

THANK YOU

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WESTERNSYDNEY.EDU.AU



WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY

IMPACT REPORT

Alibaba Sabiri

John Mac Foundation Scholarship Recipient,
Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)

STAFF GIVING
in 2017

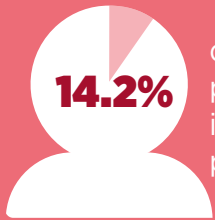
440

staff gave a
donation
through
payroll



14.2%

of staff
participated
in fortnightly
payroll giving



Staff gave

\$181,650

through payroll, mostly
towards scholarships



133

alumni gave
\$74,000 in
donations



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CELEBRATING
EXCELLENCE

THANK YOU

Western Sydney University is proud to deliver quality tertiary education to a multicultural student cohort that reflects the diversity of the Greater Western Sydney region. The University currently educates students from 179 different countries and has a growing international reputation and reach.

We are a world class academic and research-led university, ranking in the top 2% of universities worldwide, and with 80% of our research rated 'at, or above, world standard' by Excellence in Research for Australia.

Western Sydney University is fortunate for the generosity of its alumni, friends, industry partners, staff, and the broader community. In 2017, with the help of donors like you, 328 students were supported by scholarships.

Many of these students have experienced extraordinary hardship and trauma as refugees. Others are children who have been brought up

in foster care. Nearly all face severe financial and social disadvantage. They often confront significant barriers to accessing and completing university. However, with your assistance, these students have the opportunity of a university education and to prepare themselves as future leaders. We thank you for your contributions and the encouragement you have provided to the University's students.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all of our continuing and new scholarship supporters and acknowledge the generous contributions of our staff who have assisted to fund Community

Scholarships. We look forward to sharing the transformational and profound effects that your gifts can and will have on students.

The National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM) Health Research Institute reached its milestone 10th year in 2017, and thanks to the support of significant donors such as Mr Abraham Chan, PuraPharm, and Dr Fai Yuen Lam, expansion of the Institute is currently underway. We are also most grateful for the ongoing support of NICM from the Jacka Foundation of Natural Therapies, Blackmores Ltd, and Mr Marcus Blackmore AM and Mrs Caroline Blackmore.

FOUNDATION COUNCIL

Western Sydney University is fortunate to have the support of these distinguished business leaders and alumni to guide our philanthropic activities. We warmly thank them for their passionate commitment to transforming the lives of our students, our community and our world through education and research.

MR DANNY GILBERT AM (CHAIR)

Managing Partner
GILBERT + TOBIN

PROFESSOR PETER SHERGOLD AC

Chancellor
WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

PROFESSOR BARNEY GLOVER FTSE

Vice-Chancellor and President
WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

MR DAVID BONHAM

Chief Financial Officer and Chief
Operating Officer
IXUP LIMITED

These contributions are vital to the continued growth of the Institute and its ground-breaking work.

Last year, the School of Medicine also celebrated its 10th birthday. Throughout the past decade, the School has produced research and graduates of outstanding quality. Our thanks go to those who have supported the School, particularly its foundation donors – the Rotary Club of Narellan and Dr Peter Brennan AM. Your unwavering support is greatly appreciated.

Since its launch in 2017, the Centre for Smart Modern Construction has

also seen tremendous success. The Centre places industry engagement at the core of its activity, with the purpose of helping to create a hub for research, developing new academic leadership in modern construction, providing future-ready graduates, and building industry capability in Western Sydney. We recognise the contributions of Hansen Yuncken and Prime Constructions as inaugural supporters of the Centre.

Finally, our thanks go to our Foundation Council, a group of dedicated professionals who ensure an efficient and effective approach

to philanthropy. We are proud that administration fees are not applied to philanthropic gifts to Western Sydney University and that all donations are used for their intended cause. A gift to Western Sydney University is therefore a gift with maximum impact.

This Impact Report provides a snapshot of the inspirational stories that have emerged as a direct result of philanthropic gifts to the University. We once again thank you for your important contribution to our University and its community.



Professor Peter Shergold AC
Chancellor



Professor Barney Glover FTSE
Vice-Chancellor and President



Mr Danny Gilbert AM
Chair, Foundation Council

MR CAMERON CLYNE

Chairman
RUGBY AUSTRALIA

MR MATT GRAHAM

Managing Partner, Assurance
PwC AUSTRALIA

MR DAVID HAZLETT

Managing Director
CAMERON BRAE GROUP PTY LTD

MS CARMEL HOURIGAN

Global Head of Real Estate
AMP CAPITAL

MR MARTYN MCCARTHY

Managing Partner
ARROW PROPERTY INVESTMENTS

MR NICHOLAS MORAITIS AM

Executive Chairman
PRIMO MORAITIS FRESH

MS KATIE PAGE

Chief Executive Officer
HARVEY NORMAN HOLDINGS LTD

THE HON. DR HELEN SHAM-HO OAM

Former Deputy-President
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF NSW

MS GABRIELLE TRAINOR AO

Non-Executive Director

MR KIM WILLIAMS AM

Director
KIM FUTURE

MR TALAL YASSINE OAM

Managing Director
CRESCENT WEALTH

THE IMPACT OF DONOR GIVING

2017 REALISING OUR VISION

Established as a university of the people, Western Sydney University remains true to its mission of academic excellence and service to the community, beginning with the people of Greater Western Sydney and extending nationwide and around the globe.

Our donors – individual and corporate – are integral to the realisation of this mission and its underpinning values of equity, inclusiveness and social relevance.

Through their generous giving, our alumni, friends, staff and industry partners contribute not only to the University and its students, but to Western Sydney as a region, Australian society and humanity as a whole.

REFLECTING OUR VALUES

Commitment to our Region and Communities

Donor-funded scholarships provide opportunities for local students who, in turn, contribute to the economy and social capital of Western Sydney as a skilled and creative workforce. Donations to research also have a direct and positive impact locally, helping to address the needs and challenges of our region's diverse population, economy and environment.

Equity and Inclusiveness

Donors funded a record number of equity scholarships in 2017, helping students overcome financial, cultural and physical barriers to tertiary education. Recipients included refugees, women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and those in financial hardship, living with disabilities and coming from backgrounds of out-of-home care.

Excellence and Quality

Prizes and awards provided by individual and corporate donors help celebrate the academic achievements of our students, encouraging excellence and leadership across all disciplines. Meanwhile, major philanthropic gifts in 2017 ensured the quality and continuity of academic programs and research.

Recognition and Respect for First Peoples

Donor-funded scholarships provided financial support and encouragement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in disciplines such as law, medicine and nursing. Philanthropic gifts and endowments funded the implementation and analysis of programs aimed at improving health and education outcomes for Indigenous Australians at a local and national level.

Collegiality and Participation

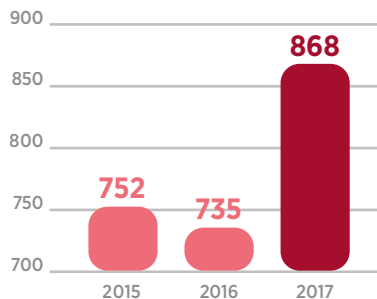
Staff at Western Sydney University continued to demonstrate their personal commitment to the inclusive values of the University through salary sacrifice contributions to the Staff Giving Program. The program continues to fund Community Scholarships for talented students in need of financial assistance.

IMPACT OF DONOR GIVING

Value of awarded scholarships
\$1,318,350



Total number of donors

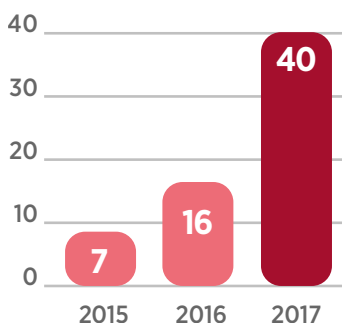


Number of students supported by donor-funded scholarships

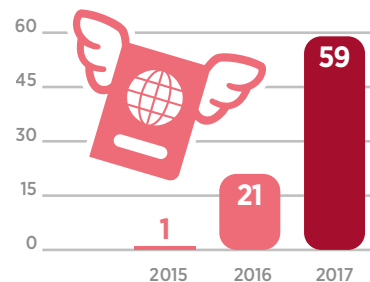


EQUITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Growth in numbers of community scholarships

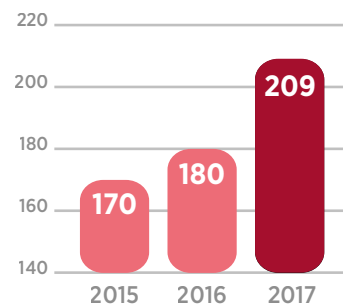


Growth in numbers of refugee scholarships



PRIZES & AWARDS

Number of donor-funded prizes awarded



Value of prizes awarded to students

\$150,000



“ I’ve gone from almost nothing to being the first in my family to go to university. This scholarship has given me so much pride in what I can achieve. ”

TASHA REYNOLDS

SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION
TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT,
BACHELOR OF HEALTH MEDICINE
(PARAMEDICINE)



Tasha Reynolds

Sisters of Charity Foundation
Tertiary Scholarship Recipient



EQUITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOSTER STUDENT SUCCESS

In and out of foster care from a young age, Tasha Reynolds never imagined that she would go to university and pursue a career in paramedicine.

After years of insecurity, 12-year-old Tasha and her younger sister finally found a permanent home with her former pre-school teacher. There, Tasha says, for the first time in a long time, she began to have a 'semi-normal life'. As a student at Caroline Chisholm College, she excelled in her studies, despite working three jobs and remaining one of her sister's primary carers.

Diligent, intelligent and mature beyond her years, Tasha was the ideal candidate for a Sisters of Charity Foundation Tertiary Scholarship. As part of its mission to alleviate the effects of poverty and social isolation, the Foundation awards five scholarships to students at Western Sydney University who have a history of out-of-home care.

"Some of these young people are among the most disadvantaged in

our community," says Reba Meagher, CEO of the Sisters of Charity Foundation. "They have had a very traumatic start to life, including going through multiple foster care or group care home placements. Getting an education is personally empowering for them, giving them opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have."

For Tasha, receiving the scholarship felt "a bit like winning the lottery". Now 19 years old and in the second year of a Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedicine), she can appreciate how it has changed the course of her future. "It has given me the support and security I didn't have growing up. However hard it gets, the Sisters of Charity are there to support me and guide me in the right direction to pursue this degree and believe in myself and what I can do as a person."

“ Juggling the management of a disability, full-time study and work is a considerable undertaking. Receiving this scholarship in 2017 allowed me to excel in the final year of my physiotherapy degree, which included nearly 6 months of full-time clinical placement – working 40-hour weeks as a student physiotherapist. The scholarship allowed me to commit myself to this without having to maintain my usual working hours. ”

MELISSA PERRINE

WALTER AND ELIZA HALL TRUST
OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENT, BACHELOR OF
HEALTH SCIENCE/MASTER OF
PHYSIOTHERAPY



Heather Peters

Donor, Heather Peters
Scholarship for Refugees and
Heather Peters Scholarship -
Parramatta High School

A portrait of Heather Peters, a woman with blonde hair, smiling, wearing a pink jacket and a necklace. The background is a solid red color.

HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY

SCHOLARSHIPS HELP REFUGEES
REALISE THEIR POTENTIAL

The majority of Australia's refugees settle in Western Sydney, where the University plays a vital role in helping them re-establish and thrive in their new home. The launch of our Refugee Scholarship Fund in 2015 has led to a proliferation of scholarships for Western Sydney University students arriving in Australia on humanitarian visas.

NEW FOUNDATION HONOURS THE MEMORY OF JOHN MAC



Deng Adut
Co-Founder, John Mac Foundation
Bachelor of Laws, 2010

For many people, Deng Adut has been the face of Western Sydney University since he featured in a powerful re-branding campaign and was nominated for the 2016 Australian of the Year. Now a criminal lawyer serving the people of Blacktown and Redfern, Deng began life as a child soldier fighting in South Sudan.

Deng's personal hero is his older brother, John Mac, who risked his life to rescue a young Deng from the frontline and smuggle him out of the country. When the two brothers were safely resettled in Australia, John became the first South Sudanese refugee to graduate from an Australian university.

For John, however, there was to be no happy ending. Despite having a double degree in Anthropology and International Development, he could not find meaningful employment in Australia. After working in a factory, he returned to South Sudan as a humanitarian worker and was killed in 2014.

Two years later, Deng established the John Mac Foundation to honour his brother's memory, continue his legacy and address some of the issues that held him back in life. Recipients of the Foundation's three inaugural scholarships not only receive financial assistance during their studies at Western Sydney University, but are also mentored to make a smooth transition from education to employment in their chosen field.

'Life-changing' is how Eman Al Lalloo describes the Heather Peters Scholarship that has enabled her to pursue her dream of becoming a police officer. Growing up in Iraq, Eman was a diligent student but her career aspirations were thwarted by the conflict in her homeland. Arriving in Sydney as a refugee, she developed an interest in the work of first responders. Eman is now studying for a Bachelor of Policing at Western Sydney University and gaining experience as a volunteer with the State Emergency Service and St John Ambulance.

A childhood spent in Western Sydney in the 1950s and 60s may seem a far cry from war-torn Iraq, but Heather Peters has never forgotten how her own life was transformed by the Commonwealth Scholarship that sent her to university. She resolved to extend her good fortune to others and, by 2017, four recently-arrived refugees from Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq were studying at Western Sydney University on a Heather Peters Refugee Scholarship.

The Crescent Foundation also awarded new scholarships in 2017 to support students from refugee backgrounds. The seven Crescent Foundation Leadership Scholarships are valued at \$7,500 per year for three years and are awarded to high-achieving students studying across the full range of courses at Western Sydney University.

"We know the powerful role that higher education plays in transforming people's lives, and the positive flow-on effects this has for their families and wider communities," says University Vice-Chancellor Professor Barney Glover.

"Many refugees who are new to Australia have had their education disrupted through war and violence. We are pleased to partner with caring individuals and foundations to establish scholarships to help these students continue their studies and realise their potential."



“ I can't express how this scholarship has changed things for me, my family and my community. The scholarship itself is awarded to me as an individual but I can assure you that its benefits will devolve to a whole lot of people. ”

SANTIGIE TARAWALLY

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, BACHELOR OF ACCOUNTING. SANTIGIE IS A REFUGEE FROM SIERRA LEONE AND THE SOLE PARENT OF THREE CHILDREN



Dr Fai Yuen Lam and family with
Vice-Chancellor Professor Barney Glover FTSE



“ These are visionary gifts that will further strengthen the clinical integrity and professional status of Chinese medicine in Australia and around the world. ”

PROFESSOR ALAN BENSOUSSAN

DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE (NICM)

PHILANTHROPIC BOOST TO HEALTH AND MEDICINE

In a milestone year for health and medical science at Western Sydney University, its Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery, and the NICM Health Research Institute were all the recipients of major donations and valuable gifts-in-kind.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SERVING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF OUR REGION

It was a case of hundreds of doctors in the house as Alumni gathered at a gala ball in August 2017 to mark the 10th birthday of the first intake of students by the Western Sydney University School of Medicine.

The evening was sponsored by Primary Health Care, one of Australia's leading healthcare providers. With medical centres, pathology labs and imaging facilities across Western Sydney, the company has recently come on board as a valued donor of medical scholarships and sponsor of events at Western Sydney University.

BULUNDIDI GUDAGA

A Strong Start to Learning for Urban Aboriginal Children

A \$336,000 grant from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation has enabled the Translational Research and Social Innovation (TReSI) group within the School of Nursing and Midwifery to participate in a unique longitudinal study to determine the effectiveness of health and developmental support programs aimed at 'closing the gap' for urban Aboriginal children entering school.

The program, known as Bulundidi Gudaga: supporting a strong start to learning for urban Aboriginal children, is a collaboration between the University, South Western Sydney Local Health District and Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation. Following a cohort of vulnerable Aboriginal mothers and infants from conception to the child's first year at school, it includes a sustained program of

nurse home visits, dental health promotion and multi-disciplinary health and developmental support.

Led by Professor Lynn Kemp, the TReSi Group is conducting a rigorous assessment of Bulundidi Gudaga to determine its immediate and long-term effectiveness. Their research is the first in the world to analyse the outcomes of a comprehensive birth to school intervention program for the families of Indigenous infants.

Early indications are positive, with the children showing improved outcomes at their second birthday. TReSi's data analysis will continue through the children's first year of formal schooling to identify and measure improvements in their language development and learning.

DR VINCENT LIN PLEDGES \$100,000 TO THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Dr Vincent Lin is a prominent figure in the Chinese-Australian business community. He studied Medicine at Fujian Medical University in China before completing a Masters and PhD in cardiology and moving to Australia in 1990 to work with Dr Victor Chang.

Over the following decade, Dr Lin moved from medicine into business where he now runs several family firms under the banner of T & R Investment Group. Nevertheless, he remains passionate about medical science and is keen to strengthen China and Australia's cultural links through Western medicine. His \$100,000 pledge will support 10 exchange scholarships for doctors and PhD students from Nindge Hospital and his alma mater, Fujian Medical University, to come to Western Sydney University and Campbelltown Hospital to gain an understanding of Australian hospitals and medical education.

MR ABRAHAM CHAN AND PURAPHARM GIVE \$1 MILLION TO THE NICM HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Hong Kong businessman, Mr Abraham Chan, has dedicated his working life to the modernisation and global promotion of traditional Chinese medicine. Since it was founded in 1998, his company, PuraPharm, has come to be regarded as a world leader in the development, manufacture and marketing of traditional Chinese and herbal medicines.

Mr Chan sees the NICM Health Research Institute as a world class facility for integrative medical research. In 2017, he made a generous gift to expand the Institute's capacity for research, education and clinical trials.

His contribution includes a donation for the development of Traditional Chinese Medicine facilities within the Institute and an additional \$500,000 in-kind gift of raw herb stock and extract for the purposes of research.

DR FAI YUEN LAM GIVES \$500,000 TO THE NICM HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Dr Fai Yuen Lam also came to Australia from the eastern Chinese province of Fujian. Chairman of the Australia China Economics, Trade and Culture Association, he believes in the importance of fostering cultural links between the two countries, as well as in investing in health and medical research.

Dr Lam's major donation to the NICM Health Research Institute will go towards expanding its training, research and clinical trial programs and the completion of facilities at the new Westmead site. He is also supporting collaboration between the NICM Health Research Institute and the Fujian University of Chinese Medicine in the form of post-doctoral exchange scholarships and joint research into chronic conditions like dementia.

COMMUNITIES INVEST IN HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

As a long-time member of the Rotary Club of Narellan, local businessman Marty Magro was already supporting Multiple Sclerosis research at Western Sydney University when, in a cruel twist of fate, his wife Tina was diagnosed with the disease.

“We knew many people, family friends and people in the club, affected by MS so we were contributing even before Tina got her diagnosis,” Marty says. “Our family companies, Bombora Pools and Self Storage Select, make corporate donations of up to \$10,000 a year. For the past few years, these have been specifically for MS research.”

The Rotary Club of Narellan has been a consistent supporter of the School of Medicine since its foundation, donating up to \$100,000 a year to medical scholarships for local students and MS research.

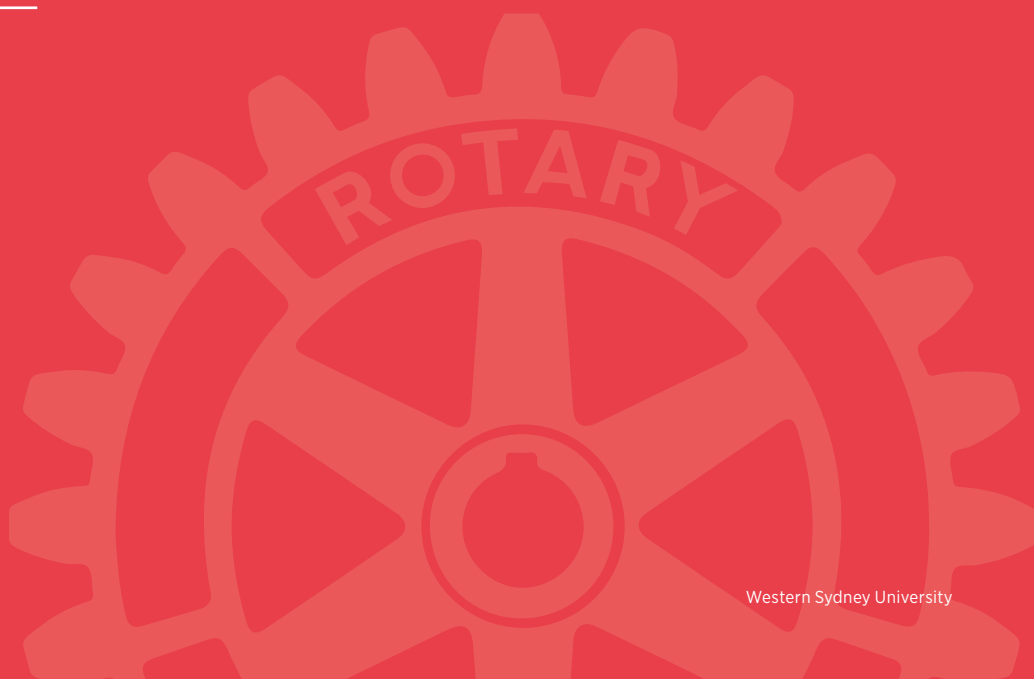
Marty Magro not only contributes through his two companies but approaches other local businesses to support the cause in his capacity as the Rotary Club’s Community Service Director.

“We’ve always been good fundraisers, everyone chips in. We hold a Charity Ball every year that raises most of the money. Businesses like Mainbrace, Perich Group and Terry Fordham from TRN are great contributors. TRN used to give to a lot of causes but now their money goes to MS research.”

Back at Western Sydney University’s School of Medicine, Dr David Mahns expresses his deep gratitude to the Rotary Club and people of Narellan. “Their support has allowed us to develop an entire model of the early stages of MS. We are looking at what happens right at the start to trigger the disease so we can learn when to intervene and how. The Club’s donations have been vital to this research. They have supported the work of two PhD students throughout their candidature, allowing them to undertake much bigger research projects and deliver outcomes that would not have been possible otherwise.”

THANK YOU TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF NARELLAN AND THEIR SUPPORTERS IN 2017

- ADCO Constructions Pty Ltd
- Celestino
- Mainbrace Constructions
- Narellan Town Centre
- Perich Group
- Self Storage Select
- TRN Group



PLACEMENTS ADDRESS CRITICAL HEALTH CARE GAPS IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

Kelvin Tran had never lived outside Western Sydney when, in the fourth year of his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, an Australian Rotary Health Scholarship sent him to regional New South Wales on a year-long clinical placement.

“I had some reservations about making the move,” Kelvin says, “but within six months, I was wanting to train as a general surgeon or rural generalist. This scholarship has unlocked opportunities and experiences which have changed my perspective and will shape my future.”

Australian Rotary Health has been a valued community partner of Western Sydney University since 2004, providing students from the Schools of Medicine and Nursing and Midwifery with scholarships for rural clinical and PhD research. The joint project of Rotary Clubs from around Australia, it is one of the country’s largest independent health research funds, supporting a wide range of mental health, Indigenous and rural health initiatives.

Kelvin Tran’s Rural Medical Scholarship took him to central western New South Wales, where he gained experience in regional hospitals, general practice and outreach clinics from Bathurst to Blayney, Orange and Hill End.

“I was exposed to more patients, performed a lot of procedures and refined my clinical acumen every day,” he says. “I feel I am better prepared for my future as a junior doctor than many of my peers who have trained in metropolitan hospitals.”



Professor Jenny Reath and
Dr Peter Brennan AM

A GIFT WITH ONGOING HEALTH BENEFITS

Since her appointment as the Peter Brennan Chair of General Practice in 2010, Professor Jenny Reath and her team have earned the School of Medicine an international reputation for general practice teaching and research.

“My aim has been to create teaching and research programs that can address the particular needs of Western Sydney’s large and diverse population. Much of our research has focussed on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. We have also developed a growing reputation for research on innovative approaches to health service delivery.”

The Chair of General Practice was established ten years ago with one generous gift from Bradcorp CEO, Dr Peter Brennan AM. In line with Bradcorp’s mission of building healthy

communities in Sydney’s south west, Dr Brennan hoped to demonstrate his personal commitment to the liveability and long-term health of local communities.

At the time, Dr Brennan’s endowment was the single most significant gift to be received by the then new School of Medicine. Thanks to the work of Professor Reath and her team, that one significant, caring gesture continues to have health benefits for the people of Greater Western Sydney.

GROWING A NEW GENERATION OF SUSTAINABLE FARMERS

Following an extensive recruitment search, Professor Priti Krishna was appointed to the role of Chair in Sustainable Agriculture in 2017.



Like the University's Bachelor of Agriculture itself, the endowed professorship has been redesigned in recent years to provide leadership in teaching and research focused on sustainable farming and food security.

"This is the future of agriculture," Professor Krishna explains. "Sustainable practices and technologies are the best way to address the problem areas of modern farming like chemical use, energy consumption and climate change."

Coming from a background in plant molecular biology, Professor Krishna describes her appointment as "a dream come true."

"As a molecular biologist, you are always hoping that your discoveries will improve people's lives, but you are focused so intently on research that is highly specific and you rarely get to see what impact it might have. This position gives me the

opportunity I've been waiting for to do something on a bigger scale, something that will allow me to contribute to the betterment of the many while still using my passion for science."

Professor Krishna has found inspiration in the values espoused by the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation (VFFF), whose donation in 1992 to the UWS Hawkesbury Foundation helped to establish the original Chair in Agriculture - Farming Systems. "Vincent Fairfax was a remarkable philanthropist who believed that, with wealth, came a responsibility and an obligation to serve the community," she says.

"My goal is to train the next generation of agriculturalists to farm smartly and sustainably. Through this prestigious position, one person is able to infuse these values and directions into the teaching and research of the school and engage with industry and the community."

"This campus had a long and rich history as the Hawkesbury Agricultural College. I want to see agriculture front and centre once again in its most vital form. The environment, food security and nutrition sit right at the heart of so many social debates at the moment. For the agricultural sciences, these are exciting times."

The National Vegetable Protected Cropping Centre was officially opened by Senator Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, on 2nd November 2017.

Located at Western Sydney University's Hawkesbury campus in Sydney's peri-urban north-west, the Centre is based around a stunning, 1800 sq. m. facility, designed with the world's very best glasshouse infrastructure and controller systems, and houses research, education and training facilities in modern protected cropping horticulture. It is a collaborative partnership between Western Sydney University, Hort Innovation, industry and research partners to advance Australia's horticultural capabilities in protected cropping.

In coming years, the University plans to be home to some of the finest protected cropping technologies anywhere in the world, enabling us to develop the skills of Australia's next generation of specialists and professionals in controlled environment horticulture industries.

The National Vegetable Protected Cropping Centre





THE HAWKESBURY INSTITUTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The place in Australia to conduct climate change, environmental and agricultural science, and life sciences research.

The Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment's (HIE) strategy is to build a collegial group of the world's foremost scientific researchers supported by facilities unlike anything else in the world, such as EucFACE (Free Air CO² Enrichment experiment) and the new world-class National Vegetable Protected Cropping Centre glasshouse. This strategy has inspired a group of highly-productive researchers and postgraduate students.

Powered by the synergies created by highly-specialised and diverse researchers, the Institute is forging ahead with innovative research into questions facing Australian society.

Close collaboration with key industry organisations, governments, research and development corporations and specialists is developing comprehensive and engaged research to inform the future of planning and policy decisions in Australia and internationally.

The Right Plant in The Right Place for Tomorrow's Climates

Which Plant Where is a five-year research project that tests major landscape plant species for their tolerance of, and performance in tomorrow's predicted climate conditions amid increased urban expansion and resulting heat, drought, and high CO².

The impact of this research will be seen in greener and cooler cities, supported by expanded markets for plants and green life, and providing robust, evidence-based tools to help landscapers and developers put the right plants into the right location for decades to come.

Safeguarding The Pollinators That Make Food Possible

David Attenborough recently argued that society would last only four weeks without pollinators. Nearly all plants require pollination, sometimes by wind, bats and birds but mostly by an unseen army of insects that move from flower to flower and take pollen with them.

HIE's research is looking at the health of honeybees and other pollinators as the world grapples with declining bee populations. HIE researchers are investigating which organisms do the work of pollinating food and flora crops so that researchers can support farmers and landholders in maintaining environments that support a sustainable, diverse and resilient range of healthy pollinators.

SCEM STUDIES

OPEN A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

A bright future awaits our students pursuing careers in science, computing, engineering and mathematics (SCEM). Their studies are being further enriched by scholarships and exchanges that will equip them to perform the jobs of tomorrow and compete on the world stage.

Dynamic lawyer and company director Elizabeth Dibbs is determined to see more women succeed in male-dominated fields like engineering. Her prestigious SCEM scholarship promotes equality in the workforce by supporting the studies of one talented female engineering student.

Jaclyn Williams is spoilt for choice as she completes her Honours degree in Electrical Engineering. While her thesis focused on wearable and static health devices for the elderly, she has also developed a passion for solar powered technologies.

"I am extremely excited about where my future is taking me," Jaclyn says, "even though I'm not yet sure which path I will follow. My work in elderly health technology has been very rewarding and has brought me offers from a number of reputable

companies. At the same time, I've had a lot of fun working with solar power, building a solar drone and a home irrigation system."

Jaclyn credits her EJ Dibbs SCEM Scholarship for Women for giving her the freedom and resources to explore different areas of electrical engineering. "I can't thank Elizabeth enough for giving me these chances. The scholarship has allowed me to buy components for all my projects, including the sensors and testing equipment I needed to develop my health band for the elderly."

A former partner and General Counsel of PwC, Elizabeth Dibbs is the Deputy Chancellor of Western Sydney University and Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee. The recipients of her SCEM and Business scholarships receive funds for the duration of their degree.



“ I hope to encourage female students to unlock their potential in the technology and engineering spheres. These are critical areas, now and for the future, and ones in which women are still under-represented. ”

ELIZABETH DIBBS

DEPUTY CHANCELLOR,
WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Aylin Harapoz

EJ Dibbs Business Scholarship
Recipient, Bachelor of Business and
Commerce/Bachelor of Laws, 2018



ENGINEERING EXCHANGE FORGES FRENCH CONNECTIONS

Engineering students from Western Sydney University have the opportunity to spend a semester at the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis and undertake internships with the Thales Group in France.

The \$10,000 scholarship is the result of an innovative partnership between the two universities, the Laperouse Education Fund and Thales's large operations in both Western Sydney and Nice.

Philanthropist and Francophile Nicole Forest Green is the driving force behind the exchange program. As founder of the Laperouse Education Fund, Nicole is keen to give young Australians from non-affluent backgrounds the opportunity to travel and work in France, a country with a strong footprint in the field of advanced technology and science.

40 YEARS YOUNG: PROPERTY AT WESTERN

The new flagship campus, the Peter Shergold Building in the heart of the Parramatta CBD, was the fitting venue for celebrations in November to mark the 40th Anniversary of Property studies at Western Sydney University.

Considered one of the University's great success stories, the Property discipline is recognised nationwide for its effective integration of teaching, research and industry engagement. Among the industry leaders present were many alumni of the course, including some of Australia's most prominent business people.

University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barney Glover, paid tribute to the industry partners who have been fundamental to the success of the degree as employers of its graduates and interns, mentors to its students, and donors of scholarships and prizes.

The reception was sponsored by Lendlease, Colliers International and King & Wood Mallesons and included

moving speeches from executives from Aliro Group, AMP Capital Investments and Arrow Investments, all of whom were graduates of the degree's precursor course in Land Economics at Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

Also honoured on the evening was Professor Graeme Newell who, as head of the Property course for every one of its 40 years, has seen it grow to become one of the sector's most recognised and respected qualifications.

"It was wonderful to see so many of our graduates enjoying exciting property careers," Professor Newell said of the anniversary celebrations. "People who are now in senior roles with leading property players

expressed their appreciation for the support they were given as they took their first steps in the industry."

"What began 40 years ago as a valuers' course with a first-year intake of twelve now has an annual intake of more than 200 students. We are preparing them for a wide range of property careers including property investment, development and valuation," Professor Newell said.

"The program's strong industry links are reflected in their contributions of major scholarships, prizes and guest lectures. Being based in a School of Business has also been important, with the property industry now so strongly linked to the capital markets."

David Southon
Executive Chairman, Aliro Group

Carmel Hourigan
Global Head of Real Estate, AMP Capital

Marty McCarthy
Managing Partner, Arrow Property Investments



“ My property degree at Western Sydney University gave me one of the most recognised qualifications in the business. I had the benefit of experienced lecturers, the opportunity to complete a 6-month internship in India, and the GPT Scholarship as a stepping stone to my career. ”

GEOFFREY ATKINSON

GPT SENIOR INVESTMENT ANALYST AND THE INAUGURAL GPT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, BACHELOR OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE, 2012



A DEGREE COURSE BUILT ON CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

THE GPT GROUP

GPT is one of Australia’s largest listed property groups, with \$19 billion of assets under management. Recipients of GPT’s Property scholarships receive \$10,000 and the opportunity to gain valuable experience working within an award-winning property organisation.

“Western Sydney University has become an increasingly important source of future talent for the property industry,” says Karen Maher, Head of Talent at GPT. “Our partnership with the Bachelor of Business (Property) degree has helped us attract high calibre graduates who have gone on to build successful careers in the property sector.”

“We look forward to continuing this partnership as GPT increases its activities in Western Sydney with projects including the proposed expansion of Rouse Hill Town Centre and the Sydney Olympic Park Town Centre project.”

CHARTER HALL GROUP

Charter Hall Group is the only industry partner to fund prizes, scholarships and research at the University’s School of Business.

Since the launch of its Western Sydney University scholarship program in 2016, Charter Hall has employed every one of its scholarship recipients after graduation.

In 2017, the Group funded major research into “Education as an Asset Class”, a study conducted by Professor Graeme Newell and his team at the School of Business.

Charter Hall has also contributed to the University’s physical development as partners in the construction of the Peter Shergold Building, one of the country’s most technologically-advanced learning environments and venue for the 40 Years of Property celebration.

WE DON'T WANT A SOCIETY OF HAVES AND HAVE NOTS

Q & A WITH DANNY GILBERT AM

Co-founder and Managing Partner of the law firm Gilbert + Tobin, and Chair of the University's Foundation Council, Danny Gilbert has devoted much of his life – professional and personal – to achieving equity and justice for Australia's most disadvantaged people.

Danny is well known for his advocacy on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, both through Gilbert + Tobin and its large pro bono practice and in his private capacity as Co-Chair of the Cape York Partnership Group. In 2005, he was honoured with the Order of Australia for his services to the law, the community and Australia's Indigenous people.

Danny Gilbert's vision for a fairer society extends to Western Sydney University where he oversees the scholarship program as Chair of the University Foundation Council. Since 2015, he and his wife Kathleen have funded the coveted Gilbert + Tobin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Law Scholarship.

What do you hope to achieve through your funding of a law scholarship for Indigenous students?

I hope the benefits will flow two ways. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are among the most marginalised and impoverished people in our society. We see it as

incredibly important that young Indigenous people have access to a tertiary education.

Then, there's the scholarship's legal focus. Indigenous Australians suffer the impact of the law disproportionately and are over-represented in our prison system. We need more people within the legal professional with whom they can identify.

Your interest in Indigenous issues goes back a long way.

Yes, Kathleen and I were both involved with the Redfern community back in the 1980s. As a young lawyer, I worked on establishing Legal Aid Centres in Australia and I've maintained that social justice focus for most of my professional life. Gilbert + Tobin has a large pro bono practice – two partners, three or four lawyers – and we have always undertaken pro bono work for Indigenous individuals and organisations. So, it's a professional commitment but also a personal one. The firm's work in this area has been very much influenced, driven and led by me.

Why has Western Sydney University become such a focus for your philanthropy?

We identify with the University's ethos of social inclusion. Western Sydney is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia and there are a lot of people there who come from underprivileged backgrounds. We need to do our best to provide university education to as many of those people as possible. As well as providing the scholarship, I chair the University Foundation which exists to increase people's access to tertiary education.

What would you say to other legal firms considering funding a scholarship?

I would encourage all successful professional services firms like ours to do what they can to make Australia a more equitable nation. We don't want a society of haves and have nots. We need to address the gaps in the practice of law to give everyone equal opportunities within it.

Danny Gilbert AM
 Managing Partner,
 Gilbert + Tobin

“ The Gilbert & Tobin scholarship has helped me in a wide variety of ways. It has given me much more financial security and freedom, which has also allowed me to focus more intently on my studies. ”

PHILLIP NIXON

GILBERT + TOBIN ATSI LAW
 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT,
 BACHELOR OF ARTS/BACHELOR
 OF LAWS



LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Western Sydney University has teamed up with the business community to help ‘close the gap’ and boost the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in education, industry and sport.

“Aboriginal coaches do more than coach. Their understanding and empathy, on a mental, physical and emotional level, can go a long way to improving a child’s quality of life and ensuring their long-term affiliation with sport.”

BOU OVINGTON

DARUG MAN, RUGBY LEAGUE COACH AND COACHING UNLIMITED STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER, MASTERS OF TEACHING (SECONDARY)



COACHING UNLIMITED KICKS OFF

Research shows that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coaches can have a profound impact on the lives of athletes, both on and off the sports field. However, many Indigenous coaches lack the infrastructural and financial support they need to further their careers, nurture sporting talent and promote a healthy culture in their communities.

Launched in 2017, Coaching Unlimited is a community-backed coach education program developed by Dr Andrew Bennie, Director of Health and Physical Education at Western Sydney University, in consultation with Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander communities and national sport organisations.

Through a series of education and accreditation workshops, the program supports Indigenous coaches to progress in their chosen sport, develop knowledge in areas such as nutrition and health promotion, and give back to their communities as inspiring educators and mentors.

“Coaching Unlimited can play a crucial part in increasing Indigenous participation in sport,” says Bou Ovington, an Indigenous Rugby League coach and member of the Coaching Unlimited Steering Committee. “I never had an Aboriginal coach in Rugby League. In coaching, I’ve had no-one from a similar cultural background who I can look up to, emulate and measure myself against. The hope is that more coaches will breed more coaches as inspirational community leaders for Aboriginal youth.”

Gilbert + Tobin Lawyers provided Coaching Unlimited with crucial start-up funding and hosted its launch at their Sydney headquarters in August 2017. Delegates from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities joined with corporate, law, academic, and community sport organisations to establish the networks that will support and drive the program forward.

SCHOLARSHIP A GAME CHANGER

Western Sydney Wanderers Football Club and their major corporate sponsor, NRMA Insurance, joined forces in 2017 to create unique opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying at Western Sydney University.

The inaugural NRMA Insurance Western Sydney Wanderers Indigenous Scholarship was awarded to a student of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent who has a connection to football in Western Sydney.

Open to students across all disciplines, the scholarship provides financial support to the value of \$15,000 over three years and includes a paid internship at either organisation.

“The Western Sydney Wanderers share our passion for helping Indigenous students achieve their dreams, whether that be through sport or studies,” says Anthony Justice, Chief Executive of NRMA Insurance. The scholarship, he says, is part of his company’s Reconciliation Action Plan which seeks to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, businesses and communities.

Western Sydney Wanderers CEO, John Tsatsimas, sees the new scholarship as a chance to recognise and reward a student from the large Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community of Western Sydney. “Western Sydney has a rich cultural history. Being able to support a student who also has a passion for football is an exciting opportunity in support of our region and our people.”

Samantha Wager

NRMA Insurance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship Recipient, Bachelor of Community and Social Development



CELEBRATING LOCAL TALENT: LITERATURE AT WESTERN

A close-up portrait of Dr Felicity Castagna, a woman with voluminous, curly brown hair, looking slightly to the right of the camera with a gentle smile. She is wearing a dark blue sequined top under a magenta cardigan. The background is a solid, deep blue.

Dr Felicity Castagna
2014 Prime Minister's Literary
Award for Young Adult Fiction,
Doctor of Philosophy (2016)

A generous gift of \$247,500 over three years from the Packer Family Foundation and Crown Resorts Foundation has enabled Western Sydney University's Writing and Society Research Centre to establish an innovative program to develop creative writing in Western Sydney.

The program is building bridges between young writers in schools, at university, and in self-supporting workshops, through a program of coordinated mentoring by four award winning writers from the Writing and Society Research Centre located in the School of Humanities & Communication Arts. The program operates across Western Sydney through four initiatives:

- working with five disadvantaged schools, developing publications and mentoring Years 11 and 12 students
- promoting the work of emerging young writers in Western Sydney through readings and publications
- developing podcasts in collaboration with young writers and promoting literature to schools and the wider arts community, and
- running workshops developed with writers and critics linked to creative outcomes through Giramondo Publishing and critical outcomes through the Sydney Review of Books.

Collectively, these initiatives aim to build creative writing in Western Sydney.

The initiatives are delivered by four young writers from the Writing and Society Research Centre at Western Sydney University, who have all published award winning works set in Western Sydney with Giramondo Publishing, which is housed at the Centre:

- Dr Michael Mohammed Ahmad – SMH Best Young Novelist for *The Tribe*
- Dr Felicity Castagna – Prime Minister's Literary Award for Young Adult Fiction for *The Incredible Here and Now*
- Dr Luke Carman – NSW Premier's Prize for *An Elegant Young Man*
- Dr Fiona Wright – shortlisted for the Stella Prize, NSW Premiers Non-Fiction Award and Nita B. Kibble Award for *Small Acts of Disappearance*

The first year has seen 164 young people involved, including 30 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Dr Ahmed worked with 30 students at Sir Joseph Banks High School Bankstown, Punchbowl Boys High School, Wiley Park Girls High School, Auburn Girls High School and Lurnea High School. The first issue of a new literary anthology called *The Big Black Thing* was produced by Sweatshop and launched at the 2017 Sydney Writers' Festival. In collaboration with Urban Theatre Projects, students worked with six culturally diverse writers to produce a performance monologue presented by established actors at the Bankstown Arts Centre for Boundless: Festival of Diverse Writers.

Dr Castagna developed and promoted a regular storytelling night, Studio Stories, featuring literature from the western suburbs and also coordinated writers' residencies at two high schools in the Parramatta region. Six Studio Stories events were held, featuring three writers from Western Sydney at each event and an audience of around 35, mostly emerging writers from the area.

Felicity was also writer in residence working with a group of Year 9 and 10 students from Parramatta High School for an entire term. The students' creative writing from the Parramatta High School Residency was developed into a multimedia work that featured throughout the CBD of Parramatta during the 2017 Parramatta Laneways Festival, which attracts 120,000 visitors per year.

Dr Carman pursued two main activities through the gift – a professional development program for apprentice writers in Western Sydney, and a creative writing workshop project for Indigenous and disengaged students in the Tahmoor region in collaboration with Westwords. The workshops at Western Sydney University were held weekly over two semesters with over 40 students involved in the project and at Tahmoor, there were four different groups meeting once a week for six weeks.



WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY

WESTERN GROWTH

Western Sydney University is embarking on a large-scale transformative initiative that will bring the highest quality educational opportunities and world-class research expertise to Australia's fastest growing region. This initiative is called Western Growth.

Following the opening of the University's innovative and state-of-the-art Parramatta City Campus, the Peter Shergold Building, the University launched the Liverpool City Campus in 2018, the most recent of its high tech learning, teaching and research facilities in one of the region's key CBDs and growth centres. It will deliver high-quality educational opportunities to one of Western Sydney's emerging CBDs.

Western Sydney University is a leading advocate and champion for Greater Western Sydney. We are the 'university for the region' – a region that is the third largest economy in Australia and home to almost 150,000 businesses and more than 2 million people, and growing. Over the next 20 years, Western Sydney's population is expected to grow by another million, contributing to more than half of Sydney's overall expected population growth.

As the largest educational provider in Western Sydney, the University is the key intellectual driver of the region's social and economic development. It plays a crucial role in providing a highly-skilled, locally knowledgeable and relevant talent pool of graduates. This role will become more critical as Western Sydney's economy continues to grow.

As the region changes, so too will the way we deliver education to meet the needs and expectations

of current and future students and teachers. The advances of digital communication have contributed to a new teaching and learning style that is collaborative and activity based, delivered in smaller flexible spaces.

Learning is increasingly linked with industry, so connections to workplaces are often an important factor in study choices. Study patterns are changing too. Students are seeking accessible, connected learning hubs close to industries that open up opportunities for future employment.

The University will go forward with more state-of-the-art learning, teaching and research facilities in key growth centres in Western Sydney in the coming years, with the Bankstown CBD campus planned to open in 2021.

At Western Sydney University, we recognise change needs to be actively directed if we are to positively shape change rather than just react to it. The University is exploring new opportunities for collaborative partnerships with local industry in the Bankstown and Liverpool areas to stimulate student access to the innovative, high-tech jobs of the future.

For further information, please contact westerngrowth@westernsydney.edu.au.

PUBLIC POLICY FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Leanne Smith took over as Director of the Whitlam Institute in 2017, following a career in law, diplomacy and human rights with the Australian Government and the United Nations. Here, she outlines her vision for this unique institution and explains how people similarly inspired by the Whitlam Government's progressive social policies and values can help preserve and build upon its guiding principles.

“ Our donors often tell us that their lives were changed by the policies of the Whitlam era, particularly those relating to universal healthcare and access to education. ”

THE WHITLAM INSTITUTE WITHIN WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



Leanne Smith
Director, Whitlam Institute

Located in the historic Female Orphan School within Western Sydney University, the Whitlam Institute is a national policy centre for dialogue and debate on issues of democracy and social justice. Through diverse events, exhibitions, research and education programs, it aims not only to preserve Gough Whitlam's legacy, but to advance his vision of "building a more equal, open, tolerant and independent Australia".

"Every day, we strive to reinforce the contemporary relevance of Whitlam's social values and ideas," Leanne explains. "Gough insisted that the Institute not become a mausoleum – that it remain actively engaged with politics, policy and advocacy focused on the common good."

While the Institute has a loyal supporter base, Leanne sees many opportunities for philanthropic investment.

"Our Civics programs for schools are best practice but are currently delivered in-house and many schools aren't able to come here," she says. "I would love to roll this program out at a national level and take it on the road to reach those marginalised kids who have a real need to understand their rights and responsibilities."

Leanne has similar aspirations for the What Matters? writing competition which is currently open to school students in NSW, ACT and Tasmania. "It is so inspiring to hear what matters to these young Australians who are passionate about the future of their communities and country. We received over 4,000 entries in 2017 and the awards ceremony was one of the highlights of my first year as Director. Given the resources, I hope this, too, can become a national competition."

"Then there's the maintenance of the Prime Ministerial Collection, which contains around 35,000 items. It has immense significance for Australians of all ages and we want to make it available to as many people as possible. Our permanent exhibition is central to that purpose but it needs updating. Building our exhibition capacity and online portals would allow us to engage with new audiences."

The Whitlam Institute strives to be a nationally significant institution delivering distinctive, bold and inspiring policy research and programs that promote common ground, inclusive national identity and civic engagement for all Australians. We aim to be recognised across the political spectrum for delivering a nation-building agenda.

The Institute's research and policy work ignites debate, strengthens discussion and enriches policy development in Australia, with a dual focus on the Future of Australian Democracy and Australia in the World. The annual Whitlam Oration headlines a year-round program of contemporary fora and events, which engages people from all walks of life.

Our civics education program inspires young people to think critically and to take action on the things that matter to them. The primary and secondary school workshops, 'How to Think Big' and 'How to Make Change', empower students with the knowledge they need to participate as informed citizens in our democracy.

The historic Female Orphan School (1813) on the Parramatta Campus is home to the Whitlam Institute and The Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection, a landmark collection containing more than 35,000 personal and professional items for research and interpretation. The Margaret Whitlam Galleries exhibit a changing program of art and social history exhibitions.



WHAT MATTERS? WRITING COMPETITION

Inspired by Gough Whitlam's commitment to involving young people in the shaping of Australia's future, this annual writing competition is currently open to school students in years 5 to 12 in NSW, the ACT and Tasmania. Responding to the simple question 'What Matters?', thousands of entrants take up the opportunity to express their views on any matter they care about.

This competition reminds us that young people are passionate, observant and articulate; their entries are often deeply driven by social justice, curiosity and empathy. They offer us a window into what concerns them and, what inspires them.

More info: whitlam.org/schools

Above image: Gough and Margaret Whitlam, Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection, 2002. Item 5333. Copyright is held by the Whitlam Institute.

LEAVING A FUTURE:

BEQUEST SOCIETY FOR WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

In what might be regarded as a ‘coming of age’, our young and vital University established its new bequest society in 2017.

People who have left a gift in their Will to Western Sydney University joined the Chancellor, Professor Peter Shergold AC, at a special morning tea in December to launch the new bequest society, Leaving a Future.

Also among the guests were alumni and friends interested in learning more about the potential of these lifetime gifts to support the future of the University, its students and research.

Guest speaker, the Honourable Cr Philip Ruddock MP, reflected on his father’s connections with Western Sydney and his determination, as Member for The Hills, to see the region flourish and its communities better served. Following his death,

the Ruddock family donated monies raised in his memory to create a scholarship for Economics students that would become his legacy to the University.

The Leaving a Future society includes people who have already included a gift to Western Sydney University in their Will and those who have indicated their intention to do so.

If you are interested or have further questions about bequests or memorial gifts, please contact our Bequest Manager on 02 9685 9511 or email bequest@westernsydney.edu.au. Your enquiries and bequest intentions will be treated as confidential unless otherwise advised.

Members of Leaving a Future:

- are invited to an exclusive annual lunch hosted by the society’s Patron, Chancellor Professor Peter Shergold AC.
- receive invitations to other important University events such as research presentations, ceremonies and functions
- have their name included on the University Honour Roll (if desired)
- receive a framed Bequest Society Membership Certificate and lapel pin



The Honourable Cr Philip Ruddock MP
Mayor of Hornsby

Professor Peter Shergold AC
Chancellor Western Sydney University and
Patron of Leaving a Future: Bequest Society



THIS WILL BE MY LEGACY TO THE WOMEN OF THE WEST

I was born and raised in Western Sydney and was the first in my family to graduate from university. I had very little confidence when, at 17, I began my Bachelor of Social Science at the Macarthur campus.

I immediately felt a deep connection with the values of Western Sydney University. There was – and still is – an ethos of social justice and service to others that really resonated with me. I learnt the importance of critical thinking and of engaging with the world in a very deliberate and meaningful way. I have carried this ethos right through my career and into my personal life.

A few years ago, I found myself thinking how grateful I was for the strong foundation Western Sydney University had given me. I wanted to find a way to give back. I saw a bequest as a great way for me to keep opening doors for women in the areas of Western Sydney where I have lived and worked.

Leaving a bequest is absolutely the easiest way to give. Mine has been set up as a perpetual scholarship fund for women studying in the Faculties of Law or Social Science. I have asked that the applicants articulate, not only how they will benefit personally, but how they, in the future, might ‘pay forward’ the opportunity being given to them.

Education is such a gift. It has the capacity to give so much, not just to the person studying but amplified through their work and social circle. I want the recipients of these scholarships to be mindful of that and to reflect my passion for what education can achieve in the world.

The scholarships will be in my grandmother’s name. In this way I am honouring both the University and a woman who was so important in my life but never had the opportunities I had. Women for generations to come will benefit in her name. That is really precious to me.

LISA GIACOMELLI

INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, YMCA NSW
BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (YOUTH WORK), 1994

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

ACADEMIC PRIZES REWARD OUR BEST AND BRIGHTEST

The University recognised the academic achievements of its students in 2017 with the awarding of a record number of industry and donor-sponsored prizes.

Some 209 medals and awards were presented to students at ceremonies in July, in recognition of their outstanding achievements in coursework and research.

It is known that academic prizes are motivating for students, spurring them to achieve at the highest level, kick-starting their careers and setting them on a path to success.

The Prizes and Awards program at Western Sydney University is also becoming highly attractive to the businesses and organisations keen to make contact with the top performing students in their field, and to encourage excellence and participation in their industries.

Wisetech Global founder and CEO, Richard White, sees his company's funding of university prizes as an investment in local talent and the future of the technology industry in Australia. The 2017 Australian Financial Review Business Person of the Year has been an outspoken advocate for an Australian-based tech-led innovation industry.

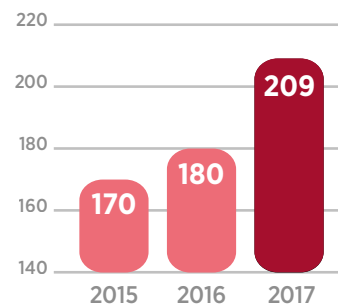
Wisetech Global is an Australian success story. Specialising in software development for the global logistics industry, the company has maintained its operations in Australia rather than following the well-trodden path to Silicon Valley.

As sponsors of the new Wisetech Global Programming Excellence Prize, the company hopes to encourage innovation, gender balance and future-forward thinking in the SCEM areas of computer science, information systems, and information and communications technology.

The new prize is a welcome addition to Wisetech Global's swag of support for Western Sydney University and its technology students. The company also funds combined scholarships and internships for high achieving students in the later stages of their degrees as a transition to employment.

PRIZES & AWARDS

Number of donor-funded prizes awarded



Value of prizes awarded to students

\$150,000



HONOUR ROLL

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of donors to the University in 2017.

To view our Honour Roll, visit westernsydney.edu.au/give

