

REPORT TO DONORS

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING



CONTENTS



Students get the benefit of a modern teaching environment and direct agricultural experience at the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Science's Dookie Campus. Read more about the Dookie experience on Page 22.

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FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR
A PARTNERSHIP
FOR ACHIEVING
REAL CHANGE

Your generosity helps us achieve remarkable things. Thank you.

SINCE joining the University last October, I have been inspired by the outstanding support that our global community of staff, students, alumni and friends provides. Your contributions through *Believe – the Campaign for the University of Melbourne* are proof of this.

It is with sincere thanks that we present this report. It presents the key Campaign contribution figures, as well as stories that demonstrate the very real difference your contributions make to our research efforts and to the lives of our students and alumni.

These include scholarships that are allowing students to pursue their studies in agriculture, education, engineering and other disciplines; new professorships that will increase our senior research leadership capabilities; and a ground-breaking fellowship that is already shaping the next generation of social change agents.

Last year 5,464 people gave a total of \$115.4 million to the University through the Campaign. These gifts represent incredible opportunities for change.

It is also clear that community involvement at the University extends beyond philanthropic giving. In 2018 a record 25,268 of our fantastic alumni participated in University activities and many gave their valuable time through mentoring and volunteering.

On behalf of the University, and every one that benefits from your generosity, thank you.

PROFESSOR DUNCAN MASKELL
VICE-CHANCELLOR

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THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

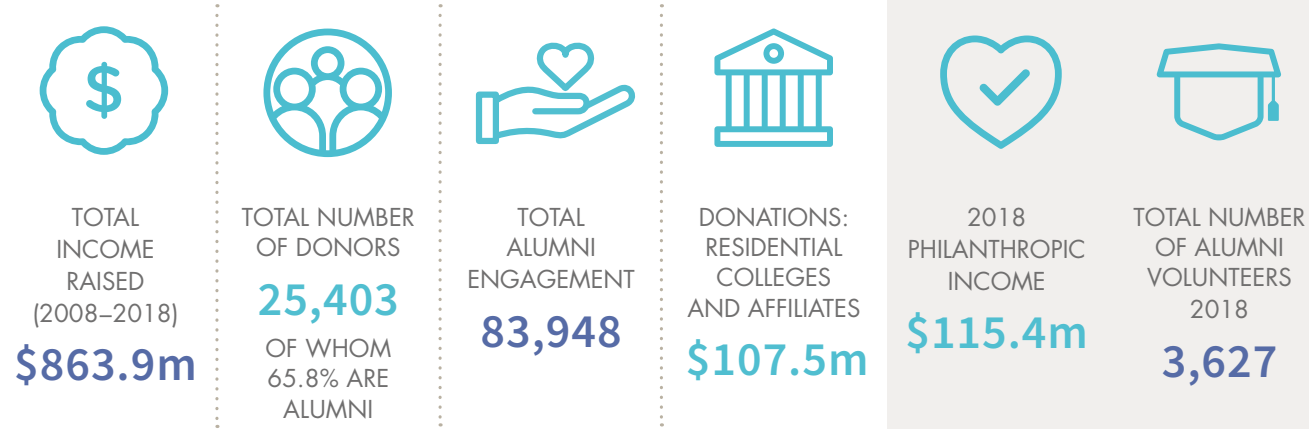
BELIEVE – THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

As a supporter of the University, you join a global community of valued friends whose contributions have far-reaching effects.

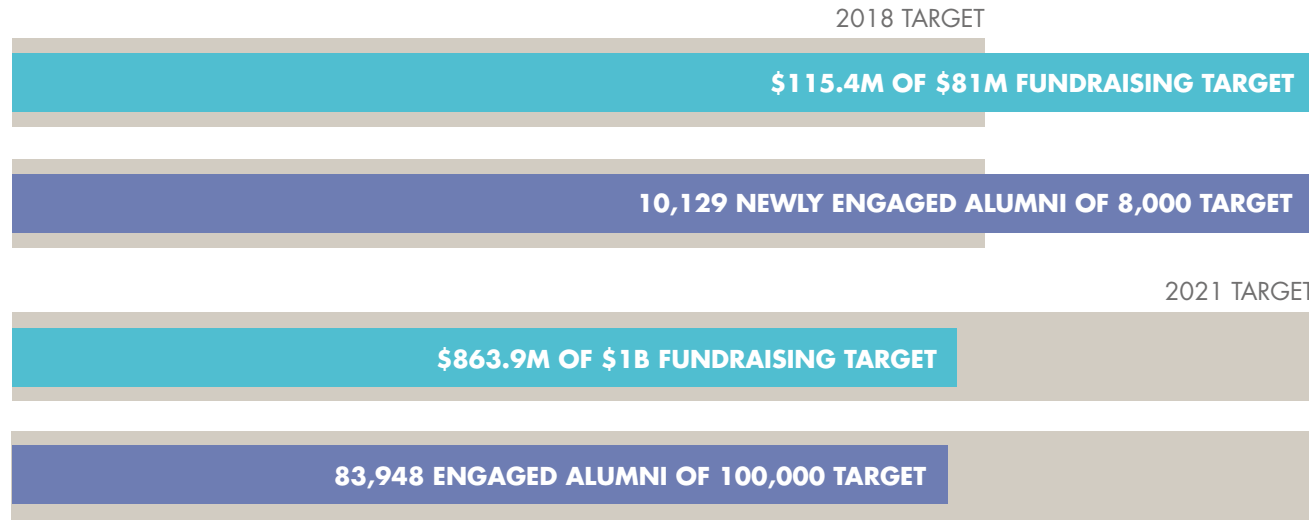
Thanks to your generosity in giving through Believe – the Campaign for the University of Melbourne, 2018 saw over \$115 million in financial gifts and more than 25,000 alumni engaged through volunteering, mentoring, attending events and giving.

The impact of your involvement makes a profound difference in many ways. From supporting students to reach success through scholarships and providing them financial aid in times of struggle, to contributing to vital research projects undertaken by our academics and institutes, and enriching community life with arts and cultural initiatives, your support leads to life-changing opportunities. Thank you for your continued engagement.

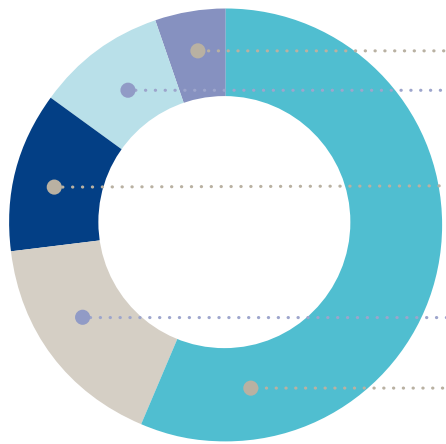
THE CAMPAIGN IN NUMBERS 2008–2018



CAMPAIGN GOAL PROGRESS



HOW YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE



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

\$426.6m RESEARCH & DISCOVERY
Gifts that drive innovation and tackle humanity's biggest questions through the creation of academic positions, research programs and institutes

\$126.9m STUDENT SUPPORT
Help developing the leaders of tomorrow, through scholarships, awards, financial aid grants and projects supporting Indigenous student education

\$91m LEARNING SPACES & CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT
Funding for the creation of first-class educational environments where students and researchers can excel

\$73.7m COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Support for initiatives that enrich our cultural and social life, such as Melbourne Theatre Company, University art collections and public lecture programs

\$37.9m MULTI-PURPOSE GIFTS & UNRESTRICTED FUNDS
Donations used to support the University's highest priorities, and those with broad-reaching impact across disciplines

*These figures represent gifts to University funds 2008–2018 and do not include gifts to affiliated colleges or institutions.

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS

University of Melbourne alumni help in so many ways to support students, programs and activities across the University. Here are just some of the ways over 3,600 alumni volunteers gave their support in 2018.

2,175
ALUMNI GAVE STUDENTS ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL AND LIFE MENTORING

743
ALUMNI PROVIDED GOVERNANCE, GUIDANCE AND GOODWILL ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

737
ALUMNI GAVE THEIR TIME ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO HELP ORGANISE OR SPEAK AT EVENTS

224
ALUMNI OFFERED TO SHARE THEIR STORIES AND EXPERIENCES THROUGH PROFILES AND INTERVIEWS IN UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

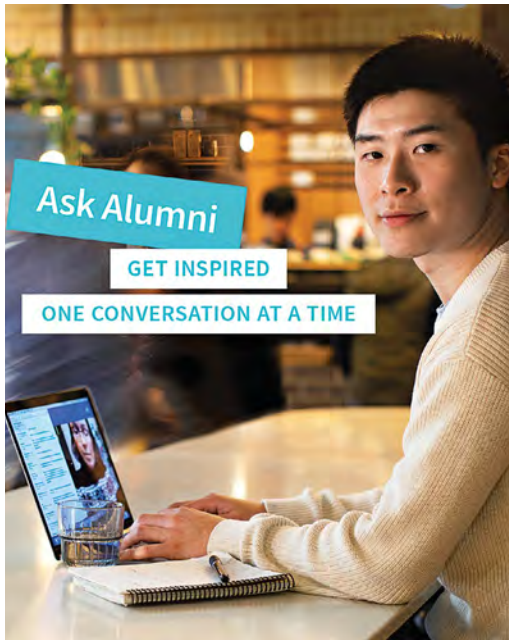
ORCHESTRA ON THE MOVE
TAKING THE SOUND OF MUSIC
TO OUR NORTHERN NEIGHBOURS

The 2018 Asia Tour marked the very first time in its long history that the University of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra had toured internationally. This tour, funded in part by the Sidney Myer Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Trust, provided outstanding professional development opportunities for our students, including unique cultural experiences and the challenges and rewards of rehearsing, travelling and performing to new audiences.



MENTORING
CONNECTIONS
NEW PROGRAM
CONNECTS
STUDENTS
TO ALUMNI
WORLDWIDE

The Ask Alumni mentoring program launched in August 2018 to provide current University of Melbourne students with the opportunity to have career conversations with our amazing alumni community. We have been inspired by the incredible response from over 1,300 alumni who have signed up to share their career insights and inspire students to explore a world of possibilities.



NEW SCHOLARSHIP
ANDREW J NASH
FIRST IN THE
FAMILY

A new scholarship supports students in multiple ways by including access to a mentoring program and leadership events. Bachelor of Commerce student Lisa Li is the inaugural recipient of the Andrew J Nash First in the Family Scholarship. Lisa has found the mentoring, networking and being part of a community of scholars just as valuable as the financial assistance. The true highlight, however, is the mentoring she has received from donor, Mr Andrew Nash, himself.



FELLOWSHIP
INVITING VOICES
IN ARCHITECTURAL
HISTORY

Visiting scholars in the field of architectural history will be invited to teach at the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning and deliver public lectures as part of a new Fellowship created in honour of renowned architecture historian Professor Miles Lewis AM by the Vera Moore Foundation.



MELBOURNE
LAW SCHOOL
A VOICE FOR
THE VULNERABLE

Over the past year, Peter McMullin's philanthropy has enabled the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness to flourish. The Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness now has a full complement of staff, including PhD students and student internships, and has conducted crucial research into statelessness, including projects on Nomadic Peoples and Statelessness and Statelessness and Refugee Law. The Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness continues to forge new partnerships and engage statelessness scholars both nationally and internationally.

“The Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness will bring attention and focus to those who are invisible and not counted – supporting research and advocacy which translates into policy reforms.”

PETER McMULLIN

SCIENCE
EARLY CAREER OVERSEAS
RESEARCH GRANTS

Thanks to the generosity of Biotech pioneer Peter Turner (right), the transformative Early Career Overseas Research Grants are giving emerging scientists the opportunity to develop their research in depth with other leading scientists and institutions around the world. Dr Rebecca Morris (left) spent five weeks on the east coast of the USA collaborating with renowned marine biologists on experiments in the use of living shorelines (such as oyster reefs) as coastal defence, a concept which is emerging in Australia as a potentially cost-effective and environmentally preferable alternative to traditional engineering structures.

HUMANITIES

MAKING SENSE OF THE WORLD

An extraordinary gift is changing the course of history.

THERE'S no better way of understanding the actions of history's biggest game-changers than to stand in their shoes. One of the subjects that Dr Una McIlvenna teaches at the University, "Reacting to the Past", asks students to role-play watershed moments in history, such as Henry VIII's tumultuous split from the Catholic Church.

"Students will play people like the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Duke of Norfolk, and they try to avoid getting executed," Dr McIlvenna says with a laugh. "But they also have to negotiate with each other and understand the motivations of historical figures."

"As historians, we're hoping that we impart to our students empathy with people from the past," she adds. "It's important to understand why people did what they did, as much as learning what actually happened and why."

Dr McIlvenna says history education has a reputation for emphasising the rote memorisation of dates and facts. But she and other University lecturers have been able to push their vision for more innovative and engaged forms of teaching history. Since 2015, they have been supported by the Hansen Trust, the largest-ever donation to a history program in Australia.

The \$8 million gift, donated by history enthusiast and philanthropist Jane Hansen and her husband, businessman Paul Little, is being used to transform history education at the University. The gift funds a history chair in perpetuity, three lectureships for five years and an annual PhD scholarship.

"The whole History Department is just thrilled," Dr McIlvenna says. "It has given us the ability to do things that just drive us forward, and it has energised the whole school."

Dr McIlvenna took up one of the three history lectureships when she came to Melbourne from the University of Kent in 2017. She began writing a book about execution ballads in early modern European history, and she is collecting what she describes as a "treasure trove" of songs about real-life murders, executions and deadly battles.



Dr Una McIlvenna conducting a public workshop on early Australian convict songs.

"In the 16th and 17th centuries, when most people couldn't read and write, song was the most effective medium for spreading news, because songs are set to a familiar tune and you can memorise them quite easily," she explains.

The most popular news stories of the past were about crime and punishment, not unlike the trial coverage and true crime documentaries that captivate us today.

Execution ballads may seem like a niche topic, but Dr McIlvenna says there are connections to make between the way people shared news in the past and the way we share news now. Fake news, or the manipulation of information, was common in times when ballad writers exaggerated in order to sell their songs.

"The ideal of news reporting we have is actually limited to a very short period of time from the mid-19th to the mid-20th century. If we look at the long history of news, we see that the business has always come first," she says. "Learning history gives us a more realistic, rather than idealised, view of what happened in the past."

Jane and Paul, as donors of the Hansen Trust, believe that understanding history is fundamental to understanding society today. From history, we can learn about subjects such as morality, bigotry, civic affairs, the changing nature of language, the abuse of power and the devastation of war. Those supported by the Hansen Trust are tasked with educating the public about history so we all benefit from this knowledge.

For example, PhD candidate Maxwell Benton, who received a Hansen Scholarship in 2018, is studying the same-sex marriage debate in US, UK and Australian churches in the 20th century. He says understanding historical context is essential to modern-day debates.



"The Hansen gift has enabled us to renew the History curriculum and provide students with a history education relevant to the 21st century."

**PROFESSOR MARK EDELE,
HANSEN CHAIR IN HISTORY**

"History can and should have a voice in contemporary issues, by opening a dialogue with the controversies and perspectives of the past, and this is what I aim to do as a Hansen Scholarship holder."

Dr McIlvenna says it is part of her brief to engage with the public; she contributes regularly to online publications and has conducted public workshops about the history of news, crime and punishment and early Australian convict songs that form part of our national identity. Ever heard of Waltzing Matilda?

"People are absolutely captivated by history, so it's quite easy to make it accessible," she says. "The past can seem like a totally foreign place, but then you learn about ways people were just like us."

"It comes down to empathy," she adds. "You can make more sense of the world we live in."

ATLANTIC FELLOWS

AGENTS FOR CHANGE

A long-term project is developing leaders to tackle social inequity.

THE inaugural group of Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity have successfully completed the first year of a visionary 20-year program that aims to harness Indigenous knowledge and ingenuity to create social impact.

"I'm still in awe, I think. It's just been amazing," says inaugural Fellow Jody Barney. "We've seen shifts, we've seen growth, we've shared ups and downs, ins and outs, and we've done it collectively. We've emerged out the other end a little bit older and a little bit wiser."

Led by the University of Melbourne in conjunction with national and international partners, the initiative was established through an incredible \$US50 million gift from the Atlantic Philanthropies.

The program aims to tackle the issues of persistent inequality and social exclusion in Australia and the Pacific, particularly among Indigenous communities, challenging conventional notions of leadership and the need for archetypal leaders.

Fifteen Fellows make up the 2018 cohort. Jody, a deaf Aboriginal and South-Sea Islander woman who has spent 30 years working with communities of Indigenous people, says that the group's diversity was instrumental to the program's success.

"There's not only a diversity of culture – non-Indigenous and Indigenous Fellows – but also ages, relationships and gender identity."

Reflecting the program's tailored approach to fellowship, participants decided to create their own leadership framework, rather than rely on theoretical approaches they felt weren't as relevant.

The framework was based around themes including social cohesion, empowerment, doing business differently, and elevating Indigenous knowledge.

It meant the first year of the fellowship was "actually about each other, and our journeys", says fellow participant Michelle Craigie. "We learnt about each other, we learnt about the challenges that impact on us, we learnt about our personal spaces."



"What we're seeing is the cultural shift from within the University, challenging their notions around philanthropy and Indigenous leadership."

MICHELLE CRAIGIE

Three of the fifteen inaugural Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity at the University of Melbourne. From left to right Faye McMillan, Jody Barney and Michelle Craigie.

Michelle, a Gomeroi woman born in Moree who is dedicated to creating pathways to economic development and social equity, says that Fellows spent a lot of time considering the ways in which they could collaborate to enact lasting change.

"The focus has really been around: we've got these concepts in mind, and we want ... the change ... [to] be sustainable, and not just another failed program for Indigenous or marginalised people in this country."

Fellows met regularly during a 12-month non-residential program, and undertook course and field work at the University of Melbourne and elsewhere, including Oxford University, South Africa and New Zealand.

The journey for the inaugural group had its ups and downs, "like every other relationship", Jody notes.

"It's human!" adds Faye McMillan, a Wiradjuri woman from Trangie who currently leads Charles Sturt University's Djirruwang program – Bachelor of Health Science (Mental Health). She says that's a reflection of the program's broad-minded approach to wellbeing.

"For each of us, regardless of whether you're Aboriginal or not, we're mindful of the wellbeing that we instil in each other and as Fellows collectively."

It's envisioned that the program will run for 20 years, with a new group of leaders joining the ranks annually. Participants agreed that longer-term thinking is a vital ingredient for sustainable changemaking.

"The vision ... means that the constraints that many of us work under in Indigenous Affairs are elevated, so that we don't have to think in [short-term] cycles," Faye says.

Michelle thinks that aspects of her experience will pay off for years to come, thanks to the program's emphasis on supporting people rather than projects. "That investment ... means that not only are we developing these really great collective projects, but we're going to make lasting change throughout all aspects of our life."

Faye draws on a metaphor when talking about the program's impact: "[The fellowship enabled us to] combine our fishing lines to be able to feed more. One fishing line can only feed so many, but when you weave them all together you can catch more, and feed more."

Helping the process is an international network of connected programs. The Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity program is one of seven supported by the Atlantic Philanthropies, founded by American duty-free shopping billionaire Chuck Feeney. Much admired by philanthropists, including Bill Gates and Warren Buffet, Feeney is a proponent of 'giving while living', and has given away almost his entire fortune.

The Fellows are also keen to emphasise that the program is having an impact on the University of Melbourne itself.

"What we're seeing is the cultural shift from within the University, challenging their notions around philanthropy and Indigenous leadership," Michelle says. "What does it mean to invest in Indigenous leadership as opposed to, say, theories of change? To actually invest in people?"

Adds Faye: "Indigenous-led solutions come with a unique set of understandings of our histories, and that is a gift to the University in itself. [Universities] have had a history from a point, but ours sits so much further back in time.

"And rather than create friction, how do we sit in symbiotic relationships, for the mutual benefit of all?"

MENTORING

INSIGHTS FROM AFAR

Alumni are using digital tools to mentor current students.

FOR Marcus Newbury, a statistician at the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), participating in the Ask Alumni program has exposed him to different ways of thinking. “You get to hear how the current generation of late teens and early twentysomethings view the world,” Marcus says. “These people will be in the same workforce and possibly the same office as me.”

It also offers the New York City-based alumnus the chance to give back. “I do feel grateful ... and the older I get, the gladder I am that I went through a bachelor’s degree at the University of Melbourne.”

Ask Alumni is a flexible online mentoring program that enables students to connect with alumni mentors from around the world for one-time conversations to seek career advice and industry insights.

“My standard drill is to accept a student’s request to make contact and then try to schedule a phone conversation, or millennial-friendly app phone conversation, for about 20 to 30 minutes,” Marcus says. Once scheduled, he uses either the Ask Alumni tool or an app to ask the student a couple of questions to help them prepare and break the ice. “It also lets them know that I’m taking the mentor-mentee relationship seriously.”

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 2004, Marcus moved to Japan – “I was really itching to see the world outside Australia,” he says – before returning to Australia to study a Master of Economics. After a stint at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, he seized an opportunity to work for the UN in New York City, where he has been based for the past six years.

Since signing up for Ask Alumni, Marcus has mentored five students. “They’ve all come across as curious youths who are enjoying their time as students, but who also appreciate hearing comments from the perspective of a mid-career professional.”

The close relationship many Americans have with their universities inspired Marcus to participate in the program. “They seem to have such a strong bond with their classmates [and] help them professionally,” he says.

The Ask Alumni mentoring program has received overwhelming support with over 1,300 alumni around the world already registered to offer their career insights with current students. Mentoring at the University of Melbourne has also provided key benefits for mentors looking to expand their leadership skills and gain perspectives on the future of work.



ADVOCACY

PITCHING IN

Giving time is itself a precious gift to the University.

VOLUNTEERING comes naturally to Dr Jessie Wong. The Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) alumna and KPMG partner has just been appointed to the University of Melbourne’s Alumni Council, where she promises to advocate for those at the “very heart of the University” – students and alumni.

Being a member on the Alumni Council gives Jessie an opportunity to represent the interests of alumni and to play a vital role in shaping the University’s vision and goals. Consisting of up to 18 members from around the world, the Alumni Council meets several times a year to advise on key University strategic activity, ensuring that the University continues to improve and develop.

Jessie plans to focus on ways to enrich the student experience and to advocate for all alumni, bringing to the role several years of experience on the Faculty of Business and Economics Alumni Council.

She attributes her professional achievements to her mentors from both the Faculty of Business and Economics and KPMG. “They were selfless in volunteering their time and helped many young people, not always receiving public recognition,” Jessie says.

Jessie realised early on that it “takes a lot for people to give up their time that way”, outside of the demands of life and a career. But volunteering comes with its own rewards.

“Volunteering is a bit like exercise,” she says. “You have to do it to stay mentally fit. It feels very, very good to be actively helping others.”

While also giving her time as a mentor, Jessie helped her Australian mentee to secure work in China. “The person I see today is ready to take on the world,” she says of her mentee. “And what delights me most is that, because of this experience, she has decided to become involved in the University of Melbourne Beijing Alumni Association!”

Jessie was instrumental in establishing the Association in Beijing in 2014 and has been the President since its inception. Alumni Associations, which exist on five continents, help to extend the University’s alumni engagement program, and to maintain strong and meaningful connections with alumni outside of Melbourne.

“I see the Association as being more than just a social club – I see it as being a voice for alumni here,” says Jessie. “We want to be the gravity that pulls all of our Beijing alumni together.”



ENGINEERING

SMART STEPS

A timely scholarship is driving a quest to help people get back on their feet – literally.

EVERY great journey begins with a single step. For Qianyang Chen, it began when her grandfather suffered a stroke and lost much of his mobility. She was determined to find an alternative to life in a wheelchair.

Fired by ingenuity and resourcefulness – and with the help of a prestigious scholarship – the 27-year-old University of Melbourne student is planning to develop a smart knee brace with the aim of giving mobility to patients with degenerative lower limb muscles due to ageing or disease.

Qianyang's goal is to construct a prototype of a streamlined, powered device that will enable the patient to stand up from a seated position and walk independently at normal pace.

"It will be something like a suit you can wear, rather than a metal frame," she explains. "And we're also looking at making it very affordable."

If successful, the project would have a hugely positive impact on Australians suffering physical struggle. According to figures released in 2015, reduced mobility due to degenerative neurological diseases or ageing deprived an estimated 3.4 million Australians – 14 per cent of the population – of their independence. The numbers continue to grow as the population ages, placing pressure on the healthcare sector.

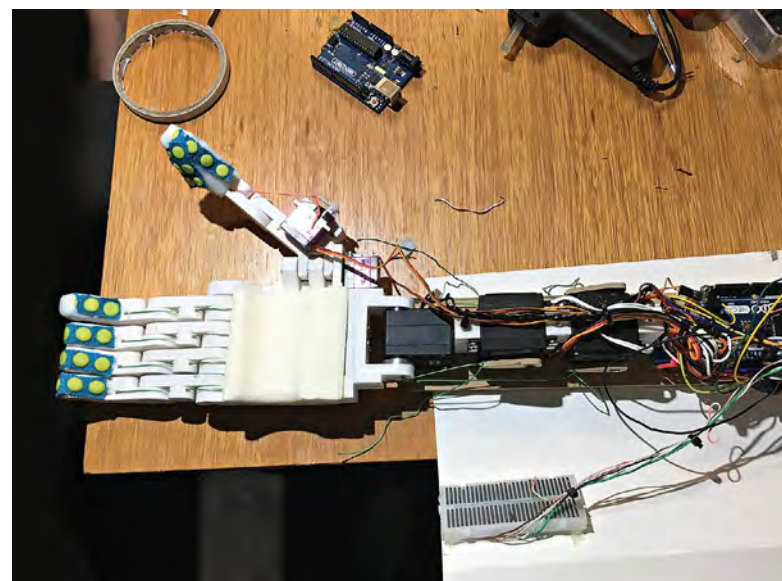
To help build up her skills and expertise, Qianyang is working on an Assistance Exoskeleton Robotics project this year in collaboration with fellow Master of Engineering students. The project is a lower limb exoskeleton for gait assistance, hosted by the Robotics Lab in collaboration with the tech start-up Fourier Intelligence.

"The exoskeleton project has four teams of three to four people each," adds Qianyang. "I am in the research team which has four engineering students – two mechatronics and two mechanical."

"This exoskeleton project will be a great learning opportunity for me. I will be able to build up my knowledge in a related area and get some useful experience to prepare me for the knee brace project. Plus, I am working with a team of really passionate and inspiring students. I feel that I can learn so much from them."



PICTURE: STEVE MCKENZIE



"It helped my confidence to have the recognition from the University as well as the support from the donor."

QIANYANG CHEN

ABOVE: Qianyang Chen with a display of advanced limb prosthetics in the Melbourne School of Engineering's Robotics Lab.
LEFT: Qianyang's team project – a robotic arm – from the second year of the Master of Engineering program.

Qianyang's ambitious project could help her grandfather who, at 89, still lives in Shenzhen, a city that links Hong Kong to China's mainland, but it also has the potential to support tens of thousands of people around the world. Her knee brace might also be used to support middle-agers with sports injuries, where surgery is not a viable option or is unsuccessful.

The talented student's journey in Australia has been marked by a series of fortunate and unfortunate events. If the low point was when her grandfather suffered his health setback, the pinnacle was receiving the Jack Wynhoven Scholarship, which is awarded to an engineering student in recognition of Driving Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The award has significantly eased Qianyang's financial burden and allowed her to follow her dream.

Having recently met Jack, who graduated from the University with a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) in 1964, Qianyang says she has been inspired by the man whose illustrious career as a consulting engineer has taken him across Australia, Canada and Switzerland. She says she is immensely grateful for the generosity of Jack and the Wynhoven family.

After her grandfather's stroke, almost three years ago, Qianyang looked at all available alternatives to a wheelchair, including devices such as walking frames, mobility scooters and exoskeletons. She identified an unaddressed demand for an affordable, slim-built, powered device to provide walking assistance in a day-to-day context.

At the time, she was working as an actuarial analyst for a Sydney-based company and was enjoying her job. Searching for a solution to help her grandfather meant having to go back to university to study a Master of Engineering (Mechatronics). Although in her DNA – both her parents are retired engineers – Qianyang needed to study physics subjects online before she could enrol at the University of Melbourne in 2017.

"Sometimes, life surprises you," she says of her decision to shift gears.

Initially, she successfully juggled part-time work with her full-time study, but as the demands of the coursework increased, she struggled financially. The scholarship rescued her – financially and emotionally.

"It helped my confidence to have the recognition from the University as well as the support from the donor," she explains. "Dr Wynhoven and his family are wonderful people. He has been very encouraging and is looking forward to seeing what I come up with by the end of my degree."

LASTING LEGACY

A DECADE OF GIVING

How giving back became a crusade for a devotee of the arts.

FOR years, the development of artistic practice at the University of Melbourne has benefited from Lionel Gell's giving to the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music.

Dozens of students from across many creative disciplines have received his support, and he's clearly passionate about the impact his generosity has had – particularly on students at the Victorian College of the Arts within the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music.

"It's not a fortune, but it's a hell of a lot of money for some people," Lionel says. "For some, it's altered their lives considerably. It's such a great feeling."

A former hairdresser, the energetic 90-year-old originally approached the University more than a decade ago after his lawyer convinced him to give back.

"I'd never thought of it," Lionel says. "And it took us a year or so, but we finally established the Lionel Gell Foundation."

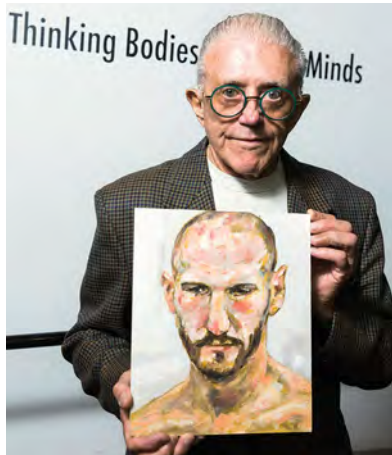
After getting it up and running, he started giving small amounts of money, eventually expanding his support to 10 scholarships a year, a life drawing masterclass and live performance programming at the Grant Street Theatre.

Lionel spent his early years in poverty and knows firsthand the impact that money can have on a life's trajectory. "I started out as a hairdresser but I always thought I wanted to do more, so I finally became an entrepreneur of hairdressing," he says.

"I dragged myself out of poverty. To have been given a scholarship in those young years of my life would have been just out of this world."

As well as the scholarships, Lionel supports the Dora McRae life drawing masterclass, named after the artist, who was a close friend.

"She is recorded as being one of the great female artists of her time," Lionel notes. "She did many portrait paintings and landscapes, and her portraits were beautiful. Faultless."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Lionel Gell and Professor Su Baker AM, Pro Vice-Chancellor Engagement; Lionel with David McBurney's prize winning Dora McRae Masterclass portrait; Pianist Nat Bartsch's career took off after receiving the 2008 Lionel Gell Travelling Fellowship.

"I dragged myself out of poverty. To have been given a scholarship in those young years of my life would have been just out of this world."

LIONEL GELL

The free masterclass is offered exclusively to VCA students. Prizes are awarded at the end of each program for the most outstanding portraits created in the class.

"Our winner last year, David McBurney, was requested to do a portrait of me on my 90th birthday, plus he presented me with his winning portrait, which is magnificent – I've got it on my piano at home. It's a perfect, beautiful portrait in oils. And he was a student of the Dora McRae program."

The University is so appreciative of his support that it named Lionel's Bar in the Grant St Theatre in his honour, at the University's Southbank campus. Lionel is a fixture of the Southbank campus and can often be seen attending performances, exhibitions or enjoying the hospitality of the lounge.

"Every week I'm coming to something," he says. "As the Dean [Professor Barry Conyngham AM] said to me recently, he said, 'Lionel, I see you here all the time!' I told him that it's wonderful to come here. Just the conviviality and acceptance. There's a very close community here, and I'm very grateful to the way that the VCA has accepted me into their community."

Pianist Nat Bartsch was an early beneficiary of Lionel's generosity. Receiving a travelling fellowship was "one of the most life-changing events of my life", she says, as it enabled her to study under famed jazz musicians Tord Gustaven and Nik Bärtsch. Both experiences have had an ongoing impact on her career.

"My connection to Tord enabled me to secure a promoter for my trio in Australia and Europe, and also created an opportunity to record my first album for the ABC," Nat explains. "My connection to Nik enabled me to secure a promoter and distributor in Japan."

Nat has since released five recordings, toured internationally three times, composed commissions for chamber ensembles and served as the artistic director of a music festival. "These opportunities all stemmed from the creative development, recognition and confidence I developed through receiving the award," she says.

That transformative impact underlines Lionel's ongoing philanthropic support and planning is now under way to create a lasting legacy through his Will, to ensure students are recognised and supported well into the future.

"It gives them the validation that what they have in their mind, or what their body wants to do [is right]. And you can see that the money doesn't just waft away. It goes straight to the purpose that I want it to go to."

MEDICAL RESEARCH

MULTIPLIER EFFECT

A special gift is underpinning far-reaching collaboration, turbo-charging research.

A UNIQUE gift to the University of Melbourne will support collaborative medical research in children’s health and cancer for generations to come.

The Lorenzo and Pamela Galli Medical Research Trust is set to drive an exciting series of collaborations in the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct focusing on cancer and childhood developmental disorders.

Philanthropist Pamela Galli established the Lorenzo and Pamela Galli Medical Research Trust in 2018 by gifting the corpus of her charitable trust to the University of Melbourne. It will provide perpetual support for research by the University and its partner institutes, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, the Royal Children’s Hospital and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

Uniquely, Mrs Galli has stipulated her wish for the institutes to work together on a series of research programs that would not otherwise be funded.

The Trust will initially support three major research projects over the next five years, focusing on:

- Finding new medicines to prevent intellectual disability
- Generating new evidence about the cause, prevention and best treatment for neurodevelopmental disability
- Developing single cell analysis to understand how cancer cells interact with each other and immune cells – leading to possible new treatments.

This extraordinary gift follows the success of three professorial chairs Mrs Galli has established within the Precinct since 2012.

Professor David Amor holds the Lorenzo and Pamela Galli Chair in Developmental Medicine in the Department of Paediatrics at the Royal Children’s Hospital; meanwhile, Professor Doug Hilton AO, Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, holds the Lorenzo and Pamela Galli Chair in Medical Biology.



Mrs Pamela Galli with the Chairs her gifts have funded (left to right), Professor David Amor, Professor Grant McArthur and Professor Doug Hilton AO.

Professor Grant McArthur is the Lorenzo Galli Chair in Melanoma and Skin Cancers at the University of Melbourne, a position named in honour of Pamela’s late husband Lorenzo, who lost his own battle with melanoma.

“One of the important things about philanthropy is that it enables scientists to take risks that can profoundly change the way we think and how we develop new treatments for diseases like cancer,” says Professor McArthur.

The work of all three chairs will be enhanced by the Lorenzo and Pamela Galli Medical Research Trust, which will empower scientists to collaborate and share knowledge, and inspire creative thinking and new scientific approaches.

It also brings together the powerhouses of the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct – the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute within the Royal Children’s Hospital, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, and the University of Melbourne.

“One of the things I’ve loved is the opportunity to interact with the other Galli chairs,” says Professor McArthur. “Collaborations like these are just what we need to beat a disease like cancer and to have great impact on children with developmental disabilities.

“The Lorenzo and Pamela Galli Medical Research Trust is helping us tackle the big health problems facing our society – cancer and developmental illness and disability in children. These diseases have profound impacts on people’s lives and with the generosity and resources available through the Trust we can really take on those big challenges.”

Professor Amor, a consultant clinical geneticist and clinician scientist with a research focus on human genetics, agrees.

“The work that we’re doing with Pamela’s support is having a real impact on the families that we’re treating. We have an opportunity to make a significant difference in the lives of these children and their families through better diagnosis, better treatment and, in some cases, prevention,” he says.

Professor Hilton is also enthused by the collaborative aspect of the research programs.

“It’s a great privilege to be the Galli Chair of Medical Biology, but what’s even more exciting is working with Grant McArthur and David Amor.

“What’s exceptional about Pamela’s vision is that by supporting the work of the Royal Children’s Hospital, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Peter Mac and the University she has created an opportunity for much more impact through collaboration and drawing upon the different skills of each institution.

“Philanthropy allows us to take some remarkable risks. We can try things that we’re uncertain about, but that have the capacity for really high impact. Pamela’s vision is going to benefit the community for decades to come.”

A SURVIVOR’S TALE

Melissa Sheldon’s story of survival is testament to the remarkable advances in medicine and the heroic efforts of doctors such as Professor Grant McArthur who are revolutionising the way treatment is being delivered to patients.

At 29, Melissa was diagnosed with melanoma – “a huge shock, especially since I didn’t actually know what melanoma was,” she reflects.

Within two years, despite surgery, the cancer had metastasised to her lungs; later, to her brain. And the prognosis was dire.

“My family came to say goodbye to me three times.”

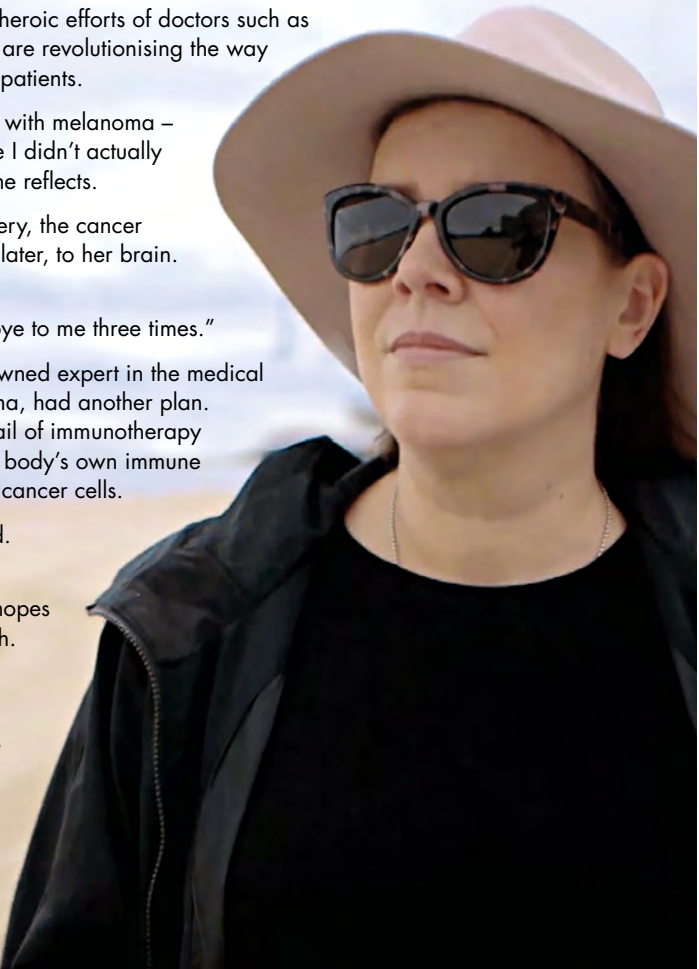
But Professor McArthur, a renowned expert in the medical oncology treatment of melanoma, had another plan. He deployed a powerful cocktail of immunotherapy drugs, designed to harness the body’s own immune response to target and destroy cancer cells.

Against all odds, he succeeded.

Nine years after her diagnosis, Melissa is still here, with high hopes for the future of cancer research.

“The treatments available have evolved over these years ... Just imagine if this disease was wiped out – that’s my hope.”

Research supported by the Lorenzo and Pamela Galli Medical Research Trust will help many patients and families, like Melissa Sheldon, right.



EDUCATION

A PASSION FOR TEACHING

A family's generosity has supported one graduate's vision for a more positive classroom experience.

THEY were born decades apart, but Olive Battersby and Merjam Musić have a lot in common. For one thing, these two women have known firsthand the transformative power of education.

Merjam, who recently finished a Master of Teaching and received the Olive Battersby Scholarship in 2018, originally came to Australia as a refugee from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Despite the fact that many of her fellow high-school students faced severe disadvantage, she says the school did not have adequate support in place for their wellbeing, although she notes that this has since changed.

"Because of my own experiences, my aim is to help schools focus more on the wellbeing of students who come as refugees or migrants, and those who are really disadvantaged in other ways," Merjam says.

Merjam enrolled in the Master of Teaching to pursue those goals and was shocked but extremely grateful to receive the scholarship. It instilled in her a "strong sense of responsibility" and, above all, gave her an invaluable gift for a university student – time.

"It provided me with so much more free time, and enabled me to focus entirely on my master's degree, without the added weight of extreme work hours," she says. "It also provided me with a wealth of opportunities to be engaged in professional development, as I was able to attend certain events like the Victorian Institute of Teaching conference. I did a lot of volunteering, and because of that I was invited to attend the state conference, which expanded my professional circle, particularly in the field of English.

"I never would have been able to attend such events without the scholarship, because I would have been working instead of volunteering, and not developing my CV as much."



Merjam also became a peer mentor and took part in the University's Graduate Student Ambassador program. The hard work paid off, and she was offered a job teaching English and the humanities at a newly opened secondary school in the suburb of Wollert in Melbourne's outer north.

"At the job interview ... while I did have good academic results, members of the panel were mostly fascinated by my attendance at the state conference, and my engagement in academic assistance programs. I became so grateful that I had the time to engage in these activities throughout my degree."

The Olive Battersby Scholarship was established in the memory of Olive Battersby by her siblings. Olive dedicated nearly 40 years of her life to the University of Melbourne's School of Education, starting as the assistant to the Dean. She then studied librarianship and served for many years as the school's librarian.

Merjam is clearly passionate about the transformative role education can play for students facing disadvantage. She solidified her passion when, as an undergraduate student, she tutored refugees and international students in Melbourne's south-east.

"I realised that I actually really enjoyed talking about books and unpacking their themes, and connecting with the students, to instil in them a love for English and literature."

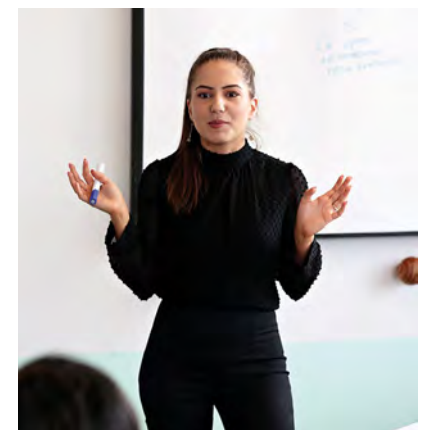
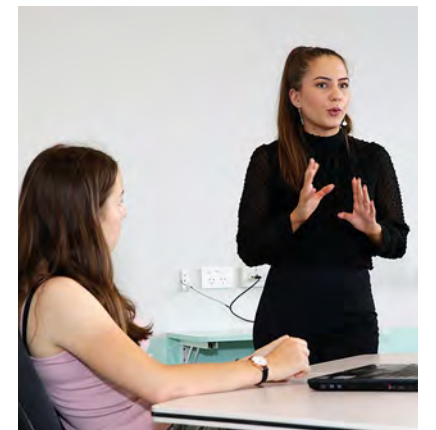
She says that her experience of learning English as a second language makes her a uniquely qualified role model.

"I understand that it can be a struggle. But the students recognise themselves in me and my past experiences. They learn that someone, who was once disadvantaged like them, still completed high school and attended the University of Melbourne.

"I want to thank the donors so much for their generosity. I'm sincerely honoured to have been a recipient of the Olive Battersby Scholarship."

MERJAM MUSIĆ

Merjam Musić aims to help schools focus on the wellbeing of refugee and other disadvantaged students.



PICTURES: ANDREW TAUBER

SCHOLARSHIPS

HANDS-ON LEARNING

A dedicated fund is helping students make the most of the University's Dookie Campus.

GROWING up on his family's one-hectare property in the South Gippsland town of Meeniyan, Charlie McInnes always loved being around animals. Though his parents weren't farmers, there were horses and cattle at home, and pets were a constant fixture of his childhood.

"I've always been fascinated with animals, just from having been around them from a young age," he says.

So, when a friend mentioned plans to study at the University of Melbourne's Dookie campus, the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences' 2440-hectare learning facility in the Goulburn Valley, it piqued Charlie's interest. He enrolled in the campus's Diploma in General Studies, and after completing that year-long course, applied for the Bachelor of Agriculture – which includes the option of a residency at Dookie for second-year students.

For Charlie, living, studying and working at Dookie has been a revelation. It introduced him to the sheep industry – a field he plans to work in when he graduates – as well as a supportive coterie.

"I've gained so much from being up there," he says. "Because you all live together, it becomes like a small community; everyone knows each other and gets along really well."

Despite these advantages, moving to a new campus can be financially prohibitive for some Bachelor of Agriculture students. Realising this, the University created the Dookie Scholarship Fund. The fund, which has already attracted gifts from a number of generous donors, helps cover accommodation costs and enable those undertaking the degree to reach their full potential.

A Dookie Fund recipient, Charlie says the scholarship has been "a huge help".

"From home to Dookie, it's four-and-a-half hours, so it's not an easy trip," he explains. "Getting financial assistance made that move a lot easier and allowed me to focus a lot more on studying."

Fellow student Kate Methven agrees. Hailing from a small property in Tuerong on the Mornington Peninsula, she says the scholarship has helped her in more ways than one.



Kate Methven, Charlie McInnes and Emily Webb Ware at the University of Melbourne's Dookie Campus, and, below, with other students in one of the communal kitchens on campus.

PICTURES: STEVE MCKENZIE



"It's benefited me by helping with living expenses, but it also gave me opportunities that I wouldn't have had without it, like attending industry events and being able to try different things."

Like Charlie, Kate found herself drawn to the sheep industry. While at high school, she began showing sheep and her interest in agriculture grew from there.

"I like that you get a bit of everything and it's quite varied and hands on," she explains.

Just one subject away from graduating, Kate says Dookie's rural setting makes it the ideal place to study and get practical experience.

"Being on a farm, you are able to live in an environment that the industry is based around, see what is happening and get a sense of what people are doing for a living."

"Because you all live together, it becomes like a small community; everyone knows each other and gets along really well."

Having recently started a full-time position with the Australian Wool Network, Kate is thankful for her time at Dookie and knows that she will miss the close-knit campus when it comes time to leave.

"Everyone knew each other and it was really, really friendly," she adds. "The staff were great; they were always helpful and wanting the best for me. I was definitely a name at Dookie, not just a number."

SCIENCE

OUT OF THIN AIR

Thanks to our donors
FREO2 is saving lives.

AFTER years of testing and development, a multidisciplinary team of University of Melbourne researchers led by physicists Associate Professor Roger Rassool and Dr Bryn Sobott have turned a light bulb moment into something that promises to save many thousands of children from deadly pneumonia.

In 2018, in a remote healthcare clinic in Mbarara, Uganda, the team saved their first life when they successfully trialled their invention, called FREO2, which can provide a continuous supply of oxygen without the need for electricity. So far, it has helped save the lives of more than 100 children in their care.

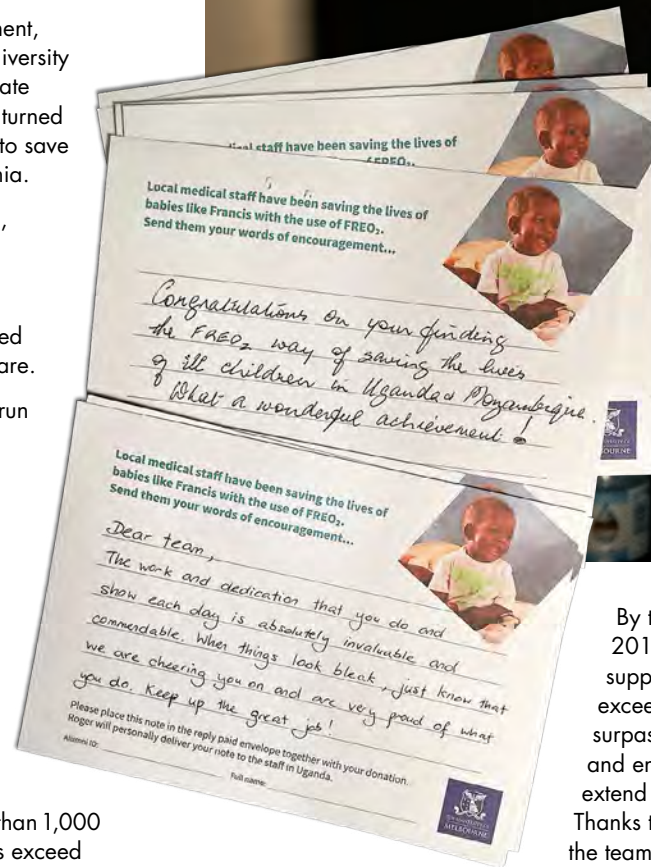
FREO2, or Fully Renewable Energy Oxygen, can run on any energy source and is the only technology in the world capable of producing medical-grade oxygen without electricity. FREO2 devices are affordable, appropriate and versatile for use in low and middle-income countries.

The breakthrough is crucial as many regional medical centres in these countries have unreliable access to the electricity normally needed to power oxygen concentrators, which can also be expensive and difficult to maintain.

Last year, we explained to our community of supporters the importance of this technology: pneumonia kills 2,500 children every day. More than 1,000 people responded, with their donations helping us exceed the target of \$150,000, needed to support clinical trials in Mozambique. Of these donors, more than 500 were giving through the University for the first time.

Thanks to this generosity, Associate Professor Rassool and Dr Sobott have advanced their outstanding work to the next stage. Their research collaboration in Mozambique is with the Manhica Health Research Centre (CISM) in Maputo, where significant progress has already been made towards saving lives of children with pneumonia. Equipment is being shipped, ethics approval is almost complete and a young local engineer, Ashley Chiludo, is undertaking training for the installation and maintenance of the equipment.

“There’s not a single person at this University that we asked for help that didn’t offer help. So, it was a lot of hard work and a lot of angst – but, also, a lot of tremendous teamwork and ability.”



By the end of February 2019, donations in support of FREO2 exceeded \$200,000, surpassing expectations and enabling the team to extend their trials further. Thanks to this generosity, the team was able to take this technology to Tanzania, where

the establishment of a social enterprise to install and maintain the oxygen systems was unexpectedly swift.

The new equipment had only just been installed when a very small child came into the hospital suffering respiratory distress. Using an oximeter, which is part of the FREO2 package, the local medical team was able to measure the child’s oxygen saturation levels which were at a very risky 77 per cent (healthy children record levels between 95 and 98 per cent) and immediately provide the oxygen the infant needed.

Demonstrating that FREO2 can save lives anywhere, whenever it’s called upon, will be vital in securing World Health Organization endorsement to be able to roll out this technology around the world.

The Melbourne team want FREO2 to be adopted and used by whoever needs it and are keen to take it to Timor, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Their goal is to have 100 systems in place by the end of 2020.

Associate Professor Rassool and Dr Sobott say their position at the University gave them the space and time to test prototypes over a period of six years, after they first became aware of the terrible cost to children worldwide of pneumonia. It has also made it easier for them to approach experts from other disciplines, such as medicine, finance and even plumbing.

“There’s not a single person at this University that we asked for help that didn’t offer help,” says Professor Rassool. “So, it was a lot of hard work and a lot of angst – but, also, a lot of tremendous teamwork and ability.”

Associate Professor Roger Rassool working with engineers at the healthcare clinic in Mbarara, Uganda.

Below: Associate Professor Roger Rassool and Dr Bryn Sobott (2nd and 3rd from left) and Associate Professor Jim Black (5th from left) with members of the FREO2 research team.



SCHOLARSHIPS

A HELPING HAND

A memorial gift is supporting rural and regional students.

MOVING to the big smoke was a long-held dream for Lachlan Hinds, a second-year Bachelor of Arts student who grew up in George Town, a small, working-class community at the mouth of the Tamar River in northern Tasmania.

“I was the only person from my school there to go to a mainland university,” Lachlan (pictured, top) says. “It has beautiful scenery and it was an amazing place to grow up, but there are a lot of issues in terms of educational attainment.

“I wanted something different, and I always knew that I wanted to move to Melbourne.”

In 2018, Lachlan’s hard work and perseverance finally led him to the University, where he’s now involved in the Arts Students Society and the Aspiring Scholars Program, and considering a career in law.

He is also a recipient of the Alexander and Bridget Jones Memorial Scholarship, named for siblings and University of Melbourne students Alexander, 19, and Bridget Jones, 18, who died tragically in 2013. They were widely mourned – by the University, and the community more generally.

Each year, the scholarship, funded by the University and the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, supports up to eight students from rural and regional areas as a means of providing opportunities for students and staff from educationally, financially or socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

“I grew up in a single-parent household – a very working-class family – and we couldn’t afford a lot,” says Lachlan. “The scholarship has made all the difference in terms of making the move more of a reality.”

The scholarship provides a total of \$13,500 for each student to complete their undergraduate degree, as well as \$2,500 for an exchange or study abroad experience.

Another recipient is second-year Biomedicine student Jesse Simpson (pictured, bottom), an aspiring surgeon who hopes one day to work pro bono in rural Australia or aboard a humanitarian surgery ship. The scholarship has helped pay for his laptop and daily train commute from a semi-rural town to attend University.



“The reduced financial stress allows me to spend less time thinking about money and more time working on my education,” he says. “It’s heartwarming to know that the University values its connections to its students.”

Adds Lachlan: “I feel humbled to have received something that obviously means such a lot to a lot of people. It means so much to me, too.”

THANK YOU

Thank you for your support of the University of Melbourne.

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



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University of Melbourne Advancement
April 2019

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ON THE COVER

Qianyang Chen has a goal of developing a smart knee brace to improve mobility of patients with degenerative lower limb muscles. She is a recipient of the Jack Wynhoven Scholarship.

“It helped my confidence to have the recognition from the University as well as the support from the donor.”

COVER PICTURE: STEVE McKENZIE

