

Catalyst for change

Giving
Report
2020

une
University of
New England



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Supporting a new direction

Across much of 2019 our region, our communities and much of our Armidale campus were burdened by the cumulative effects of a prolonged drought. These challenges were then amplified by the direct threat of the most serious bushfires on record.

Many of our students, staff and alumni have also been affected by these disastrous events which have damaged or destroyed farms, properties, businesses and communities.

The University's response has been to throw its support behind our community and demonstrate the important contribution we can make. Large numbers of UNE staff and students have served as RFS volunteers, and the UNE residential colleges provided accommodation and meals for thousands of volunteer and professional firefighters. Exciting plans are also underway to transform our campus into a more environmentally sustainable operation through extensive water savings measures and the development of our onsite solar farm.

The country also saw a huge outpouring of generous philanthropic support and numerous individual donations to support firefighters, wildlife and rebuilding fire and drought affected communities. These are all areas where UNE makes a significant contribution with ongoing research projects underway into Indigenous cultural burning practices, community resilience, and the health and recovery of the natural environment, waterways and wildlife.

In this Giving Report we want to acknowledge the support which we receive from our donors, philanthropic

supporters and corporate partners. In 2019 we received over \$3 million in donations to student scholarships, programs and teaching and over \$500,000 in philanthropic funding for UNE Research and we want to thank you, our donors, for your support and let you know how it will be making a difference in 2020. These funds provide a range of scholarships for students, new research and other initiatives supporting the high quality student experience we offer to our students and the staff, facilities and resources required to deliver them.

Throughout 2020 we are asking our alumni and donors to learn more about the new initiatives that UNE is undertaking including innovative new projects in rural health education, STEAM outreach and early childhood through the Boilerhouse Discovery Centre and Indigenous education programs. Your support is essential to the success of these activities and we invite you to become our most passionate advocates and supporters.

Robert Heather

Director, Advancement, Communications and Events

Above: Robert Heather (right) with Adjunct Professor David Briggs AM at the announcement of the Betty Fyffe Bequest, Tamworth.

Catalyst for change

When a student sets out on their educational pathway into and through tertiary education, they are making an investment in themselves and into their communities.

For many UNE students that journey will be exceptionally challenging, both for the student candidate and quite often their families as well. The University of New England was created to provide higher education opportunities to those who had perhaps missed out on conventional opportunities, those hoping to find more rewarding work and those seeking a pathway to a more productive role in our society. The passage of some sixty years has not changed the needs of our students and most certainly has not lessened the challenges they might face.

At UNE, many of our students are 'first in family' candidates, raising their own aspirations and those of their family, others are balancing the complex equation of work and family responsibilities with study and yet more are following a passion which blends learning with service to community and country.

At UNE we value the support that we receive from each and every one of our generous donors, because every single gift will engineer change in someone's life and by extension change a family, a community and quite often enable generational changes. Each gift is a legacy.

Your decision to invest in the future and donate through a gift to UNE makes a clear and unambiguous statement that you believe education and what it can offer through the careful use of your hard-earned funds. This is something that I as the University's Vice Chancellor take very seriously. I want you to know that UNE appreciates the trust you place in us as guardians of your investment as well as the extraordinary commitment you are making to our students, to education and to the knowledge sharing processes which drive research with impact.

In this period of ongoing fiscal and policy uncertainty, your donations help this University bring an independent and

proudly regional perspective to the national educational environment. Your support enables UNE to be an innovative educational leader. Through the sponsorship of UNE research, donors create new opportunities for this institution to think 'outside the box,' and look at the ways in which we can contribute knowledge and understanding to the complex and 'wicked' problems that face our communities, the environment and the world.

At this particular moment in time when communities across Australia have been ravaged by drought and the hazards of bush fires, an investment in education and research is a statement about the importance and long term future of this country's remote, rural and regional communities. 2020 will see UNE award a record number of donor supported scholarships, thereby making an enormous difference to the ability of our students to support themselves through their studies, especially those from some of the most challenged regional, rural and remote communities.

Grants from philanthropic bodies and individual donors provided to support our research programs will fund programs across a wide range of fields including archaeology, the environment and social work. Innovative new activities in areas such as rural health and Indigenous education will be possible thanks to the Betty Fyffe Trust and donations from forward thinking alumni such as Max Schroder.

On behalf to the UNE community, I would like to thank all of our current donors—those who gave money and those who provided support by other means—it all made a difference. I also hope that by telling your stories and showing what a difference all these contributions make, that others will be inspired to emulate your example.



Most especially, I would petition our alumni and other potential donors to get more involved with UNE and discover how your contributions can make a real difference to people and to communities. Take the time to explore the many opportunities to support the University and its students in a way that will enhance and develop your own personal aims and professional goals. There is still much room for growth in this area and in 2020 UNE will be working closely with individuals, philanthropic funding bodies and corporate supporters to create new opportunities for our students and the communities we serve.

I would also like to thank the UNE Foundation Board members for volunteering their time and expertise to act as custodians for the aggregated endowment funds and

the revenue they generate. The support of the Foundation has also been instrumental in making available emergency funds to students affected by the recent bushfires, special grants for students with refugee status and funds to support a much needed suite of community focused research initiatives.

As the new Vice Chancellor, I have benefited from the rich advice and guidance of many UNE alumni—an amazing resource for a CEO. I look forward to meeting more of you in 2020 and working with each of you to resolve how you might get more involved with UNE.

Professor Brigid Heywood

Vice Chancellor and CEO



A gift that keeps on giving

Educator and philanthropist Max Schroder donated \$1.25 million in late 2019 to scholarship programs for Indigenous students at UNE in what is the largest financial gift from a living donor in the university's history.

This generous donation will enable Max Schroder Indigenous Scholarships, Ella Schroder Indigenous Scholarships and Mentoring Scholarships for Indigenous Students to continue for many years to come, whatever the economic climate.

"It is not imagined or intended that this fund will last forever, however by investing these funds the UNE Foundation can ensure the best educational outcomes for our Indigenous students for at least another decade," Max said.

"I am sharing this story, not for personal aggrandisement but in the hope that it may encourage others to contribute in whatever way they can."

Since 2008, University of New England (UNE) alumnus Max Schroder has provided some 51 scholarships to support Indigenous students pursuing degrees in education, nursing, medicine and law. One of them was Sarah Thomas, who completed a Bachelor of Education. Two years on, as a successful high school teacher, she finds it difficult to quantify the powerful practical, financial and emotional impact of her scholarship.

"Max's support was life-changing," says Sarah, who was raised in Lightning Ridge, in far north-western NSW and barely 17 when she arrived in Armidale. "My parents had

not finished high school, let alone considered university. It seemed so foreign for people like us and wouldn't have been a reality for me without Max's scholarship."

It enabled Sarah to live on-campus, which eased her homesickness, and to dedicate herself to study and enjoying her wider university experience without needing to take on the challenge of part-time work. The additional benefits of enjoying college and university leadership opportunities, gym membership and the support of Indigenous mentors (to whom Max had also awarded scholarships) made Sarah feel "valued and important".

"Max focussed on me as an individual, even paying for eye tests and glasses when I needed them," she said. "For the four years of my degree I felt that there was someone in my corner. He believed in me."

The bond that developed over annual lunches and regular contact with Max left a profound legacy; it instilled in Sarah a philosophy about the importance of education and an ethos that she continues to live her life by.

"Max has taught me that education is for everyone; it does not judge where you've come from, rather it shows you where you can go," Sarah says. "This is the most powerful tool we can arm ourselves with. It has the ability to transform

and enrich the lives of individuals and those around them, and I take it into the classroom with me every day."

By providing scholarships for undergraduate students living in a UNE residential college, Indigenous students who went through boarding school (Ella Schroder scholarships named for his mother), or post-graduate or final-year students can act as mentors to their undergraduate peers, Max Schroder has made a personal commitment to addressing the inequality many Indigenous Australians experience.

Beyond the financial support, Max has invested in the lives and wellbeing of scholarship recipients, many of whom are the first in their family to attend university. Encouraging contact with the Oorala Aboriginal Centre and engagement with the broader Indigenous student community is almost certainly a contributor to the strong retention rates among scholarship recipients.

"Max has taught me that education is for everyone; it does not judge where you've come from, rather it shows you where you can go."

Perhaps his appreciation of the factors that come into play for Indigenous students can be traced back to Max's time first teaching [he received a scholarship himself to attend Armidale Teacher's College] position at Armidale Demonstration School in 1963. "My first class was a remedial class, which was effectively every kid they didn't know what to do with," Max remembers. "It was a grade 3/4/5 and about one-third to one-half of the kids were Aboriginal, from East Armidale. Many were living in shanties around the tip. When they went home there was nowhere to study, no power and they were lucky to have candles to read by. I used to give one kid my cut lunch every day because he had nothing to eat.

"It was a challenge. I had never had anything to do with Aboriginal people before. But I was well aware that many of these kids were dragging serious baggage along behind them from day one. Anything I could do to help them get over or around the challenges they faced always proved



worthwhile. The rewards came from watching these kids succeed. I realised that whatever the reasons for their weak academic performance, it was not due to any lack of effort or ability. They simply lacked opportunity and direction."

The word opportunity comes up a lot in conversation with Max, who grew up in humble rented accommodation in the working class Sydney suburb of Belmore. He earned places at a selective primary school and high school, and the scholarship to attend Armidale Teacher's College. "I would never have gone on to tertiary education except for that," says Max, who later completed a BA (Hons) and MA (Hons) at UNE during 13 years of part-time study. The qualifications provided a platform for his career in education as a lecturer and administrator, and ultimately head of his own higher educational institution. It was the sale of his listed company NAVITAS Ltd that provided the scholarship funds "to enable me to assist others from challenged and disadvantaged backgrounds to gain the opportunities I enjoyed".

Schroder scholarship recipients at UNE come from many different backgrounds but share a deep admiration for Max. He typically receives annual Christmas and thank you cards following their graduation. "My response is always that I am grateful they have taken the opportunity and done something with it, and that they have been successful and will go on to do more," Max says. "The scholarship program is paying off, and I'm proud of and pleased for those who get through. It's not easy for anybody, and when you pile on top of that Aboriginality, a disadvantaged background and the associated challenges, it's a tough ask."

Max's hope that his scholars will be an exemplar for others in their families and communities is routinely realised. Sarah's achievements were not only personally transformative. "My graduation was a turning point for my mother," she says. "It inspired her to do a Pathways course and now she is enrolled in a Bachelor of Accident Forensics. My family is so grateful for Max's generosity and the positive impact he's had on our lives." #

More than 1000 Indigenous students are currently enrolled at UNE, the majority of them female and most from regional areas. In addition:

- about one-quarter come from low SES backgrounds;
- 53% are the first in their family to take up tertiary studies; and
- 15% have indicated they have a disability.

As at August 2019:

- the number of Indigenous on-campus students increased from 156 to 199;
- the number of post-graduate coursework students increased from 107 to 129;
- the number of undergraduate students increased from 598 to 688; and
- the number of enabling students increased from 91 to 93.

Opposite: Max Schroder scholar, Sarah Thomas on her graduation day at UNE.

Left: Max Schroder, third from right, with some of the recipients of his scholarships in 2017.



A financial lifeline and a friendship

Embarking on her Criminology/Law degree in 2010, Miriam Hicks faced a daunting prospect.

As one of four children from a country family of modest means, she was going to have to support herself through five years of university study.

That was until she earned a Mary Spence Memorial Scholarship. "It was make-or-break help at a very critical time in my life," Miriam says now. "It made my university education achievable."

However, the benefits of the scholarship were twofold: not only was it "a tremendous help" in meeting Miriam's living expenses; it also inspired a friendship with the late Cec

Spence and his partner Sue Grace. Over regular lunches and the occasional coffee the bond deepened.

"I am eternally grateful to the Spence family but especially to Cec for his genuine interest in my studies and professional ambitions, and his kind offers of support," says Miriam, now a solicitor working in Mildura. "He was a lovely, sincere gentleman, who served as a mentor during my time at UNE. He always made it clear that he and Sue were available if I needed help, and I really appreciated his personal investment in me as an individual."

Financially, the scholarship allowed Miriam to prioritise her studies without having to take on too much part-time work. "I was able to work 10-15 hours a week instead of 30-40 hours, but the real bonus was that I came to know two of the world's kindest and most generous people," she says.

And Miriam's experience was not isolated. Cec took the same level of interest in every recipient of Spence family scholarships, which, during his lifetime, were named after his mother Mary and father Dan. Cec invested time in getting to know them and kept an album containing photographs of each student.

Trustee of the Cecil Thomas Spence Charitable Trust, Rod Watt, says his friend's engagement with scholarship recipients was a mark of the charitable and community-minded man he was, who maintained a curiosity about the world around him and a dedication to helping those less fortunate.

"His investment in students through the scholarships was an investment in their lives."

"Cec was a country boy at heart and attended a tiny country school near Walcha," Rod says. "He appreciated the privileges of his secondary education at The Armidale School and at UNE - where he studied Agricultural Economics (graduating with Honours in 1969) - and was determined to ensure that other country students enjoyed similar opportunities. He had an abiding interest in country students getting the best education they possibly could."

Long-time friend and fellow trustee John Sewell fondly recalls his engaging weekly conversations with Cec. "They would cover every conceivable topic; Cec was extremely well-read and informed," he says. "He turned what was a pretty mundane job putting up real estate signs into a very enjoyable afternoon."

"Cec was a mentor to many people professionally and socially; everybody who met him benefitted from that mentorship. He had a real passion for developing young people, especially, and it was much more to him than simply making the scholarship available: he was engaged in their lives."

Friends from all walks of life similarly appreciated Cec's appetite for knowledge, loyalty and keen intellect. After leaving the family farm, Tia, and moving to Armidale, he completed a Bachelor of Financial Administration as a mature-age student and worked for a time as an economics tutor at UNE. He was also a dedicated member of the Rotary Club of Armidale and a founder of its successful annual book fair, a passionate golfer and talented wood craftsman.

"Cec was an extremely caring and kind-hearted person," said Sue. "His investment in students through the scholarships was an investment in their lives. I still receive cards and phone calls from grateful recipients; they appreciated the help so much. They tell me how it set them up for life."

Since 2016, the Spence family scholarships have changed the lives of some 45 UNE students like Miriam.

"Upon his death it was Cec's wish that his would become a perpetual trust," says Rod. "Cec realised the importance of monetary support; it was a lasting gift, so that the students could concentrate more on their studies than supporting themselves financially. We hope that the trust will still be helping to assist in the education of students in 100 years' time."

While Cec had a preference to support students from the New England area of NSW, all eligible students are encouraged to apply. #

For further information on the Cec Spence Memorial Scholarship, established in 2016 through his estate, go to une.edu.au/alumni/give-to-une/une-scholarships



Opposite:
Cec Spence and Sue Grace

Left: Some of the Cec Spence Memorial Scholars with Sue Grace and Trustee, Rod Watt, at the 2019 Scholarship Lunch.



A lifetime of learning

When he left school in Year 10, Gordon Doyle didn't consider he had great prospects.

"I'd gone right through high school in the second-bottom class; all the smart kids did languages, while I did wood and metal work," Gordon says. "I thought my two sisters were the smart ones in the family and that I wasn't the sharpest tool in the shed."

He didn't know what he wanted to do with his life, so Gordon joined his father in Papua New Guinea working as an insurance agent. But a chance encounter with a dedicated primary school teacher in a little school outside Port Moresby in 1967 forever changed his career trajectory.

"It was a village school made of bush materials with a dirt floor and rough-hewn desks and chairs," Gordon remembers. "These island kids were beautiful and I could see the wonderful relationship the teacher had with them. It was a magical experience and I went home that night and thought 'this is what I want to do.'"

Begging his way into an intensive course at Port Moresby Teacher's College opened one door—"I did better than I ever could have imagined"—but it was his subsequent acceptance into a Bachelor of Arts degree at UNE that kick-started a lifetime of learning.

"It was terrifying coming back to Australia in 1973—the people, culture and climate was so different and I didn't know a soul in Armidale; it was very, very difficult," Gordon says.

However, slowly he began to find his feet. "It wasn't easy as a mature-age student, and I was so concerned about failing a subject that I withdrew from two in that first year," Gordon says. "But passing everything in year one helped

me to find new determination and courage. I started to get credits, distinctions and even high distinctions, and I had two offers to do an honours year."

The experience was life-changing. "UNE gave someone like me a real break and I owe the university a great debt of gratitude," says Gordon, who subsequently did Honours and a Masters of Education at UNE and for 20 years has worked in private and state schools as a careers counsellor. "UNE has been great to me and I look back on my time at the university with the greatest affection. At UNE there were people who believed in me and who stretched me. Because they gave me a go, it enabled me to develop confidence in my abilities and to show myself that I could do it. Some of the friends I made are still friends today, almost 50 years later."

Which explains why Gordon is leaving a bequest to UNE in his will. "It's a chance to give back to an institution that gave me a leg up," he says. "I know what it means to struggle and I hope this gift can make it a little easier for someone else."

Gordon hopes the gift will fund a scholarship in memory of his parents David and Roma Doyle and help a rural student who is first in family to enjoy the opportunity of university study.

"But UNE is going to have to wait," says the 70-year-old, who has mastered Indonesian and is now learning to speak Thai. "I intend on living a long time yet; I am having too much fun." #

Opposite: Gordon Doyle (back row, second from right) circa 1980 with students from the Papua New Guinea University of Technology at Lae.



Robbers give back

Many a successful personal and business partnership was born of a residential college at UNE. And so it is for professional company director Heith Mackay-Cruise, who completed a Bachelor of Economics in 1991.

“Robb College was the making of me as a person,” says Heith. “I had a fantastic time socially, academically and culturally, and my best friends are from my Robb College days.”

Coming as he did from a city background, Heith found his first taste of country living in 1988 quite an awakening. “I very soon developed from my peers a much more profound appreciation of how tough it is on the land, especially during a severe drought,” he says. “That still resonates with me and is just as pertinent in today’s climate.”

This is why Heith, now a non-executive chairman of UP Education and non-executive director of Vision Australia,

has generously supported the Robb College Foundation’s Leaders Scholarship Appeal to boost scholarship offerings for the college’s 60th year. “It’s incredibly important to give back to the Robb community and those who supported me,” Heith says. “My mother and grandfather paid for me to go through university and I’m not sure we would have been able to afford my final year at college had it not been for the Sinclair-Wilson scholarship. I know how important such financial support is.”

Efforts to boost Robb College scholarship pathways have been met by similar generosity from many “Robbers”, according to foundation chairman Geoff Perry.

“Since 2016 we have doubled our scholarship funds to \$550,000, with further pledges of \$134,000 given,” says Geoff, who was a Robb College resident himself in 1975 and 1976, and later a resident tutor. “Ideally, we would like to reach \$1 million over the next two years, so that we can double the scholarships we offer to students by 2022. By then we hope construction of the new college will be underway [the original Robb structures are soon to be rebuilt or refurbished]. This is part of a bigger plan to lift opportunities for our students, not only to help them succeed in their academic studies here at UNE, but also to forge links through our alumni to succeed in their future careers.”

With the majority of Robb College students coming from rural and regional backgrounds [70% study agriculture or rural science], Geoff says there is a serious need for support during the current drought. The appeal is a means for alumni to not only change the lives of individuals, but also their communities.

“Our scholarships also help the recipients to remain on campus, complete their degrees faster, and to return to work in their rural communities.”

“There are many ways we can help rural and regional Australia through the current crisis—like buying bales of hay or giving to emergency crisis funds—but these are short-term fixes,” Geoff says. “Scholarships not only immediately help families; they are also a perpetual investment in the future of rural communities and economies. They help families to employ others to replace their sons or daughters while they are doing their degree, which helps to maintain employment in rural towns, and that has a multiplier effect.”

“Our scholarships also help the recipients to remain on campus, complete their degrees faster, and to return to work in their rural communities. A lot of our alumni become the backbone of regional and rural Australia. They go on to run our farms, to be the agronomists, lawyers, dentists, doctors, teachers, nurses and accountants that rural communities need. The challenges our young people face are large. They need to be armed with the best know-how, science and ability to apply those tools to improve our farms, professions and enterprises for a sustainable future.”

By combining old and new scholarships, the Robb College Foundation has established a scholarship pathway for each year a student resides in Robb. It hopes that offering scholarships to first year, as well as continuing, and more senior students will encourage residents to stay in college longer and to develop their leadership capabilities. The

Opposite: An architect’s impression of the future Robb College development.

current Sinclair-Wilson, Alice Coventry, Robb Leadership and Darren Ellis scholarships will be lifted or retained and a new Wal and Pam Whalley Senior Fellows Scholarship launched—with the aim of the pathway covering at least half the student’s annual residential costs. The fund is perpetual and it is hoped that by 2022 eight students will receive scholarships every year.

In reality, the extensive Robb alumni network acts to assist students throughout their life. “Our alumni have a history of casually supporting one another in their professional lives,” says Geoff. “We are looking to formalise that by introducing mentoring, work experience and graduate recruitment programs that take advantage of our 60-year foundation of relationships and a network that links metropolitan areas to rural and regional Australia. Being a Robber can have far-reaching impacts.”

With UNE having announced a \$300 million commitment to residential college improvements over the next 10 years, and Robb reconstruction underway, a new era is about to dawn for the college.

“The spirit of a college is much more than its physical structures; it is the friends for life and sense of community that the students benefit from,” Geoff says. “We have refocused the foundation’s efforts on our students, to help provide them with a positive, safe and exciting academic experience, plus opportunities for their future careers. The scholarship pathways will be an important part of this, and reinforce the camaraderie and support for which Robb is known.”

Geoff says the need has never been greater. “We had the largest number of applicants for our scholarships in 2019 that I have ever seen, and going through the applications was heart-wrenching,” he says. “The need has only increased; a lot of these students are putting themselves through uni because their families cannot support them. Our talented young people, who are our future problem-solvers, should not be handicapped by financial need. We need to accelerate their skills and uptake into careers to find pragmatic solutions that add value.”

“So if you are an old Robber or have a strong association with Robb College and want to give back, there’s no better way or time than to donate to our appeal. It will help four, growing to eight families right now and rural communities well into the future.” #

Robb College is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2020 and you can help support the scholarship appeal. Donations to the Robb College Leaders Scholarship Appeal are fully tax-deductible and can be made online through the UNE Office of Advancement, Communications and Events. Further information is available at robbcollege.com/donate



Fund blossoms for botanical study

Hans Wissmann was a quiet but constant presence in UNE's N.C.W. Beadle Herbarium for more than half a century. Even upon his death, he ensured that his presence would still be felt.

When current herbarium director Professor Jeremy Bruhl arrived in 1992, Hans had officially retired from his role as technician, but kept volunteering "until he had trouble climbing the stairs". He would dutifully incorporate plant specimens into the large collection, and help with other tasks that required the care and attention to detail for which he was renowned.

"As a technician, Hans would have retrieved specimens for classes and helped maintain the herbarium," Jeremy says. "He would have gone on field trips with academics and research students, and tended plants in the Botany glasshouse. He looked after plants alive and dead."

It was a long association with UNE that began in the 1960s, when Hans joined the workforce as a groundsman after migrating to Australia with his wife Luise and—for a short time—working in an orchard near Armidale. While he had no formal botanical training, a course in agriculture immediately after World War II appears to have stood him in good stead.

Former botany student, friend and now executor of his estate, John Pickett, says Hans "came into his own" when he joined the Botany Department. "He had a profound interest in botany, and working in the herbarium enabled him to advance his knowledge of it," John says. "Indeed, botany was part of his soul."

But it was not Hans' only contribution. Over the decades he worked at UNE, he added some 2014 specimens to the herbarium's collection from wild or cultivated sources, including plants grown on the UNE campus. Two species—the State-listed vulnerable New England Gentian (*Gentiana wissmannii*) and a green alga (*Oedogonium undulatum* var. *wissmannii*)—are named for him.

"Given Hans' passion for collecting and growing plants, the herbarium was the perfect 'home' for him in retirement," Jeremy says. "I think he felt at peace here; it gave him a sense of purpose knowing that his contributions were valued. He had great propagation and cultivation skills and a good taxonomic eye."

With little formal training but lots of on-the-job horticultural and botanical education, Hans' interest in plant taxonomy blossomed in his own home garden—"a real connoisseur's garden, that contained all sorts of unusual treasures", according to John.

"It was great fun to wander about," he says. "Hans collected plants that were unusual or rare or of interest, that had a quirk of anatomy or an odd evolutionary history. It included many species native to the Northern Tablelands but also featured plants from around the world."

Following Hans' death in August 2018, at the age of 89, Jeremy was not surprised to learn of his final wishes. "He saw value in the work we do and the studies we encourage at UNE," Jeremy says. "Systematic botany concerns the evolutionary relationships in the wild that provide the foundation for all study and use of plants, and Hans valued that foundational knowledge and endeavour."

The fund Hans established will soon begin supporting research by UNE undergraduate, Masters or PhD students of systematic botany. "Such funds enable students to do more, to ask more questions and to seek answers to those questions," Jeremy says. "Whether it's field or laboratory work or using expensive equipment or having more samples analysed, this is a means by which Hans can continue to directly or indirectly mentor students using the herbarium."

John says the fund befits the character of the gentle and unassuming man. "Hans was never comfortable in the limelight," he says. "This is a quiet but ongoing contribution he has made, an enduring memorial to him that will continue to progress the N.C.W. Beadle Herbarium."

"Hans' heart was in botany. He was very good at searching for unusual things and the Gentian named after him is so typical of the man himself; Hans would have looked and looked to find something so obscure. But he had these wonderful blue eyes that would really light up when he was pleased about something. I think he would be delighted to know that his bequest can prolong his lifelong interest." #



Opposite: *Acacia torringtonensis* cultivated by Hans Wissmann in his front yard, photographed by Professor Jeremy Bruhl.

Left: Hans Wissman in his later years.



An enduring passion

Former UNE post-graduate student and passionate researcher, the late Di England, spent 20 years studying the Indigenous rock art of the remote Kimberley region. Her death could have spelled the end of her life's work.

It was the stencilled Indigenous rock art secreted in Carnarvon Gorge National Park, in central Queensland, that first captivated Di England, in 1988. "That initial exposure to Aboriginal rock art was transformative for Di," her husband John says. "She was struck by the originality, the antiquity and symbolism of the art. She just wanted to learn more, and soon returned for a week-long course with researcher Grahame Walsh, who was a very charismatic teacher. Di's enduring passion for rock art had its beginnings there."

For a decade, Di volunteered each year at the Takarakka Rock Art Research Centre, predominantly working as an assistant to Grahame and progressing very quickly from student to accomplished researcher in her own right. She would travel to Queensland for 4-8 weeks at a time, compiling and cataloguing the material Grahame had

collected over his lifetime, including the myths and stories shared by Kimberley elders during his 30 years working on sites in the north-west of the continent. It was equal parts exhausting and exhilarating.

When the opportunity came to visit the Kimberley with Grahame for several months in 2002 Di jumped at it, and very soon was enamoured of its vastly different art styles. "Grahame's enthusiasm was infectious and I think it was the promise of making new discoveries that inspired Di in those early days," John says. "They were going out in helicopters recording sites for the first time, trying to put together the history of the Gwions (delicate, thin figures wearing tasselled belts and ornate headdresses) and Wanjinias (larger figures with wide, round faces and dark halos)."

In 2008 Di enrolled in a Diploma in Indigenous Archaeology at UNE with Dr June Ross and it was only a matter of time before she was drawn into the intriguing investigations of the RATS - the Rock Art Team led by the late Professor Mike Morwood from Wollongong University, June, and Macquarie University dating expert Dr Kira Westaway. Working with Traditional Owners from the Wanumbul Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation and the Kandiwal Aboriginal Corporation, the RATS explored change and continuity within the archaeology, art, beliefs and land-uses of the first inhabitants of the rugged Mitchell and Lawley river catchments.

They have documented more than 200 sites, from paintings and engravings to stone arrangements. By combining archaeological excavation and dating techniques with the scientific analysis of the rock art styles, techniques, positions and functions, the RATS have established the art's antiquity and published extensively on the region's Indigenous occupation.

Spending 10 weeks in the Kimberley as a fully fledged RAT, Di contributed to the larger rock art project as well as developing a personal interest in the animals depicted. It grew into a Master's project, which Di commenced in 2010.

"The Kimberley research on rock art has focused largely on the anthropomorphic figures the Wanjinias and Gwion figures and until recently the plants and animals had been neglected," June says. "Some animals were painted as food and others had ritual or cultural significance. Di's project 'What's on the Menu?' sought to answer some very interesting questions about changing environments and diets through time, and the changing ritual significance of animal species."

However, Di's hard-earned archaeological ground work including amassing thousands of photographs, extensive anthropological library research, personal archival records and preliminary reporting was put on hold in 2013 when her husband underwent open-heart surgery.

When Di died in June 2019, aged just 72, it might have meant her research was moth-balled altogether, except for her family's wishes.

"We knew how important the work was to Di and she was never one not to finish something she had started," says John, who joined his wife on three of her field trips. "It's an important scientific record, and we want to maintain her interest and passion in rock art, as well as help someone else."



Opposite and Left: Di England undertaking a field study at a rock site in the Kimberley.

The bursary the family has established in Di's honour will "help another post-graduate student get over the line to complete their studies" and June is thrilled. "Di made such a strong start; she knew what a valuable project hers was and generously returned all her material and recordings so that someone could continue her work," she says.

That someone is UNE alumna, archaeologist and PhD student Samantha Keats, who is "really excited" about inheriting and furthering such an important body of knowledge.

"Di has done all the hard yards, including much of the field work over three years and it's one of the last pieces in the larger Change and Continuity project," Samantha says. "The rock art of the Kimberley is exquisite; there is something really graceful in the detail. As an archaeologist, it leaves you with a series of eternal questions: what made someone paint that? why that colour? and why that style?"

"I am interested in how the depiction of animals changed over time in relation to spiritual beliefs and cultural and environmental change. Understanding the impact of changing climates is important, especially today. It's a thread from the past to the present."

As she prepares to leave an archaeological dig to take up the Kimberley project, Samantha is struck by the contrasts. "With the archaeology of European sites you have documented records and photographs and crown plans to draw from; but Aboriginal culture is an oral culture of another time," she says. "I will be reliant on the art and the animal bones that were found in the rock shelter excavations. I am very grateful I can carry on Di's work, especially in the amazing landscape that she loved."

Described by her family and friends as an "intelligent, dedicated and resourceful woman", Di was remembered at her funeral by Dr June Ross and fellow researcher Deb Holt as a natural carer, who "always had a kind or encouraging word when others found the going tough".

As archaeologists, they said they were "...always interested in what people leave behind—things that will help to build a picture for future archaeologists". In donating her Kimberley data for Samantha to use as the basis for her doctoral thesis, they said "Di has left us a gift".

The bursary bearing her name is therefore a fitting memorial indeed. #



“We sought to develop our own leaders,” Edwina says. “The program was incredibly valuable for students to progress their self-awareness, teamwork, public speaking and community values. It really prepared them for life after graduation, and I don’t think it was often until much later in life that they realised how much they had gained.”

A contemporary of 13 of UNE’s 16 vice-chancellors and seven chancellors, Edwina knows a thing or two about leadership and how it can be encouraged. The scholarship now bearing her name will be awarded for the first time in 2020.

“Leadership is very important to me, but not everybody is going to become a leader,” Edwina says. “I came to know most of the 200 residents of Duval College each year personally, and I hope we encouraged them to grow in their own self-confidence and to reach their potential, whatever that was. This involved encouraging them to take advantage of opportunities for self-growth, to reach their short and long-term aspirations, and to move beyond their comfort zone.”

This was a philosophy Edwina took into all academic, sporting and cultural endeavours at Duval. “I’m very proud of the college’s 20 years of involvement in the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic,” she says. “It had tremendous benefits both personally and team-wise for those students who participated.”

A former president of the Australian Heads of Colleges, Edwina earned honorary life membership of both that organisation and Duval’s Senior Common Room. She maintains a keen interest in all the students she came to know during her tenure.

“I reflect now on the opportunities they had; I watch their success and feel their pride in their achievements,” she says. “I have a lovely network right around the world and I meet former students occasionally for a meal to share what they are doing. I love to see them succeed and move on with their families, and to see their children move on to university themselves.”

Current head of Duval College and deputy director of the UNE residential system, Ilona Mair, says the scholarship has been established as an endowed scholarship with donations from past students, staff like Edwina and Senior Common Room members. “Edwina was a very well-respected leader in the college system and served as a wonderful role model for Duval students,” she says. “The Edwina Ridgway Scholarship is intended to benefit returning students who can best demonstrate leadership skills and make a positive impact on the lives of others—both in college and in the wider community.”

Valued at \$5000, it is one of two scholarships offered by Duval. “I am already getting inquiries from current students, so I expect it will be very competitive,” Ilona says. #

Duval College alumni are invited to help to grow the Edwina Ridgway Scholarship to cover full college fees in the future. Donations can be made to the Office of Advancement, Communications and Events—details are available at une.edu.au/alumni/give-to-une/duval-college-annual-appeal

An iconic career

UNE’s Duval College is honouring a distinguished 44-year career with the Edwina Ridgway Scholarship.

When she retired in 2018, Edwina was Australia’s longest-serving college principal. An OAM in 2010 recognised her contribution to UNE and generations of students, and Edwina was also awarded a Doctor of the University (honoris causa), in 2011.

“Many of the students who attended Duval while I was principal have retired now themselves; I needed to get out before they started calling me grandma,” Edwina jokes.

A former accountant, she took up the position of Secretary-Bursar at Duval in February 1973 and became its head

in 1976. At various stages throughout her extensive UNE career Edwina was also responsible for Drummond College, the Drummond Centre and Wright Village—at times up to 700 students.

In the 1970s, Duval was an all-female college, and Edwina oversaw its transition to a co-educational institution. She also introduced the college’s professional development program—the only one of its kind in Australia, which grew into a formal three-year program to prepare students for the future.



Opposite: Edwina Ridgway (bottom right) with Duval College Resident Seniors in 1993.

Left: Edwina Ridgway at her retirement dinner with her son, Ross, and brother, Scott Alison, a UNE alumnus.



The Honorary Nurse

In her twilight years, former nurse Betty Fyffe would roam her Tamworth nursing home doing what she did best.

“Betty declared herself the honorary nurse,” said Steve Mathews, from accountancy firm Malvern Mathews Smith, which manages her trust. “She would walk into the rooms of fellow residents, ask them how they were and proceed to take their pulse; she was always making suggestions about their health conditions. Betty was a kind, caring and compassionate nurse who took her nursing very seriously. Nursing was her passion and that strong desire to help others was ingrained in her, right until the end.”

An only child, Betty had grown up around her family’s string of chemist shops (the Cahills had five stretching from Quirindi to Tenterfield, including pharmacies in Tamworth and Armidale) but after finishing boarding school in Sydney she decided to pursue a nursing career instead, much to her father’s disappointment. She trained at St Vincent’s Hospital in the inner city and remained an enthusiastic member and supporter of its graduate nurses association until her death, in early January 2019 aged 92.

But Betty’s dedication to caring for others did not finish there. The Elizabeth Cahill Fyffe Trust she established will this year begin supporting UNE medical students and rural communities—through annual scholarships and an innovative Rural Healthcare Solutions Program—in the hope that graduates will return to the country to help address significant staff shortages and inequalities in healthcare delivery.

Australian Medical Association statistics show that life expectancy in remote areas is up to seven times lower than in major cities. This creates greater pressures on the considerably smaller rural health workforce. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reports the number of doctors per 100,000 of the population in major cities is 437, while there were 272 in outer regional areas and only 264 in very remote areas.

Betty’s generous bequest came as no surprise to her long-time friend and fellow nurse Leslie Wright. “She’d told me about one of her visits back to Tamworth, when she saw the desperate need for medical people in country areas,” she said. “Betty really cared about the welfare of country

people and described how the cities were draining the bush of medical staff. She was a great nurse and took her nursing very seriously.”

The Elizabeth Cahill Fyffe Trust will provide financial assistance for up to three years to 50 rural or regional students each year enrolled in UNE’s Joint Medical Program (Bachelor of Medical Science/Doctor of Medicine) until 2024 in what is now the university’s largest scholarship program. Dr Susan Paul, Clinical Dean of UNE’s Rural Medicine School and herself a rural GP, says the scholarships will encourage students from rural and regional Australia to attend UNE for their medical studies.

“This, in turn, will have a flow-on effect in bolstering the rural medical workforce,” she said.

“Students will appreciate the financial assistance that will help them with their costs of living expenses, while they concentrate on their studies.”

“Betty really cared about the welfare of country people and described how the cities were draining the bush of medical staff. She was a great nurse and took her nursing very seriously.”

The Rural Healthcare Solutions Program, to be run by UNE’s Faculty of Medicine and Health, is a more innovative concept, that aims to encourage students to take up regional medical practice. Its initial pilot project will fund residencies and placements in regional medical practices or hospitals for final-year students, coupled with online support and access to specialist advice and tuition.



Leave a lasting legacy



Anyone can make a bequest – you don't have to be famous or rich to make a big difference. Your decision to make a bequest or leave a gift in your Will can have a profound effect upon the University of New England, creating a lasting legacy to support the institution. These five simple steps can help ensure that your Will supports your intentions and values when leaving a gift to UNE.

1. Choose your cause

What do you want to achieve with your gift? Do you want to support young people gain a tertiary education through a scholarship, improved facilities on campus or new research into rural health or the environment? There are many opportunities to support the work that UNE does across all of our faculties and programs and we can help you to identify the one which best meets your goals.

2. Decide on the type of gift

Plan ahead and work out what types of gift you want to make including:

- Gifting the residue or remainder of your estate after you have provided for your family and friends
- Leaving a percentage of your estate
- Specifying a particular amount for your gift
- Leaving your property or stocks and shares

3. Talk to your family about your decision

Let them know what your wishes are and why. Discuss how you are providing for them and try to ensure there are no surprises that they may wish to challenge. You should discuss your plans with your chosen executor or trustee as well. Looking after an estate can be a big job for which they will need to be prepared and it helps if they are clear on your intentions.

4. Work with your solicitor

Discuss the types of gifts best suit your needs and the correct wording to use to ensure that your wishes are met. A Codicil may be all that is required instead of re-writing your existing Will. Your solicitor can also identify any potential issues or concerns in advance.

5. Talk to the University

Contact the UNE Office of Advancement, Communications and Events as early as possible to discuss your wishes and ask any questions. We can assist with identifying the best way to channel your support so that meets your wishes, assist with the correct wording for your Will and provide advice on how we can acknowledge your gift most appropriately.

When you notify UNE of your intention to leave a bequest you will become a member of our Heritage Circle of donors. The Heritage Circle was established to acknowledge the generosity of those who, through planning to make a gift to the UNE in their Will, provide for world-class research and quality education for future generations of University of New England students: an investment in the future. The Heritage Circle is a way of acknowledging and thanking our benefactors during their lifetime.

Further information is available on the UNE website at une.edu.au/alumni/heritage-circle-membership/establishing-a-bequest

Students who come from rural areas, but move away from home, are up to three times more likely to return during their working life. Professor Rod McClure, Dean of UNE's Faculty of Medicine and Health, said the project endeavours to lift those rates for medical students and provide them with valuable hands-on experience of the challenges and opportunities faced by health professionals on the front line of rural health care delivery. By locating students inside the community for workplace-based learning, it will give them the chance to "get a fully rounded and robust experience" of community health needs. This might, for instance, involve rotating through work with a physiotherapist, dentist, Aboriginal medical service provider, local GP and hospital staff.

"This initiative will help students to understand the full complexity of what health in a community is all about and the job satisfaction it can bring; what it really means to be a member of the healthcare provider team," Rod said. "If they learn in this context, we think students will be more likely to become rural GPs or specialists and to become that broker between a person's health and the system that supports their health."

Rural Australia has higher rates of heart and lung disease, suicide and cancer, and lower access to high-tech care.

"Research has proven time and time again that continuity of care and trust in a service provider costs less and provides for better health outcomes," Rod said. "Rural medicine is not a series of one-off transactions. A GP might deliver a child, watch that child grow up and support them through mental ill-health, infectious diseases and risk management during different stages in their life. Our students will get a sense of what it means to develop a sense of community and trust."

The Rural Healthcare Solutions Program is further illustration of UNE's commitment to meeting the needs of rural and regional Australians. "We are an anchor institution in this region," Rod said. "Communities have identified the huge challenge of filling the required healthcare provider quotas, particularly for medical doctors. UNE is working with the community to meet that challenge and this pilot program has huge potential."

And as for the woman who has made it all possible. "There is a beautiful synergy in the fact that someone who dedicated her life to helping others is now able to do that for a new generation after her passing," Rod said. "Betty Fyffe is helping those people who are prepared to make a contribution in rural Australia to care for those communities of the future. That's a wonderful legacy." #

Above: Trustees of the Elizabeth Cahill Fyffe Trust, Michael Smith and Stephen Mathews (Far left and right) join Vice-Chancellors of UNE, Professor Brigid Heywood, and University of Newcastle, Professor Alex Zelinsky AO, at the announcement of the Betty Fyffe bequest.



What about the kids?



Easing the stress on children of military families has been a labour of love for University of New England early childhood researcher Dr Marg Rogers. For the past seven years she has been devising practical means of support for this “totally isolated” group.

“Military families operate in a ‘service and sacrifice’ culture; they are expected to be stoic and not to complain; it can be seen as a weakness to reach out and ask for help,” Marg says. “Yet they are at risk from serious, long-term stress. In children, this can affect physical, cognitive, emotional and social development and learning.”

Marg’s groundbreaking PhD research explored the way 2-5 year-olds experience life within defence families. Consistent with international studies, she found that the ongoing stress of constant relocation—at least every two years and sometimes more often—and the long parental absences for training and deployment, can cause children to regress.

“Life for these children is very churned up, and whether they can bounce back from those stresses depends on the support they receive from their families, educators and the community,” she says. “I discovered that there were few Australian age-appropriate early childhood resources for these children and no known early childhood programs for educators and parents to use.”

So Marg set about providing them, initially in the form of two online e-books. Since then she has formed a research team to produce an App comprising a story, interactive activities and educational games. For the first time in Australia, these materials have given very young children from defence families a voice.

Now, thanks to a \$100,000 grant from The Ian Potter Foundation, Marg and her fellow researchers Dr Jo Bird, Dr Ingrid Harrington and Dr Pep Serow, educational IT learning designers, technicians and developers can expand and consolidate their programs for families and educators.

They plan to create two new online programs, with a suite of free, open access resources. The first, for families, will aim to engage children in discussions about their experiences with relocations, parents deploying and training, and when something happens—if a parent returns from service with a physical injury or mental health condition, or (sadly) doesn’t return at all. The second, for educators, will include information, advice and practical help that enables early childhood staff to serve as providers and conduits of support, both for the children and their parents and carers.

“By establishing a website, we intend to provide in one location everything from fact sheets and links to interactive story books, Apps, animations and practical activities,” Marg says. “We are looking at every way we can support military families with young children and those who support them, such as educators. An important component will be practical tips from families themselves, which are likely to be relevant to early childhood educators and even the peers of military children attending early childhood centres, to help them understand why their friends commonly experience responses such as sadness and anger.”

“There are many changes that can occur in the lives of these children. Our educational resources and programs are all aimed at helping to build resilience within those families and to focus on the positives—how they might cope and find support during challenging times.”

Activities or books that explore the emotions and experiences of characters can create a safe emotional space for children to either openly discuss their own family’s experiences or to reflect on their feelings. Marg and her team hope the act of sharing such experiences enhances children’s verbal skills—at preschool and at home—rather than seeing them default to emotional outbursts because they can’t express themselves.

“Learning ways to promote protective factors can help all family members to survive the strains and physical upheavals of departures, time apart, re-integration and

relocation,” she says. “Having a family narrative that gives children a means of talking about what’s happening within their family is a great start—and many families already have these—but other self-soothing strategies and a means of developing empathy for siblings and other non-deployed family members can also be very valuable, because each child responds differently.”

“In the home, families will be able to use the program to find fresh ways to stay connected with the parent who is away, by drawing pictures or writing stories, starting projects together, and using a variety of digital communication technology.”

“In the early childhood setting, educators often provide practical and emotional support to military families and there is scope for them to tailor preschool experiences to support children’s lived experiences. Fostering resilience in this way will benefit all children and help them transition smoothly to school.”

The comprehensive package of resources will be the subject of controlled trials and evaluations in early childhood centres that service Navy, Army and Air Force bases around Australia before they become freely available online in February 2023. Marg says feedback from parents and educators will be vital.

“We are dedicated to ensuring that what we deliver is evidence-based, research-based and that the programs support families in the way they need, because they are the experts,” she says. “Defence parents are itching to get age and culturally appropriate early childhood resources that will support their children, and to connect with us. Our ultimate goal is to see the programs included on the Australian Research Association for Children and Youth (ARACY) website, which lists all evidence-based programs.”

With input from parents, educators, Legacy, and adaptation of some resilience resources from The Benevolent Society and various family support organisations, Marg believes the resources will draw on the vast practical knowledge of stakeholders. Eventually, she is also keen to assist fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) and drive-in, drive-out (DIDO) families containing children who similarly struggle to understand the absence of a parent.

“There are unique stresses for military families and unique stresses for FIFO and DIDO families, but there is a lot of common ground,” Marg says. “Some of our resources are likely to be picked up and used by others out there and we would like to eventually adapt them for families in those industries. For some families, just knowing that support is available is a relief.” #

For more information about this program please visit ecdefenceprograms.com

If you would like to make a contribution to support Marg’s project contact the UNE Office of Advancement, Communications and Events.

Opposite: Members of 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment leaving RAAF Edinburgh Air Movements Terminal bound for East Gippsland on a RAAF C-17 Globemaster to help with Operation Bushfire Assist 19-20.



Boilerhouse gets moving in 2020



Proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with The Abbott Foundation

Last century's coal-fired technology is on track for conversion into a 21st Century learning centre after the NSW Government contributed \$6.1 million towards the University of New England's ambitious Boilerhouse Discovery project in October 2019.

This tourism funding will enable UNE to start planning construction of a unique learning space for children within the shell of the old industrial building that once was UNE's source of winter warmth.

"This will create the Questacon of country New South Wales," Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands said. "It is all about broadening young people's minds,

giving them practical educational experiences, and it is also a rich teaching resources that our teachers can take advantage of"

UNE's Vice-Chancellor and CEO, Professor Brigid Heywood, said that the University's commitment to the Boilerhouse, and the NSW Government's investment in the project, represents an important public commitment to the

future of education in the region and now is the time for other donors to come on board.

"UNE was built on the idea that learning unfolds over an entire lifetime, not just in the few years of study for a degree," said Prof. Heywood. "The Boilerhouse is intended to captivate our youngest citizens with the magic and power of learning. Once that power has been experienced, it is never forgotten."

"If the University can inspire a discovery culture and a love of learning in our children, we have gone a long way towards fulfilling our social contract with our community."

"I offer a sincere thank-you to the State Government for seeing the strength of the vision we have for the Boilerhouse, and making this extremely practical contribution towards the region's learning capability."

The University of New England has invested \$5 million in stripping the original 1973 boilerhouse building of hazardous materials, ready for its transformation and the Abbott Foundation will be committing \$3.5 million towards the design and fitout of the Children's Discovery Space within the building.

"We cannot do this alone. Corporate and philanthropic investment will now be crucial in developing the Boilerhouse vision. The substantial public investment already announced takes us to the bricks-and-mortar stage of development, but we still need partners who want to be part of this vision," said Professor Heywood.

Above: (L-R) Kirsti Abbott, UNE Discovery Program Leader, The Honourable John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier of NSW, UNE Vice-Chancellor Prof. Brigid Heywood and the Honourable Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands inspect the latest plans for the Boilerhouse.

"We cannot do this alone. Corporate and philanthropic investment will now be crucial in developing the Boilerhouse vision."

She foresees the Boilerhouse becoming a focal point for 'educational tourism.' It will crown an existing range of assets at UNE which, in combination with facilities like the New England Regional Art Museum in Armidale and other institutions around the region, could become the elements of region-wide precinct for educational discovery.

"We are working within a global movement that is bringing young people, parents and educators together in ways that encourage new forms of learning based on creativity, rather than a fixed classroom model."

The UNE Office of Advancement, Communications and Events is planning a \$5 million capital campaign in 2020-21 to raise the remaining funds to see this landmark project through to completion. Get in contact if you want to support the development of an iconic new educational space in the New England region. #



From little things...

“UNE enthusiast” Susie Dunn is not an alumnus and describes her contributions to the university over the years as modest. However, she illustrates the big difference that smaller donations can collectively make to the cultural tapestry and growth of a public institution such as ours.

With family heritage in the New England stretching back to the 1800s, Susie was a regular visitor to Armidale before choosing to live here in 1996. Both her children completed degrees at UNE and, as a writer and commentator, she’s maintained an active interest in university affairs while enjoying the easily accessible “brain food” that Armidale has to offer.

In recent times Susie has gifted two sculptures to the campus and a Percy Trezise painting to the Natural History Museum. “A university must have laboratories, lecture rooms and so on, but I also consider art part of a civilised and welcoming educational experience, enhancing a campus,” she says. “I’m passionate about what UNE and this region have to offer our nation.”

Susie’s latest donation, towards the Boilerhouse children’s discovery space, is an investment in the next generation. “With this project, UNE has the opportunity to really make an impact,” she says. “I love the Boilerhouse building and, having grandchildren, I understand the importance of educating children and initiating them into the world of science. I believe we should be responsible citizens of the world, and having children who ask questions and know where to get the answers is a powerful step towards that.”

“My contribution to the Boilerhouse centre is small, but I wanted to feel in some way part of its development. By giving what they can afford, others can similarly help UNE to fulfill its potential in educating students, conducting research and realising such exciting projects.” #



Banking on the next generation



The Regional Australia Bank’s dedication to building stronger local communities has extended to a new academic scholarship at UNE.

Customer-owned Regional Australia Bank, with its head office in Armidale, has a long history of assisting UNE students—from sporting scholarships and sponsorship of sporting events, to support for the Duval College Senior Common Room, the Earl Page College Fashion Show, University of New England Women’s Society and Enactus.

It has also been providing competitive, trusted banking and financial services to staff and students for more than 50 years.

The new \$5000 annual scholarship will help a student studying for a finance-related degree who comes from one of 38 NSW towns in which Regional Australia Bank operates.

“Our roots are in regional NSW and scholarships continue to be a valuable way for Regional Australia Bank to stay connected with students living in those areas,” says Regional Operations Manager for the New England region, Phil Williams. “We sought to establish this new scholarship as a reflection of our ongoing support of student success, while celebrating those who share the same values and passion for regional prosperity.” #

Above: Phil Williams, Regional Operations Manager with Regional Australia Bank.



Partnerships boost for country students



One of the highlights of the University's events calendar has become the award-winning UNE Farm of the Future pavilion at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, visited by over 300,000 people in 2019.

Visitors discover a range of information about UNE research into modern agriculture practices and environmental sustainability as well as kid friendly activities and events.

The pavilion builds upon the long term relationship developed between the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Foundation (RASF) and the UNE Foundation over many years.

"Many UNE Alumni are also members of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and there is a natural synergy between our two organisations," said Robert Heather, UNE Director of Advancement, Communications and Events. "The Royal Easter Show is a truly 'town meets country' event and provides many city residents with their first face-to-face introduction to agricultural businesses and farming practices."

The co-funded RASF UNE Foundation scholarship program helps to relieve financial stress for students from regional and rural communities, better enabling them to manage their immediate economic needs and supporting their mental wellbeing and resilience during their studies. In 2019 the collaborative program supported six students at UNE (Ellen Coote, Rebecca George, Alastair Scott, Christopher Hvass, Cassie McBean and Peyton Ford) providing them with funding to assist with residential college accommodation costs, travel costs for placements, textbook purchases, housing rental and other living expenses.

"We all need support at times," said scholarship recipient Ellen Coote. "Due to the ongoing drought my parents have

really struggled to be able to support me financially, so the scholarship allows me to be comfortable and enjoy my studies with a little less stress and pressure."

In 2019 the UNE Foundation (UNEF) also signed a three year scholarship partnership with the Country Education Foundation, a national not-for-profit organisation that helps rural and regional communities support local youth access further education. The CEF's collective mission is to see all young rural and regional Australians achieve their dreams through supported access to further education, training and jobs. Last year some 28 UNE students benefitted from these CEF UNEF co-funded scholarships.

"We consider this partnership funding vitally important to the Country Education Foundation organisation, and to the students we support."

"Encouraging young, ambitious and talented kids to attend UNE to further their career is paramount in assisting students achieve great outcomes for themselves, their communities as well as rural and regional Australia as a whole," CEF CEO Wendy Cohen said while visiting the University.

These partnerships create opportunities for UNE students from regional, rural and remote communities to access further scholarships to financially support them through their studies. As Cecilia Logan, Manager of RASF says "As the state continues to experience severe natural disasters, affecting all in the community, our young rural people will need our support and encouragement more than ever over the coming year." #

Opposite: The UNE Farm of the Future pavilion at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, 2019.



UNE Foundation - Perpetual Benefit Fund (PBF)

Value as at 31 December 2019: \$23.91 million

Objective: Growth of capital over time while allowing for a target payout rate of 3.5% each year

Return objective: Consumer Price Index +3.5% after fees and including franking credits

The PBF consists of donations, both endowed and non-endowed funds, where the corpus of funds is expected to be held and invested for 4 years or longer (including in many instances where the principal is expected to be held to perpetuity). The return objective and risk profile for the PBF reflect the desire to release sufficient cashflow to meet the University's target payout ratio of 3.5% every year. The PBF's objectives can be met only by allocating a substantial proportion of the portfolio to a diversified range of growth assets to ensure sufficient capital growth in the portfolio over time.

A smaller proportion of the portfolio is invested in more defensive assets that are less correlated with the returns of growth assets to diversify the risk within the portfolio. As majority of the PBF is invested in growth assets, such as listed shares and property, the portfolio returns are most impacted by returns in these asset classes. 2019 was generally a strong year for all asset classes. Overall, the PBF achieved a return of 13.3% (after fees and including franking credits).

Text supplied by Russell Investments

UNE Foundation



The UNE Foundation is responsible for managing funds that have been donated to the University and making them available in accordance with donors' wishes; for scholarships, research, and teaching and learning.

The Foundation discharges these functions through its Board of Directors. Funds are currently managed on the Foundation's behalf by Russell Investments. The Foundation sets the strategic policies for funds management, oversees that management and considers and approves requests from the University to draw on the funds for appropriate purposes.

The Foundation benefits from the talent and experience of a Board of Directors, who among them have strong qualifications and experience in financial management and investment, accounting and auditing, risk management and corporate governance. Most directors are also UNE alumni, with a strong commitment to the university and its future.

The Foundation currently has over \$23 million under management. It aims to achieve a return of at least CPI + 3.5 and continues to exceed this target, thus protecting the real value of funds while providing a perpetual income stream for the purposes of the university and donors.

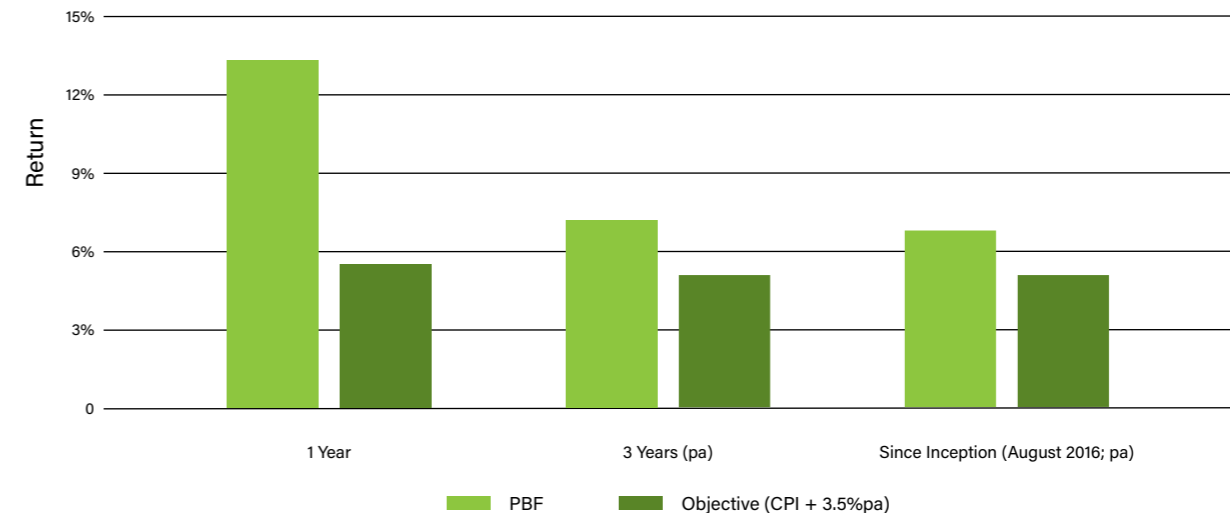
Market conditions are volatile and the Foundation continues to monitor its position carefully. At the same time, the Foundation is looking to set a higher return target for the fund to enhance the benefits to the university from donor funds.

The Foundation is very conscious, as a recipient of donated funds, that it must invest prudently to preserve the corpus of funds, while also achieving the best possible return. Donors can be assured that their funds are carefully managed to keep them available to the university in perpetuity while delivering an income stream towards the purposes of donors and the needs of the university.

Martin Dolan
Chair, UNE Foundation

Above: Paul Barratt AO (former Chair UNEF), Martin Dolan (current Chair UNEF), Marea Salisbury, Chanelle McEnallay, Nicole Patterson, Geoff Gorrie PSM (former UNEF member) and Bob McCarthy AM at handover meeting at Booloominbah 2019.

PBF investment returns to 31 December 2019
(after fees and inc. franking credits)



The University of New England would like to thank the members of the UNE Foundation Board of Directors for their work in 2019 and we look forward to working with them in 2020.

- Mr Ross Beaney
- Mr Martin Dolan (Chair)
- Mr Bob McCarthy AM
- Ms Chanelle McEnallay
- Professor Bob Officer AM
- Ms Nicole Patterson
- Ms Marea Salisbury
- Mr David van Aanholt (UNE Council member)

Growing a future workforce



Leading Australian horticultural company Costa not only grows premium fruit and vegetables. It also grows people in the regional communities in which it operates—people like Emily Dryden.

The third-year UNE Bachelor of Rural Science student, who is contemplating a horticultural career, is benefitting from her second annual \$5000 scholarship courtesy of Costa's Berry Category. She has toured its substantial Corindi berry farm and has also been offered valuable work experience with the company.

"The financial support has been amazing, allowing me to update my computer and to focus more on my studies," said Emily. "I think my uni results for 2019 are reflective of having that financial pressure relieved."

But there are other advantages to the scholarship. "It has provided a valuable networking opportunity; it's great to meet people in the industry and to explore future work opportunities," Emily said. "I think it could be a pathway to employment if I decide on a career in horticulture, where there seems to be a high demand for qualified staff."

Costa's Berry Category offers the scholarship to a student studying for a Bachelor of Agriculture (Plant Production), Bachelor of Agricultural Production and Management (Production Horticulture) or Bachelor of Rural Science who hails from Wagga Wagga, Tumbarumba or the Mid North Coast of NSW.

In 2020 Costa will also be providing a second scholarship, for a second or third-year UNE student studying for an agriculture-related Bachelor degree or a Master of Science in Agriculture with a horticulture or agronomy focus. This \$5000 (per annum) will be awarded for up to two years by Costa's Tomato Category.

As Australia's leading grower of berries, mushrooms, citrus, tomatoes and avocados, Costa has more than 60 farms in over 30 rural and regional communities. The tomato operation at Guyra is one of Australia's largest and most advanced glasshouse facilities, with a total growing area of 30 hectares and more than 800 staff with a diverse range of skills and qualifications.

However, more will be needed in future.

Costa spokesperson Brigid Veale said the company's success depended on working cooperatively and

productively with local communities and also expanding the horticultural workforce.

"Our focus is on sustainable commercial farming and a key element of that is our people," Brigid said. "We want to ensure we are investing in the leaders of the future and providing clear career pathways. Agriculture is a key driver for rural and regional Australia and we need to continue to invest in developing skills and expertise to support the ongoing sustainability of the industry."

In addition to supporting university scholarships, the Costa Group also recently launched a Graduate Program and will take in its first graduates early this year.

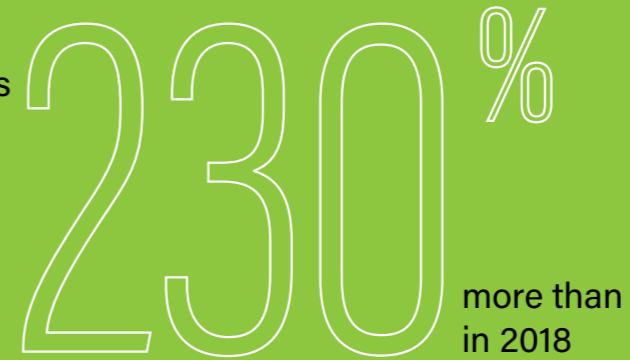
"The program is a natural extension of our investment in education," Brigid said. "It will provide intensive, hands-on experience across a multitude of key departments within the Costa Group over an 18-month period. Three rotations in different regions and business categories will include time in our nurseries, glasshouses, packing sheds, farms and agronomy teams." #



Above: UNE student and Costa (Berry Category) scholar, Emily Dryden (left) with Brigid Veale, PR & Community Engagement Manager (Costa Berry Category)

Thank You

In 2019 our donors gave



2018 — \$1,513,810 → 2019 — \$3,467,385



UNE Research continues to go from strength to strength and your increased gifts to support research through grants will only help that to grow.

Did you know?

- Over **35%** of our donors gave between \$100 and \$500.
- In 2019 we welcomed **144 new donors** (compared with 60 in 2018).
- The longest consecutive giving history amongst our donors is **21 years!**
- **61 donors** have given every year for at least the last 10!
- Our largest gift in 2019 was **\$1.25m** for Aboriginal scholarships (see p.4)

Your generous gifts to UNE scholarships allowed **more than double** the number of students to receive scholarships from 68 in 2018 to 149 in 2019. This financial support is life changing for many!



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