

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



Impact Report



LIVERPOOL CITY CAMPUS 2018

Front cover: Muna Al Aloo, Refugee Scholarship Recipient, Master of Finance, 2017
Design: Celia Zhao, Western Sydney University
Photography: Sally Tsoutas, Western Sydney University

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THE VALUE OF POTENTIAL

At Western Sydney University, more than 60 per cent of our students are the first in their family to attend university and more than 500 arrived in Australia on humanitarian visas. Our University is a positive turning-point in their lives because we provide educational opportunities that may not have been available otherwise.

A scholarship of around \$7,500 per year for the duration of a degree can be the determining factor for a student to commence and continue studies. It also removes the burden of financial imperatives, affording gifted students the opportunity to excel in their education.

Given this life-changing opportunity, scholarship recipients often become innovators in their fields and leaders in their communities.

It also creates a positive cycle of 'paying it forward'. We see scholarship recipients go on to help others through their vocations or become mentors and philanthropists themselves.

At the University, we are fortunate to witness the transformational, long-lasting and wide-ranging impact scholarships make on the lives of our students. Providing an opportunity to people with the drive, talent and ambition to succeed is a rewarding experience.

A record year for philanthropy, 2016 set in motion many of this year's opportunities for students. The University has increased scholarship opportunities, particularly those that provide vital assistance to refugees. Donations have also allowed the University to invest in world-leading research, especially in the field of complementary medicine.

A gift to our University is a gift with maximum impact. We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing work of our Foundation Council, led by Mr Danny Gilbert AM, Managing Partner of Gilbert + Tobin. The dedicated professionals on the Council ensure a highly efficient and effective approach to philanthropy, with no administration fees or other charges deducted. This means 100 per cent of all donations go directly to where they are intended, and every dollar works to its maximum potential in bettering the lives of individuals and the community.

From helping a refugee secure their future, to working to improve health outcomes for countless Australians, funds donated towards scholarships and research at Western Sydney University become priceless when matched with the unlimited potential of our students and researchers.

This *Impact Report* provides a snapshot of the inspirational stories that have emerged as a direct result of philanthropic gifts to the University.

We thank you for playing such an important role in the lives of our students.



**Professor Peter Shergold AC
Chancellor**



**Professor Barney Glover FTSE
Vice-Chancellor and President**



Professor Barney Glover FTSE
Vice-Chancellor and President

Professor Peter Shergold AC
Chancellor

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Danny Gilbert AM
Chairman, Western Sydney University
Foundation Council

It is with enormous thanks that I acknowledge the alumni, friends, industry partners, staff and broader community for your support of Western Sydney University. Your donations enable us to empower more people with education through the provision of scholarships, and to invest in more world-class research than ever before.

Among the donations were some significant contributions made to the National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM); including one of the largest donations ever towards complementary medicine research in Australia from Marcus and Caroline Blackmore and Blackmores Limited. Together with renewed major support from the Jacka Foundation

of Natural Therapies, these donations enable NICM to further strengthen its top-ranked research, with the potential to change the face of mainstream healthcare.

A highlight for the end of 2016 was the inaugural Town and Gown gala dinner, held in October at Rosehill Gardens. The focus of the event was the University's new Refugee Scholarship Fund, which attracted overwhelming support. More than \$400,000 was raised to help people gain an education as they establish their lives in Australia. We were honoured to have Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Lucy Turnbull AO and NSW Australian of the Year, Deng Adut, among our guests, along with over 650 business, community and academic leaders, students and staff.

We are continually heartened by the commitment to educational equity among Australia's business leaders. Foundation Council colleague and Harvey Norman CEO,

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.

Danny Gilbert AM (Chairman)
Managing Partner, Gilbert + Tobin

Professor Peter Shergold AC
Chancellor, Western Sydney
University

Professor Barney Glover FTSE
Vice-Chancellor and President,
Western Sydney University

John Banks (until November 2016)
Director, Talent2

Professor Richard Bawden AM
(until March 2016)
Chair Hawkesbury Foundation
Western Sydney University

Mark Bouris AM
(until November 2016)
Executive Chairman,
Yellow Brick Road

Cameron Clyne
Chairman, Rugby Australia

Katie Page, is among our greatest supporters, establishing scholarship programs for high achieving women, refugee women and women in circumstances of disadvantage. The \$7,500 per annum, duration-of-degree scholarships are a lifeline for recipients. This follows the success of the Harvey Norman Scholarships, introduced in 2015, where donations from Harvey Norman and its suppliers provided support to 13 students throughout their course. Combined, Ms Page and Harvey Norman have already provided support to over 40 students.

Also set to empower some of the most vulnerable members of our community is the establishment of scholarships for young people coming out of foster care. Enabled by support from the NSW Department of Family & Community Services, the scholarships help individuals reach their full potential as they launch into adulthood.

We have also had the great pleasure in establishing the Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture, made possible by a donation from Chinese-Australian businessman Mr Xiangmo Huang. With a mission of strengthening ties between our nations, Mr Huang’s visionary gift positions Western Sydney University as a hub and national resource centre for cultural exchange, and for collaborative action in the arts and cultural fields.

A wonderful boost to our philanthropic funds comes from within our University community. Our staff are dedicated to our mission of removing financial barriers to education, and this is reinforced by their salary sacrifice donations. In 2016, 14 per cent of our staff donated to raise almost \$200,000 for scholarships. Combined with the University’s dollar-for-dollar matching of staff gifts, this enabled us to offer 33 additional scholarships.

However you choose to assist us in our philanthropic work, I thank you again for your support, and for continuing to contribute to positive change through Western Sydney University.



Danny Gilbert AM
Chairman, Western Sydney
University Foundation Council

Matt Graham
 Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Peeyush Gupta (until June 2016)
 Chairman, State Super Financial Services

Carmel Hourigan (from April 2016)
 Global Head of Property, AMP Capital

Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz
 (until February 2016)
 Managing Director, Mirvac

Harold Mitchell AC (until May 2016)
 Executive Chairman,
 Mitchell Communications

Nick Moraitis AM
 Executive Chairman, Moraitis Group

Katie Page
 Chief Executive Officer,
 Harvey Norman

Gabrielle Trainor AO
 non-executive director, Whitlam
 Institute and Member, Western
 Sydney University Board of Trustees

Kim Williams AM
 Freelance Corporate Advisor
 and Director, Kim Future

Talal Yassine OAM (from April 2016)
 Managing Director, Crescent Wealth

Danny Gilbert AM photo supplied

GIVING AT WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY 2016



\$15,264,753

TOTAL VALUE OF GIFTS

GROWTH



\$7.2m

INCREASE
ON 2015

2014

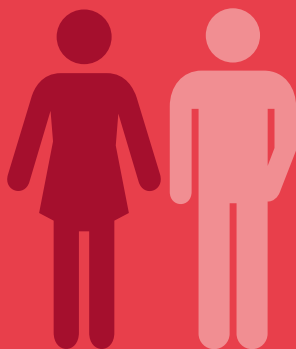
\$2.2m

2015

\$8.1m

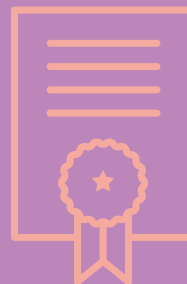
2016

\$15.3m



735

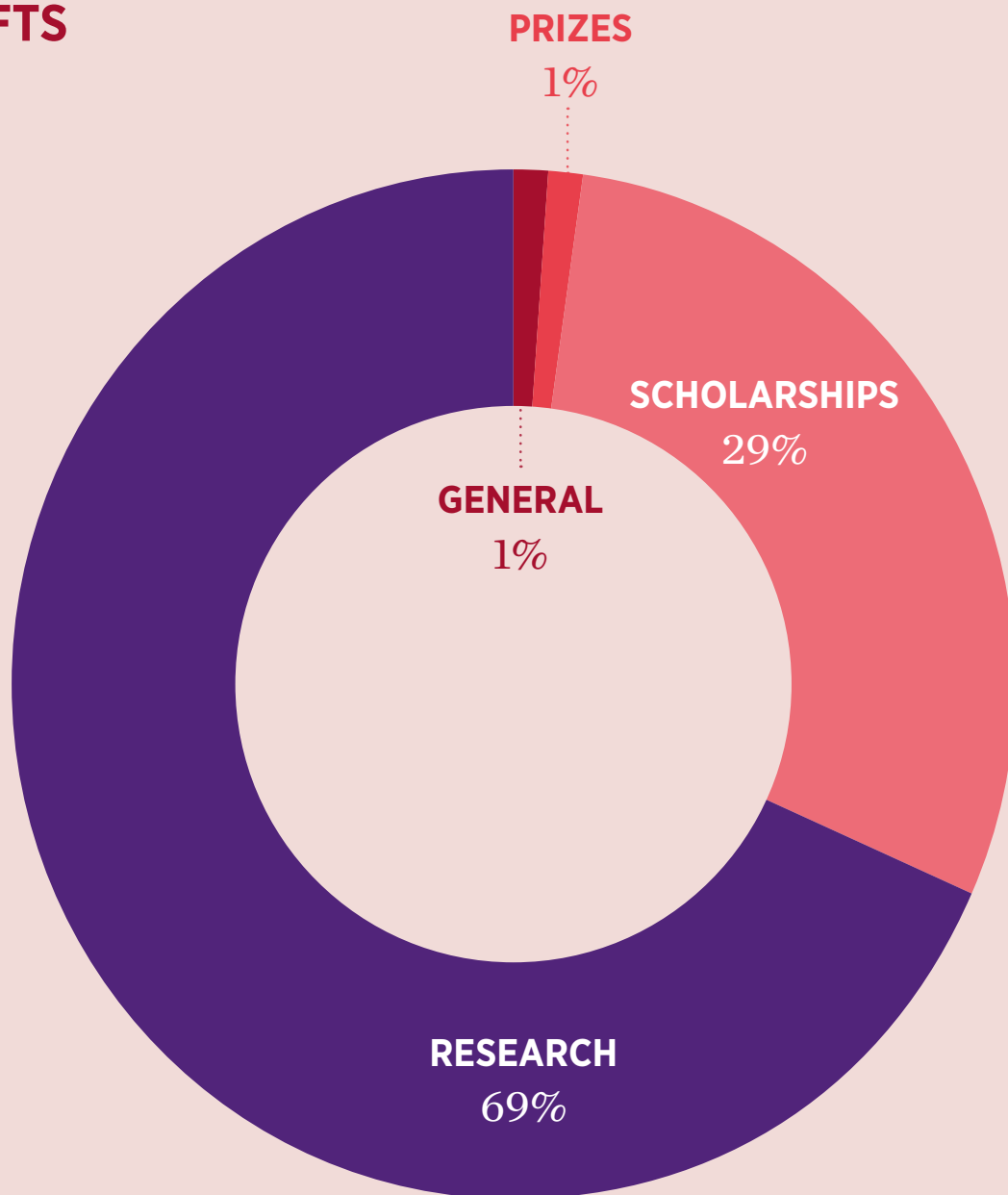
DONORS



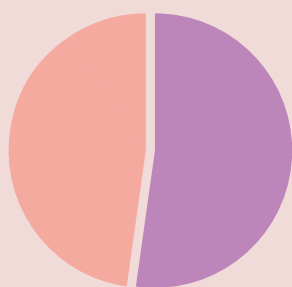
224

DONOR-FUNDED
SCHOLARSHIPS

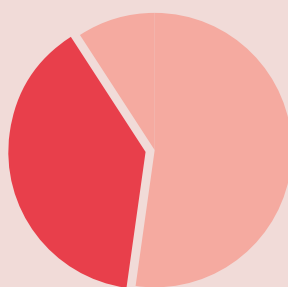
ALLOCATION OF GIFTS



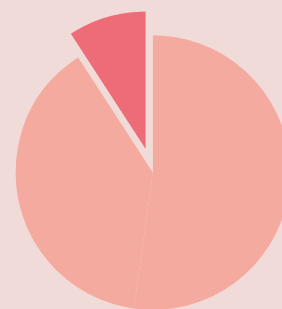
ALL STUDENTS ON DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2016



EQUITY
117 SCHOLARSHIPS



EXCELLENCE
87 SCHOLARSHIPS



REFUGEE
20 SCHOLARSHIPS

UNITING TO GIVE REFUGEES A BRIGHT NEW START

Western Sydney University plays a vital role in rebuilding the lives of many refugees and asylum seekers, with almost 500 students who arrived on humanitarian visas currently studying at the University.

The creation of a Refugee Scholarship Fund ensures more of these students will receive valuable financial assistance. Launched in September 2015 with a \$500,000 contribution from the University, the Fund received a large boost in October 2016 as the focus of the biennial Town and Gown Gala Dinner. The Fund has received over \$2 million in donations and matching contributions from the University to support people who have fled conflict and persecution, enabling

at least 30 new Refugee Scholarships to be awarded in 2017. In semester 1 alone, 20 refugee students received the \$7,500 annual scholarship.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Mrs Lucy Turnbull AO, NSW Australian of the Year, Deng Adut, Federal and State MPs, and some of Sydney's most prominent business leaders were among the 664 guests at the Town and Gown Gala Dinner, along with community and University leaders. Held at Rosehill Gardens, the gala event featured inspiring stories of refugee students who have overcome adversity, and highlighted the University's open-hearted response to the ongoing global humanitarian crisis among the broader community.

The cause is particularly close to the heart of University Chancellor, Professor Peter Shergold AC, who is also the NSW Coordinator-General

for Refugee Resettlement. With the majority of Australia's refugees settling in Western Sydney, Professor Shergold says the University plays a vital role in giving people a positive start in their new home, and in making the most of the talents they bring to Australia.

"Australia took in over 11,000 refugees between 2016 and 2017, and when you can show people getting educated and being successful, it demonstrates that it isn't a burden, it's something we can do easily," he says.

"If you come to a graduation ceremony at my University, you see the faces of Australia's future walking across the stage. There are people from all sorts of backgrounds, many who are migrants and refugees. They get a degree, but they also have the language and cultural skills which are a huge advantage for Australia in a global economy."



Left to right: **Professor Peter Shergold AC**, Chancellor; **Mrs Lucy Turnbull AO**; **NSW Australian of the Year 2016 Mr Deng Adut**, Bachelor of Laws 2010 and GradDip Legal Practice 2011; **Prime Minister of Australia The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP**; **Aunty Mae Robinson**

MUNA FLEES ISIL BATTLEGROUND AND FLOURISHES IN WESTERN SYDNEY

For Iraqi refugee Muna Al Aloo, completing a Master of Finance at Western Sydney University's Parramatta City campus was a world away from her experience at Mosul University.

A member of Iraq's Christian minority, Muna was studying to become a lecturer in finance before she fled to Australia in 2013. It was a year before Mosul fell to ISIL insurgents, and the city was already wracked by violent extremism.

"Travelling to university was a juggle with my life," says Muna. "I always used to hear sounds of shooting or bombing."

In May 2010, Muna was on her way to university when a double bomb attack exploded on a bus ahead of her, killing one person and wounding 80. Designed to target Christian students and university workers, the attack was Muna's final incitement to plan her escape.

Muna settled in Western Sydney with her brother and sister and began English classes at a school for refugees, before receiving a Refugee Scholarship to study academic English at Western Sydney University. She continued with a Master of Finance, and last year became the inaugural beneficiary of the Refugee Scholarship, worth \$7,500 annually.

"It helped me a lot financially, and it motivated me to know that there were people out there who wanted me to succeed," she says. "Coming to Australia, I had to start again. Some people told me I wouldn't be able to work or study in Australia with my limited English, but I proved them wrong. I wish I could meet all the people who helped me, and thank them personally."

Last year, Muna received the Dean's Merit Award for Outstanding Performance; she recently graduated with Distinction, and already has a job as a financial analyst with an accounting firm in Parramatta. Having turned her life around in four years, Muna is now keen to help others. She has volunteered at the University's International Student Welcome Desk at Sydney Airport and gives motivational speeches for other refugees.

"Arriving as a refugee, you can feel lost, so for refugee students, this scholarship is a big kick-start to their career," she says. "One day, I will become a proud Australian citizen with high achievements, and give back to the people who welcomed me in their country and helped me through my journey."



Muna Al Aloo
Refugee Scholarship Recipient
Master of Finance, 2017



Raelene Kumar
Scholarship Recipient
Bachelor of Accounting,
Current Student

Katie Page
Harvey Norman CEO

CHANGING THEIR LIVES HAS CHANGED MINE: Q&A WITH KATIE PAGE

Along with being one of Australia's most influential businesswomen, Harvey Norman CEO Katie Page is a passionate supporter of Western Sydney University.

She currently funds three scholarship programs; the Katie Page Scholarship for High Achieving Women, the Katie Page Equity Scholarship for Women and the Katie Page Scholarship for Refugee Women, each worth \$7,500 per year for the duration of the recipients' degree. In 2015, she championed the Harvey Norman Scholarships, where \$300,000 was donated to support 13 students throughout their course, targeting students who experience hardship, and who show leadership in their community. As a member of the Western Sydney University Foundation Council, Katie Page furthers her support by providing advice on efficient and effective approaches to philanthropy. Here, she shares her thoughts on why she is so dedicated to helping students at Western.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CHOOSE WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY AS A DESTINATION FOR YOUR SCHOLARSHIPS?

"For a community to thrive, families and individuals need to have access to quality education, healthcare and jobs. The key for me, what makes the difference, is accessibility. Western Sydney University delivers quality tertiary education that is truly accessible to Western Sydney, the home of over 2.2 million Australians. With over 60 per cent of Western students the first in their family to attend university, this university is changing the socioeconomic shape of Sydney, in every course, with every graduation."

WHY ARE WOMEN AND REFUGEES A PARTICULAR FOCUS FOR YOU?

"These women and those who have come to Australia as refugees, so many have overcome such adversity to even consider university as a possibility. Study is often just one facet of their huge personal responsibilities. Our recipients cherish the opportunity to study and they do so with a vision for what they can do for themselves and others when they graduate."

WHAT IMPACT DO YOU HOPE YOUR SCHOLARSHIPS WILL HAVE ON THEIR RECIPIENTS?

"I hope the scholarship recipients start a family tradition of future tertiary graduates."

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING INVOLVED IN AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE UNIVERSITY?

"I have had the privilege of meeting our scholarship recipients and there could be no more fulfilling experience to come from being involved. It hasn't just changed their lives, it has changed mine. Their stories have educated me and their personalities have made those stories unforgettable."

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THOSE CONSIDERING A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS AT WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY?

"Meet the recipients of our scholarships to see who you could be supporting. The University does an exceptional job of identifying the most incredible candidates. You suddenly see your contribution realised across someone else's lifetime."

To find out more about establishing a scholarship for other Western students, visit westernsydney.edu.au/give or call the Office of Advancement on **02 9685 9511**.



Andrew Olsen
KPMG Indigenous Employment Consultant

BIG BUSINESS HELPS BRIDGE THE GAP

KPMG has partnered with Western Sydney University in its commitment to positive social change for Indigenous Australians.

Education is crucial to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, and KPMG has seized the opportunity to play its part.

The professional services firm has introduced an annual \$11,000 scholarship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at the University, which includes paid work experience within the company.

For last year's inaugural recipient, Brendan Armstrong, this has already translated into a full-time job as a management consultant and has opened the door to a promising career.

"Winning the scholarship has completely shifted where my life was going and opened up my prospects for the future," says the recent Bachelor of Information and Communications Technology graduate.

The funds enabled Brendan to quit one of his two part-time jobs during his final year of university and invest more time in his studies.

"It was validation for all the time and effort I had spent working on my

grades," he says. "I don't believe in 'Ps get degrees' – it's not the way to set yourself up for success."

Brendan is now intent on paying it forward. He aims to advise and inspire other young people on their educational and career goals, particularly through his involvement with Liverpool's Indigenous Council.

"As great as it is to have doors open for you, it carries a responsibility that I don't take lightly," he says. A descendant of the Bundjalung people from far north-eastern NSW, Brendan embraces his heritage and the opportunity to be an ambassador for his community.

"Being able to have the conversation with other people at work about what it means to be Indigenous in Australia has opened up good learning opportunities for them," he says. "I want to be an ambassador for what an Indigenous employee can look like, and help open up diversity opportunities for others."

For KPMG Indigenous Employment consultant, Andrew Olsen, it's the ideal outcome.

"To remove the label of disadvantage for Indigenous Australians, we need to promote education and empower people through employment," he says. "We can play a pivotal part in helping future generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people."

Since Andrew took up his newly created role two years ago, KPMG has seen rapid growth in its numbers of Indigenous employees. It welcomed its largest cohort of seven Indigenous graduate employees this year, including Brendan.

"Brendan is an exceptional candidate and we were very lucky to have him apply for a scholarship," Andrew says. "It was a no-brainer to hire him when he applied for our graduate program. He's an example of how, with hard work, dedication and the right opportunities, anything is possible."

To support other talented students like Brendan by establishing a scholarship, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/give or call the Office of Advancement on **02 9685 9511**.



“ Winning the scholarship has completely shifted where my life was going and opened up my prospects for the future. ”

**BRENDAN ARMSTRONG, KPMG
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT,
BACHELOR OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, 2017**

HELPING HAWKESBURY THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

“What drives our Foundation as distinct from many others, is that almost all of us in the Foundation have a historical relationship with the place. We wanted the institution to become bigger and better, and we knew that would require excess funds. Hawkesbury has made a big contribution to our lives and we want to give back.”

EMERITUS PROFESSOR RICHARD BAWDEN AM, HAWKESBURY FOUNDATION CHAIR AND FOUNDING DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the biggest donors to Western Sydney University, the Hawkesbury Foundation has provided more than \$10 million in philanthropic support to the Hawkesbury campus since 1982. What makes this particularly impressive is the fact that its founders started out with no fundraising experience – they were volunteers who simply shared a passion for the institution, and a desire to see it grow and thrive.

Many of the early members were staff, who continue to serve the Foundation today, 35 years later. Their commitment remains just as strong, with the Foundation donating \$200,000 to the Hawkesbury campus each year in perpetuity. Drawn from a pool of about \$3.5 million under management, funds go towards seven undergraduate and two postgraduate scholarships, along with supporting the Vincent Fairfax Chair for Sustainable Agriculture.

The Hawkesbury Foundation has garnered support from organisations large and small over the years, as well as individual donors. Early on, it managed to attract funds from big names in the food and agriculture industry, ranging from pastoral and food technology companies

to McDonald’s, along with local businesses, staff and alumni. A big leap forward was receiving \$1 million from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation in 1991, to fund the Vincent Fairfax Chair for Sustainable Agriculture. Current Chair of the Hawkesbury Foundation, Emeritus Professor Richard Bawden AM, was the University’s only professor in the School of Agriculture at the time, and the endowed position was a massive boost to its research capacity.

“For a little college and a new university, to be recognised by such a prominent foundation was a big deal,” he says. The position remains highly valuable and relevant today, as the global focus on sustainability and food security intensifies.

With the recent addition of a world-class greenhouse at Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury furthers its research capacity, enabling cutting-edge research on greenhouse crop production, including ways to increase yields while reducing costs to producers and the environment. According to Richard, it’s one of many examples of Hawkesbury remaining at the forefront of agriculture throughout the decades.

“From the early 1980s onwards, we rapidly developed an international reputation for what we were doing, and it’s extremely satisfying to be part of that continuing story,” he says.

For more information about supporting our inspirational students or world-class research, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/give or call the Office of Advancement on **02 9685 9511**.

WHAT A SCHOLARSHIP MEANS TO ME

“I live at home with my widowed mum and two of my four siblings. I am the first of my family to attend university and I am excited to start my journey in the nutrition and food field. Having a scholarship will help my mum and me by relieving the financial pressure and allowing me to concentrate on my studies.”

SARAH WOODS, BACHELOR OF NUTRITION AND FOOD SCIENCE. RECIPIENT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF RICHMOND SCHOLARSHIP (THROUGH THE HAWKESBURY FOUNDATION)

“I have grown up in a small sole parent family, so I have never been exposed to large sums of money. My mother does her absolute best to provide for us, however, the cost of a university education is a little out of her price range. [With the scholarship] I’m able to work fewer hours and therefore can put the maximum amount of time and effort into studying.”

MADISON STORMY, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, ZOOLOGY AND BACHELOR OF NATURAL SCIENCE, ANIMAL SCIENCE. RECIPIENT OF THE VINCENT FAIRFAX FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP (THROUGH THE HAWKESBURY FOUNDATION)



Emeritus Professor Richard Bawden AM
Hawkesbury Foundation Chair and founding
Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Rural
Development

Brian Lindsay
Former Hawkesbury Foundation President
and Director

HEALTHY PARTNERSHIPS CENTRAL TO MEDICAL SCHOOL SUCCESS



When Western Sydney University's School of Medicine was established in 1997, serving the healthcare needs of the region was central to its mission. In turn, the community has rallied behind its Medical School, providing donations for scholarships, prizes and research.

Organisations and private philanthropists have been supporting Western Sydney University's Medical School since its inception, from the fundraising efforts of The Rotary Club of Narellan, which supports MS research and medical student scholarships, to local businesses like Richardson & Wrench, which supports prizes.

School of Medicine Dean, Professor Annemarie Hennessy, says scholarships are often a decisive factor in recipients being able to commence and continue their studies in medicine.

"We don't only want rich kids studying medicine, we want locals who are up to the task who may not have even thought of studying medicine if it wasn't for these opportunities."

Community involvement in the School of Medicine goes beyond monetary donations, with a community forum involved in multiple aspects of the running of the school. Members include patient advocacy groups, local clinics and community service providers. They are represented on the selection panel for new students, provide teaching, and consult on aspects of academic program development to address key areas of need.

"We have a real partnership with the community which is so much more than a one-off donation," Professor Hennessy says.

"The success of this school comes from being wanted by the community, being supported by the community and from being responsive to the needs of the community."

Professor Annemarie Hennessy
Dean, School of Medicine

LOCAL BUSINESS GIVES BACK

Supporting students at Western Sydney University's School of Medicine has become a very personal cause for Noel and Maree Laming.

The longstanding Campbelltown locals own three branches of real estate agency, Richardson & Wrench (Campbelltown, Lumeah and Ingleburn) which are now operated by their three children. Through their businesses, they fund two prizes for high-achieving Medical students every year.

Having built his success in the Macarthur region, Noel was keen to

offer his support to the school some six years ago, and has since become a very regular contributor.

"Campbelltown has been kind to us, and we want to give back," he says.

More recently, Noel and Maree have both become patients at Campbelltown Hospital for cancer treatment, making them particularly passionate about supporting local medical expertise.

"We're so lucky to get the treatment we require, just five minutes from home," Noel says.

The Campbelltown area didn't have its own hospital for much of Noel and Maree's life in the area. Now,

having a medical school in their midst represents the ultimate turnaround.

"It has put us on the map and is really a sign of how far Campbelltown has come," Noel says. "Part of maintaining the high standard of treatment for the people of Campbelltown is keeping up with developments in research, and continuing to attract bright young students. We're so happy to do our bit to support the next generation of medical professionals."

To find out how you can establish a prize or scholarship for deserving students, visit westernsydney.edu.au/give

NARELLAN ROTARY A STALWART FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

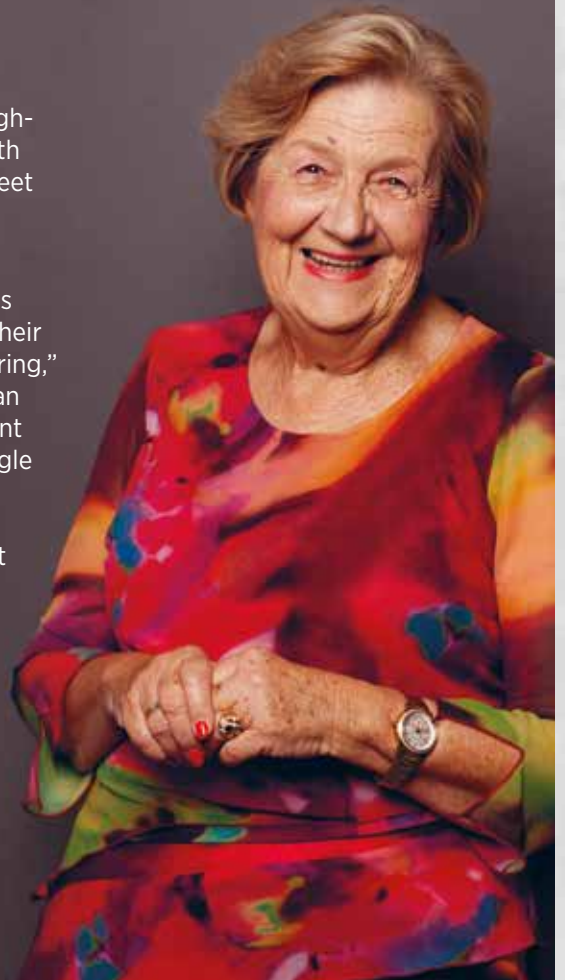
The Rotary Club of Narellan has been a consistent supporter of the School of Medicine, donating to scholarships and research (focused on MS and Motor Neurone Disease) from the start.

Investing in this area of research was inspired by the experiences of two members of the club who both have sons with MS. One of these members, Club Secretary Ruth Morrison, received Western Sydney University's 2016 Community Champion Alumni Award, in recognition of her tireless fundraising efforts. The Rotary Club has now supported 10 medical students with scholarships, offering \$6,000 each year to help them through their degree. The club has recently doubled this support to two annual scholarship recipients.

Eligibility is based on being a high-achieving local resident, and Ruth says it has been an honour to meet the recipients and to see them progress through their course.

"They are excellent individuals as well as promising doctors, and their enthusiasm and attitude is inspiring," she says. "This isn't necessarily an area of great wealth, and we want to help students who may struggle through their course financially. They are local people, being trained locally, and we hope that some of these recipients will end up staying in the area and contributing to local medical services."

Ruth Morrison
Secretary, Rotary Club of Narellan
Master of Education, 1991



ALUMNI SHARE SUCCESS WITH NEXT GENERATION

Western Sydney University has been the training ground for countless bright minds, and many alumni choose to honour that role by donating towards scholarships and prizes. In 2016, PwC Partner, Norah Seddon, joined their ranks with a scholarship for women studying science or mathematics.

From a young age, Norah Seddon was aware of the opportunities for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Her mother was a maths teacher and she is one of four sisters who all pursued careers in the field, two as engineers and the others, herself included, as accountants.

Such an experience remains the exception, rather than the norm, with women representing only a quarter of the STEM workforce, including fewer than one in 10 engineers and one in four IT professionals. Norah's desire to give other women a promising start in STEM inspired her to launch the JG & C Seddon Scholarship for Women at Western Sydney University.

"My parents inspired a family of four girls to believe that women can succeed in maths and science, and I want to provide other women with that support," says Norah, who named the scholarship in her parents' honour.

A Western Sydney University Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting graduate, Norah was introduced to the possibility of sponsoring a scholarship last year through fellow PwC Partner Matt Graham, a member of the University's Foundation Council, who supports a business scholarship.

"It just felt right," she says. "I was educated at Western Sydney University, I was the first in my family to go to uni and it was such a great training ground."

Norah's pathway to the top ranks at PwC started just after high school when she was offered a cadet position, which supported her through university with study leave and book allowances. Winning the CPA Award for First Year Accounting highlighted her determination to succeed.

25 years later, she is the Australian leader of the organisation's global mobility services, helping businesses resolve the complexities of moving people internationally.

A mother of two young girls, Norah believes inspirational female role models are essential to drawing more women into male-dominated areas.

"I want my daughters and other young women to know what the options are," she says. "Women have something special to bring to STEM fields. It's not just about numbers, it's about working collaboratively, using STEM skills to solve problems and make things better."

This vision for supporting STEM at the grassroots is mirrored in the inaugural JG & C Seddon Scholarship recipient, Alycia Noble. A high-achieving second year Bachelor of Mathematical Science student, Alycia intends to teach high school maths. She hopes her enthusiasm for solving mathematical problems will rub off on others.

"The stereotype that maths and science are for males, and humanities are for women, definitely needs to change," she says. "I want to help people enjoy maths the way I do, and to emphasise the feeling of satisfaction you get after solving a tough problem."

Worth \$7,500 annually for the duration of her degree, Alycia's scholarship means she can plan her retail job around her studies, and not the other way around.

"I often had to miss out on parts of lectures because they overlapped with my shifts," she says. "Now, I can make uni the priority. Being the one person selected for the scholarship was an amazing feeling."

To learn more about how you can help students like Alycia to become role models for future generations, visit westernsydney.edu.au/give



Norah Seddon
PwC Partner
Bachelor of Commerce
(Accounting), 1996

Photo by Monica Pronk

A LEGACY OF ALTRUISM

The Enid Helen Hort and Family Scholarship is a generous gift that keeps on giving, through the philanthropic work of recipient Jen Armstrong.

Education helped Jen Armstrong transform herself from a victim of domestic violence into a confident survivor who now helps thousands of others in need.

After leaving a violent marriage with no money, an infant daughter and another child on the way, Jen knew a degree would be essential to gaining financial security for herself and her children. But halfway through a Bachelor of Business and Commerce, the cost of childcare, transport and resources became too much. Dropping out seemed inevitable. The Enid Helen Hort and Family Scholarship came just in time, providing Jen with \$5,000 to cover costs associated with her studies.

Jen is now in the third year of her degree and began working at the University in 2017, as Executive Officer of The MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development. Along with balancing her work and studies, the mother of two cares for a foster child and founded her own charity, The Beauty Bank. Earning her the title of NSW Woman of the Year for 2016, the charity provides toiletries and life's little luxuries to survivors of abuse. It's a practical first step aimed at helping people feel special and regain their confidence as they rebuild their lives.


With her own life and career on track, Jen has offered to pass the scholarship on to another student in need. She hopes to fund a scholarship of her own one day and says the benefits go beyond financial assistance.

"It's inspiring to know that there are private people who have faith in your abilities and are willing to invest in your future," she says. "Emotional abuse stays with you and I still question myself, but it gives me confidence to think about people who have shown me humanity."

The Enid Helen Hort and Family Scholarship is funded through a \$600,000 donation made by former ABC director for music, Harold Hort, in honour of his late wife. It's one of the largest gifts in the University's history and came from the proceeds of selling the family home when Mr Hort moved into a retirement village. Mr Hort, who passed away in 2014, was passionate about education and had three Masters degrees – two of which he gained after retirement.

"My father saw the importance in supporting learning and giving people an opportunity," says eldest son Dr Krishna Hort. "Even though our parents are gone, it's reassuring that this scholarship will go on for many years, continuing to help people in their name. It's really satisfying to hear about recipients like Jen Armstrong, who have been able to do so well."

For more information about establishing a scholarship to support inspirational students like Jen, visit westernsydney.edu.au/give or call the Office of Advancement on **02 9685 9511**.



“ It’s inspiring to know that there are private people who have faith in your abilities and are willing to invest in your future. ”

JEN ARMSTRONG, SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, 2016 NSW WOMAN OF THE YEAR, BACHELOR OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE, CURRENT STUDENT

COUNCILS GIVE RESIDENTS A LEG-UP

Local Councils are a valuable source of support for Western Sydney University across all its campuses, many having partnered with the University since its inception.

For students, this assistance is often life-changing, not only through the financial contribution they receive from council-funded scholarships, but also through the work placement and employment opportunities available within local government. The councils of Blacktown, Campbelltown, Hills Shire, Hawkesbury, Wollondilly Shire, Blue Mountains, Penrith and Auburn all offer scholarships for Western Sydney University students who reside in their area.

Here's a snapshot of the assistance on offer from three of our local government supporters.

BLACKTOWN CITY COUNCIL

Blacktown City Council has provided employment for generations of Western Sydney University graduates and is a longstanding scholarship supporter.

The council has contributed more than \$500,000 to scholarships at the University over the past 20 years, with a continual pipeline of six recipients. The scholarships, worth \$5,000 annually for the duration of a degree,

are available for students in any course at any Western Sydney University campus, with criteria based on academic excellence and merit equity.

“Often, the skills that scholarship recipients gain are the types of skills that can be deployed back in our area, from teaching to nursing and medicine,” says Blacktown City Council Mayor and Western alumnus, Stephen Bali [Bachelor of Business (Accounting) 1989 and Master of Commerce (Accounting) 1995]. “Receiving a scholarship can make or break – enabling people to commence and continue university studies when it may not have otherwise been possible.”

Whether scholarship recipients or not, many Western Sydney University graduates build their careers with Blacktown Council, with at least 10 per cent of its 2,000-strong workforce estimated to be alumni. This includes Stephen Bali, who received postgraduate qualifications in commerce from Western.

“The University produces high-calibre graduates, and we have employees

who have graduated from Western Sydney University in an array of disciplines,” he says.

CAMPBELLTOWN CITY COUNCIL

In recent decades, Campbelltown has transitioned from being a dairy and poultry farming town to a hub of healthcare and educational excellence, with aspirations of being recognised as one of Australia's Smart Cities.

The opening of the University's School of Medicine in 1997 was a milestone in this story, and Campbelltown City Council has been an enthusiastic supporter from the outset. Overall, the council has provided more than \$325,000 towards scholarships at the University, with three on offer to support residents of Campbelltown or the broader Macarthur region. These include the Ian Porter Scholarship, rewarding residents who demonstrate leadership in their community; the John E Hely Engineering Scholarship, worth \$7,500 annually for the duration of the degree; and the Brenton Banfield Medical Scholarship, offering \$5,000 for every year of the

WHAT A SCHOLARSHIP MEANS TO ME

“Receiving this scholarship has provided me with extensive opportunities that would otherwise have been missed. As I am in charge of the financial aspect of my education, this award allows me to invest more into my education. [It] provides a significant contribution to the financial burden of university, allowing me to focus on achieving my goals and giving back to the community.”

BAILEY DAVIS, RECIPIENT OF HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP, BACHELOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCE, CURRENT STUDENT



recipient’s Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

“The University is an incubation hub creating the next generation of talent in the area,” says Mick Sewell, Campbelltown City Council’s Director of City Governance. “Council is committed to providing opportunities to the youth of our city, whether through scholarships or as a gateway for young people to enter the workforce.”

Mick says the growth of the University has had a transformative effect on the area.

“While some people may hold the perception that it’s still the Campbelltown of old, this is not the case,” he says. “We’re working to promote the city and everything it has to offer. The University is a major part of who we are and what we do. We want to continue building that partnership with the University and enjoy an enduring, positive relationship.”

HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL

Support from Hawkesbury City Council for the Hawkesbury campus traces back to the early days of the University. Each year, the Council rewards a high-achieving school leaver with a generous scholarship to help them through their studies at the University’s Hawkesbury campus, with their contribution to date exceeding \$222,000.

Recipients must be a Hawkesbury resident, with the scholarship encouraging them to complete their studies locally, in the hope that they will go on to contribute to the area after graduation.

“All the students I have met over the years [through the scholarship program] have been high-achieving, impressive young people with a career in mind, who have gone on to do great things,” says Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett.

The scholarship provides recipients with \$5,000 annually for three years, subject to ongoing academic achievement. There are currently three students at Western Sydney

University Hawkesbury benefiting from the scholarship.

“Council recognises the importance of education, and while we’re not an education provider, we can contribute by giving local students a helping hand and a good start in life at Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury,” Mayor Lyons-Buckett says.

Since colonial days, the Hawkesbury region has made an important contribution to Sydney as an agricultural hub. It continues to be an area of wider importance today, particularly through the work being done at Western Sydney University Hawkesbury in the fields of food security and sustainable agriculture.

“These fields align with our future planning for the community,” Mayor Lyons-Buckett says. “They are some of the important areas of innovation for the future.”

To find out how you can invest in a student’s life by establishing a scholarship, visit westernsydney.edu.au/give or call the Office of Advancement on **02 9685 9511**.

A NATURAL SYNERGY

The Jacka Foundation of Natural Therapies has partnered with the National Institute of Complementary Medicine to promote natural therapies as part of mainstream healthcare.

In her 45 years as a naturopath, Judy Jacka has seen countless patients benefit from complementary medicine. As Vice-Chair of the Jacka Foundation of Natural Therapies, she is also helping research organisations uncover the evidence behind these treatments.

The National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM) has been a longstanding beneficiary, with donations from the Jacka Foundation amounting to over \$3 million since 2010. A pledge to continue their support until 2018 will bring the Foundation's total contribution to \$4 million. These funds support research, prizes and a lead Researcher, a position recently taken up by Dr Carolyn Ee, a GP researcher and one of Australia's first medical doctors to also hold undergraduate and postgraduate research qualifications in Chinese Medicine.

Dr Ee's dual skill set is a prototype for what Judy hopes will become the norm among health practitioners. Judy believes there is so much to be gained by working together.

"There's great value in conventional medicine, but I've also seen the wonderful support natural therapy can offer," says Judy, who spent the first five years of her career as a nurse.

Working in a hospital setting is what initially compelled Judy to investigate alternative approaches.

"I noticed the same people coming back with the same problems, whether it was stomach disorders or bad arthritis," she says. "I realised there had to be another way. They were treating their symptoms, but what they eat, their lifestyle, exercise and emotional state are very significant factors."

Judy studied natural therapies at the Southern School of Natural Therapies (SSNT) in Victoria, later becoming the institution's Principal and Chairperson. When SSNT was sold in 2010, The Jacka Foundation of Natural Therapies was established from the proceeds. Using invested funds and rental income from its premises, the Foundation supports research, mentoring, leadership and collaborative partnerships that align with its mission of advancing natural therapies in mainstream health.

NICM was the Foundation's first beneficiary and has received the largest share of its donations.

"We're very happy to fund NICM, being such a leading institute in research," Judy says. "The excellent ranking of their research is a pointer to the criticism that we often suffer about our industry being unscientific. There has been a big push to integrate science and natural therapies, and we're happy to experience a partnership with an organisation like NICM that's moving in that direction."

The funding came at just the right time for NICM, which began with 20 staff, funded by a small seed grant

from the Commonwealth and State Governments. It now employs over 45 people, including PhD students, and has gained international acclaim for its work.

"The Jacka Foundation has been a powerful supporter of the vision that NICM has," says NICM Director, Professor Alan Bensoussan. "We're all about helping consumers and practitioners make informed, evidence-based decisions around the use of complementary medicine, and this is something the Foundation is totally aligned with."

Whether it's Chinese medicine to ease the side effects of chemotherapy, yoga to help reduce anxiety or herbs to address cardiovascular risk factors, research into complementary treatments can lead to significant benefits in the lives of everyday Australians. It could also be an economic benefit, with an Access Economics study calculating that Australia could save millions on healthcare costs if complementary medicine was more widely used.

"Ultimately, when medical practitioners are talking to a patient, we want them to be able to draw on research we've done," Alan says. "Using some forms of complementary medicine can help patients improve their conventional medical outcomes, and there are cases where a softer option for treatment is applicable, rather than going directly to a drug. All this enables more comprehensive care of patients."

To find out how you can support research at Western, visit westernsydney.edu.au/give



Professor Alan Bensoussan
Director, National Institute of
Complementary Medicine (NICM)

Judy Jacka
Vice-Chair, Jacka Foundation
of Natural Therapies



With its combination of an Asia-Pacific location and a Western identity, Australia is ideally positioned to lead the world in its cultural understanding of China.

Professor Jocelyn Chey
Former Director, Australia-China Institute
for Arts and Culture

AWAKENING TO CHINESE CULTURE

Western Sydney University is now making an important contribution in this field, thanks to the establishment of the Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture (ACIAC). Officially launched in 2016, ACIAC is the result of a significant donation from Chinese-Australian businessman, Mr Xiangmo Huang. The founder and chairman of the Yuhu Group (Australia) Pty Ltd, Mr Huang has a passion for building connections between nations, and particularly the cultural exchange between Australia and China.

As the world's second-largest economy, and Australia's largest trading partner, China is of strategic importance to businesses in Australia and beyond, making Chinese cultural understanding increasingly valuable and important. Former ACIAC Director, Professor Jocelyn Chey, says the creation of ACIAC enables Western Sydney University to leverage and build on its existing contacts and world-class research and scholarship in Chinese literature, translation, interpretation, music composition and history.

"Whether it's in humanities, business or medicine, almost every school at the University has some form of China-related research," she says.

ACIAC has appointed two research fellows, one working in digital culture, the other on environmental humanities. Both are important fields to explore from a cultural perspective in today's business environment, Dr Chey explains.

"Digital communications and technologies are essential tools for sharing and communicating today, particularly in international cultural exchanges."

The environmental research will look at how attitudes to the environment are shaped by cultural backgrounds.

"There's big potential for Australian companies to promote themselves to China as a safe food and health services exporter," Dr Chey says. "The more Australian companies can understand how China views environmental issues, the better they'll be able to perform in this area."

Based on the Parramatta campus, the ACIAC headquarters include a gallery space where exhibitions are curated through collaborations between the University's photographic departments and photography associations in China. The ACIAC will also offer several scholarship and travel grant programs, and the next step is developing a unique Master in Chinese Cultural Relations program. Targeting professionals already working in cultural exchanges with China, the Masters program is scheduled to launch in mid-2018, and has already attracted considerable interest from potential students both locally and internationally.

Overall, the institute's contribution to a greater understanding of Chinese culture will have a far-reaching impact, according to Dr Chey.

"Good business relationships are based on trust and understanding, and a foundation of cultural understanding makes all the difference," she says.

Dr Chey is an eminent scholar in Chinese studies and has had a long career as a diplomat, having helped lay the foundations for trade and cultural relations between Australia and China in the 1970s. "To deal with China is a fact of life in Australia and it's essential that we understand the Chinese perspective," she says.

Extremely grateful for Mr Huang's generous donation, Dr Chey says Western Sydney University is well placed to deliver on this mandate. The University has more than 3,000 students who were born, raised or are residing in China who speak Chinese at home, and about 8,000 alumni who live in China.

"Western Sydney is the most multicultural place in Australia and as a region is very sensitive to cross-cultural communication and respect for different cultures," she adds. "We can bring tremendous energy and vitality to this field."

Deborah Carr, Executive Director of the Office of Advancement, would welcome the opportunity to discuss how philanthropy can assist Western Sydney University to continue its world-class research. Please contact Deborah on **02 9685 9511** to begin a conversation.

MAJOR BOOST TO COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE RESEARCH

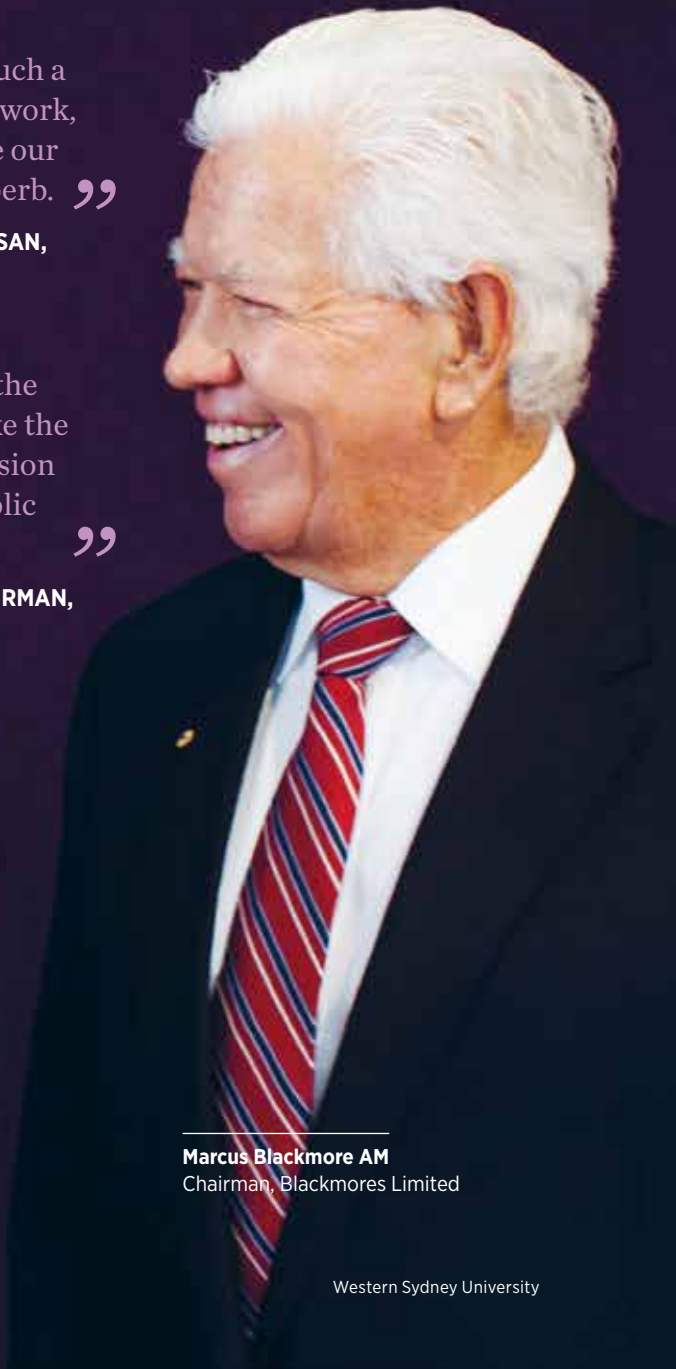


“ It is wonderful to have such a vote of confidence in our work, and this help to advance our research strongly is superb. ”

**PROFESSOR ALAN BENSOUSSAN,
DIRECTOR, NICM**

“ Alan Bensoussan and the institute have helped take the industry and the profession to another level of public acceptance. ”

**MARCUS BLACKMORE AM, CHAIRMAN,
BLACKMORES LIMITED**



Professor Alan Bensoussan
Director, National Institute of
Complementary Medicine (NICM)

Marcus Blackmore AM
Chairman, Blackmores Limited

A \$10 million donation, spearheaded by Marcus Blackmore, to the National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM) is not only the largest donation ever made to Western Sydney University, but one of the largest to the entire complementary medicine sector in Australia.

The donation, announced in 2016, comes from the natural health company Blackmores Ltd and through a personal philanthropic donation from Marcus and Caroline Blackmore. Funds will be rolled out over multiple years and are untied, enabling the Institute to invest in the areas of research that it identifies as most important.

The funds represent an immense boost to the institute's research capacity, and a massive vote of confidence for the work of NICM researchers and Director, Professor Alan Bensoussan.

"Medical research is tough enough, but even tougher to succeed in a less conventional field examining the potential value of herbal medicines and nutritional supplements," says Professor Bensoussan. "It is wonderful to have such a vote of confidence in our work, and this help to advance our research strongly is superb."

Complementary medicine has been widely embraced by consumers. Two in three Australians use at least one complementary medicine product, and one in three use complementary medicine services each year, with the sector's revenue about \$4-5 billion in 2017. Natural therapies have been proven effective in treating a wide range of conditions, but there remains a dire need for evidence-based research across the sector.

"One of the big challenges we have in the sector is that demand is way ahead of research," Alan says. "We're now playing catch-up."

Marcus Blackmore is all too familiar with the challenges that Alan describes. His father, Maurice, was a pioneering figure in Australian natural therapies in the 1930s, 40s and 50s, and his natural, wholistic approach to health and wellbeing was considered radical for its time. Over the years he was called a charlatan and faced legislative changes designed to curtail natural therapies, which he successfully challenged with the help of patient testimonials.

The establishment of NICM 10 years ago, with bipartisan support from the Federal and NSW Governments, is an example of how far the industry has come since Maurice Blackmore's early days. NICM has consistently received a top ranking in Australia's national research evaluation framework, Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA), putting it well above the international standard. For Marcus Blackmore, directing such a generous gift to the institute was an easy decision.

"Alan Bensoussan and the institute have helped take the industry and the profession to another level of public acceptance," he says. "Alan is an amazing individual who has produced a world-recognised institute with very few resources."

The only requirement attached to the Blackmores donation is that it be directed towards research.

"I'm not interested in buying bricks and mortar – what I really want to do is improve the intellectual capacity of researchers in complementary medicine," Marcus says. "The largest part of the population on the planet maintain their health with complementary medicine and not drugs. People have been using these treatments for thousands of years and it's incumbent on us to provide what evidence we can on why they work."

Funds will be directed towards steadily increasing NICM's research teams in its four key focus areas: dementia and mental health, cancer, cardiovascular and metabolic disease, and women's health.

"We're doing extensive testing on Chinese and Western herbal and nutritional supplements, examining their chemical composition, clinical effectiveness and mechanisms of action," Professor Bensoussan says.

NICM is also building its expertise in Indigenous Australian bush medicine, medicinal cannabis, acupuncture, and mind-body interactions, such as the effect of yoga on depression and anxiety.

"While some sources of funding can be very prescriptive, this visionary donation has given us room to breathe and expand our research programs exactly where we see the desperate need," Professor Bensoussan says.

To discuss philanthropic support for research, please contact the Office of Advancement on **02 9685 9511**.

CENTURIES ON, STILL GOING STRONG

The Presentation Sisters are continuing their 200-year-old educational mission by supporting Western Sydney University.

The Presentation Sisters formed in Ireland in the early 1800s with a clear mission: educate people to help them move out of poverty. This wasn't without risk for the Catholic congregation of nuns, which established secret schools in defiance of penal laws against Catholics in Ireland.

More than two centuries later, on the opposite side of the globe, the work of these brave pioneering sisters continues. The Wagga Wagga congregation of the Presentation Sisters chose Western Sydney University as their partner in helping to educate disadvantaged sectors of the population, through funding two annual prizes since 2006. The prizes are open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, with a focus on studies in social sciences, education, medicine, nursing and law. Wagga Wagga congregational leader, Sister Anne Lane, says providing funding through the University was a perfect fit for the sisters.

"Our congregation, by its nature, looks for places of greatest need, and Western Sydney is often where this

can be found," she says. "In particular, we want to see Indigenous people enjoy the same privileges as other Australians. The figures show that one of the areas where they fall behind is in tertiary education."

Last year, in addition to their prizes, the Sisters agreed to provide a major gift to support a new academic position, The Nagle Lecturer in Social Work and Community Development. This will be a senior lecturer position in the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, an identified position for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. The University's recruitment process is underway to find a suitable candidate and Sr Lane hopes the position will broaden the impact their funding brings to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

"With the prizes, we're doing our little bit in terms of giving people the opportunity to gain a good education, where they may not have otherwise had the chance," she says. "These people can show others within their community what's possible, and the lecturer position will take this a step further. We hope [the lecturer] will be able to focus on issues affecting Indigenous communities, and on helping more Indigenous students get to a higher level."

If this proves to be effective, the Presentation Sisters intend to

continue supporting the position beyond the initial three years, for as long as funds are available.

There are now 43 members left in the order of the Presentation Sisters in Australia, and they're all in their senior years. The recent increase in support for the University comes at a time when the Sisters are planning how they will continue their work when they are no longer able to play a hands-on role.

"As a group with ageing members, we're going through a stage where we want to decide where our finances go," Sr Lane says. "Western Sydney University ticks all the boxes for us and really fits in with what we're on about. We're very happy and proud to be involved in supporting education through the University."

While today's Presentation Sisters aren't defying laws or running clandestine schools as their early counterparts did, they are still very active in their philanthropic work. Along with their contribution to the University, the Sisters work with refugees, fund camps for youth in the Campbelltown area, and work with Relationships Australia to help people in rural areas access counselling services. They also have a focus on sustainability and run the ErinEarth sustainable living education complex in Wagga Wagga.



“We might be getting older, but we still have our feet on the ground,” Sr Lane says. “We have always tried to live our lives the best way we can, and we intend to go out with a bang, not a whimper.”

For more information about establishing a prize, scholarship, or supporting research at Western, visit westernsydney.edu.au/give or call the Office of Advancement on **02 9685 9511**.

Sister Anne Lane PBVM
Congregation Leader,
Presentation Sisters Wagga Wagga

EMERGING LEADER REWARDED FOR HER DEDICATION



Aylin Harapoz
 EJ Dibbs Business Scholarship Recipient
 Bachelor of Business and Commerce/Bachelor of Laws, Current Student

Receiving the EJ Dibbs Business Scholarship has opened valuable extracurricular opportunities for Aylin Harapoz.

Attending classes and completing assessments is just a small part of Aylin Harapoz’s approach to educating herself and establishing her career.

Now in the final year of a Bachelor of Business and Commerce/Bachelor of Laws, Aylin balances her studies with volunteer work at a community legal centre, part-time work facilitating group study sessions at Western Sydney University, mentorship programs and work experience positions.

Her commitment to building her own potential, and that of others, made Aylin ideal for the EJ Dibbs Business Scholarship when she was selected as the recipient last year.

“My goal is to become a successful lawyer in Western Sydney, and I’d love to do pro bono work to help the community and give back to Western

Sydney,” says Aylin, a Fairfield resident.

Donated by Elizabeth Dibbs, Western Sydney University Deputy Chancellor and Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee, the scholarship provides students with \$10,000 each year for the duration of their degree. A former Partner and General Counsel of PwC, Elizabeth worked in major law firms in Sydney and London, before moving to PwC and then into non-executive director roles in not-for-profit and government organisations. Her interest in supporting business education was inspired by her own corporate law career, her father, who ran his own legal firm, and her entrepreneurial husband who founded Macquarie Telecom Group.

“I have a strong appreciation for the importance of small, medium and large businesses,” she said, in announcing the scholarship. “Sound,

knowledgeable and ethical business leaders are essential to the future of Australia, our position globally and to building strong and resilient communities.”

Aylin describes Elizabeth as the kind of female leader she hopes to become, and says being selected for a competitive scholarship was a big confidence boost.

“Having that on my resume demonstrates what I’m capable of,” she says, adding that it helped her stand out amongst other candidates for an internship at KPMG last summer. The scholarship funds have eased Aylin’s financial stress as she completes her degree, freeing up more time for volunteer work.

“I’m so grateful for this opportunity and it has helped me to put myself out there and experience as many things as I can,” she says.



SKY'S THE LIMIT AT PARRAMATTA CITY CAMPUS

Recipients of business scholarships at Western Sydney University not only have the advantage of financial support through their course but also the opportunity to study at a cutting-edge campus.

The new Parramatta City campus – named ‘The Peter Shergold Building’ in honour of the University’s Chancellor – is the high tech home of the School of Business. At the heart of one of Australia’s biggest urban renewal projects, the \$220.5 million, 14-storey building has changed the way business is taught at Western Sydney University since it welcomed its first cohort of students in January 2017.

Abandoning traditional lecture theatres in favour of technologically-enabled 360-degree learning environments is just one of the ways the campus promotes a modern educational experience. Students can access lectures on their devices prior to class, freeing up face-to-face time for active engagement with teachers and peers. “It gives students a 21st century education,” says Professor Scott Holmes, Dean of the School of Business, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Engagement, Development and International).

Complementing the building’s features is its Paramatta CBD location, with global and national corporations, and government organisations on its doorstep. PwC and Water NSW are tenants within the same building, providing students with ready access to work placements, professional mentoring

and employment opportunities. PwC will employ more than 50 Bachelor of Business students annually over the next five years, and the first cohort has already begun.

“Just having these corporations in the building means there’s a business presence,” Professor Holmes says. “PwC is getting involved in teaching and student mentoring, and Water NSW is also looking to get involved.”

The Parramatta City campus has become a prototype for leading instructional design internationally and is a magnet for international and local students.

“HSC students come to study in the building after school, as do students from other universities who live in Western Sydney,” Professor Holmes adds. “The campus is supporting the education of the broader community.”

BUSINESS LEADER TAKES STUDENT UNDER HER WING



Sarah Beth Starnovsky
Order of Australia Foundation Scholarship Recipient
Bachelor of Business and Commerce/Bachelor of Laws, Current Student

A promising student reaches new heights thanks to one of the nation's most prestigious scholarships.

The Order of Australia Foundation Scholarship is one of Western Sydney University's most highly esteemed awards, but for recipient Sarah Beth Starnovsky, the associated opportunities have been even more valuable.

Along with providing \$40,000 over two years, the scholarship includes an ongoing mentorship with a member of the Order of Australia who is eminent in the recipient's chosen field of study.

For Sarah, a fourth year Bachelor of Business and Commerce/Bachelor of Laws student, this is a mentorship with Bonnie Boezeman AO. A former managing director of Time Life, Bonnie has held board positions with a long list of prominent corporate and government organisations, and is a passionate philanthropist, devoting her time and business leadership skills to numerous causes. One of the founders of Chief Executive Women, Bonnie has mentored heads of companies for over 20 years and worked on women's leadership programs.

Being connected to Bonnie has enabled Sarah to tap into her extensive experience, knowledge and network. Their conversations have helped Sarah to identify her key strengths, putting politics on the radar as a career prospect. With Bonnie's help, she is now working to

secure internship opportunities within the NSW Government.

"These opportunities are more valuable than any monetary award, and the long-term impact this will have is unbelievable," says Sarah, who has been a high-achieving student throughout school and university despite difficult family circumstances. "Bonnie is the most motivating woman I've ever met, and everything I want to be. I would love to come full circle and be in a position where I can offer guidance and help others."

The scholarship helped fund a trip to China last year, where Sarah joined students from across the globe at a conference on international diplomacy and leadership.

"The experience was life-changing," she says. "It gave me networking opportunities with leaders from around the world, and I met like-minded students with common goals who keep in touch and help each other."

The funds also enable Sarah to take time off from her job as a pool lifeguard when she needs extra time to study or complete assignments.

This is the first time an Order of Australia Foundation Scholarship has been offered at Western and was donated by former NSW Premier Nick Greiner AC. While his alma mater is

the University of Sydney, Bonnie says it was easy to convince him to choose Western Sydney University as the destination for the scholarship.

"Western Sydney University is so pertinent to the educational success of NSW," she explains. "The great thing is, it isn't geographically in one place. It's so expansive and gives opportunities to a lot of people who might not be able to afford to travel or board in the city."

Finding a candidate like Sarah reassured the foundation that they'd made the right choice.

"We wanted to support a student in NSW who shows extreme promise, and are delighted that it's going to such a special young woman," Bonnie says. "Sarah is extremely bright and knew how to reengineer her focus away from her personal situation and be successful as a student. I've mentored all kinds of men and women over the years, but what gives me great satisfaction is to have someone who listens, reacts and excels the ways Sarah does. This is a young lady who is going to make a difference in society."

To establish a scholarship to enable more students like Sarah reach their potential, visit westernsydney.edu.au/give or call the Advancement Office on **02 9685 9511**.

STAFF GIVING A POWERFUL WAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Along with being dedicated to their roles at Western Sydney University, many staff members go beyond the call of duty by making salary sacrifice contributions to the University's Staff Giving program.

Last year, these donations helped reward 33 deserving students with scholarships through the Community Scholarship program and the Refugee Scholarship program. Categorised as 'Opportunity Scholarships', these are offered to talented and hardworking students who through financial hardship, a background of disadvantage, or other circumstances,

need help to stay in university and complete their degree.

Recent Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedicine) graduate, Rebecca Ayton, is one of the many students who has been helped through a Community Scholarship. Rebecca's life was turned inside out when a series of tragic circumstances struck her family. Along with receiving the scholarship, she accessed support and counselling through the University's Student Welfare Service. The help she received through tough times has inspired her to pursue a career helping others, which she now does daily as a paramedic with NSW Ambulance.

"Thanks to the donors who have supported me with a scholarship,

I have achieved my dream of becoming a paramedic," she says. "Despite all that has happened with my family, I have succeeded thanks to the opportunity I was given."

With the University matching staff contributions towards scholarships dollar for dollar, any amount goes a long way. Sacrificing \$5 weekly, for example, adds up to \$520 every year for student scholarships. All this for little more than the price of a coffee, when matched by the University's contribution. The combined donations from hundreds of Staff Givers can make an incredible difference, not only to the individuals who receive them, but to the people whose lives they go on to touch.

WHY WE CHOOSE TO GIVE BACK

More than 400 employees participate in Staff Giving at the University, some since the program's inception eight years ago.

Combined, staff givers have made more than 42,000 payroll donations, totalling over \$567,000. Most of the funds have gone towards scholarship programs, while \$182,700 has been distributed to the University's charity partners.

To find out more about our Staff Giving program, visit westernsydney.edu.au/give or call the Office of Advancement on **02 9685 9511**.

Here is what some longstanding staff givers had to say:

"Working on scholarships for over 10 years means that I have seen the impact a seemingly small donation can make on someone's life. Many of the recipients show courage and determination overcoming such adversity to get to where they are. As a scholarship recipient myself, I know the encouragement that this provides."

VANESSA SMYTH, RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, BACHELOR OF NURSING, CURRENT STUDENT

"Staff giving through payroll is a wonderful way to support charities when you otherwise might not find time to donate. The charity receives

the total gift with no admin fees deducted, and salary sacrifice means you benefit as well, as it is a pre-tax deduction. As a Western Sydney University alumna, I am really happy to be able to give back."

SUSAN HUDSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES, BACHELOR OF ARTS, 2001

"Scholarships support students who want to learn and make a positive impact on the world. By supporting scholarships, I am supporting the future. My gift might not be significant enough to support one full scholarship, but collectively, we're making a difference."

RITA JABER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS UNIT, OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

Danielle Roberts

Bachelor of Education (Primary) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, 2017

STAFF GIVING – A SNAPSHOT

2001

Western Sydney University staff given the opportunity to donate to OXFAM Australia via salary sacrifice.

2009

The University established its staff giving program with the introduction of the Community Scholarship Fund.

2015

A seven-week appeal boosts fortnightly payroll donors to 403.

2016

464 University staff participate in Staff Giving, representing more than 14 per cent of all eligible staff, and donating close to \$200,000.

2017

University staff are offered a choice of four internal funds to donate to: Community Scholarships, Refugee Scholarships, Higher Degree Research Scholarships and the Whitlam Institute; and five charity partners: The Cancer Council NSW, Oxfam, Northcott Disability Services, RSPCA NSW and The Salvation Army.

More: westernsydney.edu.au/staffgiving

THANK YOU

HONOUR ROLL

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of donors to the University in 2016. To view our Honour Roll, visit westernsydney.edu.au/give

Contact information

Office of Advancement
+61 2 9685 9511
giving@westernsydney.edu.au

Western Sydney University
Locked Bag 1797
Penrith NSW 2751 Australia



WESTERNSYDNEY.EDU.AU