



REPORT TO DONORS

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING





Thank you for your support during a time of crisis

This year's *Report to Donors* comes at a time of great optimism for the University and our place in the world.

Like everyone, the University's staff and students were challenged by the events associated with COVID-19 last year. I am immensely proud of the way our whole community, including you, our donors, rose to these many challenges. Particularly inspiring was the work by our academic and professional staff members to keep our tens of thousands of brilliant students – many of them, younger students – on track and successfully learning while online and temporarily cut off from our wonderful campus life.

Come graduation day for these students, their individual degrees will have been truly well-earned – a tribute to them and to our entire community.

Naturally, I was proud too of the colossal efforts of our researchers in the medical and health sciences, the basic sciences, engineering and urban planning, the economic and social sciences, the creative arts and humanities, law, education and veterinary and agricultural sciences, and indeed in every single discipline at the University, for their collective contributions to solving the world's

challenges in 2020 and early 2021. Pandemic response is one major focus of these research efforts, as is climate change, along with many other areas of need. The deep knowledge base at this University forms a key asset for governments and communities around the world, in tackling these many problems.

Your support as donors to this great education and research enterprise is deeply appreciated by all of us at the University of Melbourne.

Please, enjoy reading this brief report on some of what has been achieved with your support in 2020. And let us stay in touch as our community rises to new challenges in future years.

PROFESSOR DUNCAN MASKELL

VICE-CHANCELLOR

Believe – the Campaign for the University of Melbourne

Thanks to your generosity and ongoing support, the University of Melbourne was able to rise to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and to realise some truly spectacular achievements. Last year saw more than \$118 million in philanthropic gifts to the wider University and its Colleges and Affiliate partners, and 41,433 alumni participating through volunteering, mentoring and online event attendance. We were able to assist students going through financial hardship with 12,438 emergency support grants, and connect thousands of students with alumni mentors for career conversations.

We are immensely grateful for this generosity and we assure you that all gifts will continue to be applied to their specific purposes in line with donor wishes.

Your dedication and loyalty as donors display an inspiring conviction in higher education. This year’s *Report to Donors* reflects that enduring belief in the power of education, containing examples of generosity that have resulted in astonishing research, student and community outcomes.

Thank you for your support – every contribution through giving, volunteering and mentoring makes a difference and is hugely appreciated.

NICK BLINCO
VICE-PRESIDENT (ADVANCEMENT)

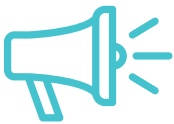
2020 IN NUMBERS



**\$118M INCOME
RAISED IN 2020**



**4561 TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS,
68% OF WHOM ARE ALUMNI**



**41,433 TOTAL
ALUMNI ENGAGED**




**\$10M DONATED TO
STUDENT SUPPORT**



**\$78.3M DONATED TO RESEARCH
AND ACADEMIC POSITIONS**



**4205 ALUMNI
VOLUNTEERS**



“Our committed and generous University community will help to make the world stronger through the power of education.”

PROFESSOR DUNCAN MASKELL
VICE-CHANCELLOR



Education

The generosity of our alumni and donors allows us to offer a world-class education to outstanding graduates for Australia and the world.

HELPING TEACHERS OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING TO EMPOWER THEIR STUDENTS

Grace Broadbent developed a passion for Auslan (Australian Sign Language) when she was young. With encouragement from her teacher, Grace pursued this passion with a degree to become a Teacher of the Deaf. As she progressed through her career, her commitment to assist students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing resulted in her undertaking a Master of Instructional Leadership at the University of Melbourne, thanks to the generous support of the Beth MacLaren Smallwood Scholarship.

“It has been a privilege to learn from key researchers and leading educators within the Master of Instructional Leadership. This would not have been possible without the Scholarship, for which I am extremely grateful,” says Grace.

The Scholarship enables a diverse range of talented and passionate individuals in the field of education and leadership to learn from key researchers and leading educators. Grace says being able to collaborate with

colleagues and peers meant they were also able to learn from each other.

“As a teacher of the Deaf and particularly working in a school for the Deaf, we are a little bit isolated and we don’t get to see a lot of what happens in mainstream schools. Being able to share different challenges that other teachers and my peers and colleagues were facing meant we could learn a lot from each other.”

Grace says education remains the best chance for changing people’s lives and society for the better. Her aim is to develop students’ capacity so they are empowered to make independent and successful life choices.

“Research shows the impact deafness has on a child’s access to education. I think we have a responsibility as educators to do the best that we can in these educational settings to overcome those barriers.”

Grace now works as an Impact Coach for teachers at a school for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. She is passionate about applying the content from the Instructional Leadership course to guide them in their reflection on how they are working with students.

“I work with teachers to reflect on their practice and consider what impact they are having on their students. I wouldn’t be able to do this role as effectively without having done the Master of Instructional Leadership and having that knowledge around leading teachers through that process.”

“The Scholarship provided motivation to achieve my best and push through the times when it has been difficult to balance full-time work with study.”

GRACE BROADBENT

MASTER OF INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP,
BETH MACLAREN SMALLWOOD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



BRETT STONE AT INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE: FROM RURAL VICTORIA TO INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Originally from Shepparton, Victoria, Brett Stone was the inaugural recipient of the Dawn Wade Scholarship in 2012. Thanks to the support of a generous donor family, Brett was able to move to Melbourne to undertake a Bachelor of Commerce and lived with 250 students from all over the world at residential college, International House. Brett credits many of his successes to the experiences he had there and says his time at International House instilled in him a global perspective which he would not have developed living in rural Victoria.

“As a country kid, living in such a diverse and vibrant community enabled me to better understand the world around me and have a global understanding as I approach my future career/entrepreneurship adventure.”

Brett now runs his own website development and digital marketing agency in Sydney, Stone Digital, building global ecommerce websites and working with international consulting companies as well as national charities and venture-backed start-ups. His connection to the University community remains strong – Brett still keeps in contact with the friends he made at International House and is an active volunteer committee member for the University’s Alumni Association in Sydney.



SHAPING FUTURES THROUGH MENTORING

Successfully completing a university degree is a major achievement. But when a graduate receives tailored support to help recognise their own personal strengths and forge ahead with a successful, professional career, the sky is the limit.

Thanks to the University of Melbourne's breadth of mentoring programs, current and past students can access thousands of Melbourne alumni to seek career advice, share knowledge and gain precious industry insights from leaders in countless fields.

But it's a two-way street. As well as building knowledge and confidence for mentees, the programs give mentors a chance to make a real difference by sharing their wisdom and expertise, while at the same time expanding their own professional networks.

And for many alumni like Deborah Chew and Chester Foley, the experience can be transformative. Both have overcome difficulties and made successful career choices thanks to the crucial support and guidance they received from their *Ask Alumni* mentors.



**2,774 ALUMNI
VOLUNTEERED AS MENTORS
IN 2020**

DEBORAH CHEW

Deborah's experience of mentoring was literally life-changing. She signed up for the *Ask Alumni* program in 2018, before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Politics and International Studies). After working a number of internships in politics and public policy, Deborah landed a well-paid role with a prestigious management consultancy.

But something wasn't right. She lacked passion for the new job. "[The *Ask Alumni* program] helped me realise that there are so many paths my career could take," reflects Deborah. "University is the starting point, and one needn't be afraid of switching paths or changing careers until you find something that clicks."

Since receiving support through *Ask Alumni*, Deborah has successfully switched paths to allied health, recently beginning a Master of Nursing Science at the University of Melbourne. She is extremely grateful for the clarity and support the program has given her and heartily recommends the experience to other alumni. "You gain confidence from reaching out, knowledge from people in industry, and broaden your post-uni perspectives."

"Their experiences provided me with the opportunity to broaden my perspectives."

DEBORAH CHEW

ASK ALUMNI PROGRAM MENTEE

CHESTER FOLEY

On the eve of graduating from a Master of Environment, Chester was in a troubled place. At the tail-end of a three-month, unpaid interstate traineeship that wasn't going well he realised he would have to pivot his career goals. It was a highly uncertain time.

But he drew on advice he had received from *Ask Alumni* mentors. "The guidance I received through the program helped me realise what sort of alternative opportunities existed, and how to go about finding and pursuing them," says Chester, looking back on the opportunity.

"[My mentors] gave me advice on available resources for information and industry leads, other networking opportunities, career paths to explore – all really good guidance for someone who has studied a lot, but with very little post-graduate experience."

With his confidence buoyed, Chester won a role as project officer with the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and then joined the Environmental Protection Authority, where he quickly earned a promotion to a senior role.

If someone you know is a student or graduate of the University of Melbourne and might benefit from learning more about our mentoring programs or Ask Alumni, pass this article on and tell them to visit mentoring.unimelb.edu.au

"I appreciate the help I received from my mentor and would like to thank them for their time and generosity. "

CHESTER FOLEY

ASK ALUMNI PROGRAM MENTEE



Discovery

Your support enables us to be at the leading edge of discovery and support cross-disciplinarity, innovation and collaboration through research.

INDIGENOUS EYE HEALTH IN FOCUS

Despite the pandemic interrupting plans, the University's Indigenous Eye Health team is on track to eradicate trachoma and to Close the Gap for Vision.

After decades of watching public health campaigns try and fail to make meaningful improvements to Indigenous health in Australia, Melbourne Laureate Professor Hugh Taylor AC set up the Indigenous Eye Health Unit (IEHU) at the University of Melbourne in 2008.

The following year his team and the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA) carried out the National Indigenous Health Survey, which found that Indigenous Australians experienced six times more blindness than other Australians, and three times more low vision. A staggering 94 per cent of that vision loss was due to preventable or treatable diseases such as trachoma, a painful bacterial infection that can lead to blindness. Today, Australia is the

only developed nation where trachoma persists, despite being eradicated from the non-Indigenous population more than 100 years ago.

Professor Taylor, who began working on the disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous health in Australia with the late Fred Hollows AC in the 1970s, says his team was poised to reach their goal of eliminating trachoma last year: rates in endemic areas had fallen from 21 per cent in 2008 to just four per cent in 2019. But then the pandemic happened. Despite some setbacks over 2020, the work of the Indigenous Eye Health Unit, in collaboration with communities, has seen trachoma eliminated in more than 150 communities Australia-wide.

“We could not have done this work without the great philanthropic support from private trusts, foundations and individual donors.”

**MELBOURNE LAUREATE PROFESSOR
HUGH TAYLOR AC**

HAROLD MITCHELL CHAIR OF INDIGENOUS EYE HEALTH
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

They have also improved the regional delivery of eye care by establishing partnerships that now cover 95 per cent of the country. This has helped increase eye exams three-fold and more than doubled cataract surgery patients.

Professor Taylor says none of this work could have been carried out without the generous support of our donor community. “I feel extremely privileged to have been appointed the Harold Mitchell Chair of Indigenous Eye Health at the University of Melbourne. Thanks to the philanthropic support of private trusts, foundations and individual donors who made our work possible, we were also able to gain more backing from government.”

“When we started, there was six times as much blindness in Indigenous communities as in non-Indigenous communities,” he says. “By 2015-16 this was halved.”



PROFESSOR HUGH TAYLOR AC

And there is even more encouraging news. According to a recently published Commonwealth report entitled *Indigenous eye health measures 2020*, between 2010-11 and 2018-19 the proportion of Indigenous Australians who had an eye health check increased from 11 per cent to 30 per cent.

Although trachoma and avoidable vision loss are yet to be fully stamped out in Australia, there is no doubt Professor Taylor and his team have made significant inroads and the future looks promising, with the Commonwealth and States recently committing to ending avoidable blindness in Indigenous Australians by 2025.



**MORE THAN \$116M HAS
BEEN DONATED TO SUPPORT
INDIGENOUS PROJECTS AND
PROGRAMS THROUGH THE
BELIEVE CAMPAIGN**



ARTWORK BY YANDELL WALTON CREATED USING PHOTOGRAMMETRY

THE SCIENCE OF FOREST-MAPPING CREATES NEW ART

Technology, environmental sciences and the arts came together when University of Melbourne alum and artist Yandell Walton began her research project in 2020, as the inaugural recipient of The Philip Hunter Fellowship.

Specifically designed to allow artists to explore ideas without the pressure of a specific artistic outcome, the Fellowship allowed Yandell the crucial time and space she needed to conduct in-depth research on the impact humans have had on the ecological shifts in Australian forests since the Industrial Revolution.

Matching the cross-disciplinary intention of the Fellowship to encourage collaboration, Yandell called on experts in environmental sciences and scientific technologies to provide a comprehensive framework demonstrating an engagement with the cultural geography and natural history of place.

Established through the generosity of donors to honour the late artist Dr Philip Hunter, the Fellowship has been instrumental in allowing Yandell to further her artistic practice by learning new techniques such as photogrammetry. While this can be a long and slow process, Yandell was able to work with a mentor to learn the technique and create work.

“With the pandemic impacting life and work, this was a trying time financially. Having these funds meant I was able to focus on in-studio development,” says Yandell.

“Studio time was vital in this process to allow time to pinpoint the right workflow to utilise this technology in unprecedented ways. I was really pushing the boundaries of the technology through my creative practice.”

The Fellowship also gave her the opportunity to collaborate with a PhD graduate in Ecosystem and Forest Sciences at the University of Melbourne to look at environmental aspects of her topic, including learning about Light Detection and Radar (LIDAR) technology.

The Fellowship has since opened other doors for Yandell and she is currently exploring human connection and disconnection with the natural environment, and has been successful in receiving an Australian Art and Technology Ideate grant to work with motion capture of human movement.

She is merging this with 3D-modelled plant life to create cross species forms. The work, whilst still under development, will be exhibited at the Victorian College of the Arts during the Spectra festival. Yandell has also been funded through the Australia Council for The Arts to undertake a series of residencies and field trips to vulnerable forest sites to capture the natural environment over 2021.

In its first year, thanks to the incredible generosity of the friends, family and colleagues of Dr Philip Hunter, the Fellowship has achieved its vision to allow for genuine cross-disciplinary work to be seeded and flourish at a high level of intellectual, cultural and artistic endeavour.

“As an artist it’s very hard to make time for research and development yet it’s the most important part of practice for artists like myself who are pushing the boundaries of art, technology and science.”

YANDELL WALTON

RECIPIENT OF THE PHILIP HUNTER FELLOWSHIP



YANDELL WALTON IN THE STUDIO AND ARTWORK DEVELOPED USING LIDAR AND 3D MODELLING



How the personal ventilation hood changed the game for healthcare workers

Often inspiration strikes when you least expect it, and that was certainly the case with the personal ventilation hood.

In March 2020, intensive care specialist Dr Forbes McGain was thinking of his peers on the frontline of COVID-19 care, while jogging and pushing his daughter in a pram.

Inspired by the pram's retractable hood, Dr McGain, from Western Health, contacted the head of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Melbourne, Professor Jason Monty, and the pair began discussing an idea to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in hospitals.

Professor Monty assembled a team of mechanical engineering specialists who worked through the night to develop a prototype ventilation hood within 48 hours of their first conversation.

"Our University of Melbourne team really had to pivot and work outside their area of expertise," says Professor Monty. "Things like patient comfort and interaction of people with devices is not something we usually deal with [in mechanical engineering]."

A fully mobile device, the personal ventilation hood (now licensed as the McMonty by medihood) is a transparent, plastic cover fitted over a hospital bed and the upper body of a patient. A small fan and special filter extract aerosol droplets, significantly reducing the infection risk of COVID-19 from patient to healthcare worker.

Thanks to the generosity of donors who contributed to the University's COVID-19 Research Response Fund, the project received a grant of \$55,000. This financial support resulted in 20 locally made hoods.

In November 2020, the McMonty by medihood was approved and deployed in clinical trials across Victoria, where it was used in treatment of more than 100 patients in intensive care units (ICU) alone.

The hood has since provided a sense of comfort to frontline staff, who, according to Professor Monty, have been grateful for the extra layer of protection while treating potentially infectious patients in intensive care.

"I was very conscious of how these hoods could save lives. We could see the concern among the [hospital] workers and feel the tension. After the first demonstration of the prototype at Footscray Hospital, there was extreme gratitude."

SMALL COST, BIG IMPACT

Samantha Bates, Western Health's Lead Research Manager, has spent more than 13 years working on clinical studies and said the hood's impact has been 'game-changing'.

"I can't begin to describe how much anxiety and tension there was in intensive care when COVID-19 hit. People were worried about contracting the virus, yet when the device arrived and staff were educated on how to utilise it, we saw a change in people's behaviour; everyone became more comfortable."

In open-plan ICUs like the one at Footscray Hospital, curbing the spread of COVID-19 amongst healthcare workers was one of the biggest challenges faced by experts.

However, according to Dr McGain, healthcare workers were universally accepting of the device.

"During the initial clinical trial, we asked staff whether or not they felt less likely to develop COVID-19 because of the hood. 100 per cent of those who responded said that they felt safer with the hood," says Dr McGain.

Of all Victorian hospitals, those managed by Western Health saw some of the highest numbers of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patient admissions, resulting in significant numbers of healthcare workers, specifically nurses, being infected. Yet despite this, ICU nurses at Western Health recorded very low infection numbers when compared against other hospital wards.



PROFESSOR JASON MONTY AND THE VENTILATION HOOD PROTOTYPE

Dr McGain says there could be many reasons for this, noting the hood played a pivotal role in helping to keep staff safe during the peak of COVID-19 at Western Health.

"A nurse who had been on maternity leave said to me 'I came back during COVID because I knew the hood was going to protect me.' And that was gold, because I hadn't really thought of that."

"I do think that our ICU is safer because of the hood. And it's not just my opinion. If you ask the nursing staff that view is unanimous," says Dr McGain.

Although the role of the initial design was primarily to protect healthcare workers from infection, patients also felt safer, and Samantha Bates says an unexpected win was how well it was received by patients in intensive care.

“We had an immunocompromised patient suspected of having COVID-19 who normally comes in and stays by himself in an isolation room. His feedback was that he quite enjoyed [being under the device] because he wasn’t alone in a room, he felt more cared for, he could talk to staff and feel part of the ward.

“Other patients described that the hood was like being comforted: like in a little bubble, which was lovely. It was overall really well tolerated by patients.”

LIFE AFTER COVID-19

The hood’s impact doesn’t end at Western Health. The clinical trial has been extended across Australia, with Royal Hobart and Alice Springs being joined by Royal Melbourne, St Vincent’s, the Northern and Austin Hospitals, who have all agreed to continue testing the device.

As COVID-19 numbers nationally trend downwards, hospital departments are looking to the hood and how it can be put to use in the future.

As more and more hospitals gained knowledge of this new device and its success, it became clear to Samantha Bates that it could have a far larger impact beyond the intensive care ward.

“We’ve had interest from a number of different clinical areas. I’m talking to areas like the coronary care unit, the dialysis unit and the respiratory ward. With just one look at it, they would start telling me how they could use it within their own areas,” she says.



WESTERN HEALTH MEDICAL STAFF USING THE
MEDIHOOD ON AN EXERCISE BIKE

“We actually had one of our anaesthetists, who collaborates with sleep scientists and respiratory people to do cardiopulmonary testing, reach out and ask if we could fit a hood to an exercise bike.”

Exercise bikes are used in cardiopulmonary testing by anaesthetists to assess whether patients are physically able to undergo major surgery. However, because of COVID-19, these tests were stopped by hospitals due to the amount of aerosol particles patients generated while exercising.

Now with a hood fitted firmly over the bike, specialists can once again safely work in close proximity to their patients.

“Up until that point the program had been shut down for many months because of COVID, so there were many patients that needed to have this assessment done and could because the hood helped keep health workers safe while testing the patient,” says Samantha.

And according to Professor Monty, the hood was always envisaged by him and the engineering team as a device that could be used beyond the ICU.

“It’s incredible to think how far reaching the benefits of the hood are – that the solution we found to protect staff in the ICU can be applied to many more clinical settings.”

Another one of the unintended positives from the hood’s creation has been its impact on Victoria’s economic recovery.

“... without the support from University of Melbourne donors and Western Health, this would never have got off the ground.”

Made possible through the generosity of our donors, the initial funding grant was enough to secure 20 prototypes. However, because of its success, additional funding has been secured to locally manufacture more devices.

“We make these in West Heidelberg, it’s locally made and we’re using intellectual product and effort all homegrown in Melbourne,” says Dr McGain.

“And, without the support from the University of Melbourne donor community and Western Health, this would never have got off the ground.”



**\$14.5M DONATED TO
COVID-19 RESEARCH IN 2020**



**250,000 MEMBERS OF THE
UNIVERSITY’S GLOBAL
COMMUNITY WATCHED OUR
ONLINE COVID-19 PANEL SERIES**



ADVANCING ANIMAL WELFARE THROUGH RESEARCH

Established through a gift in a Will in 2011, the Chair of Cattle and Sheep Production Medicine has engendered new opportunities for lasting, positive change.

Not only has it enabled critical teaching, research and industry engagement, but the current Chair, Professor Andrew Fisher, has been able to significantly advance animal welfare in Australia. Professor Fisher was appointed Director of the Animal Welfare Science Centre in 2017. Working with the livestock sector, his research into the cost-benefit of husbandry practices, such as mulesing in sheep and creating benchmarks for beef cattle, ensures Australian husbandry is at world-best standards. A leader who is shaping the next generation of veterinary professionals, Professor Fisher could never have done this important work without the support of our wonderful donor community.

“The support of [our donors] has created the time and space in a busy university schedule to focus on the activities and goals that have long-term benefits, as well as short-term, more immediate needs.”

PROFESSOR ANDREW FISHER

CHAIR OF CATTLE AND SHEEP PRODUCTION MEDICINE,
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

WHEN NANOTECHNOLOGY AND CANCER RESEARCH COLLIDE

Matt Faria is the inaugural Réjane Langlois Fellow in Biomedical Engineering. After switching from a career as a software engineer, Matt is now conducting research at the intersection of engineering, physics and biology. His work focuses on evaluating how nano-engineered materials target specific cells in the body. In the context of cancer treatment research, this would enable medical professionals to target only problematic cancer cells.

His work pays tribute to Réjane Langlois, who left a gift in her Will to support research after surviving breast cancer, only to be later diagnosed with lung cancer. Her legacy acknowledges the funding gap that sits between medical and pre-clinical research, and will provide Matt with the opportunity to deepen his research interests over a three-year period.

Réjane’s generous bequest is just one example of how donors who pledge a gift in their Will to the University will make a powerful and lasting impact on research and scholarship for generations to come.

“The Fellowship enabled me to immerse myself in a research area that I’m very interested in, and continue to investigate and devote myself to that area for an extended period of time.”

MATT FARIA

INAUGURAL RECIPIENT OF THE RÉJANE LANGLOIS
FELLOWSHIP IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING



**43 GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS
PLEGGED TO SUPPORT THE
UNIVERSITY THROUGH A GIFT
IN THEIR WILL IN 2020**





Community

With your generosity, we've been able to foster a vibrant, diverse and inclusive community and strengthen opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“The support from donors allowed me to be in a position to undertake and focus on such important research.”

RITIKA

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND UNIVERSITY
OF MELBOURNE PHD RESEARCHER

Supporting our students now – and into the future

Ritika came from India to Australia at the age of 18 to pursue her dream of becoming a scientist and one day ending childhood blood cancers, such as leukaemia. By the start of 2020, the promising young Master of Cancer Sciences student was on the brink of graduating, working hard at three jobs and saving money to visit her partner and family, who were overseas.

Then the pandemic struck. Ritika was living with a friend in temporary accommodation at the time and, in rapid fire succession, she lost two of her jobs and her hours were slashed on the third. With her income crippled she was unable to pay for bills or living expenses. The situation was dire.

“I was really considering moving back to India,” she recalls of that stressful time. “However, before I could make that call suddenly the borders were closed and all the flights were gone. I couldn't even go back if I wanted to.”

Just as all looked hopeless and she considered dropping out of her studies and thus ending her dream of becoming a scientist, Ritika received a lifeline. It came in the form of generous philanthropic support. “Thanks to the COVID-19 Emergency Grant, I stayed.”

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, applications for student support were on the rise. For Ritika and many students like her, the pandemic served to compound the problem. Thankfully, our proud donor community stepped up to last year’s unique challenges by providing grants through the Student Support Fund.

Established in 2020, the Fund aims to provide University of Melbourne students in serious and immediate financial hardship with assistance to cover the costs of essential items such as food, transport, housing, and medical or academic expenses. This philanthropy-driven initiative is leaving a profound legacy, ensuring that students can realise their true potential, regardless of individual financial pressures.

In Ritika’s case the grant is the sole reason she was able to sustain herself during those dark days, enabling her to find a place of her own, and resume payments towards her health insurance and phone plans, which had been suspended due to financial hardship.

“At the start of the year, I was working three jobs and living temporarily with a friend. When the pandemic hit us, I lost most of my income. I was in no position to support myself.”

The assistance Ritika has received from our generous donors has been nothing short of transformational. Not only has it enabled her to continue her studies and get her life back on track, but it has been instrumental in empowering her to undertake crucial research experience, which has led to employment at a research lab and a PhD opportunity this year.

“During the lockdown, I started my research project at Murdoch Children’s Research Institute, as a part of my

master’s degree. I am pleased to report that I successfully completed that project just before Christmas,” says Ritika, who graduated from her Master of Cancer Sciences with First Class Honours in March 2021.

“I found my research project so engaging that I have decided to stay on with my lab as a PhD student starting in May this year to continue the work. I have been accepted into the PhD program at the University of Melbourne through the Department of Paediatrics.”

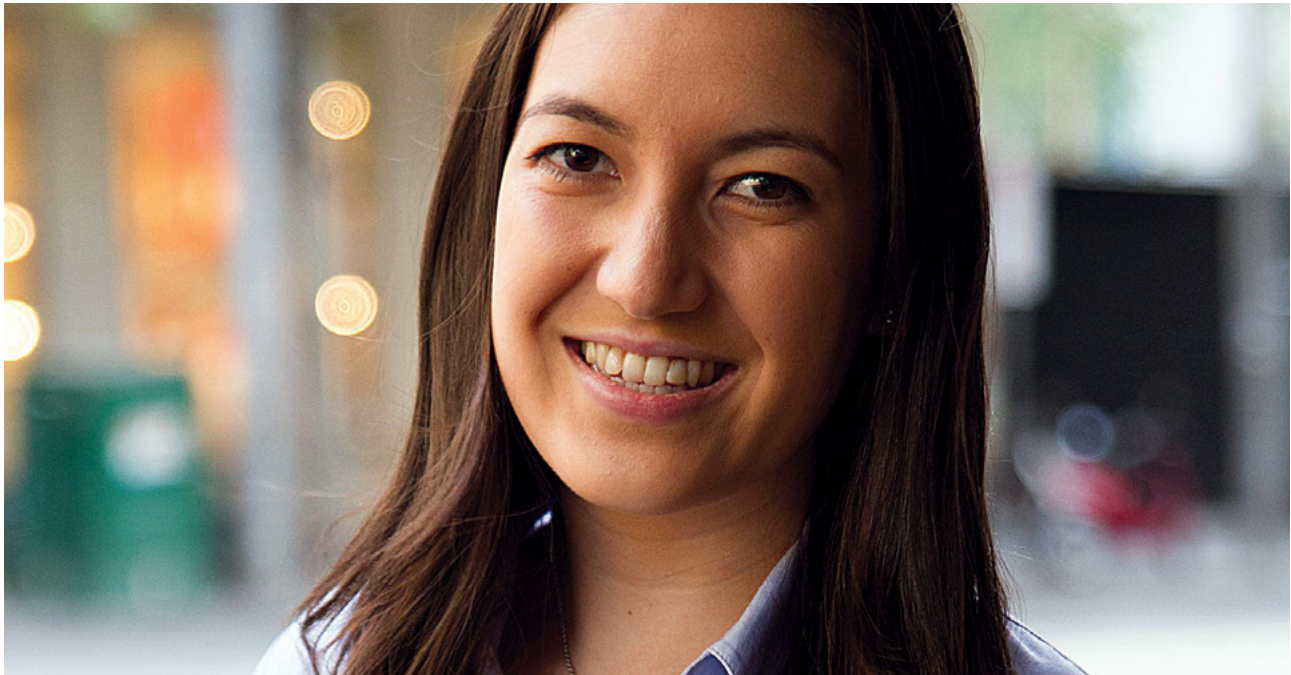
Thanks to our donors heeding the call of increased need in 2020, Ritika is one of many passionate and talented students who have been able to continue to thrive at the University of Melbourne.

This generosity has enabled them to pursue important work and careers that will ultimately benefit so many more lives. By overcoming financial stress, these students can use their talents to solve big problems and have huge positive impacts in Australia and around the world.

“As an international student, I often feel alone,” says Ritika. “Your support helps me feel more connected to the community and helps me feel like I do belong here.”

The grant Ritika received changed her life and came at a pivotal moment in her studies. She now has a bright future ahead of her and is back on track to pursue her dream of becoming a prominent scientist in the field of stem cells and cancer research. “While my life did a complete turnaround over the last year, I am acutely aware that this was only possible thanks to generosity of the donors who selflessly decided to support the educational journeys of students like me.”





CAITLIN WAN

GIVING BRIGHT MINDS A BRILLIANT FUTURE

The First in the Family Scholarship has been changing lives for 10 years, offering talented young people studying a Bachelor of Commerce the chance to attend university and experience opportunities otherwise not available to them.

Through the Scholarship, more than 100 students have benefited from the generosity of individual and corporate donors, who are passionate about providing the opportunity for ambitious young people from diverse backgrounds to be the first in their family to attend university.

Caitlin Wan and Taylor Holub come from regional Victoria and are remarkable examples of the program's success.

CAITLIN WAN

Growing up in Bendigo, Caitlin was instilled with the value of hard work and encouraged by her parents to achieve a university education, an opportunity they never had themselves. With the financial freedom created by the First in the Family Scholarship, Caitlin was able to move to Melbourne and secure residence at Ormond College, which opened up a network of people and opportunities.

One such opportunity was the chance to study abroad in the US, where she spent a semester studying at Rutgers University as part of her Bachelor of Commerce degree. Six years later, Caitlin fulfilled a promise she made to herself and moved from Melbourne to New York in 2019, securing a role in deals and acquisitions at KPMG. She then moved to the Siegfried Group, where she currently works as a financial consultant.

Although she loves her work, like many First in the Family scholars, Caitlin has great ambitions for her future and wants to continue her passion of helping people and companies during periods of transition.

“I love driving change with companies, so I would love to be a part of something like a company listing, or becoming a CFO or CEO. I want to be at the heart of change and help people and companies change with the world.”

“The donors were like this incredible group of people that I didn’t know, but who believed in me. It gave me confidence to go out and achieve extraordinary things that maybe I wouldn’t have reached for if I didn’t have that behind me.”

CAITLIN WAN

BACHELOR OF COMMERCE GRADUATE,
FIRST IN THE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

TAYLOR HOLUB

Taylor Holub grew up on Phillip Island and after a short stint working as a labourer decided his goal was to achieve a university education and work in professional services. The First in the Family Scholarship allowed Taylor to focus on his studies and reach his professional goals. The Scholarship also enabled him to visit his family regularly and continue his lifelong passion for surfing and the outdoors. This was key for his physical and mental wellbeing and enabled him to thrive at university.

“The Scholarship made life easier and gave me confidence, too, because I felt like I could actually make something of myself.”

After graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Finance, Taylor worked in the forensic accounting team at KordaMentha, a Melbourne-based advisory firm, before joining a global pharmaceutical company.



Now the head of finance for the company’s Asia Pacific operation, Taylor is looking forward to continuing to apply the skills learned through his studies in an international setting.

“The Scholarship might only seem like a nominal sum of money but it makes a huge difference, and has the added benefit of helping you feel like you have the potential in life to get where you want to go.”

TAYLOR HOLUB

BACHELOR OF COMMERCE GRADUATE,
FIRST IN THE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



**12,438 EMERGENCY GRANTS
HELPED SUPPORT STUDENTS
EXPERIENCING IMMEDIATE AND
SERIOUS FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IN 2020**





ADVANCING INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Josh Cubillo is a PhD student in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, who is passionate about sharing Indigenous knowledge and supporting Indigenous students. He is also a Program Manager in the Indigenous Development team within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS). As both a student and a staff member, Josh has been supported in his work through the generosity of donors, first as a fellow of the Melbourne Poche Leadership Fellows Program and later as a recipient of the Lochrie Indigenous Australian Education Scholarship.

The Melbourne Poche Leadership Fellows Program is based within MDHS and supports the development of emerging Indigenous leaders in academic, policy, clinical and research roles in higher education institutions, government, health delivery and the community sector. As an alum of the program, Josh now provides support to Indigenous students pursuing postgraduate study, and works to ensure that Indigenous knowledge is deeply embedded within the diverse curricula offered by MDHS.

As a PhD student, Josh is a recipient of the Lochrie Indigenous Australian Education Scholarship, which supports Indigenous Australian students undertaking the Master of Teaching or, in Josh's case, research in Indigenous education. Thanks to the generosity of donors, this Scholarship has provided Josh with the freedom to fully embrace his passion for Indigenous education, both within and outside the university framework.

By encouraging widespread learning of Indigenous knowledge, Josh hopes that Indigenous students will feel supported in their endeavours and that a higher level of cultural competency will become the norm.

“Both programs have really helped me. If I’m going to be the one providing these types of support to other students, I feel like it’s going to help immensely if I’ve already gone through these processes myself.”

JOSH CUBILLO

MELBOURNE POCHÉ LEADERSHIP FELLOWS PROGRAM
ALUM AND LOCHRIE INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

STANDING BY OUR VULNERABLE STUDENTS

When the pandemic hit in 2020 the world changed.

Many vulnerable students suffered even greater financial hardship. But our generous donor community stood by them, providing the crucial financial support, comfort and security necessary to ensure bright and talented minds could continue to flourish. From emergency grants to cover the costs of critical study materials, healthcare, food and rent, to ongoing scholarships, your generosity has empowered so many. Thanks to donors whose philanthropy funds scholarships year after year, talented students like Anita and Luke were well supported in an incredibly difficult year, both emotionally and financially.

Thank you for providing a lifeline to students like Anita and Luke when they needed it the most, so they could forge ahead in times of uncertainty.

“Your generosity is helping many of us who may be going through an emotionally difficult time when ends don’t meet and we need to purchase something vital for our studies that we simply cannot afford.”

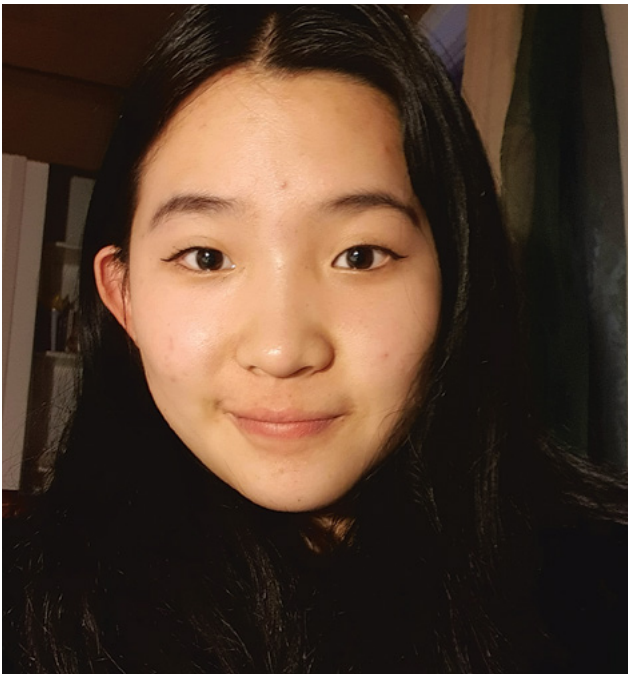
ANITA ZHANG

BACHELOR OF MUSIC STUDENT AND
MELBOURNE ACCESS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

“For my circumstances and for my family, if I didn’t have a scholarship, things would be very different.”

LUKE TIERI

BACHELOR OF DESIGN STUDENT AND
MELBOURNE ACCESS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



ANITA ZHANG AND LUKE TIERI



Global

As we navigate life beyond COVID, your support enables us to strengthen relationships with a global community of scholars, partners and alumni.



**1,264 NEW DONORS JOINED
OUR COMMUNITY IN 2020**

Crafting a picture of women's educational activism in Sumatra

The wonders to be found in the microfilm libraries of universities are boundless. For historians, they are a portal into the past to explore long forgotten facts, experiences and opinions, and can often lead to a discovery that merits further attention from an enquiring mind.

For historian Bronwyn Beech Jones, recipient of the Hansen Trust PhD Scholarship in History, her adventures in the microfilm collection during research for her honours thesis turned up an idea she couldn't let go of.

For Bronwyn, the discovery of the *Soenting Melajoe* newspaper, which translates to Malay Headdress, has resulted in her undertaking a PhD, researching the life stories of women and teenage girls in the early-twentieth century in Sumatra – a task that wouldn't be possible without the support of the Scholarship.

Bronwyn says she has uncovered a rich source of information that sheds light on the importance women and communities placed on girls' education 100 years ago and their ever-evolving sense of who they were as women.

Soenting Melajoe, along with two other newspapers she unearthed in archives, documents the community activism and initiatives that were employed between 1912 and 1928 to provide education and training in weaving and lacemaking in small schools throughout the Indonesian provinces of West Sumatra, Bengkulu, and North Sumatra.

Bronwyn discovered many of the schools provided scholarship programs to support students from vulnerable backgrounds who otherwise would not have been able to attend and learn, including widows and orphans. She has been able to piece together a partial picture of the different types of crafts schools and how they were connected by networks of influential leaders.

"These schools were important sites of indigenous agency which, I argue, have been underemphasised in accounts of women's history in Sumatra and, more broadly in the Netherlands East Indies in the early-twentieth century," says Bronwyn.

"The newspaper was edited by two women, education activist Roehana Koedoes and journalist Zoebeidah Ratna Djoewita. Engaging with their writing has the potential to enrich our understanding of women's activism and everyday life in the Netherlands East Indies. Equally, their writing and life stories are important parts of local and family histories."

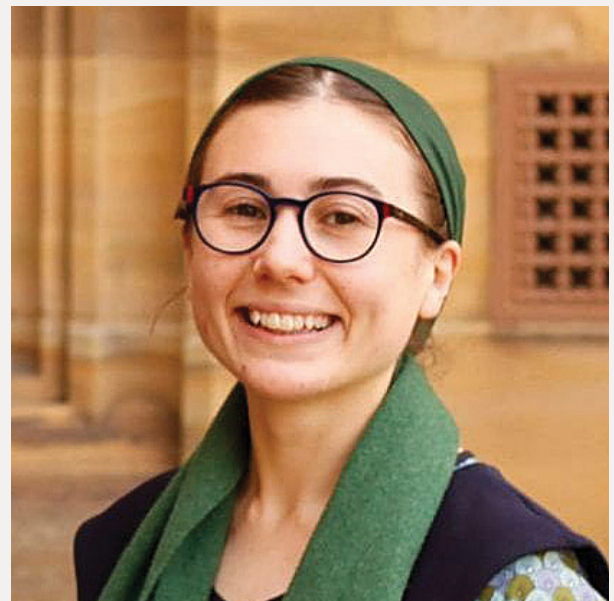
Thanks to the generosity of the donors, Bronwyn has been able to access the support and connections needed to pursue this research and build her career as a historian.

"The Scholarship has allowed me to concentrate on writing my thesis and devoting time to devising presentations without financial concerns," she says.

Bronwyn's research required her to move between Malay, Minangkabau, Dutch, and other languages, and to read a number of issues to try to identify the threads of individual girl's and women's lives and opinions.

It takes time and money and, thanks to the support provided by the Scholarship, Bronwyn has been able to connect with communities in the area and present her findings. She travelled to the region several times, presenting at two forums to discuss a publication about women's responses to domestic violence in *Soenting Melajoe*.

While that activity was curtailed by the restrictions imposed due to the pandemic, Bronwyn has been able to initiate alternative fieldwork plans. With the help of the Scholarship Bronwyn will work together with colleagues in Indonesia and employ a research assistant to consult with community members in West Sumatra to keep the momentum up on her work.



BRONWYN BEECH JONES

Bronwyn has also been able to draw on the experience of her Hansen mentor, Associate Professor Jenny Spinks, and has developed a relationship with the Arts West Collections Manager, Steve Martin, in the Faculty of Arts.



Together they are working on an exhibition exploring post-World War II Australian and Indonesian student connections, which Bronwyn says will help her with future community-centred projects.

“This opportunity demonstrates how the Scholarship has provided me with opportunities to reflect on the skills I want to develop and the resources to put this into action,” she says.

Through her PhD, Bronwyn has also had the chance to tutor in History, Asian and Gender Studies, and Indonesian. She says this has deepened her love of history and inspired her research endeavours.

“I learn so much from students’ perspectives and feel grateful to hear their own experiences and arguments which often inspire and re-engage me with the power of learning about the past.”

Bronwyn’s Scholarship, funded by the Hansen Trust, has been established in perpetuity to transform the teaching of History at the University of Melbourne. As a recipient, Bronwyn has been able to deepen engagement with her

learning, and access a range of initiatives in the Faculty of Arts to build excellence and innovation in teaching and learning programs. In a time of great global upheaval, the Scholarship has also provided Bronwyn with the support needed to continue her work.

“Since the pandemic, I have been able to keep on track with my thesis, been published in an edited volume for the first time, contributed to the *History Teachers’ Association of Victoria and Tasmania Journal*, and have begun three other draft publications,” says Bronwyn.

“That I have been able to stay focused is testament to the immense value of this Scholarship, not only in financial terms but also in the motivation it gives me to contribute to history writing and foster historical understanding.”

BRONWYN BEECH JONES

RECIPIENT OF THE HANSEN TRUST PHD SCHOLARSHIP
IN HISTORY



**3,684 STUDENTS SUPPORTED
THROUGH PHILANTHROPICALLY-
FUNDED STUDENT AWARDS IN 2020**





PETER MCMULLIN CENTRE ON STATELESSNESS

An estimated ten to fifteen million people around the world are stateless, a third of whom are thought to be children. Stateless people live in all parts of the world, including Australia, and are often denied basic human rights due to their lack of legal status.

In 2018, the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness was established within Melbourne Law School (MLS) through a generous philanthropic donation from MLS alum Peter McMullin and his wife Ruth, which was one of the most significant gifts in MLS history.

The couple's generosity established 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 Centre undertakes 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.

Professor Foster says it is difficult to accurately gauge the number of stateless people and identify their needs because, unlike refugees, stateless persons in many countries are not registered or granted a legal status and documentation.

"Statelessness is a serious human rights issue affecting millions of people globally," says Professor Foster.

"Having been overlooked for a long period it is finally receiving the attention it deserves by the international community, but so much more needs to be done in terms of understanding the scale of statelessness and developing effective responses to it."

Since its inception the Centre has been a world leader in the research field of statelessness. Working with Katie Robertson and Dr Christoph Sperfeldt, Professor Foster

and the Centre have recently undertaken a consultancy for three United Nations agencies on nomadic peoples and statelessness, co-authored a research report on stateless children in Australia (which was launched in March), and later in 2021 will launch a project called Understanding Statelessness in Australian Law and Practice, funded by the Australian Research Council, that will conduct the first comprehensive study of stateless persons in Australia.

This three-year mapping study aims to address the lack of proper procedures for identifying and protecting stateless persons in Australia, combining statistical analysis and interviews with advocates and service providers to help identify the needs of this vulnerable group of people.

In March 2021 the Centre commenced the Stateless Children Legal Clinic (SCLC), offering MLS Juris Doctor students the opportunity to develop practical legal skills and directly assist in the delivery of essential legal services to stateless children in their application for Australian citizenship, with potentially life-changing outcomes. The SCLC is the first stateless legal clinic of its kind in Australia, and the third of its kind globally.



PETER MCMULLIN



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE STATELESS?

A PERSON WHO IS NOT CONSIDERED AS A NATIONAL BY ANY STATE UNDER THE OPERATION OF ITS LAW, MEANING THEY ARE NOT RECOGNISED AS BELONGING TO ANY COUNTRY.



MORE THAN 6,500 OF OUR DONORS RESIDE OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA



MORE THAN 30 PROFESSORIAL CHAIRS CREATED THROUGH THE BELIEVE CAMPAIGN



A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES: AN ARCHITECT'S JOURNEY TO INDIA

In 2019, Ridho Cairns was on the brink of dropping out of his Master of Architecture course when the welcome news came through that he had received the Anthony Auh Chew Kang Scholarship.

After moving from Queensland to Melbourne to attend university, Ridho was struggling to balance work and study and was worried he wouldn't be able to fulfil his ambition to work in India as an architect. He says the Scholarship was a game changer.

"The primary challenge was financial stability, as it was becoming evident that I would not be able to both work and study. The best result I could imagine for myself was that I would barely scrape through, rather than succeed or excel like I had done during my undergraduate studies."

The Singaporean Kang family generously created the Scholarship in memory of their late father, who also

studied at the University of Melbourne and went on to forge a career as a successful architect.

"Aside from being astounded, happy, and relieved, I also felt deeply honoured. I had the great opportunity to meet Kevin Kang the very next day upon receiving news of the Scholarship and listened to him speak of the values his father taught him to live by," says Ridho.

That sentiment has carried through to Ridho's professional life and helped him develop his own work ethic.

"It opened the door for me to completely focus on my studies, alongside some architecture-related work, to develop personal discipline and a work ethic that I have carried onto my professional life. This Scholarship enabled me to test and go beyond my limits while a student," he says.

Ridho's interest in working in India came through a personal relationship and, after visiting the country several times, he developed strong connections with Indian architects and moved there post-graduation to follow them up.

He hopes to soon oversee the construction of a 10-metre span loadbearing brick dome, part of the project he is currently working on, in between updating his blog about living and working in India and thinking about writing a book on a house he admires.

"We have been blessed by the friendships forged with the Scholarship recipients, Ridho and Clinton. They are a real credit to both their families as well as the University. We continue to be inspired by them and cheer for their continued happiness and success in life."

KEVIN KANG

KANG FAMILY MEMBER





Place

Your generous support allows us to embrace our place in Australia and contribute to social, economic and cultural wealth.



**3,091 OF OUR DONORS
ARE ALSO ALUMNI**

HELPING NATURAL TALENT SHINE

Thanks to our generous donor community, talented law student Thea Stephenson has followed her dream to study at Melbourne Law School (MLS). Coming from a low socio-economic background, Thea found the Cheryl Saunders Scholarship in Law has been transformative. It eased her financial pressures and enabled her to thrive in her studies and look beyond the Juris Doctor program, giving back to the community in the process. Thea recently became president of the Melbourne University Law Students' Society, started her own business providing legal administrative support services to regional and sole practitioner law firms, and says she is now on track for an exciting future and career beyond university. The Scholarship has given her the confidence to pay her good fortune forward.

“Coming to MLS has enabled me to pursue my true potential and accomplish so much more than I ever thought would be possible.”

THEA STEPHENSON

JURIS DOCTOR CANDIDATE AT MELBOURNE LAW SCHOOL



A LIFE-CHANGING LEGACY AT MEDLEY HALL

In 2011, University-owned college Medley Hall was on the brink of closure. Thanks to the vision and generosity of Roger Riordan AM and the Cybec Foundation, the historic building on Drummond Street was saved and the college's capacity expanded with the purchase of two nearby terraces in 2013, now called Cydelia House. Roger passed away in 2019 but his legacy lives on. His foundation continues to support bursaries for disadvantaged students so they too can access this uniquely supportive home away from home. Thanks to Cybec Foundation's backing, Medley Hall continues to be an invigorating community where all can thrive academically and personally, whatever their background.



**\$7.7 MILLION IN
DONATIONS MADE TO THE
UNIVERSITY'S RESIDENTIAL
COLLEGES AND CAMPAIGN
AFFILIATES IN 2020**

“Roger Riordan was an extraordinary man with a clear vision and a strong will. His generous giving through the Cybec Foundation rescued Medley Hall and has enabled hundreds of students in need to experience our supportive living environment. He lives on in our memories as an integral part of the Medley Hall community.”

HELEN LAMB

PRINCIPAL, MEDLEY HALL

Thank you for your support of the University of Melbourne

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



IN RECOGNITION
OF GIFTS AT AN
EXCEPTIONAL LEVEL



IN RECOGNITION
OF GENEROUS ANNUAL
GIVING



IN RECOGNITION OF
CONSISTENT GIVING
OVER FIVE YEARS



IN RECOGNITION OF THOSE
WHO HAVE REMEMBERED THE
UNIVERSITY IN THEIR WILL

CONTINUING YOUR SUPPORT

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

University of Melbourne Advancement, Victoria 3010 Australia
donor-relations@unimelb.edu.au +61 3 8344 5594

GIVING ONLINE

Support a range of Faculty and University-wide 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:

Alex Furman, Director of Development
alexander.furman@unimelb.edu.au
+61 3 8344 1188

Oonagh Kane, Director of Advancement,
Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences
oonagh.kane@unimelb.edu.au
+61 3 8344 1961

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

Karen Van Sacker, Director of Advancement
for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths
karen.vansacker@unimelb.edu.au
+61 3 9035 3379





BELIEVE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

FRONT COVER IMAGE: STUDENT INSIDE THE MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF DESIGN BUILDING

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE | ABN 84 002 705 224 | CRICOS PROVIDER NUMBER 00116K
ADVANCEMENT OFFICE, LEVEL 2, RAYMOND PRIESTLEY BUILDING, PARKVILLE, VIC 3052

#D0924