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# The Interim Vice-Chancellor's message

UNE is a true community, as you will read in this year's Giving Report. We are a community of educators, students, researchers and collaborators committed to achieving extraordinary things. You – our alumni, donors, partners and benefactors – are equally vital members of this vibrant community and fundamental to our success here and abroad.

It is thanks to you that we can continue to support students with vital scholarships and emergency assistance in challenging times. Your generous gifts enable our scholars and their families to realise their dreams; to change lives and livelihoods.

As the beneficiary of two scholarships that supported my doctoral studies, I am profoundly aware of the significant impact such giving can have. Without the generosity of benefactors in Australia and the United Kingdom, I would not have been able to commence or complete my PhD and thus to embark on the academic career that has defined my professional life.

Each graduation ceremony we hear from individuals who could not have studied without financial help – for whom the smallest sum has made the biggest difference. Some go on to revolutionise industry, champion the disadvantaged, challenge attitudes and inform government policy. Their life-changing discoveries advance food security and safety, environmental protection, and the education so critical to employment and community wellbeing.

As artist and scholarship fundraiser Machteld Hali attests in these pages, the support extends far beyond the financial. "I want recipients ... to know they have a huge bank of well-wishers, many of whom they don't even know, supporting them, believing in them and willing them to go well," she says.

This collection of inspiring stories also reinforces how acts of giving are significant to donors themselves. How their gift can be an expression of sincere gratitude, but also symbolise a commitment to public education and a better future for others.

We honour that commitment by judiciously administering gifts on their behalf, to ensure that recipients maximise the educational opportunities afforded.

In addition to support for individual students, philanthropy has the power to transform entire organisations like ours. UNE has benefitted from capital gifts throughout its history – donations that have enabled us to construct buildings and develop facilities that will support thousands of students for generations to come. The imperative to upgrade and improve infrastructure, to sustain world-class education and research, ensures this need is ever-present.

To those government, industry, corporate and philanthropic partners not individually named in this report, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your contributions to our UNE community. I also acknowledge the commitment of those who serve as trustees and executors of estates that have left bequests to our university, and applaud members of the UNE Foundation Board, who serve as custodians for aggregated endowment funds and the revenue they generate.

Whatever your investment in our community, it is deeply appreciated. Each gift is a unique legacy and we invite others to emulate your example. Such generosity will enable UNE to continue to equip graduates to meet today's challenges but also to prepare for those of the future, in our own neighbourhood and around the globe.

**Professor Simon Evans**  
Interim Vice-Chancellor and CEO

# UNE Scholarships – Transforming the lives of students

Because of the hundreds of donors who each year support UNE scholarships, the scholarships team is able to respond quickly to the needs of students. In 2022, for example, the team established scholarships for students who were impacted by the 2022 floods.

Chloe, Joshua, Laura and Sally live in the flood-affected areas of Trundle, Mount Victoria, Eugowra and Casino, and their lives were upended by floods that in Trundle one news site reported “the streets looked like canals” and in Eugowra, residents faced what was described as a “wall of water”. Each student was awarded a three-year, \$5,000 scholarship funded by donations to our UNE Scholarships fund. We have also awarded 40, \$1,000 bursaries to online students demonstrating financial need.

Here is a quote from one of the flood-affected students:

*"Having had slightly more than 2 metres of flood water through our home (which is uninsurable) we will be under financial strain for the foreseeable future as the house needs extensive repairs... In addition to extensive damage to the house, nearly everything contained in it was destroyed, including furniture, clothing, whitegoods, computers and importantly for my studies, nearly all of my textbooks."*

A huge thank you to all the donors who supported UNE scholarships in 2022.



UNE also deeply values the scholarships provided by individual donors, interest groups, corporations and trusts and foundations which provide financial stability to hundreds of our students. As one UNE lecturer so succinctly put it, “the majority of our students are living below the poverty line.”

**Thank you to all the generous donors who have made the following scholarships possible.**

If you would like to discuss funding a scholarship, please email [advance@une.edu.au](mailto:advance@une.edu.au) or telephone **02 6773 2870**.

**Photo opposite page:** Simon Evans (Credit: Matt Cawood)

# UNE Scholarships

Aboriginal Scholarship in Creative Arts Education

(featured on page 18)

Armidale International Association

Armidale Blues Rugby Scholarship - Duval and Austin Colleges

Yvonne Austen Scholarship in Agriculture

Valda Kathleen Bauman Memorial Scholarship

J H Bishop Postgraduate Scholarship

Wesley Blackert Scholarship for Online Students

Bush Children's Education Foundation Scholarship

Bernard Coffey Country Scholarship

Costa Exchange Pty Ltd (Berry Category) Scholarship in Horticulture

Costa Exchange Pty Ltd (Tomato Category) Scholarship in Horticulture

Flint Davidson Postgraduate Scholarship

Professor John Louis Dillon Memorial Scholarship

(featured on page 10)

Mary Dolan Fieldwork Travelling Scholarship

J Doyle Memorial Scholarship

Carole and Stan Droder Scholarships

Duncan Family Scholarship in Pharmacy

Duncan Family Scholarship in Early Childhood Education

Eco Logical Australia Scholarship

Keith Entwistle Honours Scholarship

Keith Entwistle Scholarship

Essential Energy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship

Bert Evans Travel Bursary

Betty J Fyffe Scholarship

(featured on page 30)

FJ Letters Honours Scholarship

Future Fit Scholarships

Gilchrist Foundation Archaeology Scholarship	
Gilchrist Foundation UNE Sport Scholarship	
Graduate Legacy Scholarship	
Grosvenor Engineering Group Indigenous Scholarship	
Hall and Wilcox First Nations Law Scholarship	
Dr Peter Hemphill Travelling Scholarship	
Hyson Jones Rural Medical Scholarship	
Indigenous Postgraduate Professional Psychology Scholarship	
Lembas Foundation Country Scholarship	
Keith and Dorothy Mackay Honours Scholarship	
Keith and Dorothy Mackay Travelling Scholarship	(featured on page 33)
Maiben Davies Postgraduate Greek/Classics Scholarship	
Mary White College SCR Scholarship	(featured on page 15)
The AC and IG McCready PhD Scholarship for Classical Antiquities	
Andrew McCue Memorial Scholarship	
William McIlrath Rural Scholarship	
DL McMaster Endowed Housing Scholarship	
Mildred & Betty Scholarship	
John and Pauline Moorhead Scholarship	
Sally Muir Agricultural Postgraduate Award	
Vincent Murphy Planning Scholarship	
Baillieu Myer Scholarship	(featured on page 33)
AS Nivison Memorial Scholarship	
Oorala Kick Start Scholarship	
Oorala Wellbeing Scholarship	
Jean M Oxley Memorial Scholarship	
Earle Page Anniversary Fellows Scholarship	
Peel Health Care Scholarship - Medicine	

Peel Health Care Scholarship - Nursing

Christine Perrott Achievement Scholarship for Women

David Phillipps Memorial Scholarship

Department of Planning and Environment Aboriginal Planning Scholarship

Pursehouse Rural Scholarship

Quota Club of Armidale Scholarship

Rabo Tertiary Pathways Scholarship

Edwina Ridgway Scholarship

Robb College Foundation Meredith Scholarship

Robb College Sinclair-Wilson Scholarship

Robb College Foundation Leadership Scholarship

Robb College Foundation Darren Ellis Fund Scholarship

Robb College Foundation Wal and Pam Whalley Senior Fellows Scholarship

Robb College Foundation Irvine Scholarship

Robb Scholarship for Regional and Planning Development

Pat and Rob Robertson-Cuninghame Honours Scholarship

John Roberts Earth Sciences Scholarship

South Australian Chapter of the UNE Alumni Award

Ella Schroder Indigenous Residential Scholarship

Max Schroder Indigenous Scholarship (featured on page 15)

Max Schroder Indigenous Mentoring Scholarship

Cec Spence Memorial UNE Scholarships (featured on page 16)

Don and Lee Stammer Scholarship

Bill and Michelle Stewart Post-Graduate Scholarship - Environmental and Rural Science (featured on page 28)

Bill and Michelle Stewart Post-Graduate Scholarship - Music (featured on page 28)

Robin Stokes Honours Scholarship in Science

Support Fund for Students with a Disability

Tamex Transport Scholarship	
Alan Treloar Postgraduate Classics Philology Scholarship	
UNE Alumni Scholarship	
UNE Foundation Exceptional Circumstances Scholarship	
UNE Foundation Flood Scholarship	(featured on page 5)
UNE Foundation Online Student Scholarship	
UNE Foundation Online Student Bursary	
UNE Foundation High Achievement Scholarships	
UNE Indigenous Medical Scholarship	(featured on page 13)
UNE Law Scholarship	
UNE Life Scholarship	
Warakirri Agriculture Scholarship	
Frederick G White Bursary	
Wright College Scholarship	
Wright Honours Scholarship	
The Yulgilbar Foundation Residential Scholarship	





# A little luck goes a long way

UNE postgraduate students focused on the business of agriculture have a new benefactor.

Describing his evolution from agricultural advisor to UNE Masters student and alumnus of the prestigious University of Chicago, Professor Bob Officer frequently uses the word “lucky”.

“When I arrived at UNE in 1967, the Department of Agricultural Economics was home to some outstanding people,” Bob says. “They were halcyon days and I was very lucky to have Professor John Dillon as my supervisor. He and his colleague Professor Takashi Takayama encouraged me to do my PhD at Chicago’s Graduate School of Business, which was then one of the world’s best schools in economics, finance and statistics – two of my three supervisors went on to win Nobel prizes. Life is full of serendipity and I was lucky to attend UNE and to get to Chicago.”

John Dillon was dedicated to helping alleviate world poverty through international development, and recognised the power of practical and applied research.

After being appointed Foundation Professor of Farm Management at UNE, at the age of just 33, John Dillon went on to leave an indelible impression on many of his students. A giant of a man, not known for his sartorial elegance, but warm and encouraging, he spent his entire academic career based at UNE but extended his educational outreach to Chile, Brazil and India.

Internationally, John’s work in agricultural economics and farm management was equally impactful, through roles with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. In 1997, he was made an Officer in the Order of Australia for his services to agricultural economics and international development economics.



Writing in the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics after John’s death in 2001, his former colleague, then World Bank agricultural economist Jock Anderson said: “He was renowned for his administrative skill and incisive approach to tough problems, combining a robust self-confidence with an essential humility, and an earthy honesty with an unwavering sense of courtesy. His reputation for mischievous humour, especially when confronted with enlarged academic egos, was legendary ...”

His reputation for mischievous humour, especially when confronted with enlarged academic egos, was legendary ...”

Bob Officer recalls a mentor dedicated to helping alleviate world poverty through international development, who recognised the power of practical and applied research.

**Photo above and opposite page:** Professor John Dillon

“He was a very good thinker, who could see the positive community benefits of applied agricultural research,” Bob says. “I, too, am interested in production, and that’s what I would dearly like to promote, in his name.”

That is why Bob and his wife Merryl have instituted an endowed scholarship in John Dillon’s honour for postgraduate Masters or Doctoral degree students undertaking research in agricultural economics or the business of agriculture at UNE. Valued at \$10,000 per annum, it is available to a domestic or international student.

“I don’t think there has been sufficient recognition of that period in UNE’s history and particularly the role that John played,” Bob says. “It’s not easy being a higher degree student and making ends meet. The John Dillon Scholarship won’t be sufficient to keep students entirely, but I hope it helps relieve them of some financial pressure and enables them to focus more fully on their research.

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“It was a significant springboard for my career, and I would never have gotten in there had it not been for the University of New England and the very good education I received.”

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“I can think of some top-notch academics in my time at UNE who struggled financially early on, then managed to get a scholarship or support that allowed them to push through the barriers and become very good researchers. I was also lucky at critical times, and Merryl and I now want that for others.”

Bob, himself, has enjoyed an illustrious career, at the forefront of applying economic principles to financial markets and governance. Through academic roles at the University of Queensland, Monash University and the University of Melbourne, he has made important contributions to research and teaching the next generation of financial economists. On a variety of company boards, his expertise in funds management, agricultural management and fringe banking has also been highly valued.

A sought-after adviser to both the Australian business community and governments, Bob served as a director of the Victorian Transport Accident Commission, Victorian Funds Management Corporation and Victorian WorkCover Authority, and helped to reform Australia’s taxation system in the late 1980s. In 2012 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his many public and private-sector business and education contributions.

“Attending the University of Chicago and completing that PhD in financial economics was a significant springboard for my career, and I would never have gotten in there had it not been for the University of New England and the very good education I received, as well as an overseas scholarship,” Bob says. “My expertise and interest has drifted from farm management over the years, although I still feel like a farmer at heart.”

Up until recently, Bob and his family ran a premium Waygu beef operation in Victoria and his work with major international capital funds investing in Australia has continued to highlight agriculture’s importance globally. And he’s never forgotten the people and places that helped him on his way.

“I’ve had a rewarding career and I owe UNE and especially John Dillon a great debt of gratitude,” he says. #

**Photo opposite:** UNE Aboriginal Oorala Centre



# Levelling the playing field

Indigenous students face additional, often complex challenges studying at university.

Studying Nursing and now Medicine at UNE has been transformational for Anaiwan man Marcus Froome, in more ways than one.

As the first in his large family to enrol at university, he has become a positive role model for his mob. But, more than that, he has found his purpose in life and adopted healthy personal habits to boot.

“When I got into Medicine I weighed 144 kilograms, I was on hypertensive medication and a borderline diabetic,” he said. “Heart disease and kidney problems were creeping up. I decided I needed to do something and lose weight, so I began working out and have done so every day since, and I have lost 70kg. Now I educate family members and friends about the importance of looking after your health.”

That’s a position of some influence in a family comprising 15 siblings alone. And neither the study nor the renewed focus on his own wellbeing is likely to have been possible without financial support.

But to understand how, we have to go back to 2015, when Marcus began a nursing traineeship.

“I really enjoyed working in a small country town and then thought I might try studying Nursing at UNE,” he explains. “So I did that, was lucky enough to receive the UNE Indigenous Medical Scholarship and got really good marks. I nursed for a while in rural areas but then thought I would try for Medicine and I got in.”

At this stage, Marcus was a man of limited means. “I didn’t even have a laptop for the first three months of Medicine and was doing everything on paper,” he said. “The UNE Indigenous Medical Scholarship enabled me to buy my computer and computer desk ... everything I still have today. That scholarship really set me up to continue my education.”

It also allowed Marcus to move out of home, where his father continues to foster children. “I needed somewhere private and a little quieter,” he said.





**Photo above:** Scholarship recipient Sharon Jackson

“And especially in my first year, but every year since, the scholarship has helped pay the rent, so that I don’t need to be stressed about where that money will come from.

“There’s enough to stress about in studying Medicine; you don’t need to be stressing out about the financial side of things, too. It is still a struggle sometimes, with petrol prices and cost-of-living pressures, but, all-in-all, it has taken a massive weight off my shoulders and means I can focus on my studies.”

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“I didn’t even have a laptop for the first three months of Medicine and was doing everything on paper.”

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And Marcus’s ambitions are clear.

“There is such a shortage of doctors, and Aboriginal doctors at that, in rural areas,” he said. “I want to do a rural generalist program – that’s my goal – to get critical care training plus general practice training so that I can work in rural communities.

“It’s complex medicine out here, where people who are critically ill are often reluctant to see a doctor or go to hospital when they need to. But that’s what I love about it; being on my feet, being able to form relationships with patients and friendships in smaller communities, and to provide continuity of care.



**Photo above:** Scholarship recipient Anais Bleasdale (Credit: Matt Cawood)

“Being an Aboriginal person myself, I feel that I can develop a connection with Indigenous patients, and relate to their experiences, especially of the Stolen Generation and intergenerational trauma. Unless they feel comfortable, patients won’t open up and they can leave unsaid a lot of things that are relevant to their treatment.”

Three years in to his medical degree, Marcus still works part-time in nursing to supplement his income and benefits from tutoring offered by the Oorala Aboriginal Centre. “I now have this little community, including other Indigenous students, that have been such an amazing support to me,” Marcus said. “I’ve also become a health advocate within my community, talking about the importance of seeing a doctor or getting annual health checks done. It’s lovely that they now trust me.”

Oorala Aboriginal Centre Acting Director Guido Posthausen said some 60% of the Indigenous students who come to UNE are first in family, so university study is not something they are necessarily familiar with.

“A greater proportion come from rural and remote areas than non-Indigenous students, and they can struggle to feel part of our institution,” he said. “Getting a scholarship plays a role in validating the students’ aspirations. It says to them that they are in the right place and they belong; it’s an acknowledgement that they are valued and that’s very welcoming. That sense that ‘we are behind you’ is a very powerful message and encourages students to strive to achieve.

“Others have had negative experiences with education at high school or come from complex

home situations; they can feel that university doesn't take their Aboriginal world views into account."

There are practical and logistical disadvantages, too. "We have some Indigenous students who use their mobile phones to study online, particularly those from rural and remote areas where the Internet connectivity is not great," Guido said. "For these students, getting financial support levels the playing field and has a big bearing on their completion rates. It enables them to buy a laptop and textbooks, so the help is absolutely crucial."

UNE Psychology student Anaïs Bleasdale knows this all too well, from personal experience and from having worked at Oorala as a student engagement assistant and Tracks Indigenous mentor. A former Mary White College resident and beneficiary of both a college scholarship and three-year Max Schroder Scholarship, she says she has been "very lucky". Still, up until recently she worked four jobs in order to get through her studies, which she says wouldn't have been possible without the additional financial support.

"A scholarship makes all the difference and provides the opportunity for a lot of Indigenous students to afford to live on campus," Anaïs said. "I know that from a lot of the students I have spoken to. Without a scholarship, they couldn't study, even working part-time. The cost of living is expensive and balancing study and work is hard. For a lot of young Indigenous people, it's difficult living away from home."

Anaïs said her own scholarships have afforded her more time to devote to her studies and to maintain good grades, and she now hopes to complete a Masters of Counselling and Masters of Teaching to become a school counsellor. The amount of financial support need not be great either, especially if it comes at the opportune moment.

Sydney solicitor and now Masters law student Sharon Jackson had "started to falter" and her grades along with it halfway through her undergraduate degree. "I was working full-time, managing the family and kids, with study on top, and I had lost my spark," she said. "It was exhausting and I couldn't see an end in sight. I started getting credits, where I had previously been getting distinctions and high distinctions. It knocked me off my game and I felt completely lost."

Then, out of the blue "at exactly the right second", came a \$1,500 Oorala Merit Prize, acknowledging her outstanding achievements. "It really took me by surprise," Sharon said. "I realised all the work I

had been putting in wasn't just being recognised by myself. It was recognised in my uni community, in my Aboriginal community, and it motivated me to keep going. It was perfect timing."

"Of course the money never goes astray either, but it was what that money represented that mattered. It demonstrated that someone was investing in me and saw my potential. I didn't think I was someone who needed that kind of affirmation until then, but it does make a difference when someone rewards you for doing a good job."

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"That sense that 'we are behind you' is a very powerful message and encourages students to strive to achieve."

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"I wasn't as financially strapped as many other Indigenous students – that's why I hadn't previously applied for any scholarships – but I was grateful that I didn't have to try to find the money for textbooks or put them on my credit card. And the joy I'd first found in study, it gave me that that back."

In her professional role at Oorala, Anaïs helped other Indigenous students apply for scholarships, to help ease the pressures of their study experience. "I have seen a number of students go on to great things on the back of a scholarship," she said.

"It can make a massive difference, especially to those who don't have a family tradition of university study and financial support."

Alumni of Mary White College are invited to support its scholarships via UNE's online giving webpage or you can give to the UNE Foundation in support of its Indigenous Student Scholarships. For more information, contact [advance@une.edu.au](mailto:advance@une.edu.au). #



# A rural psychologist in the making

For some scholarship recipients, support eases immediate financial stress. For others, like aspiring rural psychologist Pippy Donaldson, it provides longer-term relief and security.

The past four years of study towards a Bachelor of Psychology at UNE have thrown a few curve balls at 23-year-old Pippy Donaldson.

She was enjoying life on campus, living at Robb College and working at Sport UNE, when a certain global pandemic struck. “Life took a bit of a turn and I moved back home to our family farm near Boggabri,” Pippy says. “I was used to working three or four days a week, so not having employment was really difficult, and I didn’t have a job for a time. I don’t like living off Mum and Dad, so I was determined to become independent again.”

Fortunately, she had an “amazing” Cec Spence Memorial Scholarship to fall back on, to help navigate the bumpy road ahead. “I had applied for the scholarship during my gap year, when I was working in Western Australia and the Northern Territory as a governess and jillaroo,” Pippy said. “I would have been lost without it.”

But Pippy remained very disciplined with her spending.

“It has provided some practical support, but it’s also been a case of looking forward, to what’s ahead, and making provision for that, too,” she said. “I decided to preserve most of the scholarship money in a term deposit, in order to help with the cost of my post-graduate studies.”

Because while completing her four-year undergraduate degree has been a major undertaking, Pippy still has a two-year Masters to do before she can become a psychologist.

“And that can be very expensive if you don’t get one of the limited number of Commonwealth-supported places,” she said. “Clinical supervision adds an additional cost, with all the associated

placement expenses of accommodation and travel, and there will also be accommodation involved with residential schools. I already have a sizable undergraduate HECS debt and I intend to pay for most of my post-graduate studies upfront, so that I can try to get ahead. At around \$30,000 for post-graduate study, it’s very costly.”

A determination to financially support herself, as well as gain exposure to the industry in which she will eventually work, has seen Pippy take part-time roles in the disabilities sector and more recently as a support worker with the NSW Department of Community Services.

“I help to service the region within a 250-kilometre radius of Narrabri, including Boggabri, Bellata and Wee Waa, helping people with psychological disorders, disabilities and neuro-degenerative diseases,” she said. “Especially throughout 2022, while completing my thesis, I was fortunate to have a workplace that was supportive of my studies, but it still required considerable time management and planning to meet my submission deadline.”

Pippy has a strong motivation for becoming a psychologist. She is the fifth-generation on her family farm and has witnessed first-hand the mental toll of farming life. She says support and dedicated resources are woefully inadequate for those struggling in rural and regional Australia.

“My thesis surveyed 310 farmers from across Australia, to study how the farming community copes with occupational stressors and how these stressors impact mental health,” Pippy said. “The odds are stacked against this community, especially the weather and climate change, and waiting times to see a psychologist can be as long as six months.”

**Photo above:** Pippy Donaldson with her father Malcolm Donaldson

**Photo opposite page:** Pippy Donaldson (Credit: Lillie Hamblin)





After her Masters, Pippy is keen to work in a multi-disciplinary team of health professionals to gain experience, before establishing her own mobile psychology practice catering specifically to the needs of rural communities and farmers in particular.

“You can’t really stop in the middle of harvest to see a clinician – farmers just won’t do that – so if the clinician can come out to them and be with them on the header or meet them on their lunchbreak, that’s more realistic,” she said.

“I want to be able to meet people where they are at, to be that approachable person who they are prepared to talk to, who understands the demands of farming life and can speak their lingo.

“I hope that my personal experience and understanding of the lifestyle gives me farming credibility; that it will enable me to relate genuinely and to tailor appropriate treatment plans and interventions. Hopefully it will help more farmers to reach out for help.”

There’s a neat synergy with Cec Spence himself, who grew up in country NSW and always appreciated his secondary education at The Armidale School and at UNE – where he studied Economics (graduating in 1969). The establishment of the Cec Spence Memorial Scholarship in 2016 through his estate satisfied Cec’s wishes to ensure that other country students enjoyed similar opportunities.

“I met Cec’s partner Sue Spence and she told me how much Cec loved the farming life, so it’s been lovely to have that connection,” Pippy said. “I have been so lucky to receive a scholarship so aligned with what I want to do.”

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“I’m incredibly grateful for the support.”

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Extra financial support for Pippy has also come by way of a NSW Farmers Paul Lockyer Memorial Scholarship, established in 2012 in honour of the respected rural journalist who died in a helicopter accident in South Australia in 2011.

“I was very lucky to get that scholarship, too, which has covered the cost of my university textbooks, expensive statistics software programs and a printer,” Pippy said. “The rest I have managed to invest, and while I haven’t had any emergencies and needed to touch it, it’s good to know that money’s there.

“It was never my intention to blow any scholarship money I received. The idea has been to use it to set me up for life in the real world and I’m incredibly grateful for the support.” #

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wanting this adventure



go on without end





# Driving different outcomes

Private hardship. A profound awakening. An arm outstretched.

The year was 1965. First Nations people were not yet classed as Australian citizens and the White Australia Policy remained in force when free-spirited 18-year-old Machteld Hali boarded the Freedom Ride bus for its history-making tour.

Organised by the Student Action For Aborigines group at Sydney University, with charismatic president Charlie Perkins at the helm, the ride sought to expose the ugly truth of the poor living conditions and racism that was rife in NSW country towns.

“I was very young and didn’t know anything about how people were living, especially in Moree,” Machteld recalls. “There, we were confronted by shanty towns on the edge of town, made of carboard boxes, and with no sanitation or water, and many children with awful eye diseases. It was shocking. I was also horrified by the attitudes of the townspeople. Aboriginal people were denied entry to shops and pubs and the town swimming pool. It was an absolute mind-opener.

“I had had a diaspora experience myself, copping some pretty serious discrimination when I arrived in Australia. I thought if that’s what I had experienced as a white, middle class person, imagine how bad it was for these poor people.”

Machteld’s family were Dutch migrants. During the occupation of Holland in World War II, her father, an electronics engineer, was blacklisted because he refused to fight for the Germans. He was forced into hiding for four years, then ended up in a German work camp, where he narrowly escaped a trip to the gas chambers.

“My mother once found shrapnel in my sister’s cot and there were threats of kidnapping us children.”

“After the war, it was even harsher in Holland,” Machteld says. “The country was practically destroyed and there was no food. My father had



this idea that Indonesia, where our family fled in 1949, was a tropical paradise, but it really was out of the frying pan and into the fire.”

The country was in the final throes of seeking independence from the Dutch, who had colonised Indonesia from 1816-1941, and the Japanese (who occupied Indonesia from 1941-45), so the reception the Hali family received was far from welcoming.

“I was just three and my earliest memory is of ducking bullets and having to hide in a room in the middle of the house,” Machteld says. “My mother once found shrapnel in my sister’s cot and there were threats of kidnapping us children.”

But when the family fled once again in 1956, this time to Australia, they met different challenges. Even 10-year-old Machteld found the attitude to migrants “appalling and demeaning”. Attempts to assimilate in the ensuing years would prove very difficult.

Photo above: Machteld Hali – *My Garden*

“You come to a new country and cut your ties with your own country, so you no longer belong there, but you also don’t belong in the new country,” she says. “Dealing with diaspora has taken a large part of my life to come to terms with, largely through art. I now understand these issues quite profoundly.”

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“I could never buy textbooks and always had to borrow them or photocopy pages.”

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At Sydney University, Machteld explored her personal interest in past civilisations and different cultures by studying German, English, Philosophy and Archaeology. But there was little family support, her mother telling Machteld that if she wanted a university education she would have to see to it herself.

“My family were flat-out keeping us safe, fed and housed,” Machteld says. “There were times when I did not have enough money for the most basic things. I could never buy textbooks and always had to borrow them or photocopy pages.”

So by the time she boarded that bus in 1965 Machteld understood something of what it felt to be an outsider. Looking back, she believes the Freedom Ride appealed to her adventurous spirit but also a deep empathy for Indigenous people. Still, she was ill-prepared for what she encountered, nor the results of the social surveys (written by Ted Noffs) of both First Nations people and other townspeople during the Freedom Ride.

“In Moree, we had red-necks in town pelting the bus with eggs and rotten tomatoes,” says Machteld. “It was a very humbling experience. I realised that the way I had been treated as a new migrant was in no way comparable to how Indigenous people were treated.”

In an Australia Explained article she explained: “Most of us had no clue what real racism, real discrimination looked like. The goal was to create public awareness in the broader Australian population, but in the process we also educated ourselves”.

Machteld maintained the rage throughout her university years, taking part in other anti-racism demonstrations. She would become a ceramicist, computer analyst, librarian and eventually teacher,

artist and printmaker, whose works are exhibited nationally and internationally and held in private and public collections.

When she took part in the 50th anniversary re-enactment of the Freedom Ride in 2015, a powerful idea began to percolate.

“Even though I know there is still a long way to go, attitudes and conditions for Indigenous people had changed dramatically by then,” Machteld says. “The Aboriginal people welcomed us and women threw their arms around my neck and said ‘you changed our lives’ and ‘even more so, you told us we mattered’.

“That’s all we really did. But it makes me cry even today. The potency of telling anyone who is in anyway downtrodden, insecure or unsure that they matter is so important. It moved me to my gut, and I thought ‘I have everything, what can I do’? How can we share what we have?”

That’s when Machteld resolved to use her trade – her art – to raise money to establish an Aboriginal Scholarship Fund for university students.

Initially, she ran workshops for Aboriginal people in Moree and hosted art exhibitions. She now sells her own and donated artworks at auction, with a percentage of all sales going to the fund. In the past seven years she and her team have raised an impressive \$16,200.

The first beneficiary of the fund is UNE Bachelor of Education (K-12) student Mon Bradbery, who comes from a long, proud line of Kamilaroi people.

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“I realised that the way I had been treated as a new migrant was in no way comparable to how Indigenous people were treated.”

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“My ambition in life is to become a primary school teacher and to establish myself in remote and rural Australia to assist the next generation of Indigenous Australians,” she says. “I want to pave the way for Indigenous communities and strengthen their importance in the Australian community, and broaden peoples’ understanding of Indigenous Australian culture. I believe the best way to achieve this is through education and creating a safe space in schools for students to express themselves,



**Photo above:** Scholarship recipient Mon Bradbery

understand the world around them and grow as individuals through learning.”

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“My ambition in life is to become a primary school teacher and to establish myself in remote and rural Australia to assist the next generation of Indigenous Australians.”

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Mon has been working part-time throughout her studies, most recently as a casual teacher in Tuncurry, NSW. “I love teaching,” she says, “and I want to set an example for other Indigenous students, to show them how far you can get through education, to hopefully keep them in school. I had some really great teachers and mentors in school myself and I want to be that for others.”

The scholarship fund has helped with daily living expenses during Mon’s teaching placements, but Machteld says it amounts to “so much more than the money”.

“I feel that very deeply,” she says. “I want recipients like Mon to know they have a huge bank of well-wishers, many of whom they don’t even know, supporting them, believing in them and willing them to go well. I want Mon to think of us when she has a tough moment, so that her wings pick her up once again to fly.”

Mon describes Machteld as an “exceptional human being”. The humble artist considers herself a “very lucky person, who has had a very rich life”. She is also quick to acknowledge the role that members of the Moree community, the artists who have donated works, buyers and her husband Shane Gardner have played in the growth of the fund.

“I am just the driver; I have not done this alone,” she says. “The fundraising has snowballed and been magnificent. I always remember what Charlie Perkins taught me – to never give up, and that if you want something done, often you have to do it yourself. He was a charming but immovable person, a very special being.

“And I think if we are comfortable ourselves, it’s time to help someone else, if we can manage it. I understand what it can be like to need help; I’ve been there. Even a little bit of money can be the difference between a person getting through university and dropping out. We all have ways to help others and rarely know what ripples are created when we toss a stone in a pool of water. That’s the lesson.”

If you would like to support Indigenous students at UNE or Machteld’s scholarship, you can do so through the **Give to UNE website** or by contacting **advance@une.edu.au**.

Machteld is also happy to accept donations of art for exhibition and sale, and can be contacted at **machteld46@gmail.com**. #







# Thinking that has changed the world

An unforgettable UNE educator and pioneering scientist is being remembered by his students.

Memories of visionary agricultural scientist and educator Professor Bill McClymont loom large at UNE, even two decades after his death. The foundation dean of our Faculty of Rural Science inspired countless students and colleagues, and revolutionised thinking about agricultural systems internationally.

Few alumni of the faculty could forget the lanky, moustachioed veterinarian who arrived in 1955 to develop the Rural Science undergraduate degree program. The agro-ecological systems model he devised and routinely revised – integrating animal husbandry, agronomy, soil science, economics and other disciplines into livestock and agricultural production – has proven every bit as memorable.

“The McClymont philosophy had a profound influence on the careers and contributions of UNE Rural Science graduates working throughout Australia and around the world,” says eminent plant physiologist, agricultural scientist and climate change advocate, Melbourne University Emeritus Professor Snow Barlow. “His scientifically rigorous cross-disciplinary undergraduate degree was the first of its kind and his students have contributed extensively to food production globally, working as international agricultural consultants and in senior roles in projects funded by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

“Some graduates returned to their family farms, where their systems training has helped them develop innovative approaches and better management techniques. Others, like myself, followed a successful academic career.

“Professor McClymont encouraged us all, firstly, to think in terms of systems and how we might

influence the components of a system to produce synergy and better total outcomes. The power of that education became clear last October, when 15 of the surviving graduates of 1966 – of which I was one – gathered in Orange, NSW, for a reunion and shared how Professor McClymont had shaped our lives and our incredibly diverse careers.”

Following the McClymont legacy, Snow has not only applied systems thinking to the management of a vineyard and wine business (Baddaginnie Run), grazing and farm forestry enterprise he and his partner Winsome McCaughey operate in north-eastern Victoria, but also been sought-after as an advisor to federal ministers and Prime Ministers on the effects of climate change on agriculture, water management and global food security.

“I first encountered climate change in the 1970s, in terms of looking at the world as a system,” said

“Dad was very critical of the cult of the expert ... and the damage they could do without considering the ecology of the whole.”

Snow, former Executive Director of the national Climate Change Research Strategy for Primary Industries. “We began to talk about the global carbon cycle and to consider the inputs of fossil fuels and land-clearing. As an agriculturist and McClymont graduate, I started considering what they would do to the system, how the climate would change and what impact it could have on

**Photo opposite page:** Painting of Bill McClymont

**Photo above:** Bill McClymont

atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. It all went back to the McClymont philosophy and the critical thinking he taught me. He advocated holistic thinking before there was such a term.”

Vicki Poulter, the eldest of Bill and Viv McClymont’s four children, effectively grew up on the Armidale campus and remembers the Rural Science faculty, created just a year after UNE became independent of the University of Sydney, as “a shining beacon for the university and its students”. Her father would lead it for 21 years.

“Dad was at least 50 years ahead of his time, in thinking about the farm as a complete system. He believed you needed to understand the whole before you could specialise,” Vicki said. “His Rural Science graduates from the early 1960s and ‘70s were in demand all over the world because they were broad thinkers and could put any problem into context. Dad was very critical of the cult of the expert ... and the damage they could do without considering the ecology of the whole. His inaugural lecture was titled All Flesh is Grass.

“Dad was at least 50 years ahead of his time... His Rural Science graduates from the early 1960s and ‘70s were in demand all over the world because they were broad thinkers and could put any problem into context.”

“Dad taught us to think critically and to never be afraid to challenge conventional dogma; he always said you need to drink from the running stream, not the stagnant pond. I’m now part of a fantastic regenerative agriculture network, around Australia and globally. The good farmers are out there following the ecological principles that Dad espoused.”

What even his students may not have known is that Professor McClymont was active beyond the walls of academia. Like his colleague Professor Jack Lewis, foundation dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Economics, he believed that agricultural knowledge held at UNE should be shared with the community it could benefit. The pair established community centres for agricultural education throughout the New England region, endeavouring to forge strong links between scientists, farm managers and commercial partners.

“Professor McClymont spent a fair bit of time with Professor Lewis driving around NSW in an old UNE Holden, talking to farmers,” Snow said. “His teaching was persuasive and convincing, perhaps because he could give examples from all over the place that brought the systems to life and held real meaning for us.”

The inaugural McClymont Distinguished Professorship was conferred in 2016 to internationally respected specialist in Precision Agricultural Technology, Professor David Lamb.

Now, Snow and other appreciative graduates like him are seeking to honour Professor McClymont by establishing a scholarship for an undergraduate Rural Science student in his honour.

“It all went back to the McClymont philosophy and the critical thinking he taught me. He advocated holistic thinking before there was such a term.”

When they raised a toast to Professor McClymont at the October reunion, Snow said his contemporaries fondly recalled the former dean’s influence and impact.

“He was an impressive figure, with a strong presence, but he was never intimidating,” Snow said. “He was erudite but also down-to-earth and we all found his sessions to be quite inspirational. They were clearly influential, because we didn’t walk away and forget them, but applied what we had learnt in a range of ways.

“We all agreed that we had received a good education. We had been pushed to think through problems and how we might solve them, not just accept things as they were.”

Snow and his cohort are consulting with UNE Rural Science alumni to gauge the level of interest in financially supporting the McClymont scholarship in perpetuity. If you would like more information, or to contribute, contact [advance@une.edu.au](mailto:advance@une.edu.au). #



# The power and privilege of education

Empathy for struggling students has inspired this educator to pay it forward.

As a teenager growing up in northern NSW, Yvette Blount had no concept of what it meant to attend university. The eldest of six siblings in a family of limited means, she left school when she was 16 to move to Sydney and work in retail.

“No-one in my family had a university education and I didn’t know anything about university,” Yvette says. “You could say that I did it the hard way.”

At first, Yvette went to TAFE to do a typing course. Then she decided to complete her HSC, with the view to applying to university.

“I was working full-time the whole time, and studying at TAFE at night,” Yvette says. “None of the alternative pathways to university that we have today were available back then. I applied to Macquarie University first, and didn’t get in, which is hilarious given I later became an academic there. I was eventually accepted to study for a Bachelor of Business Computing at Charles Sturt by distance. It was a bit of a struggle, but I got there in the end. Next I enrolled in a Masters of Business Administration at UNE and did my PhD at Deakin University, all by distance education.”

“I could fit my studies in with whatever else was going on in my life.”

Fast forward to today and Yvette is a Dean and Associate Professor at Skyline Higher Education Australia, where she is helping to establish a new institute of higher education. She is also a mother, a researcher, Honorary Associate Professor in the Deakin University Business School, and mentor to young female students through the Smith Family and Harding Miller Education Foundation charities.

“I understand now the power of university studies to open up a whole new world,” Yvette says. “I figured out that the only way I was ever going to have options was to become better educated. With the MBA at UNE I could attend weekend classes in the city. I could fit my studies in with whatever else was going on in my life.”

“When you get a degree, it opens doors and provides opportunities that you couldn’t have imagined.”

However, there was little support for students like her at the time. “Even a little financial help can mean that a student has a much better chance of completing,” Yvette says. “That’s why I now give a little to UNE today, to support regional and rural students. Sometimes they just need enough to ensure they are not going to get chucked out of their house or can eat that week. I have been there.

“When you get a degree, it opens doors and provides opportunities that you couldn’t have imagined.”

The opportunities, for Yvette, have been priceless. “My university education has given me the autonomy to choose the kind of job I want,” she says. “The people I’ve met, the travel I’ve done, the people I’ve been able to work with ... I would not have been able to have this academic career without it. And now that I am in a position of privilege, I can afford to give back, to support students from rural and regional Australia who are in a similar position to what I was.

“I am hoping the scholarship money helps to ease their worries, so they can focus on their studies; that it sends the message that they are worth supporting.” #





## Regionally-based research that packs a global punch

The breadth of research carried out at UNE is impressive and demonstrates the daily impact our researchers have on lives near and far.

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Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Professor Chris Armstrong, said UNE's outcomes-focussed research culture enables our expert staff to assist local and international communities address some of the biggest challenges we face today.

"Our research initiatives span the university's faculties – Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Education; Medicine and Health; and Science, Agriculture, Business and Law," he said.

"The university has a great track record in working with the end-users of our research, which helps ensure that research outputs are fit for purpose, deployable and have impact.

"Our partnerships, with industry, communities and a diverse range of stakeholders, are enduring; it's in our DNA, as the stories on professors Bill McClymont and John Dillon in this report show.

UNE's collaborative approach defines real-world problems, relies on genuine engagement, and helps to inform policy and strategy at the highest levels."

In the agricultural space, UNE strengths in the fields of livestock genetics and remote sensing have been powerfully illustrated. We continue our investigations into how we might reduce methane production and improve productivity in the beef, poultry and sheep industries through genetic selection and feeding regimes.

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"Our research is renowned when benchmarked against international quality standards."

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**Photo opposite:** UNE Smart Farm (Credit: Matt Cawood)  
**Photo above:** UNE graduate Milly Deduna

Broader emphasis on how to assist farmers to become more prepared for drought, through better soil health and pasture improvements will, in time, potentially benefit Australian producers and those around the world. As will our work to investigate the crucial role of pollinators in productive agricultural landscapes. Probing the pesticide pollution risk in developing countries is of obvious benefit.

UNE's world-class remote-sensing team in the Applied Agricultural Remote Sensing Centre is working on a number of fronts to advance their yield forecasting methods and the delivery of satellite mapping tools for growers of sugar, citrus, soybeans, rice and canola. This has even extended to building the capacity of Ugandan producers as they begin to adopt satellite-based techniques for agricultural monitoring. Delivering yield forecasting tools will help compare current farming practice against future impacts of climate to identify new growing regions and management approaches – helping to secure food supply.

In terms of personal human health, UNE's focus is equally practical. Our Project Phoenix seeks to help our communities recover mental health and wellbeing in the wake of the catastrophic 2019-20 bushfires. Investigating sexual violence in rural and remote NSW, as well as developing youth leadership and physical activity programs also stands to address urgent needs and improve lives in meaningful ways. UNE is equally proud to

lead the multi-partner Manna Institute, which is dedicated to building the capacity of regional mental health researchers and supporting research to address mental health and wellbeing needs among priority populations.

Indeed, UNE sees education as a key determinant of the health, economic growth, sustainability and wellbeing of communities world-wide.

A commitment to this since 2014 has seen our Pacific Education and Development Team (from the School of Education) collaborate with Pacific Island nations to advance education pathways and much more. Our Pacific partnerships have enhanced numeracy and literacy, school leadership and national government policy that promotes equity in access and participation in education. In 2023, through the New Columbo Plan, domestic UNE undergraduate students will again have the chance to study in Nauru and Tuvalu, enabling the bilateral transfer of knowledge with Pacific Island teachers, and we continue to explore how we can support our neighbours through education programs spanning health, sustainable agriculture and community well-being.

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“We continue our investigations into how we might reduce methane production and improve productivity in the beef, poultry and sheep industries through genetic selection and feeding regimes.”

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Closer to home, by better understanding ecology, UNE's research could have national and even international implications.

Studying the movements of threatened koalas, exploring vegetation microclimates and even aquatic invertebrate diversity are vital in their own right and may offer solutions to environmental problems much further afield.

“Our research is renowned when benchmarked against international quality standards,” Professor Armstrong said. “A number of fields of research are ranked well above world standards by the Australian Research Council in the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) ratings. This is a reputation we are determined to protect.”

You can support the vital work of UNE researchers with a donation to our UNE Research fund. #



## Sowing the seeds to success

Fond college memories and cherished years of study at UNE have inspired Canadian couple Michelle and Bill Stewart to fund two scholarships for Australian postgraduate students.

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The uncertainty caused by the oil embargo of 1973 and its effects on the global economy did not deter Michelle and Bill Stewart from leaving their jobs and home in Northern Ontario, Canada, in December that year to pursue new experiences and studies in Australia.

Bill, who had a long-standing and keen interest in Australian flora and fauna, had been a teacher and working summers as a naturalist, and was keen to undertake a PhD. Michelle, an accomplished pianist, had been teaching music in schools. They had been married six months.

“I wanted to do some travel but also continue studying and Michelle shared the same dream,” Bill recalls. “So we decided to leave for Australia, and if things didn’t work out, we could always return home. Our families were nervous about our going so far away, however, we had each other and shared every challenge and grew together.”

With just a one-way air ticket, the couple arrived in Armidale in early February 1974, and Michelle says

the UNE community embraced them immediately. They became residential tutors at Duval College and lived in the college’s married quarters for the first year, before moving into rental accommodation in town.

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“Our experiences of seeing and working together in the beautiful Australian landscapes helped mould us as a couple and enriched us in ways that are hard to measure.”

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With the financial support of a Commonwealth scholarship, Bill embarked on an aquatic entomology project, focusing on an archaic group of large damselflies. The project involved extensive field work collecting specimens in freshwater



**Photo opposite and above:** Bill and Michelle Stewart in Port Macquarie (Credit opposite page: Matt Cawood)

streams along the length of the Great Dividing Range, from northern Queensland to Victoria. “It was a wonderful project and an amazing opportunity not only to see the country but also to work in so many beautiful river, stream and rainforest areas,” says Bill.

Michelle, meanwhile, joined the staff of the newly established music department as a “Girl Friday”. A year later, a UNE scholarship enabled her to enrol in an honours year in piano performance and medieval music research, which led to a Masters degree in 13th century French music.

Bill conducted much of his field work alone, but Michelle accompanied him on many of the longer trips, serving as his field assistant. “The damselflies kept very civilized hours,” says Bill. “They would roost on the eastern side of hillsides and, as the sun rose, they warmed up, and started to fly on nearby streams at about 9 o’clock and be active until about 4:30 in the afternoon.”

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“I remember the head of department saying that the postgraduate students were the future scientists so we should be provided with everything we needed for our research work.”

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Michelle vividly remembers their travels in a station-wagon provided by UNE. “Our experiences of seeing and working together in the beautiful Australian landscapes helped mould us as a couple and enriched us in ways that are hard to measure,” she says.

The attitude and atmosphere within the (then) Zoology Dept impressed Bill. “I remember the head of department saying that the postgraduate students were the future scientists so we should be provided with everything we needed for our research work,” he says. “I was very fortunate to land in such an encouraging and supportive environment.”

## Postgraduate Studies

Upon completion of their studies, the couple returned to Canada in 1978. Bill completed two post-doctoral fellowships in entomology before working for Agriculture Canada in Ottawa, Ontario. Michelle enjoyed a 20-year long career with the federal public service and remained active musically, performing in seniors centres, where she led a music therapy program.

Now retired and living in British Columbia, the couple have more time for travel, birdwatching, wildlife photography and cultural activities. They have returned to Australia four times to visit lifelong friends, do some bird-watching and explore regions new to them.

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“Our scholarships are in appreciation of our long and happy association with UNE.”

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Each visit has usually included a stopover in Armidale to visit UNE. Late last year, they established two scholarships for postgraduate students enrolled in Master’s or PhD studies in Biology and Music, funded in perpetuity.

“We invested in our future by coming to UNE in 1974 and received so much in return,” says Michelle. “Our scholarships are in appreciation of our long and happy association with UNE.” #



# Cultivating a fulfilling career

Each summer, future doctor Jared Lawrence swaps his medical scrubs for the cabin of a combine harvester in order to fulfil his dream

Long days driving headers during the summer wheat harvest have given UNE medical student Jared Lawrence plenty of time to reflect on the kind of doctor he would like to become.

The annual holiday work provides much-needed income, to sustain his Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine studies, but also valuable insights into the patients and communities he's so eager to serve.

"I work closely with individual farmers – they take you in like one of their sons – and together you harvest from 7am to almost midnight for weeks on end," he said. "It allows me to walk in their shoes, to understand how stressful their work can be. Having such insights will allow me to treat farmers and their families more holistically, because I understand their life outside their medical condition."

"I saw first-hand the impact of poor mental health when a farmer died by suicide... I'm determined to develop my communications skills, so I can better understand how to get them to open up, to find out how they are really going."

"While doing some contract ploughing in Gilgandra a couple of years ago, I saw first-hand the impact of poor mental health when a farmer died by suicide. Before that I didn't fully understand how mental health affected an entire community. It was coming out of the 2020 drought and that man had a lot of agricultural and financial stresses, but I couldn't help but wonder if he received the care he needed from a GP who fully understood his position. It's something that has played on my mind ever since and I think about it whenever I have a

farmer in front of me. I'm determined to develop my communications skills, so I can better understand how to get them to open up, to find out how they are really going."

"The further west you go, the worse the doctor shortage gets, and these patients are the people supplying our fresh food."

2022 was Jared's fourth harvest in rural NSW and Victoria, cut a little short by record flooding rains. Earlier in the year, during a five-week placement with Associate Professor Dr. Aniello Iannuzzi, a GP in Coonabarabran, he had been schooled in other realities of rural medical practice.

"It was there that I experienced the connection a doctor can develop with his/her patients and the positive impact a skilled local, permanent doctor can make to the health outcomes of a rural population," Jared said. "That's something I strive to have in my career. Limited resources and isolation from specialist medical care mean that rural GPs require a broad clinical skillset, because they may not have anyone else to rely on, but I believe this leads to a very rewarding career."

Jared's passion for working in rural medicine goes back to the time, at age 16, when his own health demanded closer ties with his family GP.

"I was living on my family's beef property near Singleton, NSW, when I suffered a knee injury playing rugby," Jared said. "I had to go to Newcastle to have scans and surgery. Having Dr Davis Woods, someone who understood me and the demands of having to travel to Newcastle for treatment ... his communication and support was great, and developing that relationship with him sparked my interest in going down the medicine path myself."

**Photo opposite:** Jared Lawrence







But Jared's journey has been a little unorthodox. After initially missing out on an offer to study at UNE, Jared enrolled in podiatry and completed two years of that degree at the University of Newcastle. His second application to UNE was also declined, but it was a case of third time lucky.

"I never thought I had the brains to do medicine, but I was interested in how the human body worked and Dr Woods broke study down into achievable goals; I never fully backed myself until he gave me that support," Jared said. "Doing podiatry was the best thing for me; it allowed me to mature, to develop the study habits I would need, and to achieve the mark UNE required to enter the medicine program."

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"It allowed me to knuckle down and study, without the distraction and stress of part-time work, so I could fully immerse myself in the medical program."

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A Betty J Fyffe Scholarship, in honour of former Tamworth nurse Betty Fyffe, helped to ease the financial pressure and supplement his harvest earnings during the first three years of Jared's degree.

"It allowed me to knuckle down and study, without the distraction and stress of part-time work, so I could fully immerse myself in the medical program," Jared said.

"There are a lot of hidden costs in studying medicine, especially when you are working rural, and this support has also allowed me to be more engaged with my peers through the university's extra-curricular events."

Jared followed his older sister Teagan (who studied a Bachelor of Agriculture and Bachelor of Business) to St Alberts College, and his younger sister Taylah (a current Bachelor of Agribusiness student) also lived at the college for a time.

In what is now UNE's largest scholarship program, the Elizabeth Cahill Fyffe Trust fund helps 50 rural or regional students enrolled in our Joint Medical Program to follow their dreams each year and potentially bolster the future rural medical workforce.

Jared appreciates how important that end goal is.

"Growing up, studying and working in different rural locations has allowed me to develop a deep connection with these communities but also to appreciate the challenges they face," Jared said. "Isolated from specialist doctors and services, like imaging equipment, patients often have to travel to access specialist care, and they don't always get the care they need when they need it. Coonabarabran is only about 100 kilometres north of Dubbo, but even that can be a stretch for some people. The further west you go, the worse the doctor shortage gets, and these patients are the people supplying our fresh food."

Having permanent doctors in those centres, who understand their patients and social situations, can result in the provision of more achievable health management plans, according to Jared. But we need more doctors like that, dedicated to rural populations.

"Working long hours by yourself, with no-one to oversee you or bounce ideas off, carries its own risks to the practitioner," Jared said.

"In big tertiary hospitals you have the chance to debrief with social workers, to look after your own mental health. It's pretty disappointing that we are a developed country and yet you've only got to travel two hours out of Sydney and you can struggle to find a full-time, permanent doctor that understands their community."

These are the kinds of challenges Jared highlighted in an essay about his Coonabarabran experience, which earned him a Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Rural Medical Student Bursary Award last year.

He is now rotating through different specialties at Manning Base Hospital in Taree, where he is enjoying "interacting with patients and understanding their stories". A two-year Rural Doctors Network cadetship is providing welcome financial relief and the promise of completing his internship at a rural teaching hospital. "I was always intending to intern at a rural hospital after graduation, so having this funding has made me even more excited for what's to come," Jared said.

"Thinking about becoming a GP is quite daunting, but my doctor mentors are fantastic and have been very reassuring. I am finally starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel and how I'll be able to give back to rural communities." #



# Old sheep offer new clues

Scholarships are enabling a novel study of Australia's first sheep.

Cutting-edge technology is often at the heart of modern-day science. But its use rarely comes cheap, as UNE PhD student Tanja Nussbaumer has discovered.

Thankfully, Tanja has received some welcome financial support to investigate and reconstruct the lives of Australia's first sheep, through a Baillieu Myer Scholarship and a Keith and Dorothy Mackay Travelling Scholarship.

Tanja first undertook a Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology and Palaeoanthropology at UNE, before completing Honours research. This raised some intriguing questions about the sheep first brought to Australia from Britain, so now she's delving deeper to learn more about herd management in colonial times. And it's extraordinary how revealing sheep bones dating back to the late 1700s and early 1800s can be.

"I am using unusually well-preserved bones, specifically the skull and teeth, to create detailed life histories and age profiles of historic sheep," Tanja says. "This could offer unique insights into life and work in Australia's convict colonies, how sheep were managed and explain their importance for particularly secondary production. This will then provide information on how the colonists adapted to new and challenging environments."

In turn, Tanja's findings may inform how we maintain stable populations of this mainstay of Australian agriculture today – for meat and secondary products like milk and wool – as our climate changes.

Tanja said the scholarships have been vital to the travel, analyses and data collection so crucial to her study.

"I have had to do a lot of travel to visit specialist labs and access testing equipment," she says. "So far I have been able to do laser scanning to create three-dimensional images of the skulls and some

isotope analysis at Southern Cross University in Lismore, but I also plan to do some DNA or radiocarbon analyses, which are only available in Adelaide and Sydney.

"Three-dimensional imaging of the skulls can potentially differentiate between breeds, but isotope analysis of the teeth can tell us about trade practices, as it helps reveal whether the sheep were local or imported. It can also tell us about the environment, by what the sheep were eating."

The well preserved sheep bones, held by the UNE archaeology lab, were excavated from inner Sydney but have never been studied in this way before.

"I need to do comparisons with other bone assemblages still in Sydney, as well as the complex analyses, and fuel and accommodation costs are expensive," said Tanja, who suspects the bones contain a range of tantalising information. "Once you have prepared the bone samples, it's a shame not to do all the analyses that you can, while you have the time and the connections in place, and that's impossible without financial support."

"The scholarships will help me to cover the cost of some of the isotope and DNA analyses so I can analyse as many samples as possible, to get the very best information from them."

Already, Tanja's preliminary analysis has shown that it was for their wool and not their meat – as might be expected in a fledgling colony – that some of the early sheep were prized. "Were they Merinos? I now hope to determine what breeds they were," she said. #

Photo above: Tanja Nussbaumer



## Celebrating excellence - UNE prizes

Our partnerships with supporters reward student excellence and inspire the next generation. Since UNE was founded, generous donors, alumni and staff members have made possible nearly 200 prizes and awards for outstanding academic achievement.

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If you would also like to create a prize to recognise excellence at UNE, please email [advance@une.edu.au](mailto:advance@une.edu.au) or telephone 02 6773 2870.

**Thank to you to the donors, alumni, staff and friends who have made the following prizes possible.**



# UNE Prizes

## Accounting and Financial Entrepreneurship Prize

M Ambrose Memorial Prize Economics

The Archaeology and Palaeoanthropology  
Southeast Asia and Pacific  
Archaeological Fieldwork Prize

Australian Families of the Military Foundation Prize

Australian Human Resources Institute Prize in  
Human Resource Management

Australian Society for Microbiology Prize

Mary Bagnall Scholarship

Baker Prize for Second Year Latin

Barker Prize in Genetics

S Barratt Memorial Award in Psychology

NCW Beadle Prizes in Botany

J H Bell Prize for First Year Sociology

J H Bell Prize for Third Year Sociology

John D Black Prize for Agricultural Economics

Dirk Boomsma Memorial Peace Studies Bursaries

Edgar H Booth Memorial Prize and Medal

Friends of Botany Foundation Prize

Michael Brown Memorial Prize

The Emeritus Professor Trevor Bryce Prize  
for Ancient Egyptian  
and Bronze Age Greece History

Thomas Arnold Burr Memorial Prize

Prof John Burton Memorial Prize  
in Natural Resources

Gilbert Butland Prize - Geography

N P Cameron Memorial Award

## Chancellor's Faculty Prizes

Chartered Accountants  
Australia and New Zealand Prize

E Cheung Prize  
- Corporate & Management Accounting

Rennie Clayton Memorial Prize

The Clio Third Year Ancient History Prize

Alice Coventry Award

CPA Australia Prize for First Year students

CPA Australia Prize for Second Year students

CPA Australia Prize for Third Year students

Lucy Elizabeth Craigie Award

J Crawford Memorial Prize

Jennifer Crew Prize in History

A B Cunningham Memorial Prize

The Louise T Daley Prize for Australian History

Clan Davidson Performance Prize  
- Mary White College

Arthur J Davies Prize in Politics

Jennifer Davies Memorial Award - Duval College

Ray Day Memorial Prize

The James Dolan Memorial Prize in History

The Katharine Dolan Memorial Prize  
in Ancient History

The Bishop Doody Memorial Gold Medal for Latin

J Doyle Memorial Fund

Carole and Stan Droder College Award

D H Drummond Thesis Prize in Economic Studies

Ecology Staff Prize for 1st year

Charles Ede Essay Prize

Peter Elkin Drama Prize

Cath Ellis Memorial Fund

The School of Environmental and Rural Science  
Prize in Rural Science

Gary Essenstam Memorial Prize

Judy Ewing Memorial Prize

Financial Planning Association of Australia  
Undergraduate Prize

Financial Planning Association of Australia  
Postgraduate Prize

J Fox Prize Fund in Regional Geography

M A Franklin Prize - Mary White College

Friends of Cinema Prize Film Study

Betty Fyffe Memorial Prize in Nursing

Ron Gannaway Prize

Professor Lynda Garland Prize  
for First Year Classical Greek

Graduate Women NSW Inc Prize in Biology

Graduate Women NSW Inc Prize in English

Professor D R Grey Prize in Philosophy

John Guise Memorial Prize

Hammaraskjold Prize

J Hanna Classics Prize

Sarah Heagney Memorial Scholarship

Arthur Heath Memorial Scholarship

Susan Hemming Prize - Mary White College

Hewison Prize

Cecil Hill Postgraduate Scholarship Fund

W Hoddinott Prize for English

Dr Yawei Huang Prize

Bob Hughes Prize for Law

Inverell Rotary Prize

R J Johnson Prize

S Johnson Prize in Linguistics

The Grahame Jones Memorial Prize

P E Jones Memorial Fund

G Kalocsai Prize Geochemistry

Haddon Forrester King Prize

Kinghorn Prize in Genetics

Eleanor Kitto Memorial Prize

KU Children's Prize

Alec Lazenby Prize In Agronomy

The Barbara Levien Prize for First Year Music

J N Lewis Foundation Prize

KG Lewis Prize in Organic Chemistry

KG Lewis Prize in PhD in Chemistry

Ian Loaney Prize In Politics

Klaus Loewald Memorial Book Grant

E MacArthur Prize in Agricultural Policy

The Maiben Davies Prize

School Prizes in  
Mathematics and Computer Science

Hassan Mazloumi Memorial Award

Gaius McIntosh & Family Prize  
Applied Mathematics

Rev E Norman McKie Memorial Scholarship

Barbara Meredith Prize

Barbara Meredith Memorial Prize  
in Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Sir James Murdoch Scholarship

David Murray Memorial Award

R S Neale Memorial Fund

The Betty Newsome Memorial Scholarship

R Norwood Memorial Prize

NSW Bar Association Prizes

Oorala Merit Prize (featured on page 15)

Sir Earle Page Memorial Prize

Earle Page College Choral and Piper Prize

Earle Charles Page Memorial Prize

Sir Earle Page Memorial Prize

Bryan Pape Prize

Rama Krishna Sastry Pappu Memorial Prize

Parramatta and District  
Regional Law Society Prize

Lily Pereg Memorial Award

Perrott Family Science Prize

Pfizer Animal Health Prize in Biochemistry

Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd Prize

Physiology Prize for Third Year Physiology

N Priestly Memorial Prize - Mary White College

Shirley Randell Award

F Reece & W Tait Prize in Public Finance

B Richardson Memorial - Mary White College

Riggs Prize in Chemistry for First Year

Riggs Prize in Chemistry for Second Year

Riggs Prize in Chemistry for Third Year

Robb College Foundation  
- Financial Management Research Centre Prize

Robb College Foundation - Gwyn James Prize

Robb College Foundation - Meredith Prize

Wendy Roberts Science Prize

Roberts & Morrow Prize  
in Principles of Corporations Law

Roberts & Morrow Prize  
in Principles of Taxation Law

RGC & HF Robertson-Cunninghame Prize

A Rose Memorial Prize

Elsevier Natashaia Scully Award

Natashaia Scully/School of Health Medal

The Mark Serafin Memorial Award

Howard Sheath Prize  
for Off-Campus Students

Sinclair-Wilson Scholarship (Prize)

Jack Sinden Memorial Prize

Jeff Smyth Memorial Prize

Muriel Mary Snow Indigenous Honours Prize

H M Spedding Prize for Mathematics

Jill Spilsbury Prize

G R Stanton Prize for Second Year Greek

Alex and Selma Stock Memorial Prize in Zoology

R H Stokes Prize for Experimental Chemistry

Sally Stratton Prize



Acram Taji Bursary

Acram Taji International Bursary

Colin Tatz Prize in Politics

Griffith Taylor Centenary Prize for Geography

Peter Thomas Prize in Languages

Bronnie Treloar Prize in French

Bronnie Treloar Scholarship

Peter J Tyler Prize in Australian History

UNE Alumni Association Members Award

UNE Life Prize

UNE Music Prize

UNE Players Prize

University of New England  
Women's Association Prize

Fredy Roberto Valenzuela Foundation Prize

Russel Ward Prize in History

Max Webster Art Prize

Weed Society of NSW  
Kelvin Green Student Prize

Mary White College Business Prize

Mary White College  
Sportsman of the Year

Mary White College  
Sportswoman of the Year Award

Stanley Wilson Prize

Melissa Woods Medieval History  
Honours and Postgraduate Prize

J Woolmington Prize for History

H Wragge Memorial Scholarship

P Wright Memorial Prize - Mary White College

The Fellows Prize - Wright College

**Photo featured on page 39:** Alumni pavers along the Graduate's Walk, in view of Booloominbah (Credit: Rae Ainsworth)  
**Photo featured on cover:** (Credit: Matt Cawood)



The UNE Foundation is the independent body that oversees the management of financial gifts and donations to the University.

The UNE Foundation is responsible for ensuring that the value of funds under its care is maintained through good stewardship in given market conditions, while generating sufficient income to pay for scholarships, prizes, research and teaching and learning.

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Martin Dolan  
**Chair, UNE Foundation**

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