh Bridgett, Henry Dow, Tim Gracie and Jack Trainor – who knew firsthand the struggles of law school.

“We remember how hard that first year of law school can be,” says Henry, who graduated from the JD program in 2018. “We were conscious of the enormous additional challenge students studying law face while managing a long-term illness and financial pressure.”

They were particularly moved by Tim’s experience with serious illness during his undergraduate degree, and by the difference a scholarship had made in his life.

So, in their final year of law school, they acted.

“It is an absolute credit to all donors to the Young Alumni Scholarship to recognise the students who are not being supported and continuing to provide that vital support,” Ava says.

Now, working as a paralegal at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health and eyeing a future in intellectual property law, Ava is beginning to carve out a path in the profession she once thought might not be for her.

And while city life has its appeal, her long-term vision lies elsewhere: returning to a rural community, reconnecting with the space and pace she grew up with – and using her legal training to give back.

[Read more online](#) →

Global fintech leader empowers innovation

A groundbreaking partnership between homegrown global fintech leader Airwallex and the University of Melbourne is transforming the landscape of tech innovation and entrepreneurship.



▲ Students taking part in the Airwallex Transaction Detective Challenge

Thanks to the support of financial technology platform Airwallex, students at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology (FEIT) are being empowered to understand how they can play a significant role in the world through entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Airwallex Tech Innovation Program is now underway following a generous donation by the company co-founded in 2015 by University of Melbourne alumni.

It supplements a highly successful suite of Airwallex-funded initiatives for FEIT students and alumni.

Established in 2022, the full program of support has so far awarded 43 scholarships, each valued at \$30,000,

which include participation in the Airwallex industry mentoring program. It has also supported 65 students through a \$150,000 fund for those experiencing financial hardship and delivered a range of initiatives to foster innovation — from hackathons and student club sponsorships to internships, awards and enhanced facilities.

Empowering innovation: Airwallex's impact on the University of Melbourne tech ecosystem

Professor Eun-Jung Holden, a key figure in the development of the Airwallex Tech Innovation Program, is already noticing its impact evolving in unexpected and positive ways.

“
Airwallex has inspired an ecosystem where students can learn the art and science of technopreneurship
”

Airwallex has enabled the Faculty's School of Computing and Information Systems to expand its team, hiring four new academic staff specialising in digital innovation. This addition of expertise has led to the redesign of existing subjects and the development of new ones, all aimed at encouraging an innovation mindset among students.

The program's success is exemplified by the introduction of a Digital Innovation & Technopreneurship subject that has attracted 189 students in its first semester. The subject, open to a wide range of degrees, explores the essentials of successful entrepreneurship with a focus on the behaviours, attitudes, values and skills crucial for innovation in both start-ups and established organisations.

This subject serves to further enhance an ecosystem of innovation in which student clubs such as the Computing and Information Systems Students Association and Women In Tech—all sponsored by Airwallex—have become active centres of creativity and collaboration, further supporting the program's goals.

The success of this initiative is reflected not just in enrolment numbers but in the gradual shift in how students view their future careers. They are now encouraged to think as 'technopreneurs' capable of identifying real-world problems and developing innovative solutions.

The support of Airwallex has been instrumental in creating an environment where students are not only learning about technology but actively engaging with its practical applications. By helping to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world translation, this visionary program is preparing a new generation of innovators ready to address challenges through technological solutions.

As the program continues to develop, it stands as an example of the potential that lies in partnerships between industry and academia. Airwallex's generosity represents an investment in the future of technology and innovation in Australia and beyond. The compound effects of this partnership will continue to be seen in the coming years, as graduates emerge ready to contribute to the worlds of technology, entrepreneurship and innovation.

[Read more online](#) →



▲ Margot Wilson, recipient of the J.J. Wood Memorial Scholarship

Cartographer's legacy nurtures next-gen geographers

J.J. Wood's extraordinary legacy continues to support and inspire women studying geography... and bring people together over good food.

For over 27 years, the J. J. Wood Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to a female student pursuing the Geography Honours program or a Master of Geography, with priority given to students who have experienced challenging financial circumstances. The scholarship was established by Charles Hart in honour of his godmother, Jessie Joyce ("Joyce") Wood, after whom the scholarship is named.

For Margot, the 2025 recipient of this scholarship, the financial component alleviates considerable stress by allowing her to reduce paid work commitments and giving her more time and energy to devote to her studies. This is particularly critical during the Master's degree, where capacity to focus on an extended piece of research is imperative.

"I am honoured to receive this award, especially given that many of its previous recipients are women who I have looked up to and respected for several years. It is both heartening and invigorating to stand alongside highly intelligent women with whom I share a passion for geography."

Margot and Joyce's shared passion for food, learning and geography are being woven into Margot's research. "I am currently conducting research into local student food initiatives, with a particular focus on how 'successful' initiatives are defined, evaluated and worked towards. I'm interested in the complex interplay between social, emotional and economic factors that contribute to students' experiences of food insecurity."

Like Margot, Joyce was a consummate dinner party host. Her gatherings were legendary, not only for their culinary fare but for the carefully chosen guest list, designed to elicit the most vibrant and robust conversation.

"Dinner parties at Joyce's apartment often turned into the pursuit of knowledge on a variety of obscure topics," recalls her godson Charles, who created the scholarship in Joyce's memory. "If she or her guests were unsure of something, her fine library was rarely unable to throw some light on the matter in question and frequently coffee cups and wine glasses had to be cleared to make way for the reference books brought to the table. She often said 'when in doubt, find out' and she lived by that motto."

Ultimately, Margot's work will yield findings that help universities understand and address food insecurity for young adults at this critical time in their lives.

A legacy that continues to nurture the next generation

Margot shares, "I am a passionate dinner party host, and I relish any opportunity to cook for and feed the people I love."

“
It is probably this enduring passion for food that first informed my interest in the field of Food Geography
”

A pioneering spirit

Joyce herself was an extraordinary woman for her time. She was the 'last of the cartographers', based in the Department of Economic Geography at the University of Melbourne from 1935 to 1975. An intrepid explorer, the books on land use she illustrated became seminal textbooks for over 30 years. She also worked for the Department of Defence during WWII. This was at a time when women were few in number in cartography, and geography in general.

In addition to the pride that comes from supporting research that will make a positive difference in the world, Charles shares: "I had no idea how much pleasure I would derive from seeing the scholarship in action, meeting the recipients and from my ongoing association with the University of Melbourne. Each year the recipient has been a remarkable young woman. Joyce would have been proud of them."

[Read more online →](#)



Igniting confidence for women in STEM

Social pressures, lower confidence and fewer role models make the decision to study mathematical and physical sciences a difficult one for young Australian women.

The STEM workforce is critical to Australia's future innovation and prosperity, and female under-representation has serious implications. At school, girls are under-represented and under-performing in physics and advanced mathematics.

At university, female participation in STEM drops as students make the leap from undergraduate to postgraduate studies. In the workforce, women hold only 15 per cent of STEM-qualified jobs and 8 per cent of executive positions.

Mathematical and physical sciences graduates are particularly sought-after and find their skills opening doors to some of the country's best-paid careers. With female leadership shown to increase workforce performance, productivity and profitability, increasing the number of women in STEM is also a valuable investment.

Isabel Hannebery, Helen R Freeman Scholarship in Mathematics & Statistics recipient. Photo by Mark Gambino



THANK YOU

STUDENT SUCCESS

REVOLUTIONARY RESEARCH

COMMUNITY

STAY IN TOUCH



Donor Helen Freeman (centre) with Isabel Hannebery and fellow scholarship recipients

Driving transformational change

Awarded in recognition of academic potential and endeavour, the two-year Helen R Freeman Scholarships in mathematics and physics offer some financial security that relieves everyday pressures and enables young women to pursue their scientific ambitions from positions of strength.

Donor Helen Freeman has long understood the value of driving transformative change. Coming from the Victorian area of Sunraysia, she studied geography, political science and education at the University of Melbourne. Her career was in teaching and working with the Federal Government in education, international relations and trade. From her experience at a girls' school in India, she saw the impact of education and the aspirations that it encouraged.

This passion for education and helping others was deeply rooted in her upbringing, with her mother's values having a significant impact on her life. "My mother was a very generous woman who also believed that people should do something for someone else," she says.

Support that guides the way to success

For 2023 scholarship recipient Isabel Hannebery, Helen's support brought not only financial relief but also a newfound source of determination.

“It allowed me to be unafraid to ask questions, which meant I could get the best out of myself and find joy in understanding the content”

"My experience has now shifted from university to the workplace, where I work as a data engineer in the telecommunications industry. The confidence I have grown has positively shaped my experience of work from the start."

"When technical work gets difficult, I can draw on my self-belief and past successes to know that I can solve the problem."

Thanks to Helen's generosity and foresight, talented female students will continue to be empowered with the best possible opportunity to pursue academic and professional success.

"I cannot thank Helen enough for her generous support," says Isabel. "This scholarship has positively shaped my life in many ways."

"Supporting young women in science allows them to build confidence in themselves and break through barriers that are often self-perceived. With this extra support, we can build a future where young girls do not have difficulty seeking out female role models to look up to in science."

[Read more online](#) →



With your generous support, our diverse community of researchers are tackling the timeliest social and scientific questions, to help us create a better world for all.

Revolutionary Research





▲ Dr Shane Devine (left) and his colleagues Dr Marcel Doerflinger and Prof David Komander. Photo by WEHI

Strengthening global pandemic preparedness

Established with a visionary gift from international businessman and philanthropist Mr Geoffrey Cumming, a global initiative is driving revolutionary research into lifesaving disease treatments.

The Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics brings together top researchers from around the world to ensure that when the next pandemic inevitably strikes, we can rapidly develop effective treatments and save millions of lives.

Speed and agility are key to a successful pandemic response. By focusing on developing ‘plug and play’ platform technologies

that can be applied in any pandemic scenario, no matter the pathogen, the Cumming Global Centre aims to ensure scientists can quickly pivot to new pathogens as they emerge, and develop therapeutics in much shorter timeframes than currently possible.

Meet two researchers working on pioneering new approaches to treating infectious diseases.

Opening powerful possibilities for coronavirus treatments

Dr Shane Devine and his team at the WEHI are focused on new treatment options for coronaviruses – the large family of respiratory viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to pneumonia and COVID-19. Airborne illnesses are particularly difficult to control, making coronaviruses a likely source of the next pandemic. Dr Devine says, “An effective treatment for coronaviruses would completely change pandemic management.”

Dr Devine’s project specifically aims to inhibit the papain-like protease (PLpro), an enzyme that plays a key part in the replication of coronaviruses. In a world-first, Dr Devine’s team has developed small molecules that target PLpro across diverse coronavirus varieties. Early tests have shown promising results.

“We are making PLpro inhibitors that will literally stop coronavirus in its tracks,” Dr Devine. The ability to inhibit PLpro activity could yield therapeutics that target multiple strains of a virus, which would be an invaluable resource in combating novel pathogens as they change over time.

Harnessing the body’s natural immune response

Dr Annabell Bachem from the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity – a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital – is leading a groundbreaking study on programmed cell death. This natural response causes infected cells to self-destruct to prevent disease from spreading in the body. By studying how pathogens evade or suppress this defence mechanism, Dr Bachem’s research aims to apply therapeutics that can trigger programmed cell death, stopping pathogens from replicating, and reducing the severity and duration of illness.

Leveraging the body’s natural response – rather than targeting specific pathogens – means this versatile approach could potentially be applied to new pandemic threats. Dr Bachem hopes it will also lead to broad-spectrum therapies that can be used to treat a variety of viral and bacterial diseases, not just a single virus.

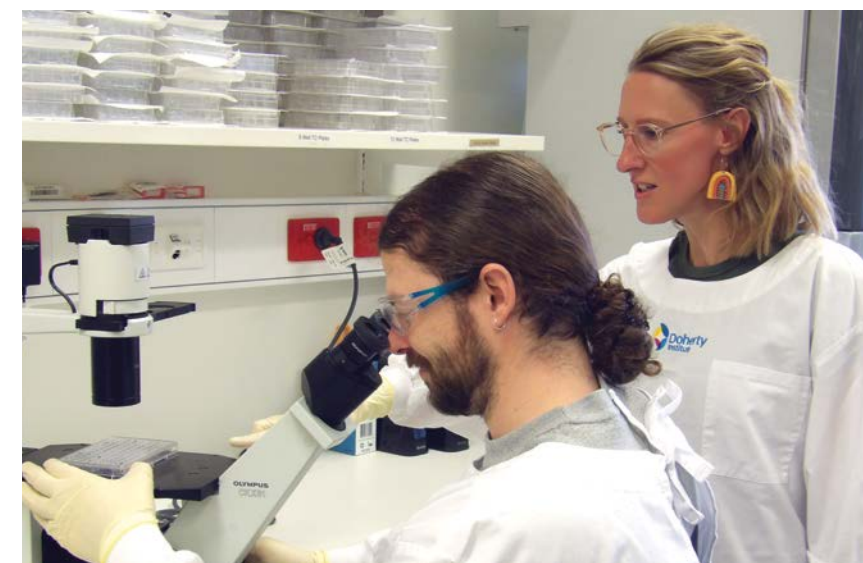
“

We might develop a therapy that helps us with not just one pandemic, but potentially the next five pandemics

”

The security to take risks

These researchers are able to pursue lifesaving breakthroughs with philanthropically supported Foundation Grants from the Cumming Global Centre. In a funding landscape that unfortunately often rewards low-risk research, where profitability and incremental progress is often prioritised over major discoveries, the Cumming Global Centre’s unique, mission-driven approach encourages innovation and pursuit of transformative projects that will have the greatest benefit to humanity. Long-term support frees the best scientific minds from onerous funding applications, to focus on research that will fundamentally change the way we manage and treat infectious disease.



▲ Dr Annabell Bachem (right) and Dr Sven Engel working in the lab

Hear from the researchers online →

New hope in the quest for HIV cure



Dr Paula Cevaál working in the lab. Photo by Rory Shepherd

Generous support from donors has led to an exciting discovery in the search for a cure for HIV.

A new chapter in HIV research is beginning, now that Dr Paula Cevaál and her team at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (Doherty Institute) – a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital – have uncovered a new approach to overcome HIV latency. This term refers to when the virus ‘goes to sleep’ in specific immune cells called resting T-cells, ready to re-emerge if virus-suppressing HIV treatment is stopped.

“As HIV cure researchers, our goal has been to reach the virus where it hides,” Dr Cevaál, a Research Fellow in Professor Sharon Lewin’s laboratory explains.

“We programmed mRNA to tell infected cells to ‘give up’ the virus and make it visible. But getting the mRNA into those cells was the challenge.”

HIV latency has been the main barrier to finding a cure – but in an important discovery, Dr Cevaál and her colleagues have found a way to expose the virus using mRNA technology. They developed a novel lipid nanoparticle – a microscopic fat-like bubble – as a delivery vehicle for the mRNA. They were excited to discover that it could successfully carry the mRNA into HIV-infected cells.

“*It forced the virus out of hiding, which is exactly what we need to start clearing it from the body*”

Researchers can now begin to target the exposed virus, and Dr Cevaál’s hope is that this new nanoparticle design could become a cornerstone in future HIV cure strategies.

The potential impact

Finding a cure for HIV could be life-changing for the 40 million people worldwide who live with the virus. The development of antiretroviral treatments has saved many lives and enabled people to live with and manage HIV for many years, but these drugs are not a standalone solution.

Costs are increasing and access to these vital medications remains limited in some lower-resourced countries, particularly those with higher infection rates. Despite medical advancements, the stigma associated with an HIV diagnosis continues to negatively impact quality of life for many.

A cure could save millions of lives, reduce rates of virus transmission, and end the lifelong financial and personal toll of taking daily treatment.

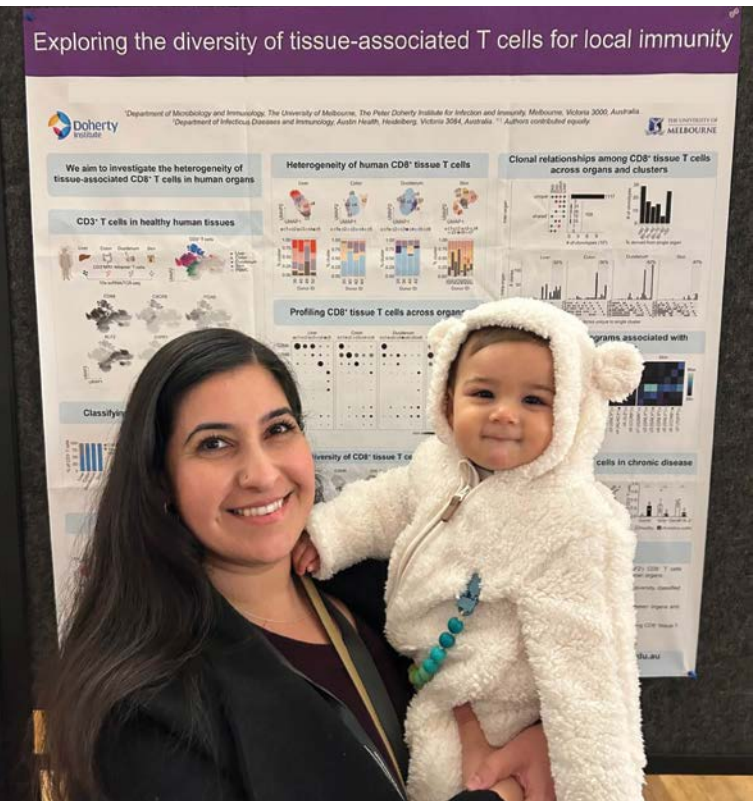
The power of partnership

Donors to the University of Melbourne have played a vital role in reaching this milestone. Generous support from the J and M Wright Foundation helped drive the research that made it possible, while the Michael Hirshorn Medical Research Commercialisation Fund is paving the way for future innovations.

“I am sincerely grateful for their generous support, which enables our vital work for people living with HIV globally. Their contribution has been instrumental in advancing our research to develop a new generation of therapeutics that have the potential to cure HIV. Their support is helping us make a real difference.”

With philanthropic support, researchers can push scientific boundaries and bring life-changing solutions closer to reality.

[Read more online →](#)



Dr Susan Christo, with her daughter Amelia, at the Keystone Symposia "T Cell Differentiation in Tissue Microenvironments"

As an early-career scientific researcher in the 1970s, Professor Mary-Jane Gething AO observed that the few women who reached senior academic positions seemed to do so by remaining unmarried and not having children. She went on to achieve great success in her own career and became the first female Head of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Melbourne.

Despite making up half of science PhD graduates and postdoctoral researchers, women remain under-represented at a professorial level. To address this, the Gething-Sambrook Family Foundation – created by Professor Gething and her late husband Professor Joseph Sambrook – launched the MJ Gething Gender Equity Award in 2019. The Award supports emerging biomedical researchers with caregiving responsibilities, regardless of gender, so they can continue advancing their careers. Six researchers received the Award in 2024.

"I want young women contemplating careers in STEM to have confidence that the research community is aware of gender inequity being a potential barrier to their success and is committed to its removal," says Professor Gething.

Supporting the leap from lab research to real-world solutions

2024 Award recipient Dr Susan Christo is a senior postdoc in immunology in Professor Laura Mackay's laboratory whose work has revealed new methods to target the cells that cause autoimmune disorders such as alopecia and psoriasis – findings that could yield new treatments for these lifelong conditions.

The Award enabled Dr Christo to participate in the prestigious Keystone Symposia in Vancouver, travelling with her husband and eleven-month-old baby, Amelia. For early-career researchers, conferences are vital for promoting their work and establishing the professional

relationships that will help to propel their research findings into the next phase: translation from the lab into real-world medical applications such as therapeutics.

Dr Christo says Keystone was one of the most important conferences in her career, "All of the leaders in my field attended and my participation ensured my visibility on an international level that I would not have received elsewhere."

“Without the passion and vision of amazing women like Professor Gething, the opportunity to progress our research during motherhood would not exist”

Fuelling careers for researchers with care duties

A generous gift from the Gething-Sambrook Family Foundation is ensuring researchers don't have to sacrifice career momentum due to caring responsibilities.

[Read more online →](#)

The power of early-career collaboration

Since 2017, the Global Collaboration Awards have been providing early-career scientific researchers with experiences that lay the groundwork for lasting impact.

Magic happens when roadblocks to creativity are removed. With greater flexibility than senior researchers who are often tied to teaching and laboratory commitments, early-career academics have the unique potential to pioneer research avenues by travelling to collaborate with experts, learn new techniques and try cutting-edge technologies.

The University of Melbourne's Global Collaboration Awards provide this critical exposure by enabling emerging researchers to form international connections and pursue game-changing research without constraint.

The Awards demonstrate the profound impact of forward-thinking philanthropy. Enabled by the generosity of founding donor Peter

Turner, and then donors Allan Chiong and Sung Lac Kha, in 2020, they are building an essential pathway for promising scientists to take their first strides toward solving humanity's greatest challenges.

A visionary initiative

Whether they're developing new technologies or sustainable solutions, Global Collaboration Award recipients conduct exploratory work that can reshape their fields.

Receiving up to \$20,000, they spend four to six weeks collaborating with peers and experts at a world-leading institution of their choice.

The success of the initiative has already led many recipients to secure postdoctoral placements, faculty roles and prestigious Australian Research Council fellowships.

Driving transformative experiences

One researcher whose progress has been supercharged is Dr Zahra Islam, 2024 award recipient and lecturer in microbial biotechnology.

Hosted by the University of Vienna's Division of Microbial Ecology (DOME), she worked with Associate Professor Dagmar Woebken and Dr Stephanie Eichorst – pioneers in bacterial

metabolism and environmental microbiology – on research that aims to reduce reliance on synthetic agricultural fertilisers to feed growing populations.

"Having the ability to travel and work in Vienna allowed me to expand my global scientific networks and be exposed to cutting-edge research that is not performed in Australia," says Dr Islam. "This award is an excellent investment in innovative research as it allows early-career researchers to connect with world-leading experts in techniques, equipment and expertise."

By sharing her new skills with colleagues, Dr Islam hopes to help transform the School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences into an Asia-Pacific hub of expertise in the use of single-cell techniques to tackle agricultural problems through the use of biofertilisers.

"This project enabled me to continue my upward trajectory by providing me with opportunities to manage a large internationally collaborative project to timely completion, advance knowledge in microbial ecology and publish papers in high-impact journals," she says.

“The opportunity to network and learn state-of-the-art techniques firsthand was second-to-none”

Dr Zahra Islam in the lab at the ARC Research Hub for Smart Fertilisers



Medieval research follows in Knight's footsteps

An anonymous donor gifted Dr Mairi Stirling Hill time and space to launch her career, through a scholarship named in celebration of a world expert on Arthurian legend.

Dr Mairi Stirling Hill, inaugural Stephen Knight Lecturer in Medieval Literature

In 2025, Dr Mairi Stirling Hill was appointed inaugural Stephen Knight Lecturer in Medieval Literature, based in the School of Culture and Communication. This lectureship spans five years and is funded entirely by a significant donation from an anonymous donor.

Dr Hill completed her PhD at the University of British Columbia. Most recently, she was based at Cardiff University. She is a specialist in Middle English literature,

with additional expertise in Old French and Anglo-Norman literature.

"My career has been given an extraordinary boost, thanks to this incredible donor. I have been given the gift of time and space to really get deep into my research. The ability to plan is a coveted luxury for early-career academics, especially in the humanities: we are usually limited by one-year contracts, so spend much of our time applying for the next job."

The unexpected benefits of the gift of time and space

Dr Hill has thrown herself into university life and, in particular, immersing herself in the early-career academic community. She has joined several committees and is helping to organise a conference scheduled for late 2025.

"I love being immersed in this intellectual environment. It's been amazing to meet early-career academics from such a broad range of disciplines. We're all so excited to hear about each other's research, and encourage each other however we can."

"Teaching here for five years also means that I will have the chance to see the same students throughout their undergraduate degree. This sort of consistency is so important for pastoral care and also for being a bridge to graduate research, and vital if a university is to be a place where students thrive."

“

I always loved literature but it was a really passionate medieval tutor during my undergraduate studies who inspired me to pursue it as a career

”

"She put me on the path and now I have the chance to do that for someone else. One of my students even wrote (in the anonymous end-of-semester survey): *this class has changed my life!*"

Transmitting a shared passion for interdisciplinarity

Dr Hill's lectureship is named in honour of Professor Stephen Thomas Knight, Professorial Fellow of Literature at the University of Melbourne. He has authored over 30 books and continues to be a much-loved public intellectual.

"Professor Knight is a world expert in big, legendary figures. It's been a lot of fun to dialogue with his work whenever I teach on the Arthurian world. What I find particularly impressive about Professor Knight's work is the breadth of his interests and expertise. He's truly interdisciplinary, drawing on history, literature, politics and environmental studies, and pulling them into conversation with one another. That's something I really try to emulate, both in my research and in my teaching. That's what makes medieval studies, and the humanities in general, so valuable: they stretch you to think broadly and engage with different questions and viewpoints."

While she respects that the donor of the Stephen Knight Lectureship wishes to remain anonymous, Dr Hill is keen to convey her deep appreciation.

"Thank you for this incredible kickstart to my career! You have given me the time to develop my research and my teaching and also publish things that I hope inspire people to think about the modern world in the context of our shared cultural history."

Read more online →

A legacy of languages



◀ Thomas Watson, Industry Fellow in Australian Indigenous languages, recording 50 words in Gangulu

The largest ever bequest towards research of Australian languages is supporting Indigenous community-led language documentation.

When a language ceases to be spoken, we lose more than words. The disappearance of a language comes with an irreplaceable loss of culture, identity and scientific knowledge.

When Professor Rachel Nordlinger worked with Wambaya Elders to create the only dictionary of their language – which has been spoken in the Barkly Tablelands region of the Northern Territory for thousands of years – she learned that Wambaya names existed for native trees that had never been identified by non-Indigenous botanists.

Professor Nordlinger and her team at the University of Melbourne Research Unit for Indigenous Language (RUIL) hope to end the historical loss of Indigenous languages, and preserve the meaning and knowledge held in these words for future generations. Supported by a generous gift in Will from the late Duncan Leary, RUIL works with communities across the country to document and promote Indigenous languages, and raise public awareness of how important these languages are.

The 50 Words Project

A key initiative of RUIL, the 50 Words Project aims to make fifty words from every Indigenous language of Australia available for everyone to hear and learn. The languages and words are displayed online on a 50 Words interactive language map of Australia, allowing users to easily find information relevant to their local area. The project now showcases words from 97 languages, with more added regularly as communities around Australia contribute.

Professor Nordlinger says, “We have partnered with language centres around Australia to arrange in-community recordings and to support community-led language documentation.”

The written words are accompanied by audio provided by a language speaker. “It’s easy sometimes for Australians to think of Indigenous languages as something of the past, but by having the audio, it brings them to life. It becomes real, which is why it is so moving to hear the voices,” Professor Nordlinger says.

“
Community involvement is vital in the creation of these resources
”

A vital contribution to language conservation

In 2017 RUIL received Duncan Leary’s extraordinary multi-million dollar bequest for the research of Australian Indigenous languages. Though we know little about Duncan Leary’s connection to Indigenous languages, he was evidently a passionate

linguist, speaking five languages in addition to English. He graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1955 with a Bachelor of Arts and maintained a strong association with the University for the rest of his life. He studied many subjects through the University’s continuing education program (now known as the Community Access Program), including a number of Indigenous history and culture subjects.

Duncan Leary’s generosity will continue to have a substantial impact on Indigenous language research and the ways in which the University is able to support Indigenous communities to maintain their linguistic heritage. His bequest ensures that RUIL’s efforts can continue for many years to come, with impact echoing through future generations of Australians.



◀ Duncan Leary (pictured right) with partner Ernest Lanz

[Read more online →](#)



The impact of your support radiates across our local and global communities, helping to nurture future leaders, preserve ecosystems and celebrate our rich cultural diversity.

Community





▲ Installation at 65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art.
Photo by Christian Capurro

65,000 years of Australian art

An exhibition celebrating the brilliance and beauty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art while confronting the dark heart of Australia's colonial history.

A landmark exhibition at the Potter Museum of Art is showcasing the rich tapestry of Indigenous Australian art and culture and is a testament to philanthropy that fosters cultural appreciation.

A comprehensive celebration of Indigenous art

Curated by Associate Provost and Distinguished Professor Marcia Langton AO, Senior Curator Judith Ryan AM and Associate Curator Shanyssa McConville, the exhibition celebrates the brilliance of artists including William Barak, Lin Onus, Yvonne Koolmatrice, Albert Namatjira, Johnny Warangkula Tjupurrula, Emily Kam Kngwararray, Trevor Nickolls, Destiny Deacon, Yhonnie Scarce, Rover Thomas, Nongirra Marawili, Wongu Mununggurr, Minimimi Numalkiyi Mamarika, Ricky Maynard and Julie Gough.

Spanning millennia, it offers a unique glimpse into the world's oldest continuous culture. The more than 400 works featured include rarely-seen art and cultural objects from University of Melbourne collections, 194 important loans from 78 private and public lenders, and six new commissions.

Creating spaces for Indigenous voices

65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art fosters open dialogue about Australia's history.

"The ironic title of this exhibition refers to the belated and reluctant acceptance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art into the fine

art canon by Australian curators, collectors, art critics and historians in the last quarter of the 20th century," says co-curator Distinguished Professor Langton.

“
65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art celebrates Indigenous art as it is increasingly recognised in galleries and collections around the world – as the greatest single revolution in Australian art
”

A community of supporters

The exhibition owes much of its breadth to generous cultural gifts and important collections, some of which have also enriched the University's permanent Indigenous art collection. The Donald Thomson Collection in particular provides invaluable insights into Indigenous cultures across Australia. It was gifted to the University of Melbourne by Mrs Dorita Thomson, Elaine Thomson and Dorita Louise Fergusson Officer, in recognition of their husband and father Professor Donald Thomson OBE.

Principal Supporters Peter McMullin AM and Ruth McMullin have played a crucial role in enhancing the exhibition's educational impact

through their support for education materials ensuring that young visitors can engage deeply with the artworks and their cultural significance. These resources, developed in partnership with the University's Ngarrngga project and Indigenous knowledge experts, will continue to serve primary, secondary and tertiary audiences beyond the exhibition's duration. The McMullins' generous support also enabled the commissioning of six new works by Indigenous artists.

Other notable contributors include Lead Supporters Peter Jopling AM KC and the Erica Foundation, Foundational Supporters Andy and Rainie Zhang and the Naomi Milgrom Foundation, and additional support from Judith and Leon Gorr, Rebecca Hossack, John and Susan Wardle, The Honourable Irene Lawson and Brendan Kissane KC.

The accompanying publication, published in collaboration with Thames and Hudson, was enabled by support from the Gordon Darling Foundation.

A legacy for the future

Through their generous contributions, supporters of 65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art are playing a vital role in preserving and celebrating Indigenous cultures, educating the public and fostering a more inclusive understanding of Australia's rich artistic heritage. Their visionary belief is helping to ensure that the stories and artworks of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will inspire, educate and move audiences for generations to come.



◀ Curatorial team Associate Curator Shanyssa McConville, Senior Curator Judith Ryan AM and Distinguished Professor Marcia Langton AO.
Photo by James Henry

[Read more online →](#)

Safeguarding the future of cultural conservation



A visionary gift is equipping future generations of experts to preserve cultural treasures, empowering communities to safeguard their identities and histories amidst global uncertainties.

▲ Grimwade conservators restoring Joan Blaeu's Archipelagus Orientalis, sive Asiaticus, 1663. Photo by Keep Left

While the forces of climate change, civil unrest and mass migration are threatening cultural records and identities around the world, a quiet revolution in the heart of Melbourne promises to transform cultural conservation throughout Australia and our region.

A \$15 million donation by the Cripps Foundation to the University of Melbourne's Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation marks a pivotal moment in the preservation of the world's shared heritage.

The story begins with a shared dream: to safeguard the rich tapestry of human culture for generations to come. For over 25 years, the Cripps Foundation has been a steadfast partner of the Grimwade Centre, nurturing its vision with unwavering support.

Professor Robyn Sloggett, the Cripps Foundation Chair of Cultural Materials Conservation, is deeply aware of the partnership's significance.

"The Cripps family's commitment to cultural preservation has been nothing short of transformative," she says. "Their support has allowed us to dream bigger and reach further than we ever thought possible."

Diverse expertise

The Centre's recent work includes the restoration of Australia's 1297 version of the *Magna Carta*, reconstruction of church heritage in the Philippines, identification and remediation of 'poisonous' 19th-century books, and recovery and restoration of objects damaged in the Victorian floods.

A project to restore fire-damaged collections at South Melbourne's See Yup Temple – the oldest continuously operating Chinese temple in Australia – won UNESCO's 2025 Global Award for World Heritage Education Innovative Case Study.

Partnership with Indigenous communities is a highlight of the Centre's mission. Funded by a 2024 Australian Research Council (ARC) Industry Laureate Fellowship, Professor Sloggett is leading work to safeguard remote Indigenous heritage and support self-determination in collaboration with Arnhem, Northern and Kimberley Artists (ANKA).

New futures for conservation

The Cripps family's latest gift will enable the Grimwade Centre to evolve into the Robert Cripps Institute for Cultural Conservation. Bringing elevated status and expanded reach, this transition represents a monumental shift in capability and impact.

"Medical institutes focus on the physical and mental health of communities, but cultural health is also critical. That's the focus for the Cripps Institute," Professor Sloggett explains.

Amy Tennent, Director of the Cripps Foundation, is excited about the possibilities.

▼ Grimwade Centre Research Assistant Hannah Stewart with Warmun Art Centre worker Dolorosa Carrington



“
The Institute will provide opportunities for future academic and community conservators and their cross-disciplinary collaborators
”

Empowering future conservators

The Cripps Foundation's visionary donation aims to preserve the past while shaping the future. The Institute will dramatically increase the University's capacity to train the next generation of conservators, with graduate researcher positions growing from 21 to 45 by 2030 – opening up opportunity and hope for new generations of conservation experts from communities around the Asia-Pacific.

University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Professor Emma Johnston AO notes the significance.

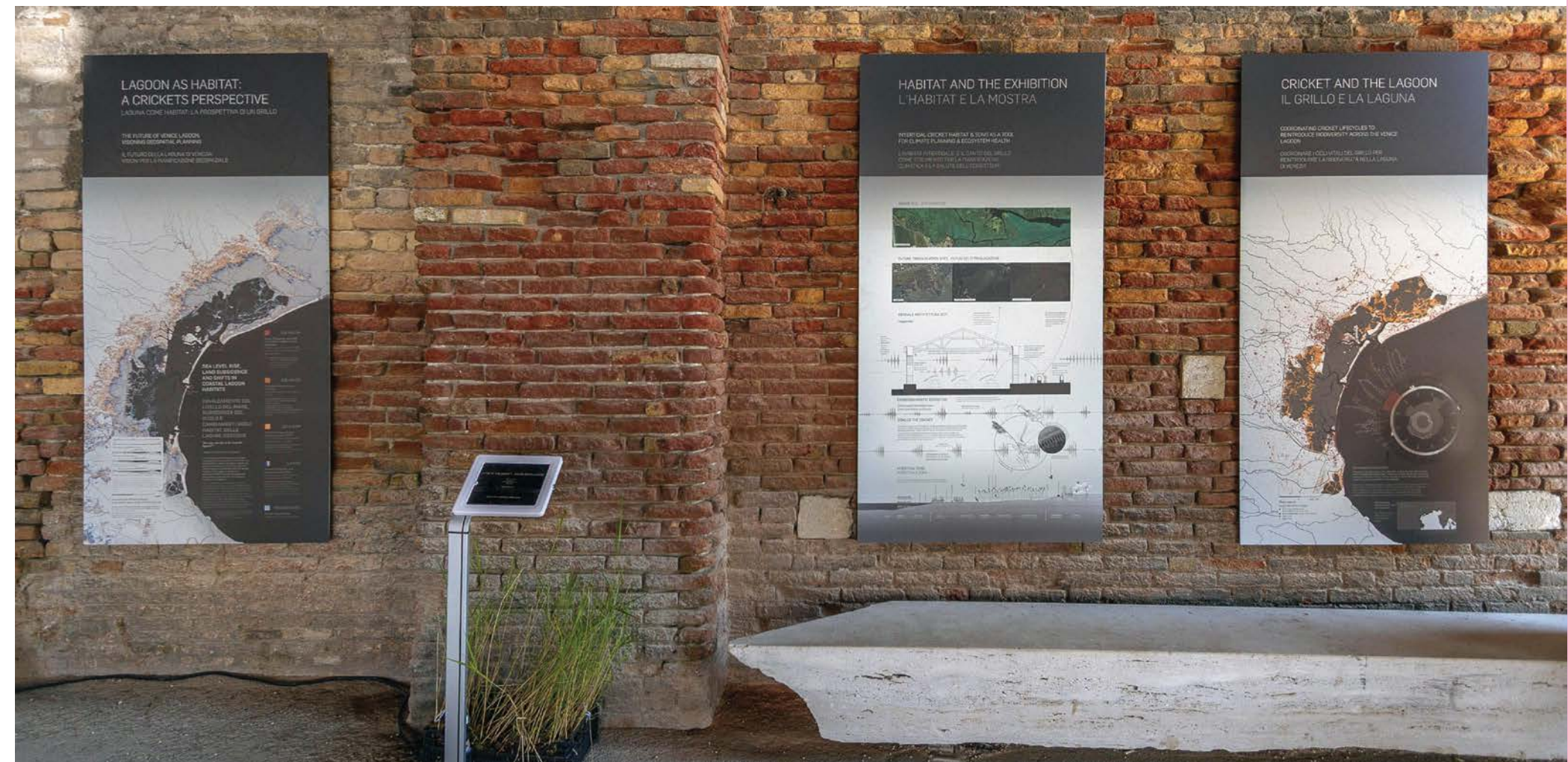
"Two decades ago, only one PhD candidate had graduated in cultural materials conservation in Australia," she says. "Through the enduring support of the Cripps Foundation, that number has since grown significantly and will continue to do so during this critical next phase of expansion."

The Robert Cripps Institute for Cultural Conservation will stand as a testament to what can be achieved when philanthropy meets passionate expertise – a promise that the world's diversity of stories, art and traditions will endure in an era of unprecedented threat to cultural conservation.

[Read more online →](#)

Song of the Cricket resonates in Venice

A striking installation for the Venice Biennale of Architecture combines ecological science, architectural design and sound art in a living, breathing conservation experiment.



▲ Song of the Cricket installation at the Venice Biennale of Architecture

A tiny insect is making a big comeback in Venice, through an extraordinary collaboration between the University of Melbourne and Venice Biennale. Supported by Dr Janet A Schapper, Song of the Cricket features until November 2025 as part of the 19th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

The project highlights the plight of the critically endangered Adriatic Marbled Bush-Cricket. Its song was once woven through the natural soundscape of Venice but is now rarely heard, as habitat destruction has decimated the cricket population.

Art replicates life

Song of the Cricket is a call to rethink the way we shape our cities. Its simple and compelling message is: cities are not just for people. Urban areas are ecosystems, and their health depends on the smallest inhabitants.

The installation features mobile islands planted with varying types of vegetation, afloat on the Venice lagoon. These habitats are designed to test which conditions best support cricket breeding, and ultimately to help reintroduce the species and grow the population. An original sound installation brings the crickets' song to life and draws on the city's musical history by imaginatively repurposing the work of Vivaldi.

"This is a reintroduction strategy," says landscape architect and ecologist Professor Alex Felson – a co-creator on the project.

“
*We're not just working
to save one species;
we're rebuilding the
base of a food web*
”

"Crickets are food for birds, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. Without them, the associated food webs are fragmented."

A multi-disciplinary collaboration

This unique project springs from a partnership between the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning and the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music. Professor Felson led the design of the floating cricket habitats, while Head of Composition and Associate Professor at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Associate Professor Miriama Young crafted an evocative soundscape that reimagines the natural chorus of the lagoon.

The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology assisted with conservation efforts, working with industry partner ARUP on a geospatial study to examine the

impacts of human and climate activity on cricket habitats. This helped researchers identify optimal sites for translocation. Insights from previous reintroduction trials – of grasshoppers – conducted by the School of BioSciences in Royal Park in Melbourne also informed their work.

This remarkable project demonstrates how interdisciplinary partnerships can lead to globally recognised innovation. Song of the Cricket is just one of the many projects that sees science, art and design working in harmony to draw attention to the insidious yet urgent issue of biodiversity loss, and to imagine new possibilities for conservation.



▲ Bush-Cricket habitats on the Venice lagoon

[Read more online →](#)

Inspiring next-gen Indigenous engineers



This immersive educational experience is helping Indigenous high school students explore pathways into engineering and tech.

Jermaine, a student at the 2025 Victorian Indigenous Engineering Winter School

The Victorian Indigenous Engineering Winter School (VIEWS) is changing the face of engineering by empowering Indigenous high school students to see themselves as the innovators and leaders of tomorrow.

Run in partnership between the University of Melbourne, Monash University, Swinburne University and RMIT University, the seven-day immersive program gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Years 10 to 12 a first-hand look at university life, careers in engineering and tech, and the real-world impact of these professions.

VIEWS enables students from across Australia to explore hands-on workshops, meet Indigenous professionals and engage with industry leaders.

It enjoys support from the Motorola Solutions Foundation, Worley, Boeing, Google, SIEMENS and SYPAQ.

“VIEWS gave me a window into what it’s like to be an engineer and the different skills engineers use,” says Joshua Van Bockel, a Taungurung man of the Kulin nation, who attended VIEWS in 2017 and went on to become a Master of Mechatronics Engineering student at the University of Melbourne.

“One of the biggest barriers for Indigenous students entering the tech and STEM space is the lack of experience and information, which is why the VIEWS program is so valuable. Through VIEWS, you get an inside point of view of the industry.”

VIEWS was born out of the 2015 National Indigenous Engineering Summit to tackle the under-representation of Indigenous people in STEM. A decade into its launch, the program continues to inspire aspiring engineers.

Michelle Bellino, Head of Student Experience in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, says that the program was a “powerful reminder of what can be achieved when we come together with a shared purpose”.

“This is what is unique about VIEWS,” she says.

“
*The spirit of
collaboration, learning
and innovation ...
defines the VIEWS
program*
”

[Read more online →](#)



Inaugural cohort at the Bastas Academy for Health Leadership

Transforming the future of healthcare

Made possible thanks to a generous gift from Dennis Bastas, Executive Chairman and CEO of DBG Health, a unique health academy is equipping future healthcare leaders with the tools to make lasting change.

Around the world, health systems are under strain, overwhelmed by workforce shortages, chronic under-investment and rising levels of burnout. The COVID-19 pandemic made clear that tackling today’s complex health challenges requires more than clinical expertise. It demands capable, forward-thinking leadership at every level.

Enter the Bastas Academy for Health Leadership (BAHL): a bold new initiative made possible through a \$7.5 million gift from philanthropist and entrepreneur Dennis Bastas. Launched as a unique partnership between the University of Melbourne and Melbourne Business School, BAHL aims to equip health professionals with the skills and mindset to lead lasting change.

“
*I’m proud to establish
this Academy*
”

Bastas says, “It will provide opportunities for emerging health leaders from diverse backgrounds and upskill the sector workforce with an innovative approach to confronting complex health issues.”

From strategic thinking and financial management to collaboration and change leadership, BAHL focuses on capabilities often missing from traditional health training. It also fosters a broader ecosystem for health sector innovation, ensuring Australia remains actively engaged in shaping better outcomes at home and globally.

“Not all health professionals begin their career with the intention of becoming a leader. Yet leadership is

vital at all levels of the health sector,” Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Professor Jane Gunn AO says.

“The capabilities and knowledge required for effective leadership in healthcare, such as strategic thinking, collaboration, communication, financial management, change management and innovation, are often under-valued compared to technical and academic competencies. That is why we’re partnering with Melbourne Business School to deliver this initiative.”

With its pioneering vision, the Bastas Academy is building a new generation of leaders ready to meet the challenges of 21st-century healthcare, while driving a healthier, more resilient future for all.

[Read more online →](#)

Taking strides in sport and science

Race-walking Olympian Jemima Montag is balancing medicine and medals at the University of Melbourne.

For most people, pursuing a medical degree or competing at the Olympics would each be a challenge on their own. But Jemima Montag is doing both.

A dual race-walking Olympic bronze medallist and full-time medical student at the University of Melbourne, Jemima has, at moments, doubted her ability to nurture both her passions.

“It certainly hasn’t been a glamorous or smooth juggle,” Jemima says. “There’s been times where I’ve nearly given up on both of the endeavours.”

What’s encouraged her to persevere, Jemima says, is the support behind her – including the Andrew and Geraldine Buxton Athletics Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to an elite athlete studying at the University of Melbourne, and offers a stipend, along with strength and conditioning programming and coaching, physiotherapy clinic access, and academic and administrative support.

Jemima says the scholarship has been integral to her ability to juggle sport and study without burnout.

“Between two training sessions a day, and then many hours at the hospital, there is absolutely no time for me to have any sort of part-time job,” she says. “So just to lighten the load of that stress, through the Buxton Scholarship, has certainly enabled me to pull this off.”

But beyond the alleviation of financial stress, the scholarship has also powered Jemima’s belief in herself, giving her tangible evidence of the community of supporters that have rallied behind her career.

“
It’s a lovely vote
of confidence
”

“I know that Melbourne University Sport and by extension, the Buxtons, believe in my potential,” she says.

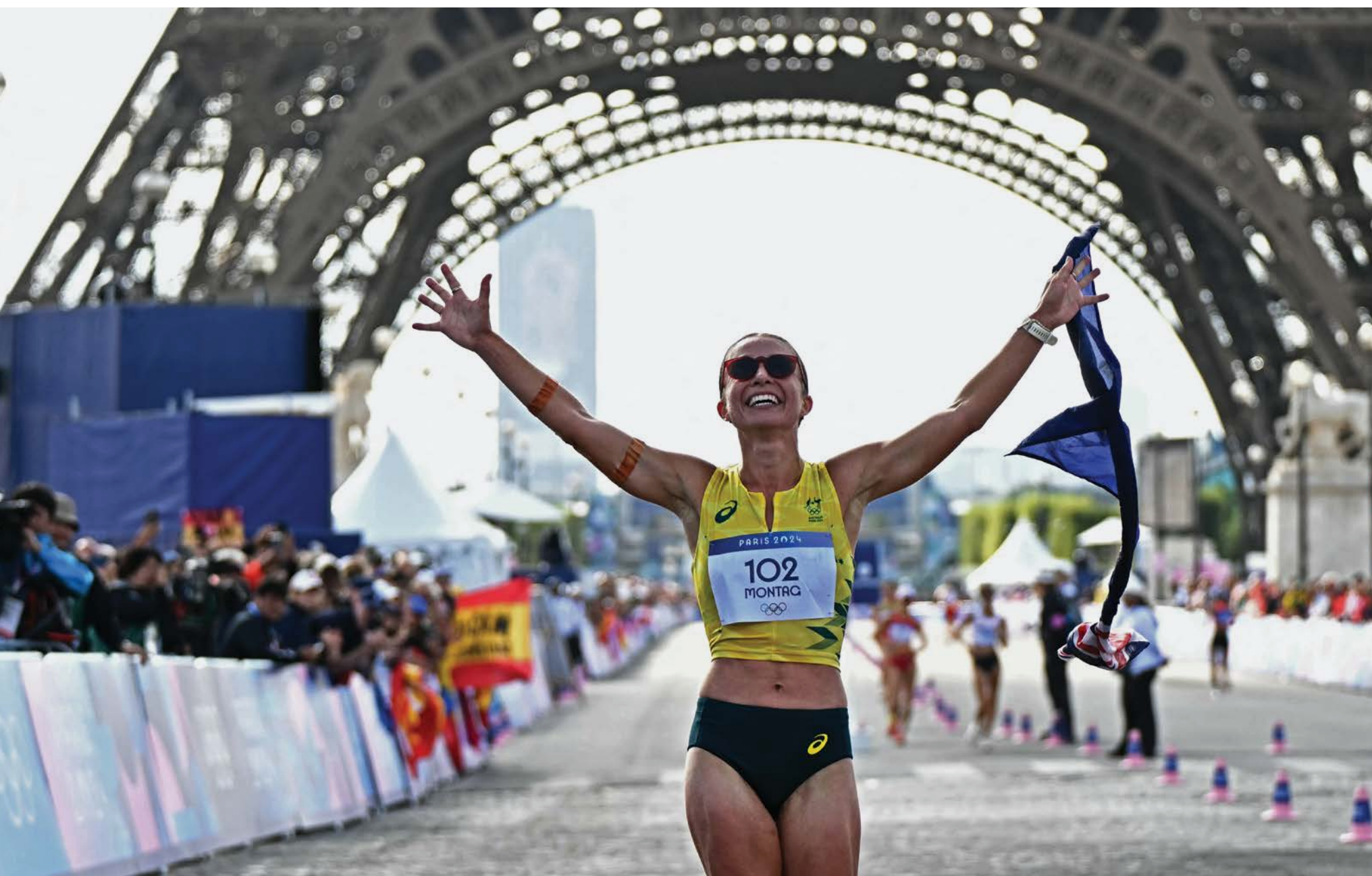
Walking the talk

Jemima’s performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics was a milestone, both personally and for the nation. She won bronze in the 20km race walk and backed it up six days later with another bronze in the inaugural mixed relay event, making her the first Australian woman in over 50 years to win two medals in track and field at a single Games. Just as powerful was her post-race message urging young girls to stay in sport, not for medals, but for the sense of belonging and leadership it builds.

The multiple-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist, Oceania record holder, and World Championships silver medallist, continues to lead on and off the track, using her platform to inspire the next generation. Through her public health initiative Play On, she and fellow athletes are trying to break down the barriers to sports participation for young girls, encouraging thousands of students to get active.

Now studying an integrated Master of Public Health and Doctor of Medicine, Jemima hopes to one day use her skills to work on upstream health solutions, preventing illnesses before they start.

With the 2028 LA Olympics in her sights, and another round of medical school exams up ahead, Jemima continues to keep up the pace toward her dreams, no matter what arena they are in.





Stay in touch

Your generosity is changing the trajectory of students' lives, uncovering life-changing discoveries through research and building supportive, impactful communities at the University and beyond. There are many ways you can stay connected and continue learning just how transformative your support is.

Continuing your support

From its foundation in 1853, the University of Melbourne is privileged to be the beneficiary of generous philanthropic support from alumni, staff, parents and friends. Philanthropy at the University of Melbourne changes lives. Your support matters.

Contact us at:

University of Melbourne
Advancement
Victoria 3010 Australia
donor-relations@unimelb.edu.au
+61 3 9035 4054

Giving online

Support University or faculty-specific priorities by giving online:
unimelb.edu.au/alumni/give

Gifts in Wills

Including the University in your Will is an extra special way of providing enduring support for the work of the University beyond your lifetime. If you have included the University in your Will, or are thinking about doing so, please contact us at:
bequests-office@unimelb.edu.au
+61 3 9035 3489

Volunteering

Support University or faculty-specific priorities by volunteering:
unimelb.edu.au/alumni/get-involved/volunteer

Focused philanthropy

If you are thinking about a more tailored gift that could make an important difference, please contact:

Jonathan Cosgrove

Senior Director of Philanthropy
jonathan.cosgrove@unimelb.edu.au
+61 417 013 406

Allison Howell Quinton

Senior Director of Advancement,
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and
Health Sciences
allison.howellquinton@unimelb.edu.au
+61 466 652 249

Catrionadh Dobson

Senior Director of Advancement,
Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
cdobson@unimelb.edu.au
+61 3 8344 6936

Karen Van Sacker

Senior Director of Advancement
Science, Technology, Engineering
and Mathematics
karen.vansacker@unimelb.edu.au
+61 481 919 843

Oonagh Kane

Senior Director of Advancement
Principal Gifts
oonagh.kane@unimelb.edu.au
+61 434 217 214

Sonya Paul

Director of Philanthropy (Indigenous)
sonya.paul@unimelb.edu.au
+61 423 140 363

Create your online account

Create your UniMelb account to let us know if you would prefer to receive a digital version of this publication in the future. You can also access experiences and thought leadership such as free events and research updates. Simply head to your.unimelb.edu.au and select Create UniMelb Account then Update your details once logged in. We recommend using your personal email address. Call **+61 3 9035 4054** for support.



The University of Melbourne
(Australian University)
PRV12150 / CRICOS 00116K

Advancement Office
Levels 1-2 Raymond Priestley Building
PARKVILLE VIC 3010

Cover image:
Recipient Ava Thornton with one
of the Young Alumni Scholarship
donors Henry Dow