



THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING



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FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

IN THANKS FOR YOUR EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORT

This year, we report on the culmination of 14 years of extraordinary generosity. As we conclude *Believe – The Campaign for the University of Melbourne*, we acknowledge our donor and alumni community and celebrate the future of philanthropy at the University.

In this year's report, as we conclude the *Believe* campaign, we highlight some of the stunning outcomes made possible by generous contributions of time and financial support since it commenced in 2008. *Believe* has been the most successful higher education fundraising campaign in Australian history. With your support, the University continues to have a profound impact on Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and the world.

When I arrived at the University of Melbourne as Vice-Chancellor in 2018, I quickly came to appreciate the great importance of philanthropy, and of our generous worldwide community of alumni.

This is part of a global pattern: the best universities recognise that philanthropy brings major benefits to future generations, not only of scholars, students and alumni, but of nations and communities everywhere.

These benefits range from cutting-edge research that shapes, enriches, and saves lives, to giving students access to the very best in teaching and learning, to supporting and strengthening the arts. Increasingly, the impact of your giving has been felt well beyond the University and deeply into our Australian and global communities. In recent years, support for COVID-19 research has helped us to return to a more 'normal' way of living faster than would have been otherwise possible.

Thanks to 73,987 individual gifts from nearly 30,000 donors to the University, its colleges, and affiliates, this immense giving effort has enabled the University of Melbourne

to invest in a remarkable number of major teaching, research and public benefit initiatives. These include:

- \$610M directed toward research and discovery, including the establishment of 34 Professorial Chairs, 25 of which are invested for the long-term. These research chairs range across the classics, history, cancer research, paediatrics, neural engineering, human rights law, physics, economic history, medical biology and more

- 473 scholarships and award funds, many of which are supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds

- \$104.2M directed towards learning spaces and campus development, creating first-class educational environments where students and researchers can excel.

In addition to these remarkable accomplishments, *Believe* has seen outstanding contributions made by University alumni as volunteers – mentoring and inspiring thousands of students, supporting the University, and further enhancing its global reputation.

To everyone who has played a role in the *Believe* campaign, I offer my deep personal and sincere thanks. When you give to the University you help us make extraordinary things happen. As a grateful community, we thank you for believing in us.

PROFESSOR DUNCAN MASKELL
VICE-CHANCELLOR

FROM THE CHANCELLOR

IN THANKS FOR YOUR TRUST AND GENEROSITY

Together, through *Believe* –
*The Campaign for the
University of Melbourne*,
we have forever changed
the face of the institution.



Fourteen years ago, we set ourselves a goal – to build philanthropy and alumni engagement into the fabric of the University.

It was built upon a belief that the University of Melbourne is an important public institution, and is seen as such, not just by the people of Melbourne, but the state of Victoria and the Australian public. And you, our community, have responded so generously and enthusiastically to *Believe*.

For this, we thank you.

The outcomes of this campaign are something of which I'm proud. Your generous contributions and engagement with the work of the University reflects the importance of this institution to society and the esteem with which it is held.

I believe one of the fundamental roles of a university is to reflect the accumulated wisdom and aspirations of the society we serve. We question, explore and work to make a difference and extend the cannon of human knowledge for the better.

You have demonstrated the deep relationship and dialogue between the University of Melbourne and our community, what matters to you and the role we play in

meeting your expectations. From the graduates we produce, the research we explore, and the campuses we share, your generosity has shaped our public contribution to society.

And with your support, the journey will continue.

While some of the circumstances in which the University operates have changed, our work and purpose has not. That's no less important now than it was before the events of the past few years.

Your trust in the University is a source of pride to us. We chose the word *Believe*, because we wanted to reach you, those who believe in the value of universities and the particular importance and value of the University of Melbourne.

Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your support and thank you for trusting the University to use your gifts as you've directed and, wisely, in the interests of the University of Melbourne, our community and society. Thank you for trusting us, and we will continue to do our best to honour and fulfil your trust.

ALLAN MYERS AC QC
CHANCELLOR

FROM THE ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT



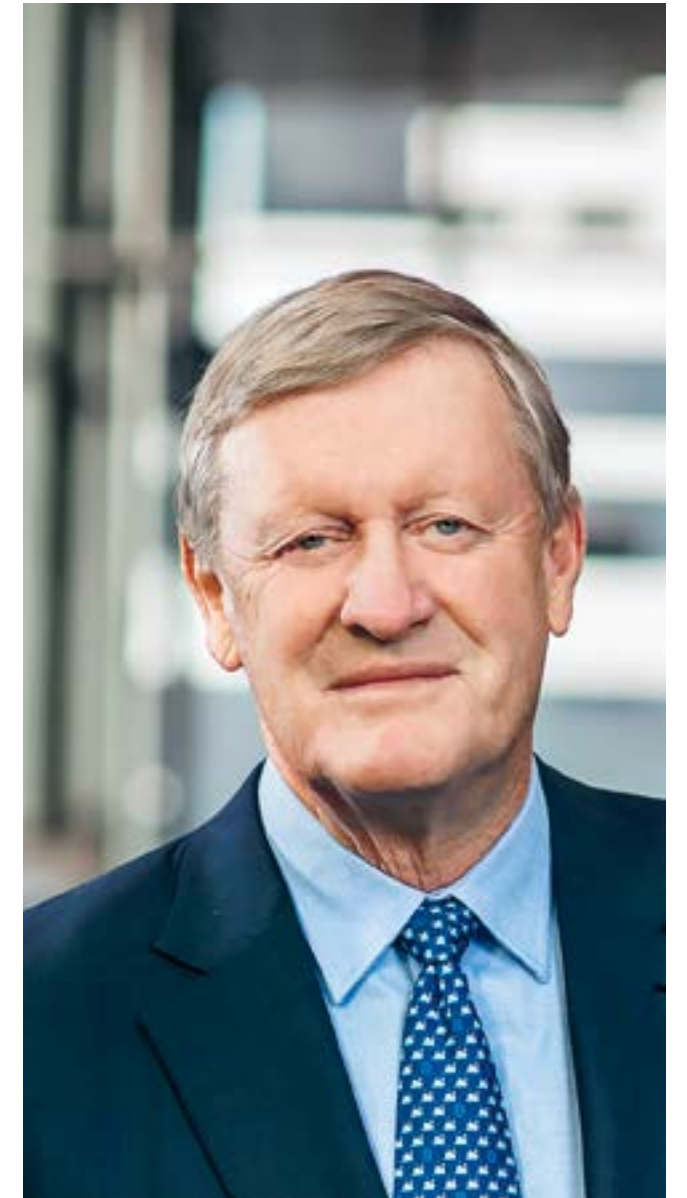
As an alum myself, I understand how valuable it is for us to engage in the life of our University, and for our University to engage with us in return. So, I was thrilled when this engagement was acknowledged as a key target of *Believe*, placing alumni and our community at the heart of the University.

Our community has stepped up to make a difference throughout this campaign. More than 15,000 of us have volunteered our time, with more than 8000 alumni acting as mentors for students through mentoring initiatives and the Ask Alumni program. Even with the limitations we faced throughout the pandemic, more than 100,000 alumni also attended events and public lectures as the University continued to share its expertise with the world.

I congratulate every member of our alumni community who has made a contribution, and thus made a difference. I am so proud of what we've achieved together and, alongside my Council colleagues, I look forward to continuing to strengthen our global community into the future.

DR RACHEL BAIRD
ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT

FROM THE CAMPAIGN CHAIR



The city of Melbourne has a number of great institutions but the hard work of the University of Melbourne, its people and the alumni community over the past 14 years has ensured it remains one of the best.

The breadth and depth of your generosity is to be applauded. The University, its researchers, students, and community owe you a debt of gratitude. You have stepped up, and your generosity and imagination has changed the University forever.

The opportunities you have provided, the people you have supported – be it through scholarships, investment in our sporting clubs, or ground-breaking research opportunities – has meant that students and researchers can give their very best.

The University owes you a debt of gratitude for your contribution. You have given us the foundations for an even stronger future, for those who are studying now and those yet to come.

Thank you.

LEIGH CLIFFORD AO
CAMPAIGN CHAIR

A HOME IN THE HEART OF MELBOURNE'S ARTS PRECINCT

The Southbank campus redevelopment was made possible thanks to The Ian Potter Foundation, The Myer Foundation, Martyn Myer AO and Louise Myer, Marc Besen AC and the late Eva Besen AO, Joanna Baevski, The Robert Salzer Foundation, and other generous donors – together with the University and the Victorian State Government.

Brilliant artists need inspiring spaces, and the redeveloped Southbank campus is providing that backdrop for the University's Fine Arts and Music students.

"The new and refurbished buildings on campus have lifted the infrastructure to meet the energy and passion the students and staff have always had," said Professor Marie Sierra, Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music.

Behind this world-class development – brought to life through award-winning architects – are generous donors who believe in growing Melbourne as the cultural capital of Australia.

"The donors' support means we can hold our own with any city in the world culturally, while also signalling possible future career paths to our students, who can take a five-minute walk to catch a major performance or see a key exhibition," said Professor Sierra.

A GLOBALLY UNIQUE VISION

Professor Barry Conyngham was the Dean of Fine Arts and Music at the University between 2010–2020. Early on in the role, he started forming plans for a new and improved campus. "The big vision was driven by education of the creative artist, and the creation of a campus in the middle of the Arts Precinct – which automatically makes it unique, incredibly special, and unusual across the world," explained Professor Conyngham.

Another important consideration was designing the buildings around the students' needs – while also ensuring they were attractive spaces for industry partners to collaboratively work in.

"You need special spaces for teaching. So, our rehearsal and making spaces had to be flexible so that the emphasis need not be on the audience, but on the performer, the art maker, the filmmaker or the dancer."

Through every step, Professor Conyngham was grateful for the support of philanthropists who gave so much more than just funding. "It was interesting that the catalyst really wasn't me. The catalysts were those donors who came in early, who saw the potential," said Professor Conyngham.

The former Dean and renowned composer said he started off with \$15M for the redevelopment project in 2010 and was tasked with growing that number substantially.

Around that time, Professor Conyngham met philanthropist and businessman Martyn Myer AO, who along with other members of his family contributed \$2.9M towards the

redevelopment. Additionally, The Myer Foundation committed a transformational \$5.1M – well and truly lifting the visionary project off the ground.

The Myer family's immense contribution to this decade-long project didn't stop there. Martyn Myer was also instrumental in driving the project forward. He brought with him invaluable experience and played a crucial role in securing the Victoria Mounted Police stables, which became home to the visual arts.

"Working closely with the government is essential, not least in our case where securing the police stables was key to opening up the whole campus," said Mr Myer, "But we were able to present them with a compelling argument – we can be the cultural capital of Australia, of the world even, but for that you also need to support a world-class arts and culture training faculty, right there in the heart of it."

Together with Professor Conyngham, Mr Myer also garnered the support of many more foundations and philanthropists – including the transformative contribution from The Ian Potter Foundation. By 2019, more than \$200M of project work – a combination of philanthropic support and state government funding – had been secured.

Although it was hard work acquiring funding, securing existing buildings, and getting the development

moving, Professor Conyngham and Mr Myer remained motivated by the significant vision of the project.

"We had a very exciting 10 years," said Professor Conyngham. "Even when the spaces were being designed, built, or even dreamt about, I would say to my music students, 'well, you might have to come back to see our new, beautiful conservatorium when it's finished'."

FORMING PART OF THE CULTURAL FABRIC

Eight years after its inception, most of the campus redevelopments were complete and ready to be enlivened by students and teachers. Since then, many collaborations between the University and the industry have unfolded intuitively.

One of the first collaborations was the University's five-year partnership with the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO), facilitated through Mr Myer's close relationship with both organisations and supported by the Sidney Myer University Trust.

Through the partnership – inspired by the outstanding



Ian Potter Southbank Centre



Nikki Green

quality of the teaching and learning facilities – the ACO's musicians and guest artists provide unique training opportunities for the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music students.

Having a dedicated studio space in The Stables was a highlight for Fine Arts alum Ashley Perry during his studies.

"It was really incredible to have the space to be able to practise, store my equipment, be there to think through the works that I was making, and connect with the other students," said Ashley. "Being able to create art in the centre of the city near galleries and other spaces was really important, and the light in The Stables is stunning as well!"

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) alum Nikki Green said her time learning at the Southbank campus exposed her to inspiring, world-class choreographers.

"In my graduating year, I had the privilege of working with Anouk van Dijk and Stephanie Lake – both extremely incredible, independent choreographers renowned in Melbourne and worldwide," shared Nikki. She also reflected on the "really special" experience of performing with the NGV. "It was quite a big, exciting thing for us as first years to really understand the exposure of performing and the great relationship that the Victorian College of the Arts has with the arts community," said Nikki.

There's no doubt the improved campus has given students more opportunities to work alongside and form relationships with their industry counterparts. And the brilliant facilities also allow students to be truly prepared for working in the industry.

"These are gorgeous spaces – but it's all about developing the artists with the kind of rooms that they will work in. I think students of whatever kind respond to that," said Professor Conyngham.

SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE PATH AHEAD

Although restrictions due to COVID-19 have hindered many exhibitions and performances since the reopening of the Southbank campus, many fantastic collaborations were still able to take place. "You can just imagine how much we'll be doing in 2022!" said Professor Sierra.

Through all these struggles, one thing was clear – the students showed a strong desire to return to their inspiring campus and did so at every opportunity.

"What the philanthropic supporters have given to the students, staff and public through the campus redevelopment is incredible; we can't thank them enough for providing this great path forward."

GIVING LIFE TO MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS

Thanks to the vision and generosity of a single donor – Mrs Pamela Galli AO – three distinguished medical specialists from three distinct fields of medical research at the University of Melbourne are harnessing the power of collaboration to share knowledge, push boundaries and save lives.

Ten years ago, the prognosis for patients diagnosed with melanoma was bleak. Life expectancy was, on average, just nine months. These days, more than 50 per cent of patients are cured with successful treatment.

It is progress that simply would not have been possible without significant and sustained investment in the talent and technology that is so vital to making transformative discoveries.

Driving this work forward is Professor Grant McArthur, the Lorenzo Galli Chair in Melanoma and Skin Cancers at the University of Melbourne, and Senior Consultant Medical Oncologist, Cancer Medicine at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Using new computational technologies, Professor McArthur and his team, in collaboration with researchers at WEHI (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research), are solving longstanding mysteries of cancer biology at the single-cell level, and revealing how the immune system can be harnessed to fight cancer. These radical advances are yielding life-changing results.

“Going from average survival rates of just nine months to more than 50 per cent of people being cured in the space of a decade is just remarkable,” said Professor McArthur.

Conducting medical research that yields meaningful scientific advances to profoundly change how we view, think of and tackle chronic and debilitating diseases has always been a slow-burn, high-stakes profession.

Those with the audacity to tackle such hugely complex problems require significant amounts of persistence, patience, prowess, and no small measure of capital.

Enter the philanthropy of Mrs Pamela Galli AO, whose tireless advocacy for medical research was inspired by the specialised care her late husband Lorenzo Galli received during his treatment for cancer.

Thanks to a potent combination of vision and generosity, her philanthropic gifts to the University of Melbourne have been fundamental to the establishment of three professorial Chairs, along with the creation of The Lorenzo and Pamela Galli Medical Research Trust.

Established in 2017, the Galli Medical Research Trust supports collaborative research programs across the Parkville medical precinct, in the areas of cancer and developmental disorders, and enables a unique partnership between the University of Melbourne, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, WEHI and the Royal Children’s Hospital.

Professor Jane Gunn, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, highlighted the uniqueness of the Galli Medical Research Trust. “It provides significant and long-term funding to key programs of research, enabling these teams to innovate and explore avenues of enquiry that would

not otherwise receive funding through traditional funding models.”

Taken together, Mrs Galli’s transformational giving enables teams of specialised researchers spanning three fields of medical science – developmental medicine, medical biology, and cancer – to amplify their competencies, promote multidisciplinary collaboration and encourage bold risk-taking, knowing that this is how life-saving breakthroughs happen.

THE INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS

Having built substantial critical mass in computational biology and single-cell sequencing technology, the team’s shared purpose to deliver better patient outcomes is driving an open and collaborative exchange of knowledge across different specialist fields, including the creation of a network of key melanoma researchers across Australia, as well as forums where attendees waive confidentiality agreements to promote transparency.

Professor McArthur is a huge advocate for the initiatives the Galli Medical Research Trust has inspired. “We have initiated a meeting that’s regularly attended by 100-plus people with specific expertise in single-cell. That is enabling a terrific interchange of information and ideas. Rather than being focused on how to secure the next funding grant, we are able to immerse ourselves in the problems and really come together in a way that we would not have achieved without Pamela’s investment.”

AN INVESTMENT IN POSSIBILITY

Professor Doug Hilton AO, Director of WEHI, Head of Medical Biology at the University of Melbourne and the Lorenzo and Pamela Galli Chair in Medical Biology, said Mrs Pamela Galli’s generosity was instrumental to their individual goals and collective aspirations.

“Most donors target one institution or one group. A highly effective hallmark of Pamela’s giving has been the decision to support the University of Melbourne and its affiliated institutions, resulting in an expansive and enduring impact.”

Professor David Amor’s position as the Lorenzo and Pamela Galli Chair in Developmental Medicine and his work at the Royal Children’s Hospital has helped identify the causes of developmental disabilities in children, including chromosomal disorders, autism and cerebral palsy. He echoed Professor Hilton’s sentiment, making clear how crucial stable funding is in the pursuit of unlocking meaningful progress on exceptionally complex problems.

“Competitive funding is spasmodic and funding cycles tend to be based on three to four-year timelines. That can be good for some projects, but it is not a great incentive to do long-term ambitious work over 10 years. Our ability to use the



Mrs Pamela Galli AO, with (left to right) Professor David Amor, Professor Grant McArthur and Professor Doug Hilton AO.

Galli Medical Research Trust funding to invest in and hold on to the good researchers ensures continuity which offers such huge help.”

One key appointee, Dr Melanie Eckersley-Maslin, Galli Senior Research Fellow and 2021 recipient of the prestigious Snow Fellowship for her work in embryonic development and cancer progression, has been a valuable addition to Professor McArthur’s research team. “I have no doubt Melanie will become an international leader in her field. Without the support of the Galli Medical Research Trust, we simply would not have been able to offer her a position,” he said.

Professor Gunn agreed. “By nurturing these young, rising research stars and supporting them to realise their potential in Melbourne, we are growing our expertise and creating a hive of activity that will transform future research and the way we care for those impacted by these conditions.”

THE POWER OF HEALTHY COLLABORATION

Although each Galli Chair is responsible for directing the researchers within their own field, the cross-pollination of ideas, findings and fresh ways of working encouraged by Mrs Galli, has been openly embraced by all three Galli Chairs.

“The focus on bringing us together to work as a unified team was a truly visionary part of the Galli Medical Research Trust and is really starting to deliver the goods,” said Professor McArthur.

Professor Hilton is equally enthusiastic about how collaboration is enhancing their work. “When you assemble a team of diverse specialists who are committed to working with each other strategically but view the world in different ways, you end up doing better science. I have always valued multigenerational, multidisciplinary collaborations where everybody is respected for the thoughts and insights they bring to the table. That is an exciting way to do science and it

is the kind of research Pamela has been able to support.”

As to what the next decade holds, Professor Amor is keen to move beyond diagnosis to the delivery of effective treatments. “I want to improve the lives of families and children with disability, primarily through treatment. Although I am interested in non-therapeutic elements, my ideal goal is to realise effective treatments that can be implemented early to make the biggest long-term difference to a child’s life.”

As for Professor McArthur, he is confident that the current trajectory of their work will lead to greatly improved outcomes for cancer patients. Beyond this, he hopes that the evident success of a research-first, collaborative way of working, as supported by the Galli Medical Research Trust, can be the catalyst for extending this model to further areas.

“It is great to be focusing on developmental disorders and cancer, but could the way we do things here be applied to other fundamental challenges, like mental health or other chronic diseases? I would love to see the unified approach we have achieved here become the mainstay approach to solving other health problems.”

All three Galli Chairs are convinced philanthropy will continue to play a significant role in supporting medical breakthroughs far into the future and have no doubt that the exceptional contributions of philanthropists like Mrs Galli are making some of the most significant medical breakthroughs possible.

Professor Gunn believes the outcome of this reliable and sustained funding for cancer and developmental disorders will be profound. “It will enable discoveries that will change the way we diagnose, manage and treat these conditions. It will vastly improve the lives of those affected by cancer and developmental disorders and their families. And it will enable these research teams to expedite research outcomes in a way they would not have had the opportunity to otherwise.” ■

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF HEALTHY DISRUPTION

The Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity is an Indigenous-led, lifelong fellowship program and platform for systemic change. One of seven global hubs, the Australia, Aotearoa and Pacific Region program was established through the largest-ever gift to the University from Chuck Feeney, founder of The Atlantic Philanthropies.

On a cold, wintry Melbourne morning in 2016, Michelle Steele, a Kamilaroi/Gomerioi woman from Moree, and a career public servant for over a decade, steps out of a female prison. It's her first visit to this prison, or any other. The experience has left an indelible impression.

"The federal government was looking for ways to lift employment opportunities for Indigenous men and women exiting prison in the hope it could reduce recidivism. As part of a report called *Prison to Work*, I had the opportunity to listen and engage with female prisoners. They were really generous in sharing their stories that led them to be there."

They were just as articulate about what they wanted, expected and hoped for upon release. Employment opportunities and housing support as a way to be reunited with their children were common themes. But one comment in particular struck Steele.

"This inmate told me, 'When I step out of this prison, it's supposed to be my fresh start. But I'll start it in someone else's clothes'." Asked what that meant, the inmate said it was unlikely her old clothes would fit. Her only option would be to pick seconds from a clothing bin outside the prison gates.

As Steele walked out of the prison, rugged up for the Melbourne winter, she could see the clothing bin, overflowing with old, ragged castoffs. "I thought, how hard could it be for these women to have access to fresh clothing and a decent bag to put them in?"

PHILANTHROPY UNLOCKED A NEW PATH

The experience led Steele to think more deeply about what it meant for women leaving the prison system, and how important and complex it was for them to be deciding and driving their own fate. Three months later, she heard about the Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity, a life-changing fellowship for Indigenous social equity in Australia, Aotearoa and the Pacific region, made possible by the generosity of The Atlantic Philanthropies.

As Steele explained, she felt compelled to apply: "For somebody working in social public policy, it was incredibly important for me to do something I felt genuinely passionate about, as opposed to something I was positionally responsible for."

Several months later, she found herself part of the very first cohort at the University of Melbourne and on the cusp of a life-changing experience.

"I'd never really been able to spend a year concentrating on building, learning, researching and networking a particular aspect of policy. The Atlantic Fellows allowed me to do that. It allowed me to test and be accountable for a

project. It allowed me to make connections I would not have made. And, it gave me 14 more sponsors for my project."

It was the collective input from her peers, all equally invested in her project's outcomes, that opened up new paths Steele hadn't fully anticipated.

"When I started the Fellowship, I had big plans of setting up new support systems. But through mentors, connections and the constructive interrogation of my fellow Fellows, I realised these structures already existed.

"They just needed to work better. Instead of creating additional layers for these women to navigate upon their exit from prison, I discovered I needed to find healthier ways to disrupt the system."

On completing the formal foundation year of the Fellowship, Steele doubled her efforts to focus on working with not-for-profits and other organisations who already existed to deliver the types of services her clients needed. But rather than focus on creating a new initiative, Steele is grateful the Atlantic Fellows program gave her the courage to drive change in several existing support systems.

"These women deserve better. They deserve more than any one person working on any one project could ever give them.

"And that change in attitude, between the way in which I approached my leadership pre-Fellowship to the way in which I approach it now, has been a really big learning."

LEADING FROM THE FRONT IN A PANDEMIC

What the Fellowship had also done was prepare Steele as well as anyone could be for one of the most pressing health concerns of our time, COVID-19.

As the pandemic first reached Australia, it sent out ripples of alarm and concern – particularly in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Appointed Assistant Secretary for the Indigenous and Remote Policy and Implementation Branch on the National COVID Vaccine Taskforce, Steele's role has been pivotal in shaping and driving public policies to protect Indigenous communities in lockstep shaped by these communities.

From the get-go, Steele knew Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities needed early action. "We needed Indigenous experts at the table. And we needed to embed that expertise within the structures that already existed."

In the case of COVID-19, the most important structure was the Australian Health Protection Principals Committee, the federal government's key decision-making committee for health emergencies.

"At the heart of it, my job was to translate the needs of the



Michelle Steele

community to public health policy, not define it. Every time I was on the phone to them, my job was to ask, 'What does this mean to public policy?' And that's why it's been so successful."

Steele holds up the vaccine rollout program in western NSW as a particularly strong example.

"The most effective thing we did was to support an Indigenous liaison team led by health experts such as Associate Professor Ray Lovett.

"We said to him, 'You're a public health expert. You have familial links and existing relationships with health services in this area. Can you lead the engagement of the vaccination effort into western New South Wales, because our people, our families, and our communities deserve this expertise?'"

As a result, vaccination coverage lifted from 19 per cent to almost 70 per cent in less than a month. For Steele, the reason why is obvious.

"Sometimes it's not about us imposing the answers. It's about encouraging others to lead. That relies on the strength of our relationships and the trust within them."

GROWING HER INFLUENCE

As the vaccine rollout picks up pace, Steele is focused on ambitious vaccination targets.

"Our marker is 100 per cent. We're not going to aim for anything less. It's about doing the best for our people, our families, our communities and for our continuing cultures. We've read how colonisation and introduced diseases affected our communities. We still feel their impact on our culture. The last thing we want is a repeat of that."

Steele hasn't forgotten her exchange with the female prisoner on that wintry day in Melbourne, either. And she's

grateful for the train of events that have followed since. As for her personal goals, Steele will never stop looking for ways to unlock structural change.

"No matter what I do in the future, I'll be thinking about things as a system – about the value of structural change and how disruption, if done with trust and for the right reasons, can embed positive social outcomes. And that's work I simply would never have done without the Atlantic Fellows program."

Steele remains an active member of the Atlantic Institute – a global community of Atlantic Fellows creating change. ■

The Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity seeks to create systemic social change built upon Indigenous knowledges and lifelong fellowship, empowering equity change-makers like Steele.

Demonstrating the strength of the partnership and the trust in the University, the \$65M grant made to the University to establish the program in 2016 was the first investment The Atlantic Philanthropies had ever made to directly support Indigenous or First Nations peoples. That grant is the single biggest donation in the University's history and remains one of the largest single philanthropic gifts ever in Australia.

In September 2020, the final chapter for The Atlantic Philanthropies was written, with Mr Feeney and the Board signing the formal documents to dissolve the foundation. After dispersing in excess of \$10B in grants across the world, Mr Feeney has well and truly fulfilled his lifelong purpose of giving while living. The University of Melbourne is privileged to play a small part in this remarkable story.

BANDING TOGETHER TO SAVE A PRECIOUS MARSUPIAL

An ambitious donor-funded breeding program has provided respite for Victoria's endangered eastern barred bandicoot, giving promise to global conservation efforts in the face of habitation loss and climate change.

They are called Charlie, Jack, Tiny and Elvis and they are among a 'band of brothers' shipped to Victoria to help save the state's eastern barred bandicoots from extinction. Their efforts – of a carnal nature – have been so successful that they have spawned three new generations of a native animal that was almost lost.

Last year, the marsupial became the first Australian species to have its conservation status modified from 'extinct in the wild' to endangered. Moving forward, the introduction of new genes from the Tasmanian bandicoots will provide the genetic health needed to maintain this status.

Of course, the band of 15 male bandicoots from Tasmania do not deserve all the credit. That truly belongs to the scientists of the School of Biosciences and collaborators at Mount Rothwell Conservation and Research Reserve, who spearheaded the urgent effort to save the species, and a group of donors, who funded their critically important work.

At a time of great environmental change, their success holds great promise for the genetic rescue of threatened species – not just in Australia, but across the globe.

Victoria's eastern barred bandicoots were facing an abyss. Three of the five Victorian bandicoot species were already extinct, so the race was on to save the survivors.

Years of inbreeding, loss of natural habitat to agricultural and residential demands, and attacks by predators had taken their toll.

"They were in pretty bad shape genetically," recalled Professor Ary Hoffmann, Chair of Ecological Genetics in the School of Biosciences, who has been heavily involved in the marsupials' rescue operation.

"Inbreeding depression can lead to a loss of fitness and what typically happens is that you get deleterious genes, which accumulate due to inbreeding. When the animals lose their fitness, it makes it difficult for them to fight threats like climate change, diseases and predators."

The team understood the urgency. There was more at stake than just the survival of the small nocturnal creatures; the entire ecosystem was at risk.

The bandicoots promote the growth of grasslands and the wildflowers prevalent in many hectares of land across western Victoria's volcanic plains. Their valuable digging work has

earned them a reputation as "ecological engineers".

"They dig for two reasons," explained Professor Hoffmann. "They hide in these underground areas during the day to avoid predators and they also dig when they chase food. That turnover of the soil is great for the ecosystem."

The scientists believed they might be able to save the species through a 'genetic rescue' program that had already proved stunningly successful in saving the Mount Buller mountain pygmy possum.

Genetic rescue provides a way for small, inbred populations to recover fitness and restore lost genetic variation. The deleterious alleles that decrease fitness in the small population are then masked, with this hybrid hardiness leading to an increase in the size of the population.

What they did in case of the Mount Buller native mammal was to introduce it to the Mount Hotham mountain pygmy possum to regenerate the species. "We were not crossing species," explained Professor Hoffmann. "We were bringing in fresh material and together with ecological restoration it led to a big increase in the Mount Buller population."

The recovery was so great that there are now more mountain pygmy possums at Mount Buller than ever previously recorded.

That success set the stage for the arrival of Jack, Tiny and their pals at Mount Rothwell Conservation and

Research Reserve, the largest predator-free haven on the mainland, located about 50 kilometres west of Melbourne, just north of the You Yangs. They belonged to a population of Tasmanian eastern barred bandicoots considered to be genetically healthy.

The biggest challenge facing the researchers for this fresh assault was funding.

Enter the donors. A fundraising campaign in 2018 drew a passionate community of 153 donors contributing \$18,000. Science alumni Julie and James Douglas then almost tripled that donation to support the project, as well as a masters student working with the academics.

"We are so grateful to the donors who helped this project from the early to the later stages," said Professor Hoffmann. "We have them to thank for its success."

When the male bandicoots arrived, they were placed in specially built enclosures with the Victorian females to



Elvis the eastern barred bandicoot.



Professor Ary Hoffmann

allow the team to observe mating habits. Early signs were encouraging with the two populations apparently happy to mate. If the unions did not result in pouch young, the team changed up the mating pairs.

Tiny, who was initially partnered with Mini, has proved himself to be quite the stud, responsible for producing a significant number of the new generation.

Eastern barred bandicoots have one of the shortest gestation periods of any mammal at just over 12 days. The females give birth to one to four offspring that remain in the backwards-facing pouch for about 55 days.

"These mammals do have personalities," said Professor Hoffmann. "We had one who was large and aggressive, and we had to take care not to have him in the company of other males. With this species, males don't like other males."

The second stage of the program involved the release of the mammals into a larger enclosure at Mount Rothwell. This

was designed to establish that they could survive in a semi-wild environment while allowing the team to observe that the animals were displaying normal behaviour. Some of the donors were able to participate in this milestone by helping release the mammals.

"We now track them genetically," said Professor Hoffmann. "We can take a tissue sample and work out the origin. We know what portion of genes have come from the Tasmanian, as well as the Victorian, ones."

Once the trials have been completed, the bandicoot population will be placed in a new fenced and feral-proof conservation reserve that has been built at Tiverton in western Victoria and in other areas.

"Genetic rescue may seem like a simple procedure, but the impact of genetic rescue on survival can be enormous and gives hope for many other species and conservation efforts globally."

SCHOLARSHIPS

GENEROSITY HELPED KASEY FIND HER FEET IN A DIFFICULT YEAR

Thanks to Neville and Di Bertalli's gift in 2011, the Bertalli Family Foundation has assisted seven rural students – including Kasey Bailey – through their studies. The scholarship's financial assistance over a three-year period enables students to thrive throughout their entire degree.

Kasey Bailey is reaching her full potential thanks to the Bertalli Family Foundation Scholarship. The support was particularly meaningful at a time when the pandemic isolated Kasey from her family and proved to be emotionally difficult.

Neville Bertalli graduated from Benalla High School in the 1960s before undertaking a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne. Now, through his gift, Mr Bertalli is helping other regionally-based high school graduates like himself overcome the barriers to attending university.

Here, Kasey describes how the scholarship assisted her through her studies:

"2021 was a challenging year. Like most people, I expected that it would hold some normality. It was intended to be my last year of university for my undergraduate degree and I was excited to reclaim some of the 'lost' time from 2020.

In January 2021, I started my part-time role as the youngest researcher and junior consultant in a firm called SGS Economics and Planning while also continuing my degree. This has been my first time applying my studies in a field of work and I am loving it. I think it is an incredible workplace and I am so proud to be part of it.

One of my biggest achievements in 2021 came from this work; at the age of 19, I was privileged to have an article published Australia-wide on the economic value of libraries. More recently, I also contributed to the annual release of the rental affordability index, a huge project SGS continually undertakes. My role was to collect data on annual income for government support schemes from 2011 to 2021. I am loving researching valuation methods and hope to continue in this area of economics.

I am grateful to have been offered a full-time consulting role upon graduation (which was expected to be this year). However, the reign of COVID-19 did not stop as predicted. I found the August 2021 outbreak a lot harder than previous ones and struggled a lot in the university system, trying to maintain the same standard of work while dealing with the emotional impact of the ongoing pandemic. This is probably a common story. I again lost the opportunity to play a season of premier league hockey for the University team and was shut out of the Northern Territory, away from my family.

To keep up with it all, I ended up under-loading and extending my degree by half a semester. This was the best choice for me, as it allowed me to pick subjects that I was interested in and devote more time to them.

Something I am particularly proud of from last year is

my achievements in an Indigenous studies subject. I feel passionate about the role economics plays in recognition of Indigenous people and the possible improvements that could be developed to help change systemic issues ingrained in the field. I achieved a 92 on my essay regarding oppression of Indigenous knowledge in underlying economic methods, finishing up on a H1. I do hope to continue studying and researching this area and have been privileged to work on it outside of university within my work.

Moving forward, I am looking at cross-faculty study so I can pursue researching valuation of Indigenous knowledge. This would mean using my commerce degree for something that has been a big part of my upbringing and that I am passionate about.

The scholarship was especially helpful last year – the monetary value does not reflect at all the impact it has had on me as an individual. As I am living in my first share house and away from my family in the Northern Territory, the ongoing pandemic meant my ability to go home at the end of the year was not realistic; as such, I didn't get to see family for Christmas. Instead, the scholarship put me in a financial position to go and see my grandfather in Queensland – where border restrictions were more relaxed – who I hadn't seen for over two years.

It is hard to put into words the gratitude I have for the Bertalli family's support in my studies. This gratitude is not just contained to 2021 but over the last three years of my undergraduate degree. The financial support has been a huge factor in turning a young 17-year-old, first-year student who was terribly homesick for Alice Springs (2019), to a future commerce graduate at the University of Melbourne (2021) that is now finding her feet in the workforce.

I am proud of what I have achieved through the Bachelor of Commerce and I thank the Bertallis for giving me this chance."

Like Kasey, other recipients of the Bertalli Family Foundation Scholarship have gone on to forge their commerce careers and positively impact their communities – with many now employed at global organisations including KPMG, Suncorp Group, and environmental initiative TerraCycle.

The Bertalli family's generosity will continue to make a difference in the lives of aspiring commerce graduates from rural areas. The scholarship's most recent recipient started receiving support for the duration of her studies in 2021, with more students set to benefit from their generosity in years to come.

Kasey Bailey

FOSTERING THE FUTURE OF BIONICS

The Clifford Chair in Neural Engineering – made possible by the Clifford family – brings researchers from engineering, medicine, and science together to develop ground-breaking medical devices. And Stephen Ho and his daughter Tracy generously established the Stephen Ho Innovation Award to create more opportunities for BioDesign Innovation students.

Professor David Grayden's career accomplishments prove the value in collaboration and the collision of ideas that follow. Working alongside students and researchers, he continues to accelerate progress in medical technologies that enrich people's lives.

Having graduated from Engineering Science at the University of Melbourne in 1991, Professor Grayden then completed his PhD in Automatic Speech Recognition. It was this unique mix of qualifications that set the tone for Professor Grayden's career as a multi-faceted biomedical and neural engineer.

Since then, Professor Grayden has lectured at the University, worked on an array of bionic devices for neural diseases and paralysis, and co-developed a subject at the University that's fast-tracking his students' Medtech concepts to thriving, commercialised businesses.

Through it all, philanthropy has played a critical supporting role. It enabled Professor Grayden to contribute to more cutting-edge biomedical research, broaden his collaborative efforts, and impart his knowledge on his students.

"The generosity of these donors has allowed us to step outside and beyond the constraints of what we would normally do. It has allowed me to explore new areas that I just didn't have capacity or capability to explore before," said Professor Grayden.

BACKING THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

In 2019, in recognition of his dedication and commitment to this field, Professor Grayden was appointed the Clifford Chair in Neural Engineering. The position – made possible thanks to the generosity of Mr Leigh Clifford AO and Mrs Sue Clifford – enables the recipient to work closely with researchers and students from across faculties to develop technologies that have a big impact.

Mr Clifford said the Chair "brings together researchers and experts from engineering, medicine and science to improve health outcomes for every Australian, not just those living in major metropolitan cities."

"It's facilitated the existing projects, but primarily, it's been really good to have the support to seed some new ideas and new areas," said Professor Grayden.

NEW AND IMPROVED BIONIC DEVICES

One such project is enhancing technologies that improve brain function for those with epilepsy and Parkinson's disease. "It's a new type of implant that can go into the brain that uses ultrasound instead of electrical stimulation," explained

Professor Grayden. Currently, implants require open brain surgery. The precision of the device's placement during surgery greatly impacts its efficiency and likelihood of causing side effects.

The device Professor Grayden is helping develop could eliminate these issues. The device would be placed in a blood vessel within the brain rather than directly in brain tissue – avoiding open brain surgery. And misalignment problems could be overcome as the use of ultrasound waves make the device more adaptable.

As the Clifford Chair, Professor Grayden has supported the PhD student leading this project. "I've been able to support some fabrication work for the device and also support his scholarship," he said.

He is also supporting work that could assist about 20,000 Australians facing paralysis from neurological diseases.

Collaborating with the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University, Professor Grayden is working on the Miniscope. It's a camera sensor that would be placed on the surface of the brain to record thousands of neurons.

The new technology aims to overcome the issues associated with existing brain computer interfaces by enhancing signal quality and longevity.

"Instead of putting devices into the brain that electronically record from the brain, we can use a camera plus this new cellular technology that causes neurons to glow when they're active," explained Professor Grayden.

TURNING CLINICS INTO CLASSROOMS

Developing technology that solves unmet clinical needs is at the heart of Professor Grayden's ambitions. And his greatest passion is teaching the next generation these skills.

"I feel that, as an academic, my best contribution to impacting the world is the way that my students will impact the world," he said.

In 2016, Professor Grayden co-developed and launched the BioDesign Innovation course with Associate Professor Kwanghui Lim from the Melbourne Business School.

"A big part of the subject is teaching students how to find and validate unmet medical needs," he said. "What's special about the course is that all of these things are taught within a project-based learning environment. When you learn by doing, it makes a lot more sense."

Over the next five years, University of Melbourne mechanical engineering alum Stephen Ho and his daughter Tracy have committed a generous philanthropic contribution to the course.



CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN: Professor David Grayden; Professor Grayden's PhD student Jack Drummond working on the Ultrasound device at the Melbourne Centre for Nanofabrication; Professor David Grayden with an EEG cap, used to record brain waves.

The Stephen Ho Award will enable students to create more complex technologies. It will also give the most promising projects financial support to turn their idea into a business.

Ho has a clear objective: "To make dreams come true. To give purpose and meaning especially to young people. And for the young and brightest to create better lives for all."

Professor Grayden explained: "The Award allows us to increase the number of teams that we can support. And it allows students to think bigger in terms of their prototyping work – to be able to buy more expensive pieces of equipment to do that development."

"I think it's been quite telling this year that the achievements of the teams, in terms of what they've been able to prototype, has stepped up a notch."

One start-up that has come out of the BioDesign Innovation course is Navi Medical Technologies.

Critically ill newborns often undergo an invasive procedure where small tubes are placed into their veins. But unfortunately, these tubes are often misplaced during the procedure – or can easily move to dangerous positions afterwards.

But Navi's Neonav system provides clinicians with real-

time location feedback for these tubes during and following the insertion procedure.

"Through BioDesign, we're seeing a lot of students form their own companies and go on to commercialise these devices. Many of them say that they would never have considered doing this before this subject and I often hear, 'This subject has changed my life'," said Professor Grayden.

GROWING MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY TOGETHER

From giving students the licence to dream bigger, to helping researchers like Professor Grayden lean further into collaboration – philanthropic support is boosting what's possible in bioengineering.

Professor Grayden knows these generous gifts, from Leigh and Sue Clifford, and Stephen and Tracy Ho, will have a long-lasting impact on students, academics, and the people who will benefit from future breakthroughs in medical technology.

"It's difficult to get funding for new ideas without a proof of concept. But the philanthropic support helps to bridge that. It helps to provide that initial support that allows this sort of grassroots seeding of new ideas that can then blossom." ■

SCHOLARSHIPS

FREE-FLOWING SUPPORT UNDERPINS A BRIGHT CAREER IN WATER MANAGEMENT

A range of scholarships, including one funded by University of Melbourne alumni from his home town of Mildura, helped carry Sam Skinner on his nine-year academic journey. Now, his innovative work is helping our wastewater management industry become more sustainable.

Sam Skinner spent his childhood swimming happily in the vast waters of the Murray River. It was a privilege that, even as a boy, he never took for granted.

But it wasn't until he travelled to Tanzania to teach physics to senior high school students that he fully understood the importance of water to a community and to the liveability of an area and its inhabitants. The four-month experience inexorably shaped his life's journey.

Sam owes his blossoming career in sustainable water management to hard work and dedication, but also to the generosity of the benefactors behind the scholarships that supported his nearly nine years at the University, helping him through his Bachelor of Science, Master of Engineering and PhD.

It's a long and impressive list: the Mildura Alumni Scholarship Fund, the Melbourne Access Scholarship, the AJ Francis Scholarship, the FA Kernot Bequest Scholarship, the Master of Engineering Merit Scholarship, and the Elizabeth and Vernon Puzey Scholarship, among others.

"They allowed me to have an amazing time at university and to learn from incredibly gifted academics," he reflected gratefully.

Indeed, on graduating from St Joseph's College in Mildura 14 years ago, Sam had one key aspiration – to attend the University of Melbourne.

"It was the top university that most of us wanted to get into," he recalled, although he was less clear about what he would study. He was interested in chemistry, maths and physics, and had an idea that he wanted to do something in the sciences, preferably related to the environment.

"But I didn't know what that looked like," he said.

"The new model of learning had just been introduced by the University, so that was ideal in providing me with the opportunity to work out as I studied where my real passions and interests lay."

He recognised, too, that a scholarship could provide a pathway to take his studies to higher levels.

The Mildura Alumni Scholarship Fund, which underpinned his Bachelor of Science degree, resonated sweetly with Sam.

The shared history between Mildura and the University traces back to 1947 when an all-residential campus was established at a former RAAF base in the regional city, offering courses in the faculties of Architecture, Engineering, Medicine and Science.

Although it was closed two years later, the ties that bound the city and the University endured. In 2005, 170 Mildura campus alumni acknowledged the enduring strength of that relationship when they established a fund to provide scholarships to undergraduate students from Mildura and the local region, who were facing disadvantaged circumstances.

"I loved the Mildura connection with this scholarship," enthused Sam. "It – and the other scholarships – have opened the University up to students who might otherwise not have had the opportunity to be part of such a diverse and academically rich environment."

"The scholarship helps students access the University, and I also think the University benefits greatly from these students."

In tandem with a weekend job, the scholarships made it possible for Sam to focus on his studies and to enjoy some of the University's sporting pursuits, including cricket. He's still playing for the University's club.

Sam left for Tanzania shortly after he completed his science degree. He was curious about the country, having long enjoyed stories about its beauty and wildlife. But it was its lack of a wastewater structure and scarcity of water that most intrigued him. The experience proved a turning point in his life, galvanising his interest in the field.

When he returned to Australia, he worked for a time with a company based in Ocean Grove, on Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula, which designed and built wastewater treatment plants. He also decided to study a Master of Chemical Engineering.

However, he struggled with the demands of work and study and was rescued again by several scholarships. He was awarded a Master of Engineering Merit Scholarship and received other financial support, allowing him to concentrate on his course work.



Sam Skinner

LEFT: Sam completing field works in his role at Aurecon.

One constant source of that assistance throughout his student years was the Student Support Fund, a generous initiative of the University community to support students in realising their potential. The fund, which offers immediate assistance to students in need of essential items such as food, transport, housing, medical or academic costs, came into its own during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the University's generous community of donors and alumni contributing more than \$8M.

Like others before him, Sam worked hard to justify his benefactors' belief in him and soon his work on increasing the efficiency of sludge treatment and filtration, and the important flow-on for water recycling, which formed the basis of his PhD, attracted the attention of industry experts. His finished paper began appearing in citations.

He was always conscious that his success was due in part to the generosity of people he had never met, whose donations funded further scholarships throughout his PhD. In that period, he also won the Balwyn Rotary Club's Environmental Sustainability Award.

By the time his formal study came to an end, Sam was

a man of academic substance. He was hired as a Senior Process Engineer by Aurecon, a design, engineering and advisory company that was named Australasia's most innovative company in 2020 by *The Australian Financial Review*.

One of the central threads of his work is resource recovery, and the circular economy. "Rather than seeing wastewater as a waste, it's about extracting its value – recovering the water, the nutrients and the energy," he explained.

As he strides confidently into his future, he is mindful of all the donors whose kindness, great and small, made his career trajectory possible.

"They allowed me to be able to focus on a research pursuit in wastewater treatment and recycling," he said. "I would never have had the opportunity to dig so deeply into an applied research program without their support."

"And to be able to go from that into the job I'm currently doing – and love – has been amazing. I would never be on this career path without the huge amount of support that has been there for me every step of the way."

IMPACT OF BELIEVE

BELIEVE CAMPAIGN
TOTAL SUPPORT

\$1,165,439,498

TOTAL GIVEN



TOTAL
NUMBER
OF
GIFTS

73,987



TOTAL
NUMBER
OF
DONORS

29,155



DONORS
WHO
ARE
ALSO
ALUMNI

66%



COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED
IN OUR
DONOR
COMMUNITY

69



TOTAL
GIVEN
THROUGH
GIFTS
IN WILLS

\$146.5M



NUMBER
OF NEW
GIFTS IN
WILLS
PLEGGED

551

IMPACT
SNAPSHOTS



34

CHAIRS OR
PROFESSORSHIPS
AND

40

FELLOWSHIPS,
LECTURESHIPS
AND OTHER
ACADEMIC
POSITIONS
ESTABLISHED



\$187.2M

GIVEN TO
SUPPORT
STUDENTS,
INCLUDING THE
ESTABLISHMENT
OF

473

NEW
SCHOLARSHIP
AND AWARD
FUNDS



1882

STUDENTS
WERE
AWARDED
SCHOLARSHIPS
FUNDED BY
PHILANTHROPY
IN 2021
ALONE



\$104.2M

COMMITTED
TO LEARNING
SPACES AND
CAMPUS
DEVELOPMENT,
SUPPORTING

17

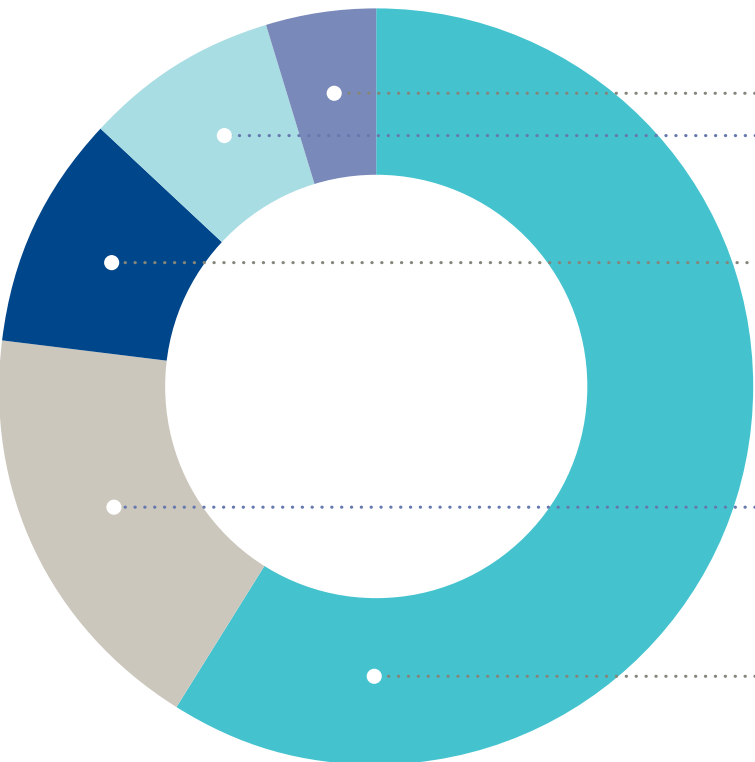
CRITICAL
INFRASTRUCTURE
PROJECTS



\$179.2M

EXTRA
GOVERNMENT
FUNDING
LEVERAGED
THANKS TO
PHILANTHROPY

HOW YOU HAVE
MADE A DIFFERENCE



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

\$610M RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Gifts that drive innovation and tackle humanity's biggest questions through the creation of academic positions, research programs and institutes

\$187.2M STUDENT SUPPORT

Developing the leaders of tomorrow, through scholarships, awards, financial aid grants and projects supporting Indigenous student education

\$104.2M LEARNING SPACES
AND CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

Funding for the creation of first-class educational environments where students and researchers can excel

\$87M COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Support for initiatives that enrich our cultural and social life, such as museums and collections and public lecture programs

\$47.1M MULTI-PURPOSE GIFTS
AND UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Donations used to support the University's highest priorities, and those with broad-reaching impact across disciplines

ALUMNI
ENGAGEMENT



THROUGHOUT BELIEVE

112,772

TOTAL ALUMNI ENGAGED

101,587

EVENT PARTICIPANTS

19,167

DONORS

15,335

VOLUNTEERS

8155

ALUMNI MENTORS

IN 2021 ALONE

3223

MENTEES
CONNECTED WITH

2847

ALUMNI MENTORS

Note: These figures include gifts to University funds 2008-2021 and do not include gifts to affiliated colleges and institutions

WITH OUR GRATEFUL THANKS FOR YOUR

For 14 years, *Believe – The Campaign for the University of Melbourne* has changed lives through the transformative impact of scholarships, innovative research that contributes to solving the world's grand challenges, community engagement locally and globally, and world-class facilities that have enabled students and researchers to thrive and prosper in their work.

ONGOING SUPPORT

Here, we celebrate stories of connection, contribution and transformation made possible by *Believe*. These achievements are only made possible by the generous alumni and donors who have participated in this journey. These are just some of the remarkable highlights of this historic undertaking. Read more impact stories at unimelb.edu.au/alumni/impact

2008

BELIEVE

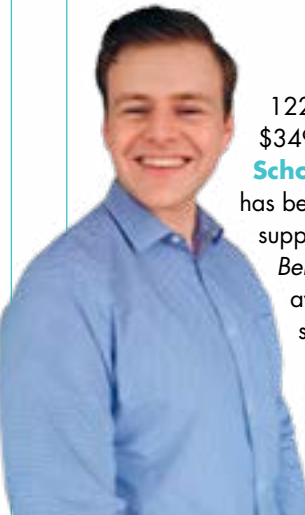
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

On 1 January 2008, *Believe* commenced unofficially with planning underway and the campaign's earliest donations being received.



The University was the grateful recipient of a \$14M gift in will from the late Dr Albert John Shimmins. Since then, the **Albert Shimmins Fund** has supported scholarships and research activities in the Faculty of Science. The commitment and vision of donors like Dr Shimmins is represented by the \$146.5M received from realised bequests between 2008–2021.

Read about one of these visionary gifts and its enduring impact: [Page 26](#).



1220 donors collectively contributed \$349,229 to the **Future Generations Scholarship Fund**. This scholarship fund has been a cornerstone to our collective support program, and over the course of *Believe*, more than 155 students have been awarded Future Generations Scholarships, supporting talented postgraduates to excel within the Melbourne Model.

Read more about the impact of scholarships: [Pages 14, 18, 26, 30 and 31](#).

2009



The **Welcome to Melbourne** program was launched. Since then, it has matched commencing Australia Awards Scholarship students with University alumni and staff, and provided an opportunity for friendship and cultural exchange. Since the program launched, 1798 students have participated along with more than 1100 alumni and staff hosts.



The University's **Malaysia Alumni Association** celebrated its 20-year anniversary.

2013



On 21 May 2013, **Believe – The Campaign for the University of Melbourne** was launched publicly. Our goal was to raise \$500M by the end of 2017. At the time of the launch, \$249M had been committed towards the target from 13,000 donors.

2014



The **Access Connections** program was launched, connecting University of Melbourne undergraduate students, who are under-represented in higher education, with mentors from our alumni community.



The University of Melbourne **Beijing Alumni Association** was established.

2016



In one of the most significant acts of arts philanthropy to an Australian university, property developer and passionate art collector Michael Buxton donated his private contemporary Australian art collection to the University. This donation – which formed the **Buxton Contemporary** museum in the centre of the Southbank Campus – was and continues to be used to enhance the University's curriculum across disciplines, fostering an innovative approach to student learning.

Read more about the impact of philanthropy at the Southbank Campus: [Page 6](#).

Having surpassed the original *Believe* goal two years ahead of schedule, Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis AC announced **a bold new target** to build upon this success: to raise \$1B and have more than 100,000 alumni engaged in the life of our institution by 2021. With this announcement, the University became the first Australian institution to establish an alumni engagement target as part of a philanthropic campaign.



A \$65M grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies – one of the largest philanthropic gifts in Australian history – established the **Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity**. This program is now seeing a new generation of Indigenous leaders work together to redress social disadvantage.

Read more about the impact of this program: [Page 10](#).

2017



A generous gift from Peter McMullin AM and Ruth McMullin was received to establish the world's only academic research centre dedicated to the issue of statelessness. Led by international refugee and statelessness law expert Professor Michelle Foster, the **Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness** continues to undertake research, teaching and engagement activities aimed at reducing statelessness and protecting the rights of stateless people in Australia, the Asia Pacific region, and more broadly.

2018



An extraordinary \$30M gift to the University of Melbourne from the Hansen Little Foundation was announced. The gift facilitated the construction of **Little Hall** (opened in 2021) and a new flagship **Hansen Scholarship Program** – providing unparalleled opportunities and support for outstanding students whose personal circumstances may otherwise deny them the chance to study at the University of Melbourne.

Hear more about the impact of the program: go.unimelb.edu.au/7hqj



The **Ask Alumni** program launched – encouraging student-to-alumni connections through its digital platform. In 2018, the total number of alumni who volunteered to support students across all mentoring programs surpassed 2000 for the first time.

Read more about the impact of *Ask Alumni*: [Page 24](#).

2019



The University's **UK Alumni Association** celebrated its 25-year anniversary.



In a year marking the 30th anniversary of the University's Annual Appeal program, \$92,831 from 369 donors was raised through the End of Year Appeal. These funds supported the development of a training app for carers of dementia patients to help them use music more intentionally with their loved ones. Together, these donors helped to lay the groundwork for the development of the **Music Attuned Technology for Care via eHealth (MATCH) app**, which has now attracted a further \$2M in funding through Australia's Medical Research Future Fund.

Read more about this story: go.unimelb.edu.au/k2zi

2020



The University's **Sydney Alumni Association** celebrated its 40-year anniversary.



During a very challenging year, alumni and donors came together to give generously to the **COVID-19 Emergency Appeal**, launched in response to the global pandemic. More than \$1.3M from almost 1300 donors was raised to fund 17,000 emergency student support grants.

Read more about the impact of this appeal through masters student Ritika's story: go.unimelb.edu.au/b4zi

2021



On 31 December 2021, **Believe officially concluded**. It raised \$1.165B through 29,155 donors, engaged 112,772 alumni, and impacted thousands of lives through education and research. The impact of *Believe* will be felt for generations. This report details only a small number of impactful stories made possible by the generosity of our community. We are grateful to each and every one of our donors and alumni volunteers for making this possible.

BLACK LAW MATTERS

Law alum David Bailey's gift to the Melbourne Law School is enabling the Indigenous Law and Justice Hub to lead the way on advocacy, research and supporting Indigenous students. His support has also helped secure additional funding from other donors.

When he started as Program Manager at the University of Melbourne's Indigenous Law and Justice Hub in May last year, Taungurung man Warwick Padgham was excited at having a relatively blank slate: the Centre had just opened and his position, funded through a generous gift by Los Angeles-based law alum David Bailey, was a new one.

Padgham's job? To help the Hub's efforts in advancing a fairer, more inclusive and more accountable legal system for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Indigenous deaths in custody, land and climate justice are among the most notorious failures of Australia's legal system. So, it is no surprise these urgent issues figure highly among the reasons Indigenous students say they want to engage with the Hub and study for a graduate law degree (Juris Doctor, JD), masters or PhD.

Padgham plays an integral role in assisting Indigenous students to navigate and provide a human face to the Law School's processes and procedures.

He is passionate about culturally safe, equitable and inclusive access to legal education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and is able to draw on his extensive knowledge and relationships within the University and with the Victorian Aboriginal community to work towards growing the Indigenous cohort and the Indigenous academic pipeline across all Indigenous programs at Melbourne Law School (MLS).

The Hub's purpose – born out of a MLS review conducted in 2019 – extends even further into criminal justice, climate justice and Treaty-making by bringing together legal experts and community leaders to produce innovative research in order to support Indigenous advocacy and Aboriginal self-determination and self-governance.

"To be able to take a leadership role in the Melbourne Law School and help grow their Indigenous programs is an incredible opportunity," Padgham said, referring to the impact of the donation by Bailey, an engineering and law alum of the University.

"I enjoy working under the inspiring academic leadership of the Hub's co-directors, Dr Eddie Cubillo and Professor Kirsty Gover, who are driving change throughout the legal profession."

Dr Amanda Porter is also a key member, focused on the Hub's criminal justice research and teaching initiatives. Dr Porter said, "I would not be here without the support and leadership of Associate Dean (Indigenous Programs), Dr Eddie Cubillo and MLS Dean, Professor Pip Nicholson, as well as the love and support of my fellow Hub members, especially Warwick."

Padgham added: "The support from David Bailey has allowed us all to really drive the influence of the Hub's vision through my role as an administrative lead. We are setting structures up to enable our co-directors and allies to produce the research, teaching and learning resources, and continue to engage with the community for real change in Indigenous legal issues, nationwide."

EMBRACING A WIDE SCOPE

The Hub's first year has brought many achievements in the face of ongoing challenges of the pandemic, especially in increasing MLS Indigenous enrolments from three new students a year to around 12. Padgham has also overseen successful research grant applications, helped develop appropriately supported PhD programs for emerging Indigenous legal scholars, and extended the Hub's sphere of influence through University-wide relationship-building.

Among the generous support pledged so far, the Hub has welcomed a \$100,000 gift from The Atlantic Philanthropies to develop community-driven legal projects led by sovereign Yolnu First Nation peoples in Arnhem Land. Another \$100,000 has come via the University's Indigenous Knowledge Institute to support research into the intersections of health and justice services in Aboriginal community-controlled organisations. An additional \$35,000 grant from the Mannifera Foundation is underpinning a research project with the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria.

These gifts have been made in the context of the University's three significant partnerships with distinct Indigenous communities: in metropolitan Melbourne,

regionally with the Yorta Yorta First Nation peoples in northern Victoria, and interstate with the Yolnu First Nation peoples.

"The growth in student numbers, and getting the grants going, have been personal highlights," Padgham said. "I'm looking forward to getting back on campus and feeling the energy of face-to-face engagement, which I thrive on – and putting all the groundwork into practice and getting more research and other programs going."

Professor Nicholson is full of praise for the generous support of the Hub by alumni and others. "I look forward to seeing the further outstanding research, discussion and debate generated by the Hub and its growing community of scholars and students," she enthused.

Padgham insists that philanthropy is a critical elixir in driving work that would otherwise not be undertaken.

"David Bailey has been incredibly supportive and,



CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN: Mural outside The David P. Derham Theatre at MLS featuring students involved in the Freedom Ride, a demonstration against discrimination of Aboriginal people in Walgett, NSW; Auntie Di Kerr speaking at an Experience and Leadership Camp; Warwick Padgham. **FAR LEFT:** Elders of Wurundjeri Council addressing the Parliament of Victoria.

hopefully, can see what the investment means in terms of the growth of the Hub," he said. "I am very thankful for that, but my role really is helping the people that know the discipline to get along with the work, rather than getting bogged down with administrative and governance issues. That [philanthropic] support can allow the Hub to run like a well-oiled machine."

THE IMPACT OF GIVING

Conceiving and developing research, and making results accessible to communities, is a major impact of the philanthropy, Padgham said, but so too is creating the social capital that comes from studying at the MLS, enabling pathways to develop important networks.

"It can't be underestimated, particularly for Indigenous students," he said.

Dr Cubillo and Professor Gover are keen to see the Centre leading change in advocating with – and for – Indigenous communities to "overcome the unconscious biases that are entrenched in our white settler law and its legal institutions, our legal teaching institutions and the Australian community".

"I hope the Hub can shift the curriculum of our law students from the teachings that the justice system is 'fair and just' and represents impartiality, to a more open teaching of how the white settler legal system is a historical construct of systematic racism enforcing inequality," said Dr Cubillo, who is also Associate

Dean (Indigenous Programs) and a Senior Research Fellow.

Professor Gover said that because the Hub puts its intellectual and material resources behind Indigenous leadership, it upholds the principle of Indigenous self-determination, with its work driven and led by Indigenous goals and Indigenous peoples. "It's important to us that the Hub exemplifies Indigenous ways of doing business," she said. "We try to make sure everyone gets a say, take care of one another, and we involve our Indigenous students and up-and-comers in everything we do."

Padgham and colleagues last year met with Indigenous applicants for the 2022 JD program to get insights into their background and experiences, and why they wanted to study law.

"It was a great process with a lot of support from MLS," he said. "I think a lot of the people coming into the JD don't necessarily have a vision of going to work in a corporate law firm – they are eager to see how they can use a law degree for community benefit."

"There's a whole range of ways in which that can happen, from criminal justice or Treaty, to going back to work with their communities, all over the country."

"I don't want to talk for them, but it seems as though they have this responsibility to make sure that because of who they are – their connections to family and community and the histories that go along with that – they feel like they can make a bigger difference through a JD."

MENTORING

MOBILISING MENTORING WITH ALUMNI SUPPORT

Ask Alumni is made possible thanks to University of Melbourne alumni who generously give their time. More than 4000 alumni have registered to support students and fellow alumni in their career goals through the program.

Traditional mentoring has always helped students and professionals thrive in their careers, and now, a new approach to mentoring is having an even greater impact.

The University of Melbourne's *Ask Alumni* – established in 2018 – is a flash mentoring program that facilitates short, one-off conversations to help students and alumni achieve their career goals.

Facilitated through an online platform, *Ask Alumni* invites mentors and mentees to create profiles featuring their career experience and goals respectively.

Where traditional mentoring would set up one exclusive, long-term mentoring relationship, with *Ask Alumni*, mentees can request a one-off meeting with a mentor – and reach out to as many potential mentors as they'd like.

Ask Alumni's in-built algorithm suggests appropriate mentors to mentees based on their profiles – however, mentees can also use the platform to search for desirable mentors.

Mentees can seek any career-related advice that they wish. Some common topics of discussion include: how to gain confidence and career direction, tips on successfully adjusting to the working world, improving professional communication skills, and assistance with resume review and interview techniques.

WHY FLEXIBLE MENTORING?

The foundations of traditional mentoring are solid. Studies have shown that employees involved in mentoring are promoted five times as often as those who aren't. But conventional mentoring programs have their limitations.

Mentoring is traditionally thought of as a process where the mentee-mentor relationship is cultivated over time. But depending on how well-matched the partnership is – or how frequent and accessible conversations are – it can take some time for mentees to feel that the relationship is influencing their career.

One-time mentoring can help overcome this issue and offer some additional benefits in a shorter time frame. Through *Ask Alumni*, mentees can benefit from: a variety of



Ask Alumni mentee Kiran, and mentor, Martin.
Hear more about their experience with the program: go.unimelb.edu.au/2gzi

different perspectives, an introduction to a variety of different workplace or professional cultures, greater consistency in meeting their diverse needs, and of course – a better chance of finding the right mentee-mentor match.

It's for these reasons that *Ask Alumni* mentees are encouraged to connect with as many mentors as they can. And with around 85 per cent of jobs being filled through networking, generating a vast professional network has the added benefit of leading mentors and mentees alike to employment opportunities.

STABLE SUPPORT THROUGH COVID-19

Although *Ask Alumni* was launched before the emergence of COVID-19, it has proven to be a valuable tool through this time of disconnectedness. *Ask Alumni* users were able to continue establishing connections, and even form long-term relationships, via phone, Zoom or email.

At a time when the job market changed rapidly – and many industries changed the way they operated – *Ask Alumni* provided a flexible and fast way for mentees to find much-needed guidance. This was especially useful for students studying offshore.

Its value continued to grow as networking events and traditional face-to-face mentoring sessions were cancelled and postponed through lockdown. Through it all, *Ask Alumni* was able to provide ongoing service to those in need of career advice.

MARTIN SHOWED KIRAN THE WAY

Kiran couldn't envision her future career at the beginning of her Master of IT. Added to this uncertainty was the fact that she was an international student in a new city.

Through *Ask Alumni*, Kiran found an easy way to connect with Martin – a University of Melbourne alum and Senior Software Engineer – who shared plenty of common ground with her but had the added benefit of experience.

"I felt I could relate to Martin because he and I did the same degree, and he was an international student as well. He told me nothing would be a bad experience; all you would do was filter out career choices you don't like," shared Kiran.

Since speaking with Martin, Kiran has begun exploring internships and fields of work to find out what she enjoys most.

For Martin, giving opportunities to others that he didn't have as a student was important. "As an international student, you come to a new country and you can often be struggling a lot. At that time, I didn't have any support at all," he said.

"That's why I'm trying to help [Kiran] – not by deciding her path, but by giving her a lot of information to figure out what she can do to help her achieve what she wants to achieve."

SUPPORT GAVE RISE TO ASK ALUMNI

Since the innovative flash mentoring program was established, it has continued to grow and adapt to the needs of those seeking and providing career advice – thanks to the generosity of the University's alumni community.

In August 2018, *Ask Alumni* was launched, and by the end of the year it had engaged over 3500 students and alumni globally – quickly becoming the University's largest student and alumni mentoring program. Over 1000 mentoring meetings were accepted in just four months.

The program continued to grow, reaching over 7300 registered users in 2019, with more than 1500 connections made throughout the year. The program proved itself to be particularly popular with international students, who made up over 60 per cent of registrations.

Originally, the program only facilitated student-alumni connections. Then in 2020, the platform gave alumni the opportunity to seek career advice through the platform by facilitating alumni-alumni connections as well.

Ask Alumni became the University's biggest alumni volunteer program in 2020 – thanks to the generosity of our community and the platform's ease-of-access amid COVIDSafe measures. 1519 alumni registered as a mentor in the program for the first time in 2020.

In 2021, *Ask Alumni* had garnered more than 14,000 users. Alumni-alumni connections made up 20 per cent of connection requests in the program, with most alumni mentees being recent graduates. Overall, more than 2300 career conversations took place throughout the year.

The University community thanks its generous mentors for their investment into future generations of Melbourne graduates through *Ask Alumni*.

SCHOLARSHIPS

RURAL VET'S PASSION FOR WILDLIFE RESEARCH HELPS CAREER SOAR

Meaghan Barrow was awarded two scholarships during her veterinary studies that helped her overcome the difficulties of being a regionally based student. They helped her access a research project that was essential to completing her studies and supported her financially.

An abiding love of country, and all of its inhabitants, has always been an integral part of Doctor Meaghan Barrow's identity. As Lead Wildlife Veterinarian with the RSPCA in rural Queensland, Meaghan demonstrates that tenderness and care, helping treat in excess of 25,000 sick and injured native animals annually.

Raised on a sheep farm in north-east Victoria, it was a childhood enveloped in nature that germinated Meaghan's sense of responsibility to the environment. "Because our native wildlife is so impacted by human activity, I was drawn to helping them."

And so, having completed school, Meaghan began a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree at the University of Melbourne, an opportunity enabled by the Noble Stewart-Hamilton Scholarship. Established through a bequest of the late Joyce Agnes Stewart-Hamilton (nee Noble), who was unable to realise her own ambitions of becoming a vet, Joyce's generosity has since supported numerous veterinarian students at the University of Melbourne with their study and living expenses.

"Being a rural student tends to put you at a disadvantage to students who come from Melbourne and can study at home. Having that scholarship was a huge help in offsetting the costs of moving to Melbourne and supporting myself through the four years of veterinary studies."

CHASING DOWN RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Able to pursue interstate placements at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Queensland, and the Menzies Research Institute, Tasmania, the experiences came as a revelation to Meaghan. For the first time, she could see wider possibilities within veterinarian sciences opening up to her. So much so, that when the opportunity to participate in a six-week summer research project on native wildlife presented itself as part of the Robert Neville McCarthy Scholarship, Meaghan felt compelled to apply.

"Without the support of the Noble Stewart-Hamilton Scholarship, I really would have struggled to do as well as I did at university. Additionally, the experience I was exposed to as part of the Robert Neville McCarthy Scholarship summer research project was an incredibly unique and enjoyable experience, one that set me up for my career. They both made a huge difference to my experience."

"Veterinary studies tend to focus on placements and rotations in the final year, but here was a scholarship dedicated to wildlife research with a core focus on Phalaris

toxicity. As the daughter of sheep farmers, it's a subject I found fascinating."

Found on every continent in the world except Antarctica, Phalaris is a common grass genus. But some species contain gramine, an indole alkaloid, which, when ingested by sheep, is toxic, often leading to brain damage, central nervous system damage and in some cases death.

"It tends to present in what we call Phalaris staggers – head tremors, a loss of coordination, collapse. Mobs of wild kangaroos had recently been observed displaying these tremors and so the research I became part of was investigating whether or not Phalaris affects Kangaroos."

In the space of just six weeks, Meaghan was exposed to an entirely fresh set of skills and experiences that would expand her understanding of animal science far beyond those required within an atypical veterinary practice.

"From a practical perspective, I learned so much that I simply would not have been exposed to otherwise – things like histology, pathology and metabolomics. Academically, I used the skills I'd acquired in my final year project."

"On a personal level, working with such talented specialists and experts boosted my confidence, setting me up for a really strong finish in my final year. And professionally, it was great to be exposed to the different career paths my degree could take me down. It really surfaced areas I hadn't thought of, in addition to giving me skills I still use in the work I do now."

A LOVE OF THE WILD

As Meaghan and her team scramble to treat and rehabilitate the steady stream of injured native wildlife delivered to their doors, those skills are pressed into action on a daily basis in her role with the RSPCA.

"The biggest challenge we face is the sheer volume of animals presenting to us. During winter, we will see 40 cases a day. In summer, that can spike to anywhere between 80 and 90. In total, we will treat approximately 25,000 animals a year. It's always been a challenge, but as urban sprawl expands and wildlife habitats shrink, we're treating more affected animals year on year."

No two days are alike and the sheer species diversity Meaghan and her team care for keeps them on their toes. Being informed and staying on top of the different diseases across such diverse species is challenging, and some patients can prove trickier than others.

In the thick of work in 2021, an RSPCA nurse arrived with



CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN:
Meaghan with a baby crocodile;
Graceful tree frog; Meaghan with Thommo the koala.



a graceful tree frog. The only problem was Meaghan couldn't see it. "I asked the presenting nurse if she was joking," Meaghan recalled "but she made me take a closer look. And there it was: a tiny two-centimetre frog."

Initially worried about a lump on its side, closer examination revealed a thorax wound exposing the frog's delicate lungs and intestines. Despite its tiny size, and the severity of its injuries, Meaghan's training kicked in. Albeit with a little improvisation.

"I had doubts he'd survive. If this were a mammal with wounds that severe it's unlikely it would. But I thought I'd try to suture it back up. To do that, I needed to sedate it, which was really hard because you can't intubate a frog weighing less than half a gram. Then I had to brace my entire body to keep my hands steady enough to stitch it up with tiny needles and a very thin suture."

Thankfully, the operation was a success. A week later, the healed frog was only too happy to hop back into the wild.

The success of her work in rehabilitating and preserving vulnerable native wildlife is testament to her love for country.

For Meaghan, the pleasing circularity of her journey – a country girl enchanted by Australian wildlife finds a way to work on the frontline protecting it – could only have been achieved by the experiences enabled by her two scholarships.

"It is incredibly important rural students are supported. Rural Australia is undoubtedly a great place to experience a rich childhood, but education opportunities are limited. Scholarships, like those given by the generosity of Joyce Stewart-Hamilton, are fabulous."

"The added support and inspiration of the Robert Neville McCarthy Scholarship and its summer research program only added to my university experience, enlarging and improving my career path. Both scholarships made a huge difference to me."

And not just to Meaghan, but the thousands of animals, large and miniscule, she now cares for.

REEaChING FOR QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

A ‘guiding light’ for early childhood education has been made possible by a \$3.7M gift to the Melbourne Graduate School of Education from the Leaper Foundation – with a further \$5.73M committed by the Paul Ramsay Foundation to fund a longitudinal study.

Jenny Leaper has long held a passion for educating young adolescents. She completed a Diploma of Education in 1970 and a Master of Education in 1981, then went on to teach at state and private secondary schools across the country.

Later, when Leaper’s grandchildren were born, interacting with them highlighted that no age is too early to start the teaching and learning process. It was this insight – and the desire dispel the notion of Early Childhood Education (ECE) as just ‘childminding’ – that led her to establish the Research in Effective Education in Early Childhood (REEaCh) Hub in 2019.

Leaper envisioned REEaCh as the ‘guiding light’ in ECE. And today, the Hub is helping young children of all backgrounds reach their full potential.

The Hub advances the quality of early learning for all children by uniting leading academics, early-career researchers, post-doctoral fellows, and doctoral students to collaborate and conduct research – and translate research into real-life solutions.

RESEARCHING EDUCATORS’ WELLBEING

An ongoing research project conducted by REEaCh into the wellbeing of early childhood (EC) educators and young children is showing the extent of COVID-19’s impact.

This research will be used to raise awareness, inform research and advocacy efforts, and help identify practical solutions for professionals to support educators’ and children’s social and emotional wellbeing in the future.

The initial findings of the project were published in the *Early Childhood Education Journal* in May 2021. Results showed that 85.9 per cent of the surveyed educators reported that the pandemic had a negative impact on their wellbeing.

Head of the School of Early Childhood and Inclusive Education at Queensland University of Technology, Professor Susan Irvine, spoke to the importance of supporting EC educators at the launch of the REEaCh Hub in 2019.

“We’re needing to work towards the vision we’ve been talking about for some time – in terms of a qualified, engaged, and sustainable workforce,” said Professor Irvine. “We know the importance of this because the most significant determinate of effective learning is the interaction that

happens between teachers, educators and children.”

According to the initial findings of the research, “there are significant lessons to be learned from COVID-19 regarding the resilience of the workforce, the visibility (or not) of the important work of EC educators, the value society places on the work, the level of government investment in supporting EC educators.”

The project is now in its second phase; a follow-up survey investigating children’s wellbeing in childhood settings was conducted in 2021 with results due in 2022.

LEAVING NO CHILDREN BEHIND

President of the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association, Geraldine Atkinson, says we need to make ECE more inclusive and valuable for Indigenous children.

“It’s about making services more acceptable to [Indigenous] families so they will want to send their children to these services, knowing their children will be nurtured and cared for, but also knowing they’re going to receive a really good quality childhood education,” explains Auntie Atkinson.

In response to this need for equitable access to ECE, REEaCh issued a policy brief in November 2021 advocating for the implementation of an evidence-based early learning approach shown to improve the short and long-term academic, language, social-emotional, and health outcomes of Aboriginal children across the Northern Territory.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Dean of the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, Professor Jim Watterston, is thankful for the Leaper Foundation’s generous support and vision.

“The Leaper Foundation’s generosity has given the Melbourne Graduate School of Education significant capacity to develop and lead on better ECE for all. This crucial funding will help address the ongoing challenges faced by this sector,” affirmed Professor Watterston.

Thanks to this incredible gift, REEaCh has high hopes of helping all young children reach their full potential. From conducting crucial policy-informing studies to introducing innovative ECE practices across the country, the Hub is guiding the way to a brighter future. ■

Jenny Leaper

SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIP HELPED CLAUDIA ACHIEVE A FAMILY FIRST

In 2019, Claudia Cox was awarded the Grant F. Marani First in Family Scholarship. This gift – generously established by New York-based alumni Grant Marani and Anne Rieselbach – supports a Bachelor of Design student who is the first in their family to attend university.



Claudia Cox

For Claudia Cox, attending university to become an architect has been a life-long ambition. But pursuing her dream had its challenges.

Towards the end of Claudia's time at high school, money was tight as the drought impacted her family's farming business in Sea Lake, north-western Victoria. On top of that, Claudia was stepping into unknown territory as the first in her family to pursue university education.

"Being the first in the family to leave for university was definitely a little nerve wracking for me – however, mostly exciting. I've known from a very young age that I wanted to go to university and move away from home.

As much as I love the farm, I knew it wasn't something I wanted to do forever. I was also really excited to live in Melbourne, as it was a completely new experience for me as I had only been part of a small-town community. Since

attending university in Melbourne, I have developed so much as a person and really found who I am and what I want to do in my life.

I'm sure I would not be the same person I am today without this amazing opportunity.

This scholarship has made attending university possible for me. It has taken so much financial pressure off my parents and myself. It is so nice to have been able to lift some of the pressure off my shoulders so I can completely focus on my studies.

This scholarship meant that I didn't have to work as frequently during my degree and got to attend a college where I found all my friends, whom I could not be more grateful for.

In the future, I hope to move overseas to do my masters or graduate work. I haven't narrowed down the details just yet, but I know that I want to see more of the world while studying."

THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS

The Angelika Zimmerman Medical Scholarship, the gift of an alumni couple, is making all the difference for several promising young students.



FROM TOP: Chloe Hobson; Hans Prem with pictures of his late wife, Angelika Zimmerman.

Chloe Hobson was more than a little nervous meeting the generous donor behind the scholarship she had been awarded, a scholarship that would make her final year at medical school that bit easier.

She knew only that Dr Hans Prem had established a scholarship at the University of Melbourne, his alma mater, for students like her who struggled financially. She was aware that the scholarship had been founded in the name of his late wife, Dr Angelika Zimmerman. But beyond these facts, she knew little about the lives of these generous donors.

Dr Prem had invited Chloe to lunch so they could learn more about each other. He wanted to talk about his late wife's career as a child psychiatrist, the impact she had on her patients, and to explain why they had both decided to support students of medicine like her.

Despite being in different stages of life, Chloe and Dr Prem quickly found common ground. "He was so lovely to talk to," she reflected. "He brought photos of his wife and I got to learn about her life.

"I was so excited when I learned that she had worked with children because that's one of the areas of medicine I'm interested in."



MANAGING THROUGH HARDSHIP

Chloe, who is almost 24, is now in her final year of her Doctor of Medicine. She will be the first doctor in her family.

Chloe spent her early years in regional Victoria after her mother, Deanne, moved her young family from Melbourne to Bendigo, believing it to be a more affordable option for a single mother. She worked hard to put Chloe and her brother through the local Girton Grammar School.

Chloe's decision to study science at Monash University meant a move back to Melbourne for her. She loved the course work, and it fuelled her interest in medicine, leading her to the University of Melbourne's post-graduate medical program.

However, life was tough financially, with her mother

helping where she could. "I was living on the bare minimum and not going out very much," explained Chloe. "I was really just getting by. I was working part-time for a while but, with the study workload, I wasn't managing too well."

Her benefactor is no stranger to adversity. Dr Prem, who moved to Australia from West Germany as a child, experienced his own financial struggles. He recalls being "lucky to get out alive" from the school he first attended in Melbourne's western suburbs. Dr Zimmerman, born in East Germany, fared little better but the lives of both were changed forever when they were offered places at the University of Melbourne.

Dr Prem studied mechanical engineering and went on to enjoy a distinguished career in the field, while Dr Zimmerman forged a path in medicine, specialising in child psychiatry. The decision to fund a medical scholarship to help students with an appetite to learn but not necessarily the means to do so, was Angelika's. Her death encouraged him to start giving in his lifetime and led him also to establish the Hans Prem Scholarship for engineering students.

Dr Prem likes to meet the recipients of both scholarships each year because it reminds him of why he and his late wife embarked on their journey of giving. He knows it would make her smile.

HONOURING ANGELIKA

For Chloe, Dr Zimmerman is an inspirational woman who succeeded in making a difference in the lives of her young patients. She hopes in the fullness of her own life that she can touch the lives of others in a similarly positive way.

The Angelika Zimmerman Medical Scholarship has given peace of mind, not just to Chloe but also her mother. "She has definitely been my inspiration to work hard and achieve things," said Chloe. "She was so proud and excited when I got this scholarship.

"I knew she worried about me and it's a great relief to me now to know she doesn't have to stress about me anymore. And we have Dr Prem and Dr Zimmerman to thank for that."

HARNESSING THE POWER OF LITERATURE

Author Alexis Wright is leveraging her position as Boisbouvier Founding Chair in Australian Literature to encourage a wider examination of the role of storytelling in community efforts to tackle social issues.

Professor Alexis Wright is well known for asking challenging questions that provoke people into thinking more deeply. In a recent article, she posed an imaginary scenario: what would it mean if we lived in a world without stories?

It's an interesting question, especially as she is a highly successful author who has won both the Miles Franklin Award (*Carpentaria*, 2006) and the Stella Prize (*Tracker*, 2017).

Were there no stories being written, Professor Wright suggested, the human imagination would prevail – she hoped we would be brave and cultivate a practice of “whispering stories in our mind”, just as Aboriginal people did on the missions and reserves where they were once institutionalised under state laws. There, they kept their spiritual law stories strong by holding secret gatherings in the middle of the night.

Professor Wright, a Waanyi woman, is the University of Melbourne's Boisbouvier Founding Chair in Australian Literature, a unique position founded in 2015 thanks to a generous \$5M gift from John Wylie AM and Myriam Boisbouvier-Wylie. The role is groundbreaking in the way it is dedicated to inspiring emerging writers, school students and the public to explore the crucial role of literature in tackling social issues.

In imagining the unimaginable – a world without stories – Professor Wright was boldly addressing some of the major problems confronting contemporary writers and thinkers today: the censorship of truth, and how boundaries of indifference, ignorance and vested political interests are being imposed upon us. She describes it as a “huge subject of silencing, the muting of voices, and bullying tactics used to oppress, humiliate, manipulate, create fear and exclude”.

As Boisbouvier Chair, she has been fighting these things creatively, inspiring other writers in the face of great societal challenges.

“Writers are storytellers: their words echo universal felt experiences, adding meaning and purpose at times that feel bereft of both,” said Professor Wright. “As Australians navigate the fragility of this time and work to rebuild a more solid future, local writers will play an important role in telling those stories.”

When the Chair was established, as a partnership between the University and State Library Victoria, it was envisaged as involving a mix of teaching and public lectures. Mr Wylie, who at the time was President of the Library Board of Victoria, and Mrs Boisbouvier-Wylie saw it as an innovative way to provide an opportunity for practising Australian authors to advance appreciation of Australian literature, with mentorships and specialised courses for those with a focus on Australian writing, while enhancing Melbourne's place as a UNESCO City of Literature.

“We hope the Boisbouvier Founding Chair in Australian Literature will make a real difference to how the community understands and appreciates national literature,” Wylie said at the time, when writer Richard Flanagan was appointed inaugural Chair.

WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE BIG ISSUES

During her tenure, Professor Wright has participated in dozens of events in which she has challenged writers to be more creative. All this work has been in an era with some extremely difficult scenarios playing out, such as climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing public consciousness about Indigenous rights.

Professor Wright's enthusiastic involvement has strongly reflected these aspirations and has had a tangible impact for writers, students and Indigenous communities, while also generating more informed conversation around these urgent topics. In 2020 alone, as Boisbouvier Chair, she received more than 250 invitations worldwide for writing, speaking and teaching engagements, granting her an opportunity to consider how best to distribute Australian literature across the world.

“It's about how we understand each other,” she said. “Literature is the heart and soul of each country and can help develop greater understanding.”

Along with the many workshops and events she has participated in as Chair, Professor Wright has given high-profile public keynote addresses, lectures and masterclasses, while also mentoring and writing for several publications. A significant highlight has been a series of podcasts involving four distinguished Australian authors, *Signposts: Stories for our Fragile Times*, launched by the University and State Library Victoria. Shining a light on the role of Australian literature in times of crisis, it involved Professor Wright leading intimate conversations with authors Peter Carey, Nicholas Jose, Christos Tsiolkas and Melissa Lucashenko.

Professor Wright said that the program offered “valuable discourse about the power of creativity” in a crisis.

WITNESSING TO A WIDE COMMUNITY

Other involvements as Chair have included seminars and workshops in various schools of the University, and involvement with events as diverse as the Cairns Indigenous Art Festival, a screening at the Dondale Detention Centre in the Northern Territory, mentoring at Musica Viva Australia and workshops with year 12 students studying *Carpentaria*.

As one Geelong High School year 12 student reflected: “*Carpentaria* has taught us the necessity of using our privilege to fight for those whose history has been oppressed, which



Professor Alexis Wright

is more important now than ever with society's changing climate. In a way, *Carpentaria* has weaponised literature and has inspired meaningful change in a group of young adults who will now go on to instil those messages in others.”

Many others involved in Professor Wright's many Chair activities have been similarly enthusiastic. Susan Pyke, a teacher in the University's School of Communication and Culture, wrote to her to say that “having your voice of knowledge present in our learning environment will

undoubtedly be a semester highlight for the students and was absolutely a teaching highlight for me. Your work is so vital and so profoundly alive.”

That message further underscores the ways in which the philanthropy of the Boisbouvier-Wylie family is having such a powerful and enduring effect.

“We like initiatives that have got a good multiplier effect to them,” said Wylie, “where you throw a rock in the pond and the ripple goes out.” ■

WHERE BOLD IDEAS ARE BORN

Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship delivers programs that accelerate the entrepreneurial journey of founders, investors and educators. It was established in 2015 thanks to a \$10M gift by entrepreneur and commerce alum Peter Wade.



For students studying the University of Melbourne's Master of Entrepreneurship at Wade Institute, the classroom experience is guided by the principle of learning by doing. And for Karolina Petkovic, gaining the skills to forge ahead with her idea was the missing piece of the puzzle.

For the last 17 years, Karolina has worked as a Research Scientist at CSIRO, the scientific research arm of the Australian Government.

"I think for scientists, that business side of things is often missing. When scientists acquire those extra entrepreneurial skills, it really makes communication easier on the business development side of things," she said.

Karolina enrolled in a Master of Entrepreneurship part-time to develop her existing idea – an at-home iron-deficiency test which relies on saliva, rather than blood called 'Iron WoMan'.

"The idea is for people, particularly women, to be able to test themselves for iron deficiency, probably on a monthly basis," she said.

"It's a really good tool to help people be more in charge when it comes to their iron intake, so they can make adjustments, whether through diet or supplements, to better manage their iron levels."

Right now, Karolina is awaiting the outcome of her product's clinical trial while developing her commercialisation plan, thanks to her newly acquired skills.

She holds the ultimate goal of seeing the product become something that can be purchased in local pharmacies.

"The rate of iron deficiency in the developing world is pretty shocking, sitting at around 80 per cent in Africa. Making it available to people in those parts of the world is something I am very passionate about, as well as helping women."

POWERING THE STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

As an entrepreneur himself, Peter Wade knows the importance of being innovative in business. "We are a smart nation but



FROM LEFT: Peter Wade; Karolina Petkovic; The Wade Institute Building at Ormond College.

still too few of our great ideas are generating the future of our economy," he said.

The Travelbag founder is passionate about helping develop Australia's future by equipping budding entrepreneurs with the skills they need to create value and opportunity.

"I have been involved in supporting education for a while now and it has given me enormous faith in the extraordinary talent of young Australians."

Wade Institute sits within Ormond College, a historic residential college established at the University's Parkville campus. The immersive experience gives students an opportunity to be part of a strong community built on innovation and diversity.

Alongside the Master of Entrepreneurship, Wade Institute offers *VC Catalyst*, an executive education program for active investors, building the skills, knowledge and networks required to make successful venture capital investments – and *UpSchool*, a suite of immersive school programs designed to

develop the entrepreneurial mindsets of kindergarten to year 12 students and their teachers.

A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Reflecting on her experience at Wade Institute, Karolina believes that the Master of Entrepreneurship helped her gain confidence in making decisions.

"Wade Institute and the whole experience of the masters has been such a great playground for connecting science and business," she said.

Thanks to Wade's generosity, more budding entrepreneurs like Karolina are learning the process of trying, sometimes failing, and ultimately picking themselves back up in pursuit of their big ideas.

"People think they have a great idea and they would love to develop it, but they don't know where to start. Confidence helps you get there, and that's certainly what my experience at Wade Institute gave me."

GOLD STANDARD MEDITATION AND CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE

The Contemplative Studies Centre is informing best practice for contemplative practices so our society and world can flourish. The Centre was established in 2021 thanks to a transformative \$10M gift from Mr Martin Hosking and Dr Loreto Hosking through the Three Springs Foundation.

Looking after our mental health has climbed towards the top of many people's priority lists since the emergence of COVID-19, but even before the pandemic began there was an explosion of interest in contemplative practices such as mindfulness and meditation as society sought to achieve a quietening of the mind in a fast-paced and uncertain world.

At the same time, many of us are considering how this new focus on contemplative practices can help us to face significant global problems such as climate change and human rights issues. By becoming more contemplative individuals, we can develop more connected communities to be less focused on ourselves and more focused on each other and the shared world.

Today, contemplative practices are more accessible than ever thanks to mobile apps that remind you to 'observe your breath', and amateur-run classes in workplaces and schools offered during lunchbreaks. But while these practices can be incredibly helpful for most people, recent studies show they can also be harmful if not approached with consideration and care.

FRESH START FOR ANCIENT TRADITIONS

The Contemplative Studies Centre (CSC or the Centre), sitting within the University's Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, is helping inform best practice for modern contemplative practices so our society and world can flourish through greater connection and compassion.

CSC Director and Associate Professor of Psychological Sciences, Nicholas Van Dam, is passionate about ensuring the wider community have a safe and impactful relationship with mindfulness and meditation.

"Contemplative practices can help people to understand themselves, the world and each other better," said Associate Professor Van Dam. "But in order to do that well and to reap the benefits and to minimise the harms, they have to be authentic practices based on evidence."

Through interdisciplinary, evidence-based research, the Centre is working to determine what authentic and effective contemplation-based offerings should look like.

Mr Hosking has been interested in unlocking the benefits of meditation and contemplative studies for many years.

The Redbubble co-founder recognises how invaluable meditation and mindfulness practices have been for him personally as a business leader – particularly when coping with anxieties induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. "It means you are less immediately reactive to events that are occurring," he shared.

Mr Hosking has a particular interest in students and young people. "I know the personal benefits of meditation and believe the introduction of study in this area will have a profound impact on our future leaders, professionals and educators."

TIMELY AND DIVERSE MEDITATION

As the CSC started operating in 2021, the team were acutely aware that many University of Melbourne students and staff were experiencing COVID-19 fatigue and isolation. The Centre surveyed the University community on their interest in participating in guided meditation.

The response was overwhelming with 882 participants attending 27 *Meditation for Lockdown* sessions facilitated by expert teachers from four different faith and wisdom traditions – Buddhist Korean Zen, contemporary insight (secular), Wayapa Wuurrk (Indigenous) and contemporary Christian.

In 2022, this suite of engagement offerings continues to grow with the establishment of *The Contemplation Conversations* public engagement series; an interdisciplinary academic exchange series aimed at advancing the field of contemplative science; and a range of inter-faith and wisdom tradition salons, tradition deep-dives and dialogues.

The CSC also has flagship research projects moving into operation and trials, and has launched its inaugural round of seed funding to support creative and collaborative academic projects that advance the interest, capacity, and impact of contemplative studies and practice.

LEADING PRACTICES FOR ALL

Professor Sarah Wilson, former Head of School, Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences – now Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Life – welcomed the Hoskings' generous gift to the School in 2021. "This exciting new Centre is a timely gift to our whole community, as it brings the latest research evidence and an interdisciplinary approach to guide us on the most effective ways to contemplate and navigate the complexities of our lives." ■

Associate Professor Nicholas Van Dam



WHERE ART AND SCIENCE COLLIDE

Peter McMullin AM and Ruth McMullin donated a visionary \$4M to Science Gallery Melbourne to build the gallery's new home within the University's innovation precinct, Melbourne Connect. Their gift has since been leveraged to secure more donations from other generous individuals and organisations.

Art and science have long been pitted against each other as competing schools of thought. And for many young people, the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) have become characterised as intimidating or unattainable along the way.

The removal of the inspiring and creative elements of STEM is not only misleading – it also poses a serious threat to the future of Australia's STEM industries.

Worryingly, Australia is lagging compared to our competitors. While international research indicates that 75 per cent of the fastest growing occupations now require STEM skills and knowledge, Australian schools are showing a decline in the rates of participation in 'science' subjects to the lowest level in 20 years, according to official reports.

EXPERIMENT MEETS EXHIBITION

Science Gallery is an award-winning global network of galleries that is bridging this gap. It's helping more young people feel inspired by the innovative scientific discoveries that improve our lives, thanks to the captivating nature of art.

Showcasing two major exhibitions annually, along with pop-up exhibitions and online interactive content, Science Gallery Melbourne is described as a living laboratory. It places young people at its heart – actively involving 15 to 25-year olds – and showcases provocative topics and themes such as our society's throwaway culture in the exhibition *DISPOSABLE*, and the curious-yet-repulsive nature of blood in *BLOOD*.

One way the gallery captivates its young audience is through its Mediators – dedicated young adults who love all things science and art and draw out visitors' thoughts and ideas on the works.

"Science communication is the vehicle to get science to more people," explained one Mediator. "If we can't communicate these big ideas, then they don't go anywhere."

SEEING WITH NEW EYES

Even through the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, Science Gallery Melbourne reached nearly 4000 school students in 2021 through class excursions, online programs, and workshops.

One program, the *STEM Centre of Excellence* funded through the Department of Education and Training, partners with 25 local

secondary schools to foster scientific curiosity in students and improve teachers' capability in teaching STEM subjects.

Of all the students who participated in the program in 2021, 85 per cent said the program motivated them to explore new ideas, and 73 per cent felt confident to design solutions to solve challenges that were related to real life.

Another Science Gallery Melbourne program *FEMME STEM* is empowering female identifying and non-binary people in secondary school to pursue a career in STEM. The program gives students a platform to share their ideas, a safe environment to grow their voice, and a supportive network of leading women and peers in STEM.



A Science Gallery Melbourne Mediator discussing an exhibit with a young visitor.

SUPPORTING A STEM FUTURE

Peter and Ruth announced their visionary \$4M gift to Science Gallery Melbourne during National Science Week in 2019, recognising its value in shaping Australia's future in STEM.

Peter and Ruth are thrilled with the impact their support is having. "The Gallery provides experiences that are transformative at a crucial time in a young person's life. We believe Science Gallery will have a lasting impact on the future and

consider this gift an investment in Australia's next generation of scientific and creative trailblazers," they said.

The team at Science Gallery Melbourne are also grateful to its other incredible partners including PACCAR, The Hugh DT Williamson Foundation, DCF Property, Chartered Accountants ANZ, BASF Australia, Toyota, VicHealth, Florey Institute of Neuroscience, Kvadrat Maharam, Telstra, and the Gordon Darling Foundation. The Victorian State Government also supports this award-winning initiative significantly.

ART GIVING SCIENCE LIFE

As a scientist himself, VicHealth CEO Dr Sandro Demaiio knows that walls are too often built around STEM disciplines. He feels privileged to champion Science Gallery Melbourne through VicHealth by supporting its efforts in breaking those barriers down.

"Art brings science to life and makes it less scary," he said. "Hopefully, it means more young people from diverse backgrounds and different lived experiences feel safe, welcome, and gain a sense of belonging in the incredible world of STEM." ■

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT ADVANCEMENT

WHEN COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER, AMAZING THINGS HAPPEN

Looking at this final campaign report, it is both humbling and amazing to see what you – our incredibly generous donors, supporters, alumni and volunteers – have enabled since we commenced *Believe* back in 2008.



You have shown us the extraordinary impact that can be achieved when we link generous and visionary partners and supporters with our students and leading-edge researchers.

You have shown us that an engaged, aware, and committed alumni and donor community, who have so generously contributed their time and expertise, can make a true difference in the world. You have made a difference to our students, to life-saving and life-changing research, and to the landscape of Melbourne.

I have enjoyed every moment of working with you and everyone at the University to help make *Believe* possible. While the campaign has concluded, philanthropy will remain at the heart of our most ambitious objectives, and the engagement of our alumni and friends will be critical to the thriving life of the University. Together, you will help us to build a bridge to recovery following the challenges of the past two

years; conducting research and developing researchers to help our communities thrive in a constantly evolving world.

We will continue to work in partnership with you – our donors and supporters – to enable change, to support our alumni community, and to strengthen critical connections to business and industry. We will continue to support students to thrive and succeed in their studies so they can play valuable and meaningful roles in the years to come.

Robert Louis Stevenson was right: you should judge each day not by what you reap, but the seeds that you plant. You have sowed many seeds and future generations will thank you.

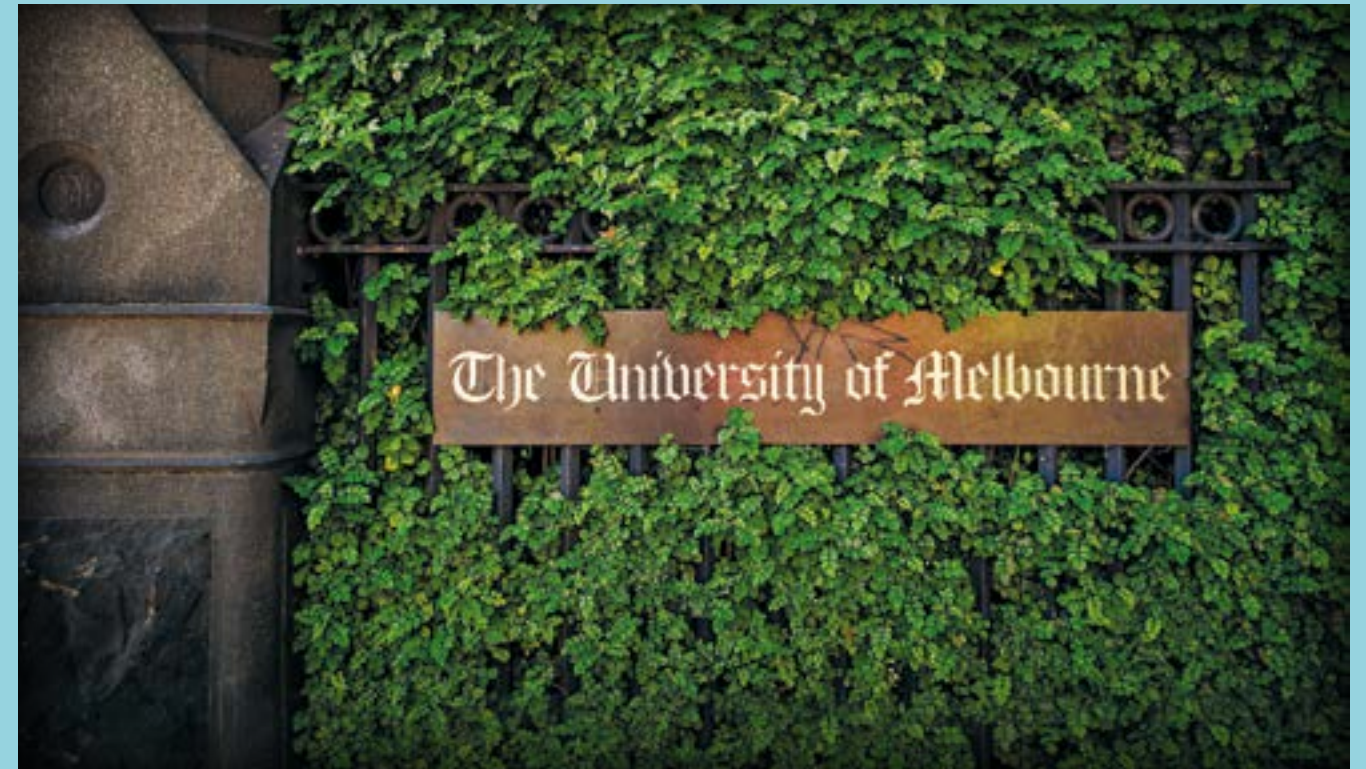
Together, you have given power to possibility. Thank you from everyone here at the University.

NICK BLINCO
VICE-PRESIDENT (ADVANCEMENT)

THANK YOU

FOR GIVING POWER TO POSSIBILITY

Your generosity is transforming the lives of so many students and making an impact across the University community and wider society. The power of our donor community is redefining what is possible for our students and researchers. Together, you make an outstanding contribution to the work of the University.



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:

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

GIFTS IN WILLS

Including the University in your Will is a 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

FOCUSED PHILANTHROPY

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

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

BELIEVE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

ON THE COVER

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) alum Nikki Green, pictured at the Ian Potter Southbank Centre, a significant redevelopment made possible through the generosity of visionary donors as part of *Believe*.

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