



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

A year of giving

DONOR REPORT 2018



STRONGER
TOGETHER

A message from the Vice-Chancellor

From the very beginning, philanthropy has played a crucial role at the University of Wollongong.

The University was founded by a philanthropic vision. It was this vision that inspired hundreds of residents, businesses and industry leaders to become founding donors by coming together in the late 1950s to raise the equivalent of \$4 million to establish what would become the University of Wollongong.

In November, we hosted an afternoon tea on our Wollongong campus to pay tribute to these founding donors and acknowledge our many donors, past and present.

As the University strives to address some of society's most pressing issues, we draw from the strengths of our history. The founding partnership with our communities and donors continues to shape our thinking and nourish our resolve to create a better future.

UOW stands for the future by creating new approaches and fresh possibilities; we stand together with external partners to create change; and we stand for opportunity regardless of background and circumstance.

In 2018, UOW was privileged to benefit from some exceptional philanthropy.

One of the year's most transformative philanthropic gifts came in December when UOW partnered with The Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation. The philanthropic gift – worth upwards of \$50 million over eight years – will create a new School of Liberal Arts within the faculty of law. The partnership will fund 150 scholarships and 10 world-class academics for a new Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation.

UOW is the first university to partner with the The Ramsay Centre which was created with an endowment from the late Paul Ramsay AO, the founder of Ramsay Healthcare. UOW and The Ramsay Centre want to advance education through the study and discussion of western civilisation and we are excited about the opportunities this creates for students.

We launched our philanthropic priorities for the future in 2018. These are areas that – with support – will propel the University forward. Equally, we are delighted to hear of donor priorities and where we might work together to bring about change.

On behalf of the UOW community I thank those donors, like yourself, whose gifts are contributing to this philanthropic vision and making a lasting difference.



PROFESSOR PAUL WELLINGS CBE
VICE-CHANCELLOR

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Artist Gaby Porter with UOW Art Collection manager Karen Cass and the Genesis sculpture.



UOW pays tribute to its founding donors

The University of Wollongong is proof of the power of collaboration to make positive change.

The University was founded on the donations of people from the Illawarra and South Coast – from industry and business to community groups, social clubs and private citizens – all of whom shared a vision of a brighter future for the region.

On Thursday 15 November, Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings CBE hosted an afternoon tea on the Duck Pond Lawn to celebrate the many donors, past and present, who have made valuable contributions to the University through their philanthropy.

The celebration included the commemorative unveiling of the sculpture “Genesis” by Gaby Porter, generously donated to the University of Wollongong Art Collection by the artist.

The event marks the 40th anniversary of the unveiling of the Founding Donors Memorial Bench in 1978. The Memorial Bench pays tribute to the people and organisations whose donations led to the establishment in 1961 of Wollongong University College, which in 1975 became the University of Wollongong.

Many of the region’s leading industries made generous contributions to the cause, with large companies like BHP, Lysaghts, Australian Iron & Steel, the Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Co, and Metal Manufactures raising a collective £138,000 (the equivalent of almost \$4 million in today’s terms) to establish the College.

But it wasn’t just the big end of town who recognised the value of Wollongong having its own university campus.

A Mayoral Appeal Fund for the University College showed the depth and breadth of community support. It drew donations from individuals, school parents and citizens associations, service clubs, the Country Women’s Association, trade unions, businesses large and small, a mothers’ group and a hairdressing salon, among others, and raised £50,000 (the equivalent of \$1.4 million today).

Professor Paul Wellings said philanthropy is and always has been the backbone of the University.

“The University of Wollongong was founded by a philanthropic vision. It was a vision that inspired hundreds of residents and businesses to become founding donors,” Professor Wellings said.

“Every student who has studied at UOW, every staff member who has worked here, every researcher who has sought solutions to important issues has benefitted from philanthropy.

“If the founding donors were here today, they may not recognise some aspects of the University. We have grown from a provincial feeder college of 300 students to an international university of more than 34,000 students with two campuses in Wollongong, three in Sydney, four in the South Coast and Southern Highlands and four overseas locations.

“I am certain, however, that they would be proud to see that we are still guided by that founding vision of seeking new ways for a better future.”

One of those founding donors was leading Illawarra law firm Russell McLelland Brown Lawyers (now RMB Lawyers). Like many of the founding donors, it has maintained its philanthropic relationship with the University.

RMB Lawyers managing partner Craig Osborne spoke at the event on behalf of all founding donors.

“I am very proud that my forebears at Russell McLelland Brown Lawyers were one of the many founding donors in 1959 whose efforts led to the establishment of the Wollongong University College in 1961, and of the University of Wollongong under its own council in 1975,” Mr Osborne said.

“The founding donors saw what a university might mean to our city and what it might become. UOW is now a world-renowned international university. It has exceeded the expectations and visions of its founding donors.

“Like so many other donors we choose to continue to donate to the University. We do so because it is able to drive our philanthropic dollar much further than we could alone. And it can do this through so many avenues, including its UOW Global Challenges program, its major research facilities and its ongoing continuous drive to change the world for the better.”

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UOW is now a world-renowned international university. It has exceeded the expectations and visions of its founding donors.

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The financial help gave me stability to focus on my studies.



MICHELE TYDD

Scholarship provided the code for success

Elena Cabello admits that it took a semester of long nights, Googling and asking other students “a lot of weird questions” before she fully connected with the exhilaration that is computer science.

“I was studying alongside some people who had been coding (computer programming) since they were eight years old and I was struggling to open a terminal,” she laughingly recalls.

But despite not having the recommended HSC maths or finely tuned computer skills, her professors saw in her the ability to succeed, and they were not disappointed.

Four years on Elena, a Westpac Young Technologists Scholar, has completed her Bachelor of Computer Science degree at UOW and is heading to Sweden this year to study at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology before she returns to do her Masters in 2020.

Her success if anything is sweeter because of the hurdles she overcame starting from a young age when she had difficulties adjusting to school.

She went on to become a diligent and artistically gifted student at St Mary’s Star of the Sea College in Wollongong where she graduated at the top of the class in multi-media and top 10 per cent for visual art and general mathematics.

At UOW’s open day in 2015 she intended signing up for a double degree in arts and commerce but events took a life-changing twist.

“Instead, I walked out with an application for computer science and a pamphlet on the Westpac Young Technologists Scholarship that was handed to me after I’d walked into the wrong lecture room,” she says.

“What changed my mind that day was seeing a few robots on display. I think robots are cool so I found a field that could deal with them when I struck up a conversation with the computer science lecturer (Dr Angela Piper).

“She asked me a few questions and seemed confident I could do the course.”

That confidence inspired the young student to not only take the leap into computer science but to also apply for the scholarship.

“The financial help (\$5000 per year) gave me stability to focus on my studies, but I was more worried about filling gaps in my maths and computer knowledge, so I knew I’d be needing the support it offered,” Elena says.

As expected, it was a rough ride initially to catch up with other students but UOW’s free tutoring for maths students proved a godsend.

“I worked throughout uni so sometimes I’d be in the computer labs after work from 7pm to 1am to stay on track,” she recalls.

The Westpac Young Technologists Scholarship included a unique program of experiences including a range of opportunities for

scholars to engage with potential mentors and like-minded peers. Westpac Young Technologist scholars become part of the Westpac 100 Scholars Network for life. Membership to this network gives scholars access to one of Australia’s most diverse meetings of like-minds and is designed to be inspiring, influential and a life-long learning experience.

“It was designed really well to take people like me from behind their computers and out into the wider world to give them the confidence to communicate with people from all levels and disciplines,” she says.

With help from UOW, the scholarship also funded Elena’s participation in a study tour of China last year.

“I was working with a lot of law students on different projects which made me re-think how I approach a problem. Tech and science people like straightforward and specific instructions. Working with law students who need to be convinced of a certain strategy made me aware I would need to be creative in my arguments for what I was doing. It was a really worthwhile exercise for us all.”

Looking back Elena has no doubts she made the right career choice and is constantly enthralled by the power of technology to identify and solve everyday problems.

“And it’s not just the big things like moon landings but just about everything we do from switching on the microwave to checking the weather forecast.

“And what I love about coding is that you don’t get trapped into one area of study so, for instance, if I ever decide to do robotics later it is not a massive leap to cross over.”

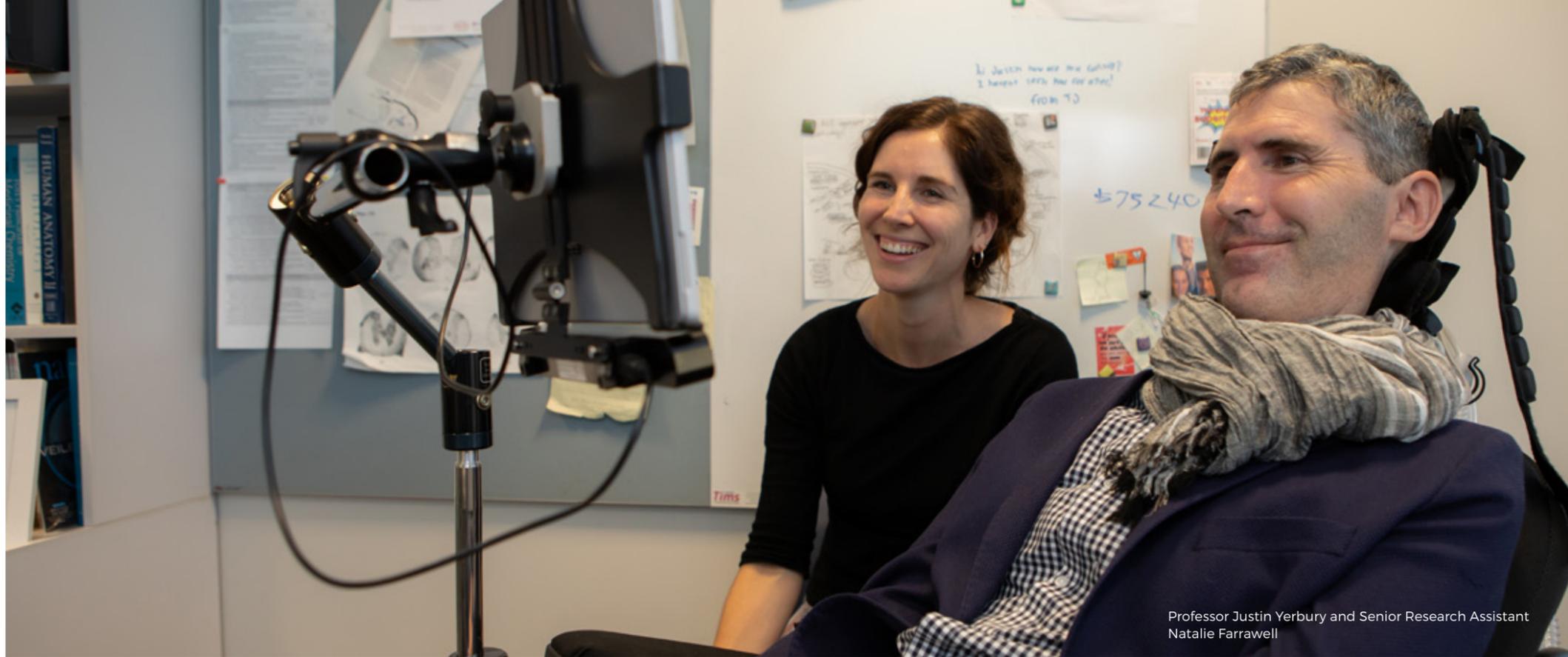
Elena is aware that the scholarship has been a tremendous help to her in terms of confidence building and pushing her to always do her best. She is keen to return the favour by maintaining the chain of support by mentoring students like herself.

“The great thing now is I’m seeing students come in who were in year 7 when I was at school so I love the idea of an ongoing mentoring role in the scholarship program, particularly for those from regional areas like Wollongong who have to struggle a bit with distance to attend networking events,” she says.

Elena says her success story would not be complete without mentioning her parents, who are immigrants from Spain and worked beyond expectations to give her the best chances in life.

“They experienced great hardships when they arrived in Australia but they still managed to become high level academics in their particular fields. I don’t think I’m the smartest person on the planet but they taught me that hard work is the best way to get ahead because you earn it.”

The Westpac Scholars Trust was launched in 2014 with a \$100 million gift from Westpac Group to fund 100 scholarships every year, forever. The Trust has supported 328 Westpac Scholars with \$16 million since 2016. UOW has been a partner since the Trust’s inception.



Professor Justin Yerbury and Senior Research Assistant Natalie Farrawell

“

What drives me is not the fact that I've been diagnosed with this disease - it's trying to wipe this thing off the planet.

BEN LONG AND VERONICA APAP

Fighting MND on two fronts

Professor Justin Yerbury is fighting a war against Motor Neurone Disease (MND) on two fronts: in the laboratory at the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute (IHMRI) and in his own nervous system. The molecular biologist is now confined to a wheelchair but continues to press ahead with work to find a treatment, and one day a cure, for MND.

In November 2018, an appeal was launched to raise money for the work conducted by Prof Yerbury and his team. The response was incredible. Within weeks of the appeal launching, the University of Wollongong received more than \$27,000 towards the \$30,000 goal.

The funding will help the IHMRI team conduct pre-clinical trials of new therapies and drugs with the aim of turning MND into a treatable condition rather than a death sentence.

An *Australian Story* documentary on Prof Yerbury's life, *The Enemy Within*, aired on ABC TV in March 2018, inspiring thousands of viewers with the story of his journey from professional basketball player to neuroscientist.

The Enemy Within was the second highest rating episode of *Australian Story* that year. In November, a follow-up episode aired documenting Prof Yerbury's return to work following life-prolonging surgery earlier.

MND causes progressive degeneration of motor neurones in the brain and spinal cord. People with the disease progressively lose the use of their arms and legs, their ability to speak, swallow and breathe.

Approximately 2,000 Australians are living with MND. From diagnosis, their life expectancy can be counted in years or even months with the fingers on one hand.

In a minority of cases, around 10 per cent, there is a genetic link to the disease with members of the same family contracting it. For most people diagnosed with MND, however, the disease takes hold without warning.

Prof Yerbury's interest in MND began when several members of his family were diagnosed with it. In one six-week period his mother, grandmother and aunt all died from the disease. He has also lost a sister, an uncle and a cousin to the disease.

In order to better understand MND, Prof Yerbury undertook a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Wollongong (UOW), graduating with first-class honours in 2004, and going on to receive a PhD from UOW in 2008.

He now leads a team of scientists at IHMRI that is researching neuro-degeneration and MND.

In May 2016, Prof Yerbury was diagnosed with MND.

"What drives me is not the fact that I've been diagnosed with this disease - it's trying to wipe this thing off the planet," Prof Yerbury said.

"MND has taken away my ability to walk, talk, move and breathe on my own - but it has not taken away my mind, my passion for research, or my determination to see MND as a treatable condition rather than a death sentence."

The work of Prof Yerbury and his team focuses on understanding the molecular events that trigger MND. They have found that the way motor neurones handle their protein balance is a key factor in MND.

Senior Research Assistant Natalie Farrawell is part of Prof Yerbury's team at IHMRI and shares his dedication to finding a way to treat MND.

"Every piece of information gained from our research helps us better understand what's happening in MND and is an important step towards finding a cure for this insidious disease," Ms Farrawell said.

"The next step is to translate that information into therapies and develop drugs that could slow the process of motor neurone disease."

Testing potential therapies is a lengthy and expensive process, however, and one that is difficult to get funding for.

"We rely heavily on funding from philanthropic donations to keep this work going," Prof Yerbury said.

"Donations will get us closer to testing our ideas in pre-clinical trials, and closer to having a new therapeutic strategy for MND."

Justin Yerbury's MND Appeal raised \$27,678 in 2018 thanks to the contributions of 223 donors. In 2018, MND research at UOW also received support from the Ladies Back on Your Bike challenge ride which raised \$16,455, and guests of Director of the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute, Professor Gordon Wallace, made donations of \$10,000 on his behalf for his birthday.

Transforming Futures transforming lives

In 2010, a young Ben Buckley was worried. He was a second year biotechnology student, watching his savings quickly drying up while he was scraping by on less than \$150 per week. He was worried he'd have to prioritise holding down a job over his studies to continue doing that very thing which he valued most – studying at UOW and pursuing a career in biomedical research.



“I was a university student trying hard to succeed in my academic pursuits, while attempting to support myself on Austudy and rental assistance. I was going to need a part-time job, but I knew that would have negatively impacted my studies,” Dr Buckley says.

It was a Learning and Development Scholarship – now known as Transforming Futures Scholarship – that gave a young man from Batemans Bay the financial reprieve he needed to complete his degree and become a scientist at the cutting edge of cancer research.

“The scholarship made a huge difference in my life. It allowed me to continue to focus on my studies without the stress of having to find and maintain a job. I attribute my good results in my second and third undergraduate years to these funds, which set me up for the beginning of my research career, too.

“It was a privilege to receive this kind of support, so I made sure I really applied myself and made the most of it.”

It is this diligence in making the most of his opportunities that has seen Dr Buckley not only finish his Bachelor's degree with honours and complete his PhD, but also rise in prominence as a respected young researcher in the field. He is now an Associate Research Fellow at the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute (IHMRI).

“Being a young scientist at IHMRI is a real privilege. It's a very supportive, open and collaborative research environment; there's a real feeling like everyone is on the same team and that our individual successes contribute to the Institute as a whole. This is by no means the usual situation, so I'm very grateful to have the opportunity to do my work there.”

Philanthropic giving continues to support Dr Buckley's work with donations from the Illawarra Cancer Carers providing funding for his project.

Dr Buckley is working to enhance the cancer-fighting characteristics of a drug compound called amiloride. His research has the potential to help thousands of people around the world who have the notoriously deadly pancreatic cancer.

“By altering the structure of amiloride, we've been able to make it over 100 times stronger at stopping cancer from growing and spreading, known as metastasis,” explains Dr Buckley.

The keen researcher has worked with colleagues at IHMRI, Professor Marie Ranson and Associate Professor Michael Kelso, to take their original idea from a hypothesis, all the way through the early-stage testing and development, proving it works in cells and is effective in treating cancer in mice. He is now working with a drug developer to optimise their product for human use.

“My primary focus now is to do all I can to ensure we have the best versions of our drug candidates – their safest and most efficacious form – before we advance them to clinical trials.”

Surviving the multibillion dollar, decade-long clinical development process has required Dr Buckley's dogged persistence and ability to constantly adapt as new data came to hand... and a spot of good timing and chance.

“Drug development is a series of hurdles that get higher at each step. Regardless of how much good science and dedication has gone into a new drug candidate, the process is still so unpredictable, so I've been fortunate to be involved with a project that has made it this far,” he says.

“

I attribute my good results in my second and third undergraduate years to these funds, which set me up for the beginning of my research career.

“It's been a wonderful experience and it's afforded me many highlights in my short career already. A standout for me was seeing the results from our pancreatic cancer model for the first time. Our lead compound was able to completely inhibit the formation of any metastasis. This was a huge result for us, and it gave us faith that our approach really could bring benefit to patients in the future.”

In parallel to this goal, Dr Buckley is trying to further establish himself as an independent early-career researcher, conducting innovative research into the effectiveness of his discovery in other diseases it could also help treat, such as tuberculosis, rheumatoid arthritis, lymphangioma, and neuropathic pain.

“I'm very passionate about this work. I believe, thanks to the very unique properties of amiloride's structure, it may be possible to develop multiple drug candidates for different diseases all from the same class of compounds.

“I see my research work as a vocation, rather than just a job. Nothing gets done in research unless you make it happen, and that really appeals to me. I can't imagine doing anything else.”

Dr Buckley's work saw him recognised last year with an IHMRI Young Investigator Award, providing pilot funding to investigate amiloride analogues as new treatments for neuropathic pain. He also won the BridgeTech Program's 2-minute pitch competition and the resulting prize trip to the US to tour the global headquarters of large pharmaceutical companies, AMGEN, AbbVie and Merck.

“I got to see how it's done in the big leagues, with facility tours, presentations and intensive meeting sessions with senior stakeholders across the entire span of the drug development process. These people and their experiences are incredibly difficult to access as a basic scientist, so it was a career-altering experience. I learned many valuable lessons there that I now get to apply to our own drug development efforts here that will increase our chances of success.”

Dr Buckley is determined to see his research at IHMRI succeed, and if his progress so far is anything to go by, his plans for the future have the potential to be just as promising. In five years, he hopes to have advanced his amiloride compounds into clinical trials. In 10 years, he'd like to be close to bringing his drug to market, and have a tenured position at UOW. In another decade, he hopes to be seeing the benefits the drug is bringing to patients, and sharing what he's learned with others.

All made possible from the humble beginnings of a UOW Transforming Futures Scholarship.

“You're very unlikely to get rich doing science, but there are few lines of work that are more fulfilling than biomedical research. Knowing that what you're pouring yourself into has a chance to make a real, positive difference to people's lives is a very special thing.”

Transforming Futures Scholarships was previously known as the Learning and Development Scholarship Fund which was established in 2008. Since then more than 2000 alumni, staff and the members of the wider community have funded 120 student scholarships.

Esme Timbery
Slippers
2011
Fabric, shells, glue and cardboard
University of Wollongong
Art Collection
Copyright Esme Timbery/
Copyright Agency, 2019



“
There’s a wonderful
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DONOR REPORT 2018

JEN WATERS

UOW Art Collection: The gift that keeps on giving

The University of Wollongong Art Collection (UOWAC) was founded with a vision of creating a widely accessible and lasting cultural legacy. Over 50 years it has evolved to achieve international significance, with more than 5000 works breathing life into buildings, open spaces and those who walk among them.

According to UOWAC Director Senior Professor Amanda Lawson, the next stage in its future is bursting with opportunities for philanthropists to make an indelible mark on the cultural landscape.

“UOW is in a stage of great development and with each new building we’re seeing art becoming a key element, where the collection works alongside designers, architects and project managers from the early stages of construction,” Professor Lawson explains.

“There’s a wonderful opportunity for donors to have a profound influence on a space or building by contributing, for example, to the acquisition of a signature artwork that speaks to the purpose of the building, the research being conducted in it or the student experience.”

Gifts have played a pivotal role in shaping the UOWAC of today, which holds works to rival major Australian galleries from influential artists including Lloyd Rees, James Gleeson, Judy Watson and Emily Kngwarreye. Its key strengths lie in regionally significant works that reflect the rich history and culture of the Illawarra, contemporary excellence from Australian and New Zealand artists, and a flourishing specialisation in Indigenous works on paper.



Max Dupain
Bass Point Jetty
1930s
Photograph
University of Wollongong
Art Collection
Copyright Max Dupain/
Copyright Agency, 2019

The collection is a valuable resource for researchers and students well beyond the visual arts disciplines. The significant body of donated Redback Graphix prints and posters, which documents key aspects of the labour and feminist movements in the Illawarra and Sydney of the late 1970s into the 1980s, provides an illuminating example.

“The works have very distinctive typographic and design characteristics for graphic and web design students. They depict an extraordinarily rich history that is of interest to students of politics, sociology, history and regional economic history, and can inform studies in law, environmental and community studies and cultural geography. Other works in the collection speak to contemporary movements in health and wellbeing, where the positive role that art and colour can play is increasingly recognised.”

As the collection grows, the founding vision of accessibility remains at the fore – necessitating a greater investment in conservation, protection and display of the works. This is another area where donors can play an important role.

“UOWAC is unique in that a large proportion of our works are on display at any one time, often in high profile public spaces. Support for conservation, such as purchasing UV glass for photo-sensitive works and display cases for delicate pieces, means more works can be on display for longer periods and in more varied locations,” Professor Lawson explains.

“Financial gifts could also expand accessibility; for example, with \$5000 we could cover copyright and digitisation to place 50 works online for all to see, while with around \$6000 we could develop a tour guide leaflet to help people discover key works on our campuses.”

To discover how you could shape the future of the UOW Art Collection please contact us at art-collection.edu.au or +61 2 4221 5414



Chair of UOW Anatomy Committee Dr Deirdre McGhee; Licensee UOW Anatomy Laboratory Dr Darryl McAndrew; and Technical manager UOW Anatomy Laboratory Natalia Munoz with the Body Donation Memorial book at UOW Library.

“

The motto of our anatomy laboratory is Privilege, Dignity and Respect.

She says families of donors tend to have a sense of pride over the contribution their loved ones have made to medical science.

“Quite often multiple registrations of interest are made within one family. Husbands and wives register together quite a bit. Occasionally mum and dad and perhaps one of their children will do it together.”

To express its gratitude, UOW holds a Ceremony of Appreciation every two years and invites along families of those who have donated and current registered donors.

Dr McGhee, who is a senior lecturer in the Anatomy Lab, says the Ceremony of Appreciation provides her and the anatomy laboratory academic and technical staff the chance to speak to potential donors and answer their many questions.

“These include details on the technical process of what happens to a donor’s remains after their death, how we teach anatomy and what our students go on to do after they graduate,” Dr McGhee says.

“The motto of our anatomy laboratory is Privilege, Dignity and Respect. We instil in our students that it is a privilege to study anatomy using cadavers and that the bodies donated to UOW must be treated with dignity and respect at all times”.

Dr McGhee says the body donation program and laboratory helps students develop a real passion and fascination of anatomy.

“Our anatomy laboratory allows us to teach applied anatomy. The students are able to see discrete structures of the body and simultaneously learn how the structure works, how it can be injured, how we clinically assess an injury or illness and what medical treatment we can provide.

“For example, we are able to show students what an anterior cruciate ligament looks like on an actual human knee joint that can move, and we can therefore show them what its function is, what movements of the knee will tear it, how we move the knee joint to clinically assess if it is torn and how it can be surgically repaired.

“To see and learn all of this on a real knee joint is so much more meaningful than hearing it being said while watching a screen. I cannot express how much of an effect it has on the learning process. These visual and physical memories stay with the students beyond their exams. This level of understanding stays with them throughout their careers.”

To find out more about UOW’s Body Donation Program please contact the Faculty of Science Medicine and Health on +61 4221 3800 or email Glenice Maxwell at glenice@uow.edu.au

“There is no substitute for human (cadaveric) anatomy in this educational process. The level of detail and subtle variation cannot be replicated by models or technological programs.”

Co-ordinator Glenice Maxwell, who registers potential donors and then liaises with family at the time of the donor’s death, says anybody over 18 can apply to register if they fall within the criteria clearly listed on the UOW website.

Most donors are in the older age groups, around 60s, 70s and 80s, and are commonly motivated by a sense of altruism and pragmatism, says Ms Maxwell.

“They want their bodies to be of use after they’re gone and see the program as a way to achieve that.”

She assures all potential donors that strict policies and practices are in place to ensure their remains are treated with the deepest of respect.

Anatomical teaching and research laboratories are situated in a restricted area of the University that only medical and health-related students and staff are authorised to enter and use, and always under supervision.

Ms Maxwell discusses with potential donors the many queries they might have regarding registration but the one thing she can not guarantee is certainty of acceptance by the University.

“That can only be determined at time of death so I always remind them they need to have alternative funeral arrangements in place.”

MICHELE TYDD

Final gift deserving of dignity and respect

The study of the human body provides the cornerstone of cutting-edge medical training and research but its delivery relies on a selfless gesture of generosity by people from all walks of life.

Since 2006, more than 299 people have entrusted their remains to UOW’s Body Donation Program in the hope it will not only help produce a new generation of medical workers but also lead to needed cures.

The value of this gift is immense, says Anatomy Committee Chair, Dr Deirdre McGhee.

“It plays a critical role in the education of undergraduate students who will continue on to a gamut of post-graduate degrees in medicine, allied health and medical research, as well as UOW’s own post-graduate medicine students”, Dr McGhee says.

“Having this underlying foundation of anatomy can only be achieved from observing the three-dimensional structure of the body, with all the subtle structural variations among individuals of different shapes and sizes.



WILLIAM VERITY

The legacy of opportunity

Neither Byron Jones nor Sandra Sartor had the opportunity to go to university. Nor did their parents.

“I always felt that universities were institutions that were out of bounds for someone like me,” Ms Sartor says. “But now we have had dealings with the University, we can see that it’s a community asset and it’s a place for everybody.”

The couple have agreed to partner with the University of Wollongong and give \$2000 each year to fund the Salvestrin Sartor Jones scholarship which will help a student who might not otherwise afford higher education. To ensure the scholarship lives on in perpetuity, Mr Jones and Ms Sartor have included a bequest in their will. This gift means the proceeds from the sale of their home will fund the scholarship in an ongoing basis after they pass away.

“We know it’s not a great deal of money, but it’s what we can afford,” Byron, a former public servant, says. “Can we do without \$2000 a year? The answer is yes. And it gives me a great deal of pleasure to think that we can help someone achieve their potential.”

The scholarship is named after Ms Sartor’s parents, post-war migrants to the Illawarra from Italy, because they were never able to complete their education.

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It gives us satisfaction to think that we will be able to help one person every year to fulfil their dreams and their ambitions.

“The reason that I decided to include their names is because both would have loved to further their education,” Ms Sartor says. “My parents’ education was interrupted by the war because the roads were being bombed and fired upon, so they had to stay at home and not go to school.

“My mum was a seamstress – so education is not necessarily the be-all and end-all – but education could have opened up the world for them.

“Universities are not just about the study, they are also about making friends, forming networks, and learning about arts and culture.”

It’s a similar story for Mr Jones. Born in Wales, his father died when he was 15, so he needed to leave school early to find work to support his family.

“I fell into a series of dead-end jobs,” he says.

The pattern continued when he arrived in Australia in 1975, but was broken when he took the Public Service Test and started a career in the Department of Social Services (later Centrelink) that continued for 23 years.

Since they don’t have children, both Mr Jones and Ms Sartor started thinking recently about what they would like to do with their assets, how they could use them to make the world a better place.

Ms Sartor was inspired by the example of her parents, who would often perform service through Italian community organisations in the Illawarra.

“It came to the point in our life when we started wondering what would happen to the assets that we have accumulated,” Ms Sartor says. “How could we use them to benefit future generations?”

“We have always been givers, so we considered a range of charities, but then we thought that charities come and go, but universities last for hundreds of years. We wanted to help someone fulfil their dreams and ambitions.”

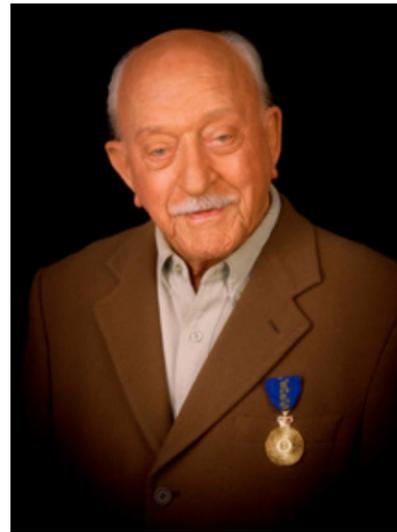
The Salvestrin Sartor Jones scholarship will be awarded for the first time this year with Mr Jones and Ms Sartor accepting an invitation to be involved in the selection process.

“There are a lot of people out there who can’t afford higher education,” Ms Sartor says. “It gives us satisfaction to think that we will be able to help one person every year to fulfil their dreams and their ambitions.”

If you would like to discuss, in confidence, any aspect of leaving a gift in your will to the University please contact us on 02 4221 5757 or giving@uow.edu.au

Helping hand reaches out across the century

The formative experiences of a boy born into poverty in London in the early 20th Century has changed the lives of students from rural and regional areas of Australia studying at UOW in the 21st Century.



George Alexander was born in 1910, growing up in the shadow of World War I. He lived with his maternal grandparents from the age of two, but they could only afford to provide him, and their other children, with the basics.

As a young boy Mr Alexander saw the value of an education as he witnessed his grandfather, a fuel merchant, struggle with illiteracy. During school holidays, Mr Alexander went to work with his grandfather to help him count money. At 13, Mr Alexander left school to support himself by working at a bicycle shop. He dreamed of becoming a motor mechanic but his family could not afford the cost of an apprenticeship.

It was while he working on a steamboat, that Mr Alexander met a gentleman who often spoke so fondly of Australia that Mr Alexander set about researching the antipodes. He fantasised about the Australian countryside and how he could get there.

At 15, Mr Alexander submitted a lengthy application to The Big Brother Movement, an Australian mentoring initiative that sought out upper middle-class boys who were educated in private schools. He was neither. But his intelligence and clear expressions of his goals, determination and passion couldn't be ignored.

Just after his 16th birthday Mr Alexander was on his way to Melbourne. When he arrived he worked on various farms across Victoria during the Depression. There was a serious dry spell which made farming nearly impossible and within three years Mr Alexander was out of a job with no contact from his Big Brother and very little money in his pocket.

Mr Alexander was a thinker and a tinker and very resourceful. He knew how to turn his experience as a farmhand into opportunities. He had learned a lot about the environment, how to build and make improvements to equipment and how to market himself. By the time he was 21, Mr Alexander finally found himself working as a mechanic at a garage, although he had to start for free.

Over a decade later Mr Alexander invented a metal fitting for garden hoses called the Neta. Despite the unfavourable economic conditions of the late 1940s, Mr Alexander launched his new business and by the 1960s, Neta was a household name.

In his 60s, Mr Alexander decided to become a philanthropist, wanting to make life easier for others who found themselves in similar circumstances to his own in his formative years. In 1972 he established the George Alexander Foundation (GAF) with \$30,000. The fund reached over \$10 million during his lifetime and is now worth \$33 million. He said: "It's not clever to hold onto it until the last minute, and I am sure you can't take it with you when you leave."

Given his own background, Mr Alexander was passionate about supporting and encouraging young people from rural and regional areas to succeed. He believed in planting seeds in the hope of growing great trees. He often said that the GAF scholars would become his greatest legacy. Mr Alexander believed in the importance of philanthropy and hoped that his example of giving would inspire others to do the same. In the last 16 years the Foundation has helped close to 1000 young people fulfill their educational goals.

In 2018 UOW partnered with the George Alexander Foundation to provide five academic scholarships each year. The scholarships are valued at more than \$20,000 each. Scholars are selected because of their academic drive, their community involvement and their leadership skills. This includes volunteering, work history, and other extracurricular activities, as well as the academic standing and the measure of leadership potential demonstrated throughout their academic, professional, and personal life.



Hollie Wornes

HOMETOWN
ALBURY, NSW

DEGREE
BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM

Hollie saw her grades slip as she was struggling to pay living expenses and find a balance between work and study. She was considering dropping out of university when she received a call telling her she had received a GAF scholarship.

"The scholarship literally lifted so much stress off my shoulders financially," Hollie said. "I want to prove to the GAF community that I am a worthy recipient of this scholarship."

Hollie hopes her career in journalism will inspire others to change the world.



Callum Somerville

HOMETOWN
RURAL TASMANIA

DEGREE
**BACHELOR OF MATHEMATICS /
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (PHYSICS)**

Money was tight for Callum as he adjusted to studying, working and supporting himself while living away from home. He felt like moving to Wollongong from rural Tasmania was "like moving to a different planet."

When Callum heard about the GAF scholarship he put a lot of time and effort into the application knowing, if successful, it would help his family out financially. Callum had a tough introduction to university life, but like Mr Alexander himself, he drew on experiences in life that contributed to his leadership skills, team work ethics and most importantly to his resilience. "If everyone knew how to get back up after falling, the world would be a place of constant achievement," Callum said.



INDIA GLYDE

How creativity is changing the community of Bellambi

Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre is buzzing with colour and commotion. Strings of vibrant bunting drape the hallways, cheeky toddlers run, giggling, through the garden. It is a special day in this pocket of the Illawarra's northern suburbs. And the universe has responded in kind, with a kaleidoscopic spring morning that seems to shrug off the gloom of winter and suggest that only bright days lie ahead.



Emeritus Professor Ken McKinnon and Associate Professor Kate Senior working on the Bellambi community map.

That is the hope in Bellambi, as the small suburb celebrates the inaugural Festival of Community Mapping. The initiative, led by researchers from the University of Wollongong and funded by the McKinnon Walker Trust, has taken a novel approach to a place that often makes headlines for all the wrong reasons, using visual arts to engender a sense of pride in the community. Close to 200 people have come together to create a huge community map, with nothing but a piece of canvas and lots of paintbrushes, using their memories to craft a piece of local history.

For Associate Professor Kate Senior, who has spearheaded the festival, it is a day to celebrate the beauty, strength, and resilience of Bellambi. "This is such an amazing and diverse community, and it is so incredible to see everyone come together like this," A/Prof Senior says.

Located in Wollongong's north, Bellambi is a suburb with a low socioeconomic status, surrounded by more affluent areas such as Bulli, Thirroul, and Woonona. A/Prof Senior, from the University of Wollongong's Faculty of Social Science, says research shows communities that experience disadvantage feel that disadvantage more acutely when surrounded by prosperous suburbs.

"Bellambi has always been the place that is looked down upon," she says. "When you hear mentions of Bellambi in the media or in conversation, it is inevitably negative. There is a real stigma and that is felt by the community.

"That becomes more pronounced when you consider the close proximity to affluent suburbs nearby, such as Corrimal and Towradgi, and Bulli and Thirroul further north."

An anthropologist and a researcher dedicated to effecting social change, A/Prof Senior has been a frequent visitor to Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre for more than two years. Initially, she began working with local high school students who attend the centre. The aim was to encourage these young people to pursue education beyond their high school years and provide them with training and job-ready skills to help them on this path. She wanted to encourage Bellambi's youth to aspire to great things.

Using visual arts and storytelling Associate Professor Senior connected with the students, encouraging them to share their experiences of growing up in Bellambi. They were from Engage 2518, a program that provides students at nearby Corrimal High School with the opportunity to have a positive impact on their community. Like all suburbs, it holds many memories – some positive, some not – for the students, locations that over the years have become part of the local lore. The students began to create a makeshift map, a visual touchstone of the suburb.

"It was so funny and whimsical to hear about the things that are important to the people of Bellambi," A/Prof Senior says. "There's the beach, the high school, the preschool, but there's also the shops, where everyone hangs out, and the Bellambi monster, which seems to mean different things to different people."

A/Prof Senior was itching to do more. She approached Professor Glenn Salkeld, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, about how the University could further work with Bellambi to empower young people, which she hoped would have a ripple effect throughout the community. A/Prof Senior had a plan; she brought the first Bellambi map, on paper this time, a colourful, whimsical artwork created by Engage 2518.

Professor Salkeld was blown away by the artwork and by the students' initiative. He approached UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings CBE, who was also impressed by the potential of the project.

"Most academics write a few pages for grant applications, but I went into the Vice-Chancellor's office with the map, and that was the application. The map was so big we had to clear space on the floor. He was really impressed and loved the concept," Professor Salkeld says.

The Bellambi research project was funded by the McKinnon Walker Trust, which was established in 2016 following a \$1.3 million endowment to the University from former Vice-Chancellor Emeritus Professor Ken McKinnon and UOW alumna Ms Suzanne Walker. Professor Wellings distributes the trust annually, with the aim of supporting new projects that will have a positive social and economic impact.

Professor McKinnon was the second Vice-Chancellor of UOW, serving from 1981 until his retirement in 1995, while Ms Walker graduated from the University with a Bachelor of Arts in 1985. "The core goal is to foster widespread commitment to innovation and be a particular avenue of support for excellence," Professor McKinnon said at the time.

That seed of an idea, planted more than a year ago when A/Prof Senior asked the students to create a map of what Bellambi meant to them, took on a life of its own.

"It was an intimate way of looking at Bellambi but at the same time, it was a great way to use visual language to think about the whole community," A/Prof Senior says.

When A/Prof Senior put forward the idea of a one-day festival to Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre volunteers, it was received with gusto. The community quickly mobilised to create a day that could showcase all that is beautiful and unique about Bellambi.

It began with a new look for the suburb. A group of third-year graphic design students at UOW were tasked with the responsibility of rebranding Bellambi, creating a new identity that could be used to promote the

festival. Their design brief was the prototype community map and, originally, they were asked to create a handful of animations but the students had bigger plans. Instead, they rebranded Bellambi.

Jaya Degur, a lifelong Bellambi resident and undergraduate in a Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts and Graphic Design), was one of the students who spearheaded the design of Be Bellambi, a vibrant, quirky new brand that captures the personality of the community.

"We decided to create a new brand for Bellambi as part of a perception strategy. We wanted to reduce the stigma around the suburb and also give the wider community an insight into what it's like to live there," Jaya says. "The designs were inspired by the community itself. We wanted to capture things that were important to the people of Bellambi," he says of the designs, which include the infamous Bellambi monster, the bus, the ocean.

"I grew up in and around Bellambi, so I understand the community and I wanted to capture the pride the people of Bellambi have in their home. I wanted to give a deeper understanding of how the community works. The perception is vastly different from the reality. Any community experiences hardship. Bellambi is a big, friendly, beautiful community."

“
I wanted to capture the pride the people of Bellambi have in their home.”



Donor views: Research Impact

Understanding what you value is important to the University. In October, we hosted a unique event designed to better understand what our stakeholders knew about University of Wollongong research and its impact and to find out the best ways to communicate these important messages to you.

We invited donors to join other stakeholders to come on to campus and hear from a selection of researchers about their work. We also surveyed attendees to learn what donors' perspectives were on how we can best communicate research outcomes so you know the impact of your gift on the University and the wider world.

We carefully reviewed all the responses we received from participants at the event. During our review, we noticed some key themes emerged and we wanted to share those with you:

“Impact is return on investment and value add evidenced by receiving feedback on your contributions.”

“Knowing how the money or donation is being used or spent is important.”

“Communication is so important – including communications of a negative result, because it is still important to know not to go down a certain path anymore.”

We are grateful to everyone who took part in this event and want you to know that the feedback we received was used by the University's Research Engagement and Impact Strategy Working Group. The responses will help define impact for UOW and form the basis of a formal engagement and impact strategy. This in turn will influence the way the University communicates with stakeholders.



“
Knowing how the money or donation is being used or spent is important.”



WILLIAM VERITY AND VERONICA APAP

Rural health check-up

About one-third of the Australian population lives in a rural, regional or remote area, however they don't enjoy the same high standard of wellbeing and access to health services as those living in cities. The University of Wollongong is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of people living outside of cities through a range of programs.

UOW's Graduate Medicine seeks to address the shortage of doctors and health professionals in the rural workforce. One way it does this is by offering extended work placements in rural and remote communities to students studying medicine. The hope is students will get a taste for life in the bush and return to work there after they graduate.

The Mudgee community has been a shining example of how a valued partnership supports the University and a regional community. UOW and the Mudgee community have shared a partnership for over a decade with students completing work placement in Mudgee each year. To support those students the Mudgee community has contributed to the construction of a five-bedroom student accommodation facility.

Simon Jones from Mid-Western Regional Council says: "The community wants to see more health professionals in the region and wants them to experience life in our region in the hope that they can see the benefits of living in such a wonderful environment and may one day make our community – or communities like ours – their home too.

"It is the deepening of this relationship between the University and the Mudgee community that is central to why Council was inspired to be part of the Mudgee Region Community Scholarship."

The Mudgee Community Scholarship was established in 2017 and renamed the Mudgee Regional Community Scholarship in 2018 due to Mid-Western Regional Council, Club Mudgee, Wilpinjong Coal and Moolarben Coal Operations all agreeing to provide further financial support.

The scholarship assists students from the Mudgee region to realise their dreams of a career in health. It provides students with \$2,500 per year for the duration of their undergraduate degree at UOW. It is hoped medical students from the rural community will return to their hometown to work in the area after graduation.

Wilpinjong Coal employs about 500 people in the Mudgee region and its workforce – along with their families – led to an increase in demand for health services in the area. The company became involved in the partnership with UOW to address concerns about waiting times for doctors in the region.

Environment and Community Manager at Wilpinjong Coal, Kieren Bennetts, says: "Our involvement in the program is also driven by the fact that we are part of the community and we interact with the medical professionals of the town. We understand the challenges that are involved in sustaining adequately-resourced medical services for the size of the town given its rural location."

He says it is important to support local students, because their family ties ensure they are more likely to return to work in Mudgee or its surrounds.

"The demand for regional doctors can be hard to meet however, statistically, students who complete their HSC in the Mid-Western Region are more likely to return here to set up practice," he says.

Stronger together

It is through the support of our valued donors and partners that the University of Wollongong remains an institution that is fearless with limitless ambition and vision. Together we will nurture more people to be their best through our world-class learning environments and we will continue to actively seek and address real issues facing society.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gives through UOW. We acknowledge all our donors for 2018 on our website. Visit: uow.info/our-donors

We have recently launched our philanthropic priorities, areas that – with support – will propel the University forward. These priorities identify what we stand for as an institution and how together, we can create positive change in the world through our students and with ground-breaking research. Find out more at giving.uow.edu.au

It has been our pleasure to work with you in 2018 and we look forward to deepening our engagement with you in the year ahead.

Best wishes,

MONIQUE HARPER-RICHARDSON
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

“

Every student who has studied at UOW, every staff member who has worked here, every researcher who has sought solutions to important issues has benefitted from philanthropy.

PROFESSOR PAUL WELLINGS CBE
VICE-CHANCELLOR



To see all our donors for 2018, visit uow.info/our-donors

FEARLESS IN PURSUIT OF PURPOSE

"I DO THINK WE ARE
GETTING TO A TIPPING
POINT, WHERE WE NEED
TO REIMAGINE WHAT
THE WORLD CAN BE LIKE
GOING FORWARD."

Distinguished Professor Richard 'Bert' Roberts
Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for
Australian Biodiversity and Heritage

Born from local know-how and a vision for a brighter future, the University of Wollongong was founded on donations from the community. Our story is one of hard work, determination and fearless thinking, which fuels our quest for a better future. We call it Wollongong Strong and once our students, researchers and staff find it, they take it with them – wherever they go.

UOW's Distinguished Professor Richard 'Bert' Roberts is working to unlock the 130,000-year history of our region with an interdisciplinary team at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage, the first of its kind in the world.

"Australia's cultural heritage, landscapes and biodiversity are under threat. In order to build a more sustainable future and more fairly manage our finite resources, we urgently need to understand and appreciate our environmental history and Indigenous heritage."

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