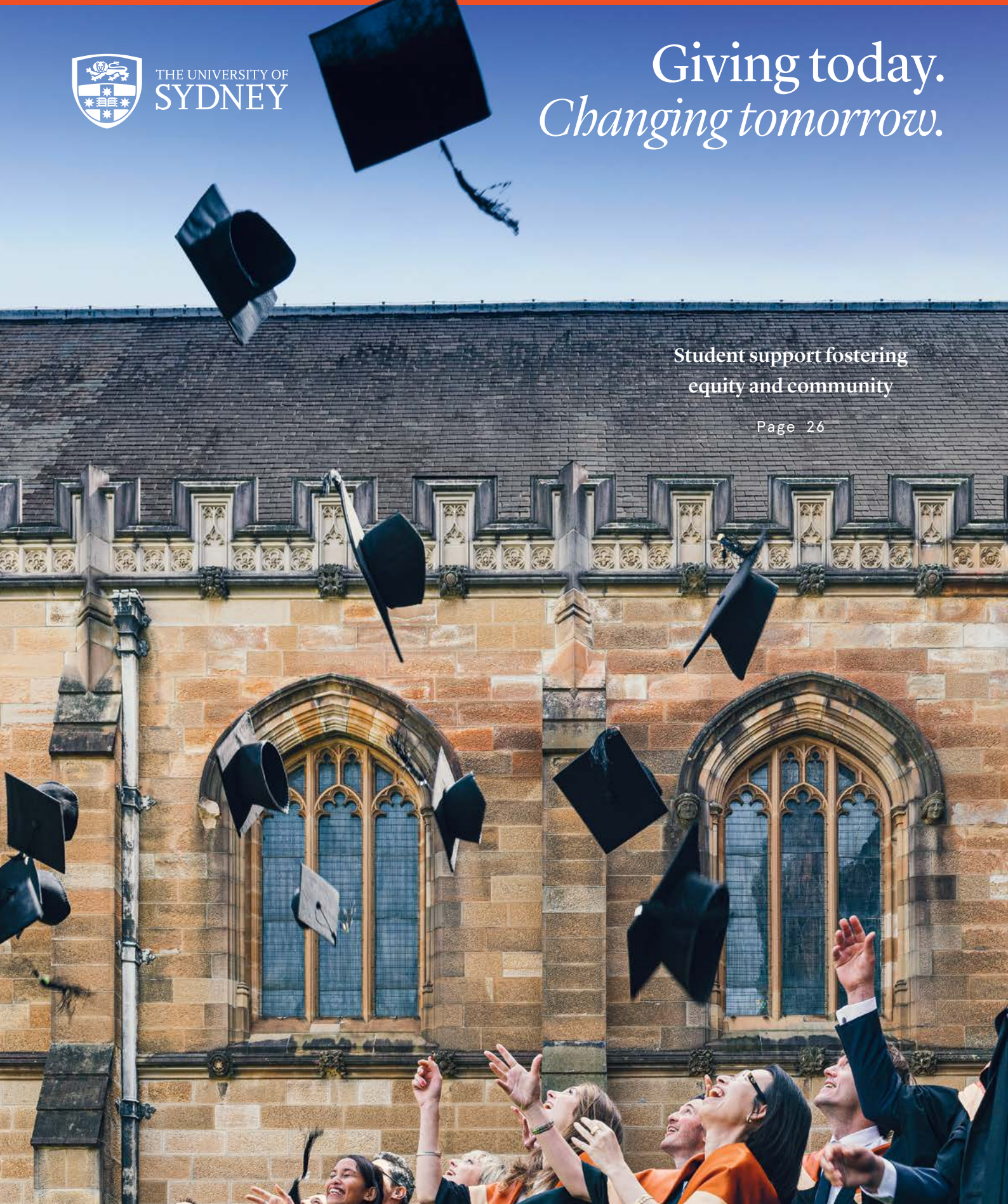

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Giving today. *Changing tomorrow.*

Contents

We recognise and pay respect to the Elders and communities – past, present, and emerging – of the lands that the University of Sydney's campuses stand on. For thousands of years they have shared and exchanged knowledges across innumerable generations for the benefit of all.

The University of Sydney,
The Advancement Portfolio
Level 2, Michael Spence
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Credit: Stefanie Zingsheim

Back Cover: Aerial view
of Chau Chak Wing Museum
Credit: Brett Boardman

From the Chancellor *and* Vice-Chancellor

IN 2023, our supporters have humbled and inspired us, and we are very proud to reflect on all that has been achieved during the year.

The generosity of our visionary donor community has enabled meaningful collaboration between our staff, students and researchers, allowing them to capitalise on their potential and empower progress in the world around them. Through your support, we make transformational impacts on peoples' lives a reality.

Today, you hold a collection of their stories in your hands. These stories will take you on a journey across our campuses – and beyond – to witness what has been made possible through philanthropy – from designing the cities of the future to seeking out and supporting students with significant potential; from bolstering nutrition in native foods to reimagining sustainable farming practice. We are encouraging social justice in the legal system and energising the next generation of creative thinkers.

We are a university dedicated to nurturing tomorrow's leaders and shaping the future. This vision has been clear since our inception and, more than 170 years later, we continue to respond to the most pressing challenges of our time – including climate change, increasing geopolitical tension and the impact of new technologies on how we work and live.

Since the launch of our Sydney in 2032 strategy last year, we have made steady progress on implementing the actions and plans that will enable us to achieve our overarching aim of transforming lives in the communities we serve, through world-class education and research. In 2023, when we rose 22 places in the QS World University Rankings to be 19th in the world, we made a large step forward in pursuit of our ultimate goal of becoming a great global university. This stellar result was driven by our work in sustainability, graduate employability, and international research partnerships – critical areas for the University if we are to continue to successfully tackle key global issues. Being ranked in the world's top 20 universities is a testament to the extraordinary achievements of our staff, students, and alumni, and their collective contribution to the public good.

What gives us great satisfaction is seeing how many researchers have accelerated their work through philanthropy. Several of the projects featured in this publication have been building momentum for years, developing from proof of concept through to seed funding. With the belief and support of donors like you, our academics can take their research from translational to commercial, expanding both the scope and the tangible impact of their work.

Thanks to your dedication to our mission, the University is capable of generating a real and positive impact locally, nationally and globally. We look forward to advancing the work mapped out in our visionary strategy, with a continued commitment to innovation and excellence in research and teaching.

We remain, as ever, very grateful for the exceptional collective power of our community. Thank you again for your wonderful support.

Belinda Hutchinson AC
Chancellor
(BEc '76)

Mark Scott AO
Vice-Chancellor and President
(BA '84, DipEd '84, MA '93, HonDLitt '15)

2.

These snapshots are a few examples of recent philanthropy, which have created opportunities to learn, research, and innovate across the University. From community fundraisers to bequests, every donation is a step towards a brighter future for all.

1.

Snapshot *of* 2022 & 2023

3.

1. First Nations students thriving

A new scholarship means there is no cap on potential for aspiring dentists. Thanks to the Gregg Foundation, more Indigenous students can pursue dentistry, particularly postgraduates intending to work in regional and remote areas. Encouraging an uptick in First Nations students will also have an important impact on the communities who will receive care from Indigenous medical professionals.

2. A teacher's gift to music

The Sydney Conservatorium of Music welcomed celebrated musician Professor Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO (BMusEd '86) as the inaugural Elizabeth Todd Chair of Vocal Studies in 2023. Formerly Head of Vocal Studies, Elizabeth Todd OAM continues her legacy with this bequest. Deborah's standing as a renowned Indigenous composer, soprano and educator will make her an invaluable guide for students.

3. Gift of a lifetime

A bursary for undergraduate students will flourish thanks to a bequest from its namesake, Lady Foley (BA '46, DipSoc '47, MA '85), who passed away in 2022. The Jean D Foley Bursary was established in 1983, honouring her pioneering contribution during her 14 years on staff. Jean used her expertise in the then-new field of computing to transform student records from paper to data in the 1960s. Her bequest will provide a lifeline to students in need.

4. Research as remedy

Tour de Cure is committed to a cancer-free world, collaborating on numerous cancer research initiatives at the University to turn this vision into a reality. Tour de Cure's most recent donation is a grant for Professor Lenka Munoz, who is investigating glioblastoma – the most common and fatal type of brain cancer. This disease currently has no effective therapy, but Tour de Cure's gift brings us closer to improved outcomes and novel treatments.

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5. Net Zero to hero

Climate technician Marcus Sonoma Catsaras has committed $120,000 through his organisation, aethra.xyz, to support a Research Assistant under Professor Deanna D'Alessandro, Director of the Net Zero Initiative. This position will explore Direct Air Capture (DAC) technology, which extracts carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. CO_2 captured through DAC can be reworked to produce products including beverages, building materials and aviation fuels, dramatically reducing carbon emissions.

6. Sheep study stipend

The McCaughey Memorial Institute (MMI) will provide a boost to biosecurity and livestock research with a new PhD scholarship in the School of Veterinary Science. The McCaugheys' support for the University began with a bequest after the death of Sir Samuel McCaughey in 1919 and continued with the formation of the MMI in 1945. Its latest gift will investigate ovine footrot, a disease which can cause lameness in sheep, affecting animal welfare and placing an economic burden on farmers.

7. Follow your art

A new scholarship will uplift final-year visual arts students in perpetuity thanks to the Liu Shiming Art Foundation. The Foundation has gifted more than US$100,000 to students at the Sydney College of the Arts as part of a unique initiative to seed 100 scholarships in institutions around the world. This donation means that talented young creatives in decades to come will receive a critical lifeline on their journey to careers as practicing artists.

8. 'Tis the season for giving

In a coup for citizen science, volunteers sighted all 35 Christmas beetle species across summer 2022–23, making 6592 submissions in total. In collaboration with Invertebrates Australia, key finds include four 'missing' beetles, that had not been formally sighted in several decades. Programs like the Christmas Beetle Count provide comprehensive data from across Australia and raise awareness of important issues, like biodiversity.

Dawn breaks over fields of native millet in Narrabri, Gamilaraay Country.

WORDS by Chloe Pryce

PHOTOGRAPHY supplied and by Stefanie Zingsheim

Healing bodies, healing *Country*

Native grains have healing potential. These gratifying grasses are not only a fantastic food source that could lower chronic disease rates, but could also have environmental and cultural benefits for the communities where they grow.

"Narrabri is just like you imagine. It's flat and expansive, and you get these amazing huge skies. We went out at dawn to one of the properties, and on one side was a settled, lush field of native grains and this beautiful sunrise, and on the other side was the bare earth, ready for cotton planting. We weren't far out in Country, but you get a sense of how ancient it is - you get a chance to feel connected, to feel grounded. I don't have that opportunity often in my life."

Jackie Vidor (BAppSc '20, MND '22) never expected to be standing on that road in Narrabri, alongside University of Sydney researchers Hannah Binge and Associate Professor Kim Bell-Anderson. Having graduated from a Bachelor of Arts some 30 years before, she enrolled at the University of Sydney in a Bachelor of Applied Science in 2015, followed by a Master of Nutrition and Dietetics in 2021. Her studies brought her in contact with Kim, who was her then-lecturer.

Kim was pleasantly surprised by Jackie's fervent enthusiasm for nutrition, recommending extra reading and striking up conversations outside of class. One topic piqued Jackie's interest: Kim's dream of exploring the potential of Australian native grains to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' health outcomes.

"There are so many positives to native grains," Kim explains. "Minimal input, superior photosynthetic machinery for higher yield, and they're great for carbon capture. They're perennial, so they live 30 years, and the roots go down more than a metre underground, which helps prevent soil erosion."

The health benefits, too, are clear. Native grains – once a staple food for First Nations Peoples – are gluten-free, and high in fibre, protein, zinc, and iron. Preliminary results show that a 10 percent substitution of native grain flour for whole wheat flour will lower the blood glucose result by 30 percent. In a country where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disproportionately affected by chronic diseases, have disproportionately reduced life expectancies, and disproportionately enjoy less access to nutritious food, native grains have the potential to make transformational changes to the health landscape.

Jackie comes from a family where helping others is part of the fabric of life: her grandparents Loti and Victor Smorgon supported community-focused causes in healthcare, arts, and culture throughout their lifetime.

Hearing about the University of Sydney's native grains project, Jackie knew she wanted to get involved as a donor.

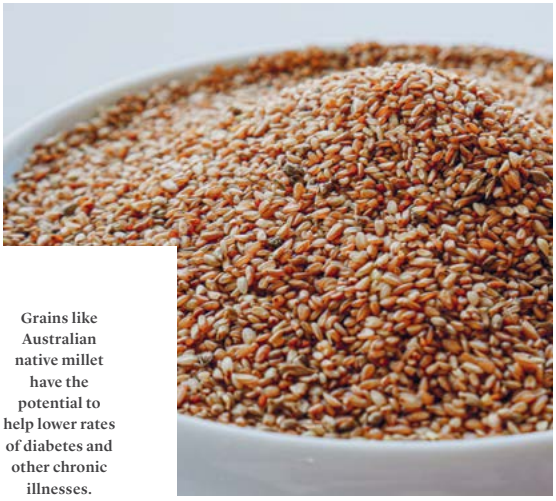
"I saw it had the potential to be really far-reaching, that the research could help not only the First Nations community in an immediate sense, but also the wider community. It can help us return to eating in the way nature intended."

Jackie's substantial gift to the native grains project has expanded its scope, with Kim noting that it has become more of a process of discovery: "it's given me the freedom and power to action the research agenda and mitigate barriers. Jackie says that I'm her mentor, but she's my champion."

This freedom means that the team can investigate the properties of multiple grains instead of just one, and follow the most promising paths of enquiry. Funding allows Kim to purchase expensive equipment, like threshing machines to help easily harvest the grain. It has enabled her to hire people from the local community to conduct studies on the ground, including Hannah Binge, a research assistant based in Narrabri. Most importantly, Jackie's support has enabled the research to be meaningfully co-designed with the Aboriginal people at the centre of this work.

The native grains project brings together Jackie's interest in nutrition with her passion for effecting positive change.

Kim and Jackie first met as teacher and student, before starting their native grains collaboration.



Grains like Australian native millet have the potential to help lower rates of diabetes and other chronic illnesses.

Hannah, a Gamilaraay woman, speaks with passion about the healing potential, not just of native grains, but of the return to traditional foods and methods of nutrition.

"For some of our mob who haven't had the opportunity to be exposed to parts of our culture like native grains because of colonisation, it reinforces a sense of identity and reconnecting. Personally I see it as a holistic thing. Being on Country and doing old fella things is healing – mentally, physically and spiritually – let alone for land and Country. These grains carry a lot of old Dreamtime stories too, they have a lot of significance. They're not just a grain, not just a commodity."

Hannah is vital to the success of the project, working with communities in and around Narrabri to study land management, cultivation, and food product development. She also undertakes outreach, surveying local Aboriginal people on what questions they most want answered with this research – whether this involves human trials, or lab-based work to determine the bio-availability of nutrients in the grains.

For Kim, the grains represent something beyond a nutritious staple food. "I've been hearing the word 'healing' a lot. It's not just the physical. It's the social, the cultural, the economical, the mental healing. Healing the soil, healing the environment, healing the people, healing the cultures."

Kim and Hannah's research has fostered new opportunities to work closer with the Gamilaraay community. The aim is for a group of First Nations knowledge-holders who are elders in the community to participate in the co-design of this and other native grain projects now underway at the University of Sydney.

"I think we're seeing a real change in the landscape, and co-design is now advocated for in all health research, anywhere it's possible," says Kim. "It's not only First Peoples; end-users and patients must be involved in the design process of research so that the benefits come back to them."

As a volunteer on the project, Jackie has seen for herself how her gift is making a difference. "It's been so fulfilling," Jackie observed. "It's reciprocal, I get back in terms of what I'm learning. And I think if you have the capacity to fund a project that can benefit so many people and be aligned with your interests, then go for it, because it really is rewarding."

For Hannah, the resilience of the grains embodies the people who have cultivated and been nurtured by them for tens of thousands of years: "I'd like people to know that it's still out here, and the culture is starting to be woken up again. There will be that ripple effect, the health benefits that come out of it. But it's bringing back that health to the Country as well."

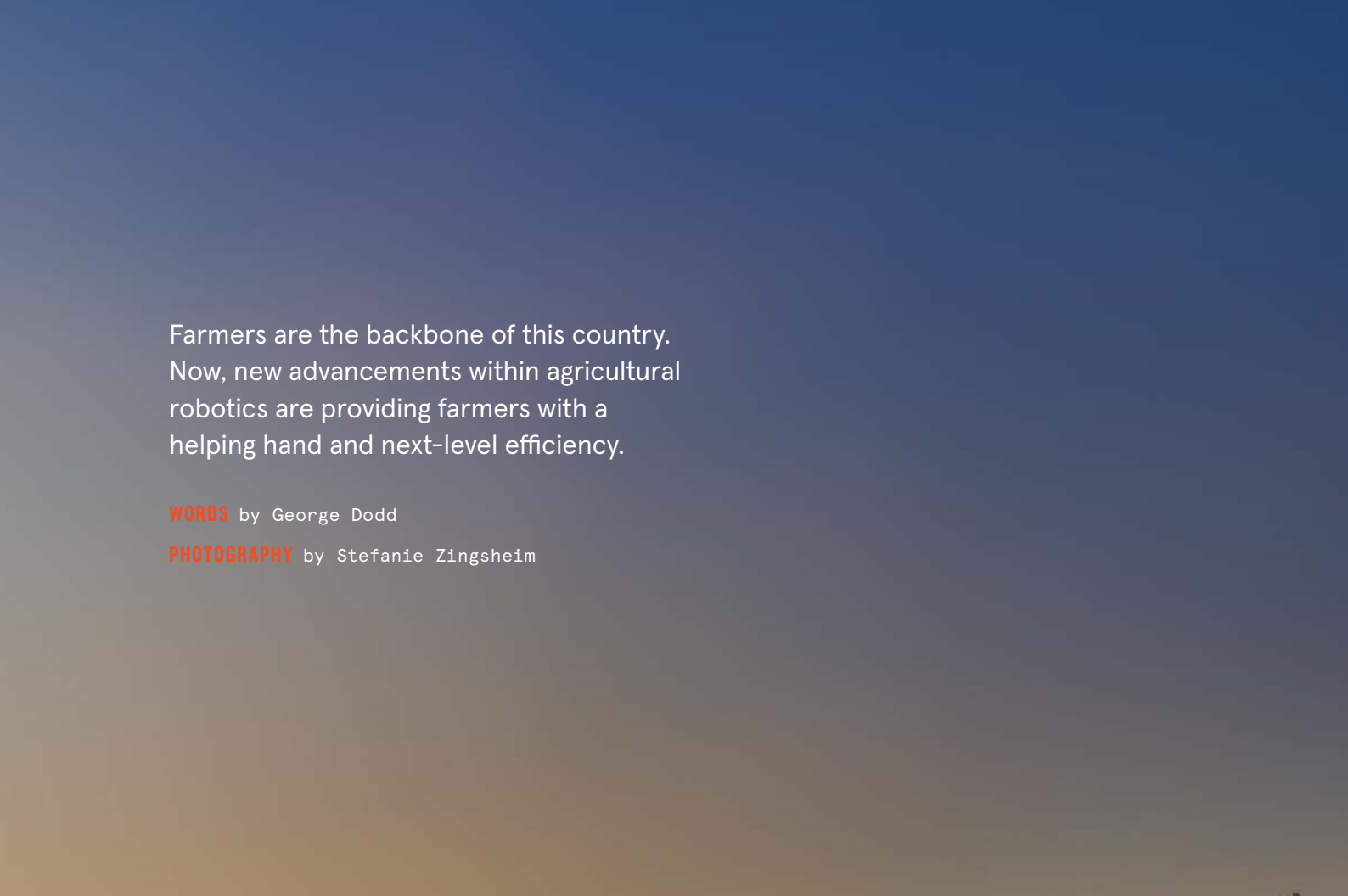
Sowing *seeds* of *change*

Robots can work 24 hours a day, helping with the shortage of farming labour.

Farmers are the backbone of this country. Now, new advancements within agricultural robotics are providing farmers with a helping hand and next-level efficiency.

WORDS by George Dodd

PHOTOGRAPHY by Stefanie Zingsheim



The pandemic made one thing more than obvious: even in developed countries, supermarket shelves can sit empty and supply chains cannot be taken for granted. Certainly, climate change is a looming food security threat, but another real and growing problem is farmhand labour shortages.

One Northern Territory mango farmer quoted in the *Australian Financial Review* said that for the 2022 season, there were 300 mango pickers across all farms. What was needed was 2500. Similar stories are told in every part of the farming sector.

These are issues that can affect the availability and price of farmed goods, the economic health of regional communities, and the foundation of an export industry that in the next two years could be worth about $65 billion.

Farmers and governments are wrestling with the problem, but an important advancement is emerging in robotics and the world-leading work of Professor Salah Sukkarieh (BE '97, PhD '00).

"When we started about 20 years ago, there were a couple of overseas groups working in this area, but they had a more commercial mindset," says Salah, who has an easy-going manner but is precise with his information. "They were thinking about how to miniaturise tractors. We asked ourselves a different question.

"We asked, 'what are the novel technologies that could fast-track robotics into the hands of farmers, that would make robotics useful and affordable?'"

At the time, drones were gaining a profile, but they weren't in any way off-the-shelf. So, Salah and his team built their own drones from scratch, then taught themselves how to fly them safely, before creating algorithms that would give the drones functionality that might help farmers.

"Given what was seen from the air, the farmers understandably wanted to know what could happen on the ground. This led me to ground robotics."

As a boy, Salah, now a world-recognised robotics expert, loved machines and dreamed of being a Formula 1 motor mechanic or NASA engineer.

"The research began with piecing a robot with a bunch of sensors and seeing what might happen, then asking what we could do to make it better."

Today, and as a result of endless tinkering, building, talking, and multidisciplinary problem solving, Salah's team has produced an array of farm robotics with names like RIPPA, the Digital Farmhand, and the Swagbot (which was developed with the help of an anonymous gift, and will one day quite soon be able to herd cattle).

In effect, all these machines are part of the relatively new field of Digital Agriculture, which aims to enhance agricultural sustainability and productivity through real-time modelling of soil, water, and crop health.

Much of the work is centred at the University's Australian Centre of Field Robotics (ACFR) where Salah was a director from 2007 to 2018. Starting with a team of three PhD students, it now has around 130 people working in the lab and on sites – including academics, postdocs, mechatronic and software engineers, PhD and undergraduate students, and project managers.

The robots they have created are powered by artificial intelligence. They can work 24 hours a day, reducing the need for fossil fuels by running on electricity and solar. As they lightly move up and down the rows of crops (the weight of old-technology tractors caused problems with soil compaction), they can spot weeds and emerging infections while collecting data about soil condition and crop ripeness.

A future robot could even identify and pick the ripe fruit for those Northern Territory mango farmers.

An enormous side benefit is a significant reduction in the use of expensive chemicals as the robots can spray an individual weed or pull it out – meaning a lot less blanket spraying. The same goes for harmful insects and diseases.

"I'VE UNDERTAKEN RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY FOR OVER 20 YEARS WITH INCREASINGLY INTERESTING PROJECTS. BUT TO ME, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT WHAT IS THE GREATEST POSSIBLE IMPACT WE CAN HAVE."

- Professor Salah Sukkarieh

Photography by Sarah Rhodes

The robots are sophisticated enough to selectively weed and fertilise crops.

Keeping chemicals out of the environment very much aligns with Salah's firmly held commitment to sustainability and other positive environmental outcomes.

"I was born in Australia, but my dad's dad and his dad were Bedouins, nomadic herdsmen, in the Arabian desert. My mum's parents, and beyond that, were horticulturists. So ideas around the land were always there for me," he says. "Then, when my kids came along, it kind of upped the ante and it became more like, 'what can I do to help with this bigger picture?'"

He also wants farm robotics to be a tide that lifts all boats. "Farmers are using robots because they can't find field labour. But robots are creating the need for people who are across technology and software. This will create new jobs and shape new careers in regional areas."

When you work in robotics technology, the future is expensive. Salah and his team have had a number of highly creative and successful industry partnerships, but he particularly values the philanthropy of individual donors.

"Individual donors tend to have broader goals where we can think more holistically. Like, how can the technology help small-hold farmers in communities around the world?" he says.

Salah's work has opened discussions for potential collaborative work to be done with the Gamilaraay community in Narrabri. While these discussions are ongoing, an additional gift from Christopher Vonwiller AM (BSc '63, BE(Hons) '65, HonDEng '21) and Dr Julia Vonwiller AM (HonDEng '21) has allowed the system and computing element to continue advancing. As Australian developers of sophisticated artificial intelligence systems, they were particularly interested in the concept of the 'digital twin', where an entire farm is recreated inside a computer, with information constantly updated by on-farm robots and sensors.

The Vonwillers' gift will help perfect the technology, including above- and below-ground sensors that feed data into the twin.

"That a farmer can input changes into the digital twin and see how that would change things on his actual farm is pretty incredible," says Chris. "It would dramatically streamline farm production and it has so much commercial potential."

Julia agrees, "The world is facing some serious food security challenges right now, and hearing about this technology we thought it could make a real difference globally, especially with Salah wanting the technologies to be widely accessible."

As he works on today's robots, Salah is, of course, working on the robotic technologies of tomorrow. "The question is, how do we increase the intelligence of the robotic systems, so they aren't just action bots blindly collecting data? How do we get them to embody more of the mission objective, as a human does, so they change their focus in response to new information as they find it?"

This idea is currently just out of reach, though very much in the line of sight. But every advance made by Salah and his team would very likely be transformative in areas beyond agriculture: in space exploration, mining, aviation, environmental management, firefighting, search and rescue, and medicine.

"I've undertaken research at the University for over 20 years with increasingly interesting projects," says Salah. "But to me, it's always been about what is the greatest possible impact we can have."

Catherine Lassen and Dr Hannes Frykholm in the Tin Sheds Gallery for the 'Lacaton&Vassal: Living in the City' exhibit.

WORDS by Elizabeth Jo

PHOTOGRAPHY by Maja Baska

Building *talent knowledge future Sydney*

Life in Sydney city can be a challenge. But a unique collaboration between architects, donors, researchers, and students is hoping to innovate and educate towards a more liveable Sydney.

The grey walls of the Wilkinson Building make a somewhat unassuming home for the School of Architecture, Design and Planning (ADP). Within this brutalist structure, students and academics are asked to propose solutions to the problems posed by modern urban life – to design the cities of the future.

Recognised architects and developers in their own right, alumni Garry Rothwell AM (BArch '67, HonDArch '22) and Susan Rothwell AM (BArch '72, HonDArch '22), saw in ADP the potential to accelerate an architectural revolution in Australia. Through their immense generosity, the School established the Rothwell Chair Program, creating a unique opportunity to drive innovation, leadership, and educational excellence within architecture and urban design.

Senior Lecturer Catherine Lassen was surprised by the freedom given to academic staff in the formation of the program. "From the outset, Garry and Susan were extraordinarily giving. The trust, scope, and generosity has enabled it to grow organically. It's unprecedented in this country."

As the Rothwell Program Coordinator, Catherine, with the ADP team, set about developing the most impactful program possible. They built from the ground up, guided by one central tenet: "architecture connects with every part of our lives."

The idea of a multifaceted program began to solidify, incorporating a Chair position which would attract industry pioneers; a postdoctoral research appointment; industry-focused research positions; and outreach and student-focused activities like international studios, symposiums, public lectures, and exhibitions.

When considering the best candidates to serve as the Rothwell Chair, Catherine and the ADP team dreamt big, writing a list of architects they saw as the top five in the world. Among them were soon-to-be Pritzker Prize-winning architects, Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, whose values and interests aligned with the program, and whom Catherine knew would make "phenomenal teachers."

Anne and Jean-Philippe were delighted to accept the offer to become the inaugural Rothwell Co-Chairs. The topic they assigned for their term was 'Living in the City,' which challenged students to consider contemporary urban conditions and how architecture can meaningfully improve quality of life. According to Anne and Jean-Philippe, "Living well in the big city is the most important challenge of our time and our generation."

Their principles, which have consistently influenced them in their role, focus on the preservation and repurposing of existing spaces. Or, as Jean-Philippe puts it, "never demolish. Always transform, with and for the inhabitant."

Dr Hannes Frykholm, an architect and researcher with international experience from practice and teaching, joined ADP as the Rothwell Chair Postdoctoral Associate. Students from the Master of Architecture program were invited to participate in intensive workshop courses, known as studios, with Hannes, Catherine and the Co-Chairs, to focus on questions around social housing in Sydney. These investigations included potential future options for the Waterloo Housing Estate, originally developed in the 1950s, and another studio examining the iconic *Sirius* building. Students had to grapple with the usual complications that come with urban development, in conjunction with the intricacies of factors like First Nations rights, colonial history, and the requirements of public housing.

"The work has continued an existing strand of thinking about how we keep developing gradually rather than destroying," Hannes muses. "This program has given that discussion new energy."

Architecture students were also given the opportunity to add to their toolkit and benefit from international expertise on an elective trip overseas. In France, students were guided by Anne and Jean-Philippe

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Co-Chairs, Anne and Jean-Philippe, at the Rothwell public lecture held in Sydney in July, 2023.

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1. Lauren Li (left) with fellow Master of Architecture student at Ivry-sur-Seine. Image courtesy of Lauren Li.

2. Exterior of social housing complex, Ivry-sur-Seine. Image courtesy of Pierre Dalais.

3. Master of Architecture students with Anne, Jean-Philippe, Catherine, and Hannes in Dunkirk, France. Image courtesy of Lauren Li.

"ARCHITECTURE CONNECTS WITH EVERY PART OF OUR LIVES"

– Catherine Lassen

"[IT'S] DEVELOPING GRADUALLY RATHER THAN DESTROYING"

– Dr Hannes Frkyholm

as they observed their own past projects and other unique spaces, rich with history and innovation.

Catherine observes that this kind of immersive educational experience is impossible to replicate in the classroom, turning learning "into something that is just *being*, and in a joyful way."

One particular visit to social housing units "provided an eye-opening learning experience" for Master of Architecture student, Lauren Li. The complex in Ivry-sur-Seine was striking, incorporating angular, geometric design elements that lend an otherworldly beauty to an otherwise functional space. The group was personally guided by current residents around the precinct, offering vital historical and cultural context. Lauren recalls the distinct, individual design of each unit. "It is only with this knowledge and understanding that you can then design with generosity and kindness, and design sensitively to the site and its inhabitants."

Since returning from France, Lauren has incorporated newfound perspectives into her design approach and methodology. "Although the French context and building regulations differ from those in Australia, the fundamental principles and values remain consistent, requiring only a shift in perspective to fully comprehend and integrate them."

Three years of collective work in the Rothwell Chair program culminated in late July, 2023, with a week of seminars, public lectures, and an exhibition at the Tin Sheds Gallery. Garry and Susan joined staff in celebrating student achievements and showcasing the ideas explored during Anne and Jean-Philippe's tenure.

Hannes notes that the collegial network forming in ADP is a testament to the success of the program. "There's a strong body of alumni, a network of researchers, architects, other people outside of the institution – they're all being connected."

The search for the next Rothwell Chair, who will lead the program until 2026, is currently in its final stages. Although Anne and Jean-Philippe's term as Co-Chairs has drawn to a close, their expertise and ethos will continue to shape the practice of the next generation of architects.

"If I had to sum up in one word the intersection between this particular teaching, research, engagement, and outreach – it would be quality," Catherine affirms. "The quality of colleagues like Anne and Jean-Philippe, their disciplinary expertise, attention and ambition, has the potential to create tangible, positive outcomes."

Looking to the program's future, Catherine is confident that the impact of Garry and Susan's gift will carry forward, with each Chair building on the range of knowledge available to ADP students. As she explains, "architecture, at its best, brings together different elements and contributes to answering the big questions we're facing as a society."

Picturing a *brighter* future

WORDS by Melany Clark

PHOTOGRAPHY by Stefanie Zingsheim and David James, Chau Chak Wing Museum

A fascination for art and creativity can set up a life of discovery and open-mindedness. An enriched school outreach program at the Chau Chak Wing Museum is equipping more students with the gift of wonder.

The Chau Chak Wing Museum's Egyptian Galleries bring ancient societies within arm's reach of visitors.

1

Long before Tutankhamun's tomb was rediscovered by archaeologists digging in the Valley of the Kings in 1922, students young and old have been enthralled by ancient Egypt. Fascinated by the mummies, canopic jars and bejeweled scarab beetles, the mysteries have held our attention for centuries.

The University's own Chau Chak Wing Museum is home to one of the largest collections of Egyptian artefacts in the southern hemisphere, drawing the focus of busloads of school students who make a beeline towards the exhibit. World-leading researchers at the museum are undertaking new research, in consultation with North African diasporic communities, to develop best practices in displaying centuries-old mummies with respect and dignity. Ancient Egyptian culture is being brought to life anew, providing thought-provoking displays exploring ritual, death, religion, and this ancient culture's continued influence on modern society.

Venturing beyond the sands of Egypt, the museum is rare in its vast collections of contemporary art, natural history, antiquities and objects, where science and the humanities intertwine. As visitors weave past oil paintings of Australia's iconic coastlines, marvel at items used upon the Silk Road, and gaze at Roman busts and mosaics, it's inevitable that minds will traipse along a journey of beauty and discovery. Oftentimes, younger visitors can be found standing with mouths agape at the replica of Pompeii built entirely from Lego – with a tribute to Pink Floyd's 1971 live documentary performance in the Roman Amphitheatre.

Michael Dagostino, the newly-appointed Director of Museums and Cultural Engagement at the Chau Chak Wing Museum, regards the museum in its entirety as a door to unmistakable opportunities and wonder. And for Michael, a beloved high school art teacher was the key to unlocking this world of possibilities, previously unknown.

"I don't know if I would have gone down the path of the arts if it wasn't for her," Michael says.

In Years 11 and 12, this teacher went beyond the curriculum to help him discover which creative arts would unearth his interest. He embraced this newfound freedom to explore the art classroom at lunch and during free periods. Something clicked when his teacher introduced him to avant-garde art and a range of performance artists, "which I just found amazing. It showed me that art can be anything. It can shift how you think – this was a turning point for me," says Michael.

Michael's curiosity meant his journey to the University of Sydney wasn't traditional; he likens it to an apprenticeship. Having started out as an installer at Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, he worked his way around the sector, collecting lessons from mentors along the way.

One such mentor informed Michael's 'audience-first' approach to exhibitions, which he's been practicing for over 20 years. Rather than strictly following the way that galleries or museums traditionally work, he takes each exhibition as an opportunity to put himself in the shoes of visitors. Michael shares, "I encourage questions like, 'Why are we curating this exhibition?' and 'How would your family feel if they came to see it... What would they take away from this?'"

2

1. The Mummy Room contains the mummies of four people who lived between 1220 BCE and 100 CE.

2. This Pompeii streetscape is the largest of all Lego historical models.

3. This painted Egyptian tile, c. 1295 - 1069 BCE, depicts a dog on a lead.

3

"If you're not trained within the arts, you have a very different experience. And so thinking, 'How are they going to engage with exhibitions?', and so forth, that's a really interesting way of looking at it."

As a leading figure in Australian art and culture, Michael Dagostino wants to ignite this enthusiasm for museums with others, like his mentors did for him. The museum offers a unique opportunity to work in a setting where university research and knowledge intersect with exhibitions and outreach programs, something he has always wanted to do.

"Art can change people's lives. Museums have the power to talk about truth and change the way that people think about their everyday and it's a really, really great opportunity, especially within the university context."

As access is a pillar of his priorities for the next chapter of the Chau Chak Wing Museum, Michael is championing an enhanced school outreach program. Building upon the foundations already laid, the program will increase in scope, allowing primary and secondary students from across Sydney to connect with the museum.

While the program is also offered online, the on-campus experience is particularly transformative for students. Michael highlights the importance of getting kids onto campus and imagining themselves coming to the University to study. "While they're here, they'll come to the museum, sit on the grass in front of the Quadrangle, and think – 'I can see myself here.' And that's a really great opportunity to imagine yourself in this space. More things seem possible."

Just recently, two students were invigorated by their visits with school, and were compelled to undertake work experience at the Chau Chak Wing Museum. "I really enjoyed the excursion and was immediately interested in everything and wanted to learn more," one student explains. "I never knew there was such a cool museum in the middle of Sydney, so I wanted to come back to do work experience."

This thirst for knowledge is precisely what Michael wants to share with even more students through equitable access. Particularly for those who travel more than an hour to get to the museum, chances are that regular museum and gallery visits aren't necessarily part of their lives. "We want the

Michael Dagostino is the newly-appointed Director of Museums and Cultural Engagement.

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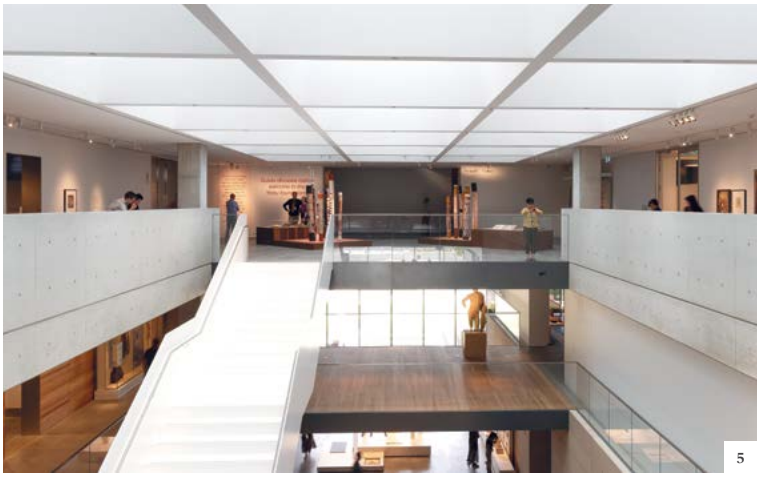

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4. The Coastline exhibit brought together the works of more than 40 artists.

5. The museum's spacious design has tripled the area available to display its collections to the public.

museum to become a part of what they want to be. The students can see themselves and their interests reflected through our diverse collections."

Now, the school outreach program is able to bloom beyond its current parameters thanks to a generous donation by arts benefactor Robyn Martin-Weber. This area of support will have a tangible impact, focused specifically on subsidising program fees and transport costs for students from low socio-economic communities.

This gift will allow a broader range of students to reap the benefits of this enriched educational experience. With this funding, the programming team can create 'pre' and 'post' learning kits for exhibitions, allowing the trip to echo outwards in both directions. A couple of weeks before they come to the museum, the students will do an activity to understand where they're going and prepare for their comprehensive, guided tour of the exhibitions.

As one student visitor describes, "the sheer volume of diverse and fascinating artefacts and information stored within the museum's inventory is remarkable and was a topic of conversation after having returned to school." This is where the 'post' learning kit can be used to continue this discussion and deepen the experience. And perhaps, with the opportunity to see and explore this untapped world, more children can dream of attending the University themselves.

"Creativity is a powerful thing. If you understand the elements of the arts and creativity, fundamentally you have a more passionate and engaged way of living," Michael affirms. "When I go to a gallery, I feel enlivened, even if I don't know who the artist is. But it's that kind of experience where you just, you feel it, you feel alive."

Through the generosity of donors and the conviction of artists and gallery staff, all roads may not lead to Rome, but rather to the Chau Chak Wing Museum – where civilisations, new and ancient knowledge, and students from all walks of life, meet.

A *keen eye* on the future

WORDS by George Dodd

PHOTOGRAPHY by Andy Roberts

Wanting her gift to have maximum impact, Jennie Mackenzie became a supporter of the Charles Perkins Centre. Using a multidisciplinary approach, the Centre is fighting to improve global health.

Jennie Mackenzie's portrait in the Charles Perkins Centre. Portrait of Jennie courtesy of Nick Bowers (2015).

Whether they realise it or not, children and indeed parents all over Australia have had their lives enriched by Jennie Mackenzie.

Most obviously as a director of the beloved pre-school TV show, *Play School* (one of Jennie's episodes won a Television Society of Australia award), but also through her long career in the broader media and government, shaping resources to nurture our youngest minds.

Sadly, Jennie passed away in 2021, but her stake in the future continues through her significant donation to the University's Charles Perkins Centre (CPC) and its fight to prevent some of the most pervasive conditions of the 21st century – obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases.

The Charles Perkins Centre is home to labs, clinics, and medical research facilities populated by world-leading researchers looking for answers. Since lifestyle-related conditions are often linked to our lived environments, the CPC is multidisciplinary – drawing on the expertise of philosophers, anthropologists, engineers and economists. It factors in all the layers, medical and social.

A person of great warmth and intelligence, Jennie first connected with the CPC later in her life, after a battle with cancer. She quickly made connections, becoming inspired by the CPC's culture of promoting fresh, cross-disciplinary ideas. In return, many of the researchers were inspired by Jennie and her obvious enthusiasm.

Jennie was particularly drawn to the idea of encouraging early-career researchers to do their

Jennie championed the work of Rosilene (left) and Melkam (right) at the critical, early stages of their careers.

“I THINK JENNIE COULD SEE AND FEEL THE PASSION I HAVE FOR WHAT I DO. HER SUPPORT GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE BRAVER IN MY WORK, WHICH HAS BEEN SO REWARDING.”

– Associate Professor Melkam Kebede

Head of the Islet Biology and Metabolism Laboratory, Associate Professor Melkam Kebede, credits Jennie’s support to be braver in her work.

best work, unhindered by the ever-present burden of applying for grants. One of those researchers was Dr Rosilene Ribeiro, a Senior Research Fellow at the School of Life and Environmental Sciences, and Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) CPC Head of Clinical Resources (MND ’12, PhD ’16).

“When I met Jennie, I went to shake her hand and she just hugged me. That’s the sort of person she was,” says Rosilene. “Then she decided to fund my research for four years, which changed my life. I remember thinking – now I can really do my work.”

Rosilene, who is originally from Brazil, is looking at how nutrition can result in healthier longevity. Improving cardiometabolic health has three main threads: heart and blood vessel health; metabolic functions, like blood sugar regulation and insulin sensitivity (linked with type 2 diabetes); and the processing and storage of nutrients like carbohydrates, fats, and proteins.

“We can’t change the fact that we are all ageing,” says Rosilene. “But we can improve our nutrition in ways that delay the onset of chronic diseases.”

Rosilene is currently investigating sarcopenia, which causes a loss of muscle mass in older people. It’s managed using supplements of branched-chain amino acids (BCAAs) which also seem to cause weight gain, compromising overall cardiometabolic health.

The answer could lie in combining BCAAs with other medications, which is the focus of a clinical trial now being run by Rosilene, who is obviously encouraged by what she’s seen. “If the trial shows us a solution, we can guide clinicians on how to maximise the benefits of BCAAs while keeping people in good cardiometabolic health.”

Through Jennie’s support, Rosilene has been able to dramatically amplify the quality and quantity of her output. This is also true of Associate Professor

Senior Research Fellow Dr Rosilene Ribeiro, recalls Jennie's warmth and enthusiasm.

Melkam Kebede, whose strong connection with Jennie led to an opportunity for support. Jennie's gift helped the University hire Melkam as a post-doctoral fellow, and she is now pursuing her work in understanding the mechanisms that cause diabetes.

"The rate of diabetes is growing alarmingly," says Melkam, who is working on a busy side project – the arrival of her second child. "There are about 1.5 million Australians currently living with the condition and half a million people with undiagnosed type 2 diabetes.

"It's a condition that's constantly discussed but there's still so much we do not know about it."

Melkam is another example of how Jennie's support allowed a young, gifted researcher to reach her full potential. "I think Jennie could see and feel the passion I have for what I do. Her support gave me the opportunity to be braver in my work, which has been so rewarding."

Another passion of Jennie's was jazz. The University said goodbye with 'Jazz for Jennie', a concert performed by the Sydney Conservatorium of Music jazz band for the friends, family and colleagues who knew and loved Jennie, including the researchers turning her support into transformative medical advances.

A final bequest of $22 million from Jennie will allow the CPC to invest in the brightest, most innovative researchers and fast-track their ideas.

Academic Director of the CPC, Professor Stephen Simpson AC, was an admirer and friend of Jennie's. "Her vision and legacy will continue through our research and through the healthier, longer lives of the people it helps."

“WE CAN’T CHANGE THE FACT THAT WE ARE ALL AGEING, BUT WE CAN IMPROVE OUR NUTRITION IN WAYS THAT DELAY THE ONSET OF CHRONIC DISEASES.”

– Dr Rosilene Ribeiro

Inside *view*

The phrase ‘to advance research’ doesn’t do real justice to how transformative donor support can be. Here, Dr Rosilene Ribeiro describes how Jennie Mackenzie’s gift removed obstacles and let her focus on the science.

“WE’RE CALLED RESEARCHERS, but most of us are really researchers and grant writers. I think people would be surprised by how much time researchers have to put into applying for grants.

When I first started it was difficult for me because I’m not good at talking about myself in superlatives, but of course, that’s what you have to do to convince the funders to fund your work, though for all the time and stress that goes into writing a grant, you probably won’t get it.

Even for the researchers at the top of the game, the success rate for government funding is about 14 percent. So, it’s not easy putting your work aside to write a grant but you have to do it anyway, over and over. I’m really passionate about what I do and I always use that passion in my grant writing.

Despite the difficulties of the grant process, it certainly teaches you resilience and strength by remembering how much you believe in your work. When Jennie funded a four-year fellowship for me, it came at a time when I was worried about where the next funding would come from. Without it, I’m not sure if I would have stayed at the CPC or even in academia.

Thanks to Jennie, I have been able to stay and work here, collaborating with, and learning from the best. Less grant-writing also means I’ve been able to focus my time in leading several clinical trials, attending conferences and building connections, supervising Masters and PhD students, mentoring fellow researchers, and of course – dedicating attention to my own research and publishing my findings.

Jennie’s support has done so much. It’s changed my life and made me a better researcher. I’ll always be grateful to her.”

Student support *adds* up

WORDS by Chloe Pryce

PHOTOGRAPHY by Stefanie Zingsheim

Education is more than just the sum of its parts. Hundreds of students from under-represented backgrounds have come to Sydney in 2023 thanks to scholarships that are changing their trajectories.

Cameryn Smider loves mathematics, and particularly calculus. "You're trying to find the gradient of a tangent, which is the rate of change of the curve at that one point. When you first see it, it feels so abstract. But at the end you have a weird little formula that you can apply to so many things."

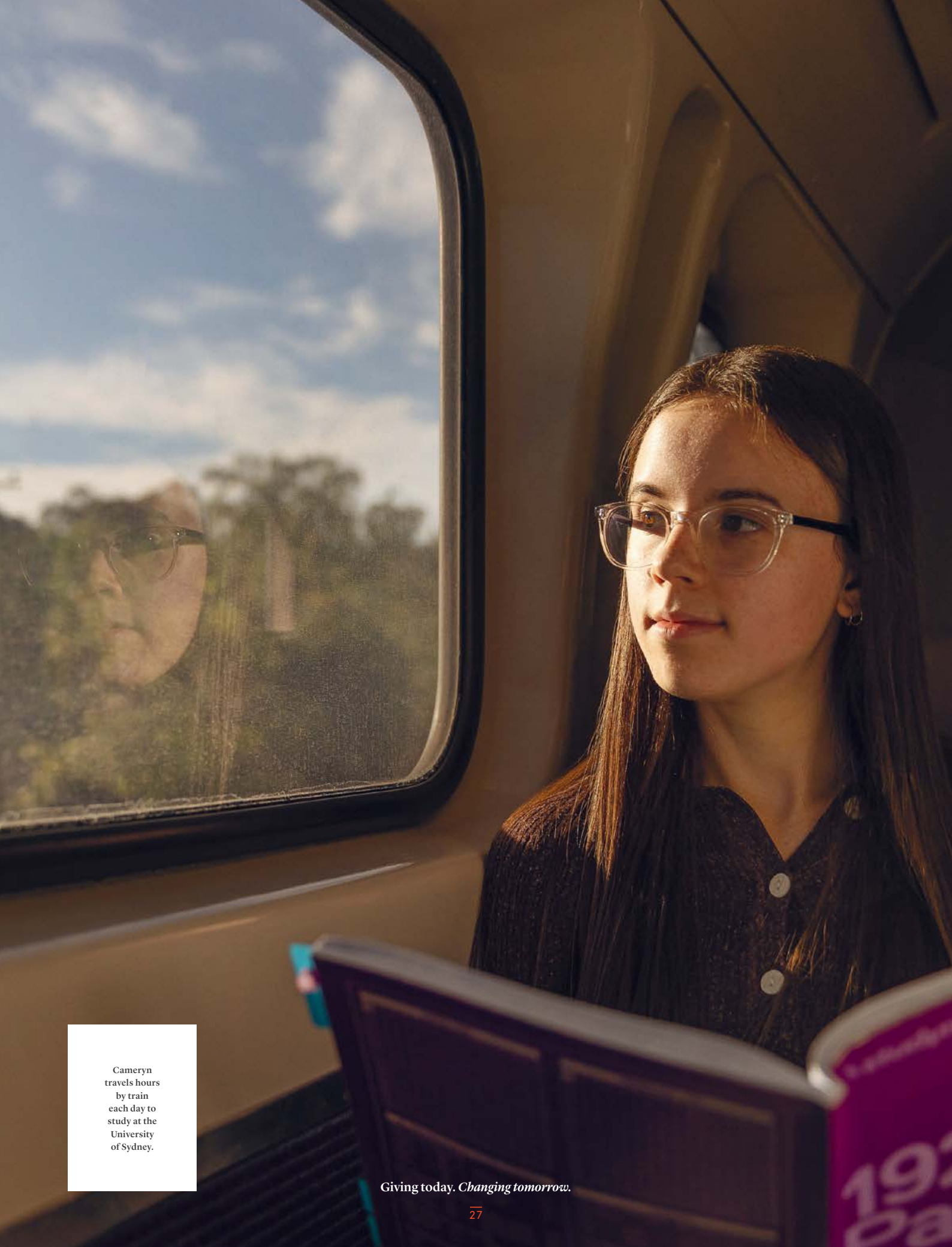
Raised in Lake Munmorah on NSW's Central Coast, Cameryn displayed an early talent for maths and science, and set her sights on studying at the University of Sydney.

"I didn't think I would get in, because the ATAR for my course was so high," she explains.

However, Cameryn is one of more than 600 students who have started a degree in 2023 thanks to the MySydney Scholarship Scheme, which supports students from under-represented groups through funding and community initiatives. The adjusted ATAR requirements meant that Cameryn could enrol in a Bachelor of Science and Master of Mathematical Sciences at the start of this year.

As the first in her family to attend university, the $8500 annual stipend has made taking this step feel less daunting. "Buying textbooks, buying a laptop – it all adds up to thousands of dollars. And no one from my high school came to this university, so it's been scary. But I've met a lot of really nice MySydney students and made heaps of friends. These scholarships help people who wouldn't necessarily be able to go to university to succeed."

Like Cameryn, the University and its community of supporters are interested in the gradient of a tangent – in this case, the number of students, irrespective of their backgrounds, who can access an excellent education. Gifts from dedicated donors are accelerating the rate of change at Sydney, providing the next generation with the best possible chance of success.



Cameryn travels hours by train each day to study at the University of Sydney.

FOR SCHOLARSHIPS DONOR Dott. (Dr) Maria Teresa Savio Hooke OAM, the transformative power of education is palpable as she reflects on her life. A compassionate, inquisitive woman, she studied languages and foreign literature at the University of Turin, where she also took a postgraduate in Psychology, which was the beginning of her interest in psychoanalysis.

Maria Teresa speaks passionately about universities as a central site for connection. "There is a philosopher that talks about this idea of a communicative community, where students have a chance to meet and understand each other, to discover themselves, to follow what is meaningful and alive for them. When I was at university, we worked in small groups of 10-15, which allowed for an exchange of ideas. I'm a strong believer in learning in groups."

Her studies in psychoanalysis took her to London, where she completed further training in what she calls the "golden age" of psychoanalysis. It was during this time, on a ski trip, that she met John Hooke CBE (BSc '55, BE '58). A University of Sydney alumnus and Chief Executive of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia), he would later become her husband and father of her two sons.

Maria Teresa with her late husband John and their two sons, Paolo and John Maximilian, at the opening of the John Hooke Physics Laboratory in 2017.

John and Maria Teresa's journey as donors began in 2011, when they established the John Hooke Chair in Nanoscience, and later, a scholarship for undergraduate science students. "I think philanthropy is an emotional thing. The University of Sydney was *the* university for John, and he gave because he had this connection with physics, this belief in science and rational thinking."

Since John's death in 2018, Maria Teresa has gone on to support postgraduate research scholarships in both chronic disease and Italian Studies. Most recently, she has pledged to support four students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds through the *Maria Teresa Savio Hooke OAM MySydney Scholarship*.

Maria Teresa also emphasises the role educators play. "If you are lucky in life, you find a mentor that helps you find your way. A mentor will see in you something that you don't see yourself."

In terms of her motivation as a donor, Maria Teresa says this too comes down to communicative community. "It's fundamental. Seeing students speak at functions about their experience – building that emotional connection – makes people want to be part of it. You can see the result of your giving, you see the student who is actually benefitting from the scholarship. The impact is very tangible."

HAVING SERVED AS CHANCELLOR of the University for over a decade, it's no surprise that Belinda Hutchinson AC (BEc '76) is deeply passionate about education.

Her father completed an engineering degree after spending World War II as a pilot, benefitting from a scholarship program for returning servicemen and women. "My dad was the first in his family to graduate from university. He used to fly up and down the coast delivering newspapers to cover his expenses."

Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson AC has added to her remarkable legacy of championing education through the new scholarship.

His four children all went to Sydney, with Belinda graduating with a Bachelor of Economics.

"My parents always said the most important thing was to give us the best possible education. And they did – all four of their children and many of their grandchildren studied at Sydney."

The MySydney initiative came at a perfect time, as Belinda was considering how best to honour her parents' legacy. *The Bill and Meila Hutchinson MySydney Scholarship* will help 20 engineering and medicine students pursue tertiary education – people like her father, who otherwise might not have had the chance.

Belinda is proud to play a part in what she sees as a crucial element of the University's ten-year strategic plan.

"We've placed equity and diversity at the heart of our aspirations. This is not a 'nice to have'. Social equity is an important part of our history, and it must be central to our future. If we are to stand among the world's best universities in terms of education and research, we must genuinely take steps to reflect the communities around us."

And on a personal level? "I know Mum and Dad would be excited."

Just *right*

WORDS by Elizabeth Jo

Overlooking injustices can be a form of injustice itself. Likeminded donors are helping law students on their path to help others, fighting for equal recognition and fairness for all.

Alan Zheng's (BA '19, LLB(Hons) '22) parents met in the bustling metropolis of Shenzhen, China, but had dreamt of living in Australia since the late 90s, enamoured by the vast openness and freedom of the land. When naming their son, they chose the Chinese name, Aoran, which shares the first character of 'Australia,' as a way to bond them to their dream of moving there.

Alan's family has strong roots in education: his maternal grandfather was an economics professor, his father lectured in electrical engineering, and his mother studied accounting at university.

When Alan was just two years old, the Zheng family relocated to New Zealand, with their Australian dream coming true eight years later. Alan remembers accompanying his mother on a visit to a converted granny flat, where she was working as a bookkeeper for a small family business.

"When your parents migrate overseas and uproot their whole lives, you see them having to go back to square one in their careers."

Although his family had aspirations for him to go into science, Alan's career path diverged when he participated in the Law Society of New South Wales Mock Trial Competition in Year 11. His team was set to compete against the elite host school, which boasted tennis courts overlooking Sydney Harbour, and students whose families boasted long lines of prestigious lawyers. He remembers thinking, "maybe I'm at a disadvantage, there's no way I could ever do well."

Against the odds, Alan and his team won the trial. His hypothesis that he could in fact succeed in this field would solidify into a 'proof of principle' the following year, when a judge at a mooting competition shook his hand and said the words that would become etched in his memory: "you'd make a very good lawyer one day".

With a taste for fighting uphill battles, Alan was drawn to public service and ideas of fairness, immersing himself in all things law and politics during his undergraduate degree. He edited the student newspaper *Honi Soit*, clerked at national law firm Allens, and was an active member of the Sydney Law School Social Justice Program. Alan

Alan Zheng with his grandparents at his 2019 Arts graduation.

"I WAS ABLE TO FREE UP TIME, UNSHACKLE MYSELF FROM FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS, AND SPEND MY DAYS IN THE LIBRARY... IN MANY WAYS, IT CHANGED THE ENTIRE COURSE OF MY THINKING."

– Alan Zheng

remembers both the exhilaration and exhaustion of this time, with weekends spent locked in a basement with his fellow *Honi Soit* editors ahead of the paper's print run on Monday mornings, when he would rush off to his first seminar of the week.

His dedication was recognised when he was awarded the *David Burnett Memorial Scholarship in Social Justice*. "I was able to free up time, unshackle myself from financial constraints, and spend my days in the library researching and contemplating the law. In many ways, it changed the entire course of my thinking," he enthuses.

This newfound liberty empowered Alan to undertake an unpaid placement as a practical legal trainee at the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC), and complete his Honours thesis on remedies in federal discrimination law for Indigenous deaths in custody. He found the combination of first-hand experience and deep academic research to be invaluable.

Photography supplied

"By the time you read a case, thousands and thousands of pages have been condensed. All the evidence has been presented, lawyers have shouted, witnesses have cried, laughed, and broken down," he stresses. "We should remember that law takes a back seat to the human experience. The human experience is what drives the evolution of our common law principles."

With the help of the scholarship, Alan was also able to publicly share his goal of addressing social justice issues through research and teaching. His thesis was published in the *University of New South Wales Law Journal*, and he embraced an opportunity to teach shortly after graduating, taking on the course in torts and contracts.

As he finishes his tenure as tipstaff to a judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Alan is looking back on what brought him to this point. "This scholarship is critical in encouraging students to reflect on the wider purpose of study and makes it possible for students to seek out social justice opportunities – which are often less financially lucrative, but no less meaningful."

'Dynamite Dave' will forever be remembered for his energy, joy, and passion for people and politics. Below is quintessential Dave, on the phone for his role as campaign manager for the 'Kevin '07' federal election. The campaign bus and signage can be seen in the reflection of his sunglasses.

David Burnett and sister, Deborah, with parents Ruth and Leslie.

DAVID'S ENDURING LEGACY

2023 marks the 15th anniversary of David Burnett's tragic passing in an accident at the archaeological site of Petra in Jordan. David (BA '07) was a dynamic, dedicated student of Sydney Law School, and an active member of the community. In 2010 David's parents, Leslie Burnett and Ruth Pojer, established the *David Burnett Memorial Scholarship in Social Justice* to support students like their son.

Over the years, Leslie and Ruth have been struck by the recipients' personal stories, and were thrilled to see their scholarship act as a launchpad to careers which serve the community. This lasting impact was the key motivator for their additional scholarship funding this year.

"These are people who are doing great work, and we are enabling them to do this," Leslie explains. "We were delighted to see it grow and were in a fortunate enough position to be able to financially support this growth."

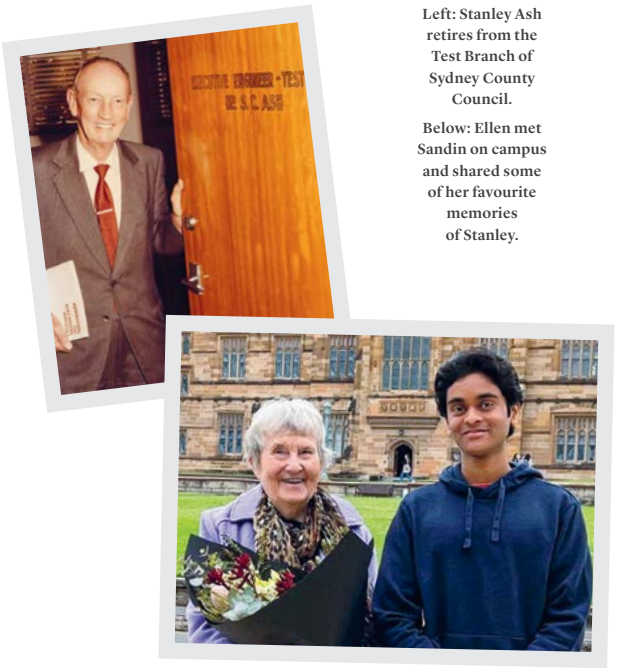
They also acknowledged Professor Simon Bronitt, Dean of Law, for his selection of recipients and steering as Head of School. "His ethics are exactly where we want them to be," Ruth continues. "Law should be for the good of mankind."

The future of Sydney Law School will continue to be driven by the compassion and thoughtful collaboration between donors and the University. "Our core mission is to nurture the next generation of lawyers who pursue 'leadership for good,'" explains Professor Bronitt. "Through the establishment of this scholarship, the Burnett family has honoured the life of David and his passion for social justice, while funding a range of experiences for students that have inspired new passions and transformed professional destinies."

Engineered for *success*

Study is never easy. Young people from the country also face the difficulties of moving to the city, where life is more expensive. Ellen Ash wanted to make that journey easier.

WORDS by George Dodd



Left: Stanley Ash retires from the Test Branch of Sydney County Council.

Below: Ellen met Sandin on campus and shared some of her favourite memories of Stanley.

It is one of those moments of poetic beauty, that there is a place in far-northern New South Wales called Come By Chance. Ellen Ash grew up on a grazing property nearby in the 1940s, when people made a living on the land with toil, and a little luck.

"I did correspondence school lessons for most of my primary schooling," remembers Ellen. "I didn't see many other people."

Eventually, Ellen came to Sydney to study at the Teachers College. She always had a sense that it was harder for country people to realise their ambitions.

Ellen is thrilled that through the *Stanley Chisholm Ash Scholarship in Engineering*, she has helped her first young person from regional Australia to study at Sydney and build a future in engineering.

"Growing up, my main hobbies were tinkering with electronics and reading," says Sandin Jayasekera, who came to Australia from Sri Lanka when he was eight and now lives in Wagga Wagga, five hours southwest of Sydney. "Then I discovered computer programming, and the incredible things you could do when you mixed programming and electronics.

"I still clearly remember the moment I found out I had the scholarship. The first emotion was disbelief. The change it has meant for me is truly momentous."

The scholarship is named in remembrance of Ellen's husband, Stanley. In some ways, Sandin is following in Stanley's footsteps. As a child, Stanley was fascinated by how things worked. At the age of three he dismantled a clock and knew how to put it back together, but couldn't – his little fingers didn't have the power to compress the springs.

Ellen and Stanley met through a bushwalking club, and over many happy years together, Ellen watched Stanley become a highly respected engineer.

His career started with an apprenticeship at Qantas, where he designed tools and constructed parts for the flying boats, which took off from Rose Bay. He was made an Engineering Fellow in 1999, and later finished his working life in charge of the Test Branch of Sydney County Council, checking the complicated mathematics of new inventions before they were accredited.

Upon retirement, Stanley became something of an inventor, and designed the house where Ellen still lives.

"Stanley had a strong sense of values, a real love of engineering and an enthusiasm for learning," says Ellen. When Stanley sadly passed away in 2016, she wanted to establish a scholarship to represent his life. She contacted the University, and was offered a guided tour of the University's Faculty of Engineering.

"This was a wonderful experience," she says. "I was thrilled to see a demonstration of agricultural robots. Also, I'd always wondered how 3D printing works and it was great to see this process. Another highlight was seeing students assembling a full-sized kit plane. It reminded me of Stanley's early career."

For all the things that have changed since Ellen and Stanley studied, one challenge has remained – country students being able to afford to live in the city.

Thanks to the *Stanley Chisholm Ash Scholarship in Engineering*, Sandin doesn't need to find work to pay his way, so he can focus fully on his studies.

"My degree has already been a greatly rewarding experience," Sandin says. "It's giving me a deeper understanding of something I've been passionate about most of my life. I'm looking forward to applying my skills beyond university to build things that improve the world."

Photography supplied

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Together, let's explore what ignites your passion, whether that is driving research innovation or unleashing ambitious minds with scholarships. We will partner with you to match your interests with what will make the biggest impact.

3

CONNECT

Let's make this vision possible by connecting you with world-class researchers and the University's leaders. This could be via meeting them face to face, or having the chance to read a bit about their work. *Together*, we would also workshop some ideas for how you might direct your support, ensuring that the possibilities match well with your goals.

4

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Watch it come to life. See your gift enrich the University and the community (for good).

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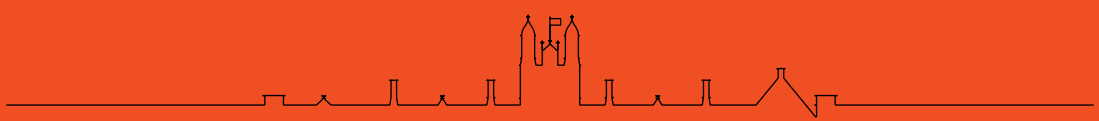

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