

UOW Moments

2015 Report on Giving

Inside

UNLOCKING INNOVATION THROUGH STEM

Investing in the Leaders of Tomorrow

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Next Generation of Lawyers

OUR SUPPORTERS

Celebrating a Record of Scholarship Support

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Excelling in the Digital Age

HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

Giving Hope to Cancer Patients and their Families

**UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG**
AUSTRALIA



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Featured on the front cover is Mr Christopher Abbott AM, Director of the Abbott Foundation.

The Early Start Discovery Space at UOW was launched Tuesday 19 May 2015. This was made possible through a large philanthropic gift from Mr Abbott. The \$7 million gift has supported the construction of the purpose built, hands-on learning through play space and will ensure future generations are able to learn interactively for years to come.

Find out more about Mr Abbott's contribution to UOW: uow.edu.au/donations/news/UOW199826.html

Find out more about the Early Start Discovery Space: earlystartdiscoveryospace.edu.au

Vice-Chancellor's Message



2015 was a tremendous year for the University of Wollongong (UOW) as we celebrated 40 years as an independent institution with a number of significant achievements, made possible with the generous support of our donors.

The launch of the eagerly anticipated Early Start™ Discovery Space has brought about a unique, hands-on learning through play experience, that invites children aged 0-12 years and their carers to explore, discover and create together. It has been wonderful to see young families and the community on our main campus, enjoying this leading and innovative facility.

In 2015 we opened the new Sciences Teaching Facility, enabling UOW to enhance the significant growth areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) to contribute to innovation in the broader Australian context. The facility offers modern laboratories, exposing students to industry standard equipment and methodologies, and is one of the world's first to have the latest in digital wireless microscope technology.

Our leadership in research was recognised by the Australian Research Council's 2015 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) report. Twenty-one donor-supported research areas at UOW delivered outcomes that are well above world standards a significant increase from seven research areas in 2012. These results are testament to our outstanding donors and their continued support in helping our researchers and their projects flourish. Such projects include Global Challenges, Cancer Drug Research, Motor Neurone Disease research and unlocking the secrets of Alzheimer's.

Supporting students has always been an area of great generosity. UOW together with our donors are committed to ensuring our graduate outcomes continue to be one of our strengths. In 2015 UOW was awarded the Australian Financial Review Higher Education Award for Graduate Employability, as our graduates are highly sought after by employers, with the University being placed well inside the top 1 per cent in the world.

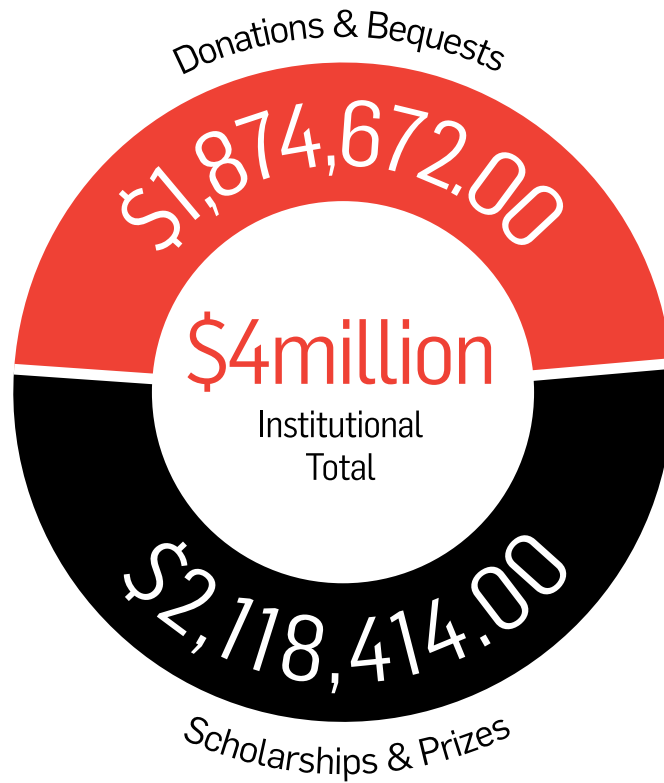
Celebrating 40 years of independence and reflecting on the years that have been and the many years ahead, we are confident that philanthropic commitment will continue to grow. Without support from our donors we wouldn't be able to accomplish such exceptional outcomes.

Thank you for your continued support in advancing the University to transform lives and regions.

Professor Paul Wellings CBE
Vice-Chancellor
University of Wollongong

Total Gifts to UOW in 2015

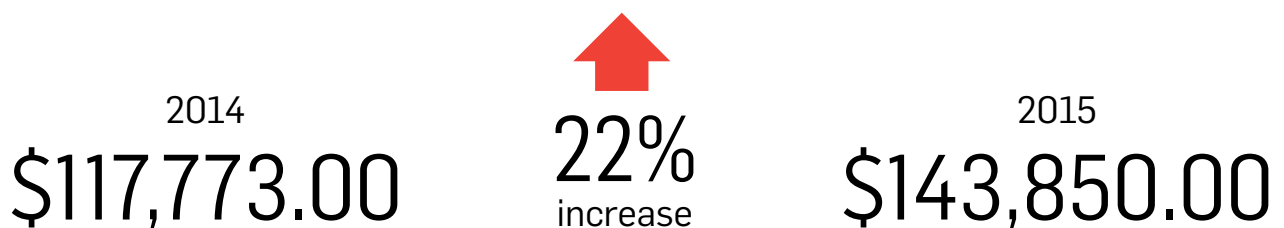
INSTITUTIONAL TOTAL



15

New scholarships funded through philanthropic gifts

COMPARISON OF FUNDS RAISED FOR ANNUAL ALUMNI APPEAL



Unlocking Innovation Through STEM

To remain competitive beyond our resources boom, investment in areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is critical for Australia's future. A renewed focus towards STEM has been made from introducing these subjects at a primary level to enhancing opportunities in higher education and in business. The University has stepped up to the challenge with the opening of the new Science Teaching Facility and the Innovation Campus Science Centre and Planetarium working with educators and families to foster a love of STEM.



*Chief Executive of the Westpac
Bicentennial Foundation, Susan Bannigan*

Westpac Bicentennial Foundation:

Investing in the Leaders of Tomorrow



As one of the oldest businesses in Australia, Westpac has seen many changes during its 199 years and is now taking an important role in building Australia's future.

The digital revolution hasn't just changed the way Westpac interacts with its millions of bank customers; it has transformed how it conducts business across a range of platforms. After almost two centuries keeping up with the times, the financial giant is looking to empower Australia's talented young graduates to take the country into the future.

In 2017, Westpac will mark 200 years since its foundation as the first bank in the colony of New South Wales. The Westpac Bicentennial Foundation is celebrating this anniversary by creating a legacy for future generations. A \$100 million gift will provide scholarships to young Australians through the Westpac Scholarship Program.

The University of Wollongong joined Westpac as one of three founding partners at the launch of the scholarship program in 2014. The program now has 20 partner universities and a mission to award 100 scholarships, each year, in perpetuity.

The scholarships will focus on three areas Westpac believes are at the heart of Australia's growth and prosperity: technology and innovation, Australia-Asia ties and positive social change.

The Chief Executive of the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation, Susan Bannigan, recognises UOW as a partner that is committed and well-matched to this agenda.

"It is a young university with a background in technology and IT and has a rural and regional focus," Susan says.

"And it has been easy to work with the University of Wollongong and be able to also tap into supporting its outreach programs in particular targeting the gaps in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics area."

"But Westpac is bringing more than dollars to the table. We are hoping to create opportunities in all the three priorities. The Westpac Young Technologists Scholarship program is one of five scholarships offered by the Foundation."

Bannigan sees the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiative as a growing focus not just for Westpac, but for the world. The overarching scholarship program, including the Young Technologists Scholarship, is geared to address the issue of diversity within the field and encourage more young people to consider a future in the STEM arena.

By the end of February 2016, up to 48 Young Technologists Scholarships (valued at up to \$25,000 over five years) will be awarded. Susan Bannigan is particularly keen to see them make a difference for undergraduates undertaking dual degrees.

As well as financial support, scholarship holders will be invited to join the *Westpac Scholars Alumni program*, a diverse network of other inspiring leaders that is growing by 100 scholars a year. They will also have access to post-graduate collaborations to broaden their horizons and develop career pathways. As Susan says, "It is lifelong support."

"Now more than ever there is a need for creative and innovative people in this space – innovation is key. There are so many threads to STEM, which is why Westpac is committed to investing in young Australians looking to innovate in this area," she says.

"We want to not just increase diversity in the industry but increase the number of people choosing a career in this field," she says.

"Technology is at the forefront of our future and permeates every aspect of our lives. Westpac is one of the leading employers of technology graduates in Australia. There are more than 10,000 people working in technology at Westpac, and each year we take on 40-60 individuals through our Group Technology Graduate and Internship programs."

Technology is at the heart of Westpac's organisation and Bannigan believes it also offers a key opportunity for all Australian industries and the country to create a successful future shaped largely by technology.

"Now more than ever there is a need for creative and innovative people in this space – innovation is key. There are so many threads to STEM, which is why Westpac is committed to investing in young Australians looking to innovate in this area," she says.

"One of our core objectives is to create opportunities for youth in rural and regional areas. Presently only one in five STEM graduates are women and we are working with UOW with its outreach programs, such as the In2Uni summer maths programs, as well as the Australian Computer Society Foundation's 'Big Day In', to highlight the opportunities in STEM for young women and reach a more diverse audience," she says.

"There are so many opportunities in the innovation space, from cybersecurity to digital innovation. Westpac is about to turn 200 but is thinking of itself as a 200-year-old start-up, so we need young technologists coming in. They offer Westpac, and other businesses, a different way to think with the way they approach day-to-day issues at work."

"By investing in education and encouraging more young people to think about technology, no matter where they end up working will be a great outcome for Australia."

Kate Menzies:

Inspiring Women through Engineering

Kate Menzies is a young UOW Environmental Engineering student from Condobolin in NSW's Central West, who would like to change the world. Kate is aiming to bring about social change in developing countries through engineering practices and establishing the importance of science and maths in school.

Kate's awareness of her mission to pursue engineering grew during a gap year, a time ideally but not often used for such reflection. She says

"Originally I had taken a gap year from school and thought about what my strengths were. I realised I really enjoy maths and couldn't see myself not doing anything that didn't involve it... I didn't know what engineering was, but I knew it involved maths so I decided to go with that," Kate says.

That decision has been one which has most certainly paid off, for her and, in the longer-term, for the communities she plans to transform.

Kate is now the Co-Founder and President of UOW's Women in Engineering Society which works to promote girls' engagement with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) studies in schools and universities.

"We established the Society 12 months ago and in that time we have grown quite a strong member base, it's something a lot of the girls are really passionate about, supporting other women in engineering and also promoting engineering to the wider community," Kate says.

"The aim of the society is to provide a platform for girls to engage with one another, make friends, increase their confidence and give them leadership opportunities. Furthermore establishing outreach programs and putting the word out there on what engineering is and why it is appealing to girls."

UOW's Women in Engineering Society's first outreach program began in October 2015 and has been educating both primary and high school children of the roles engineering plays in society.

"We not only want to promote to girls but also to boys and people from non-english speaking backgrounds. To provide a scope of areas within engineering you don't normally hear about and how it can be applied to areas such as mitigating climate change and the role of engineers within society," Kate says.

"The aim is to bring it back to the societal reasons behind why people do engineering and I think that this 'why' resonates with a more diverse group of students compared to just the 'what' which is how engineering is usually

mortality, ensuring environmental sustainability and global partnerships for development. For Kate, the \$5000 one-off scholarship is an opportunity to pursue her goals for opening up a better future for people in the developing world.

"I received the scholarship this year, my final year, and during my interview I spoke about how I wanted to use the money to implement change in third world countries through engineering. Receiving the scholarship made me realise that, yes, this is what I want to do with this money," Kate says.

Even though Kate is still studying at university, she has the ambition and dedication to see her goals through.

"I want to use my engineering degree to do something good and solve problems



*UOW Graduate
Kate Menzies and
World Transformation
Scholarship Recipient*

marketed... We need to get kids excited about using their creativity and channelling it in the right direction."

This year Kate received the World Transformation Scholarship which was set up to assist UOW students who demonstrate the vision and capacity to contribute towards the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals which include eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, gender equality and women's empowerment, reduction of child

in the developing world. The other part of me wants to be an ambassador for women in engineering and stay involved in that space and be involved in some form of social change that does see more women getting into STEM."

"There are so many opportunities out there for people with an engineering degree and an engineering degree can give you a licence to bring about change."

Current UOW interns James Brodnik and Brendan Tease



Tibra Capital:

Hands on Experience in the World of Finance

The Financial Services industry offers emerging and different opportunities for Engineering and Information Sciences students. Tibra Capital is a leading player in demonstrating how to successfully enlist and develop their fresh ideas and skills.

Tibra Capital is a global quantitative research and investment group that utilises its shareholder's capital across a broad range of investment strategies with offices in Sydney, Wollongong, London and Hong Kong. Their success is based on creating and leveraging market-leading trading technology. Tibra Capital was co-founded in 2006 by UOW Bachelor of Mathematics and Finance graduate, Tim Berry. Now the Global Managing Director, Tim values how his links with UOW can help to achieve his strong vision for the company and contribute to its vitality and growth.

In 2008, Tim led Tibra Capital into a special, mutually beneficial relationship with UOW. Tibra Capital launched its scholarships and prizes for students in Mathematical Sciences and Computer Sciences. Since then, 51 students have benefited from this generous donation, now worth over \$110,000 per year. Each

recipient of the \$15,000 Tibra Capital Work Integrated Learning Scholarship (WILS) also has the opportunity to learn from some of the best in the industry through the 10-week experiential placement.

Thomas Pinson, a Bachelor of Arts (Mathematics Advanced) Graduate and scholarship recipient, calls the work experience placement "an invaluable opportunity."

"I got to work on projects that were really going to go ahead. I was working on a speed testing program and although I had done a little bit of work in the language the program was written in, being able to do this project gave me a much better understanding of it," Thomas says.

A member of Tibra's Human Resources Team, Sonja Gear, recognises how the company's commitment to fostering and attracting the best talent has boosted its own as well as the student's prospects for the future.

"We employ the best people across all our business units and provide them with the best tools and support to do a great job," Sonja says.

"Tibra Capital gives graduates a great start to their career, providing a strong foundation of training, combined with challenging projects that will develop their skills in trading algorithms and computerised algorithmic decision making, equipping them for a career in global investment and financial markets."

"We work with smart, passionate people in a high performing successful business where we collaborative freely and respect everyone's ideas in an ego free work environment."

"Our small company culture is a place where socialising and having fun are part of a day's work and where you can get the creative juices flowing in a team or develop ideas independently," Sonja says.

Tibra Capital's scholarship program at UOW is very much inspired by the company's commitment to the region. For Tibra, it is a way of giving back to their community.

"Tibra Capital is a local business and many of its employees and senior leaders are from the region and also attended UOW. We support up to 15 scholarships/sponsored events/opportunities for students each year as a way of giving back to our community."

"We choose to support students in the subjects that are aligned to our business and its success so we can contribute to the growth and support for students who are determined to succeed and will ultimately join our industry. We also contribute by offering a number internship positions in our business each year to help students and graduates in their development journey."

Initiatives like the Tibra Capital Work Integrated Learning Scholarships give Engineering and Information Science students access to real world experience and invaluable insights into the practical application of mathematical modelling and programming languages. The students' lively and clever minds can, in turn, help to strengthen and invigorate Tibra Capital and the Financial Services Industry as a whole. It is an exemplary "win-win" model.

Science Centre and Planetarium, UOW Innovation Campus:

Star-struck by STEM

Illawarra students have been star-struck by the out-of-this-world experiences they are coming into contact with at the Innovation Campus Science Centre and Planetarium.

This year more than 15,000 school students took part in the innovative and inspiring science-themed activities at the Centre and the numbers continue to climb. Students and teachers are attracted by the University's introduction of new programs and services that make the Centre and Planetarium not only relevant but a must-do part of their education.

Interim Director iC Science Centre and Planetarium, Stuart Creal, who came to the Centre three-and-a-half years ago with a wealth of experience from the UK, is impressed by the increased visitor numbers.

"Visitor numbers have been good and there has been a 38 per cent increase on the number of school students visiting from the previous year. Schools make up 32 per cent of our visitor numbers and that is in part because of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program. This year has been the best in terms of student numbers since 2000," Stuart says.

"One of the things we are now developing is professional development for STEM teachers. In 2015, it became compulsory for science and technology to be taught in primary schools so we want to be sure that we offer teachers the support they need to confidently teach STEM in primary schools."

"Primary school students leave here buzzing, thinking that science is the best, but the teachers then have to try and keep that momentum going in the classroom. To help them do that we want to arm them with effective demonstrations and presentations to get the kids' attention and get them fired up about the subject so they can dive into the curriculum."

"We are designing an armoury of snappy, great experiments to give teachers ways to demonstrate the core elements of STEM. For example, experiments that will help them get the principles of light, sound or gravity across to younger students in an exciting and engaging way."

Stuart also has breaking news about a Makers' Space in which the Science Centre aims to give both schools and the community an opportunity to create their own science and technology-based projects.

"It will be kitted out with a whole host of tooling equipment like 3D printers, laser cutters and textile machinery like sewing machines that would be available for people to get trained on and have access to. We are hoping this space can act as a feeder into the iAccelerate Centre, so if someone has a great idea, we can assist them in turning it into something real, then they can go across into iAccelerate where they can get further help to hopefully create a new business in the Illawarra," he says.

Another initiative planned for the Centre is a workshop and activity space for school students, where up to 60 students, mentored by an intern from the University, can take part in a "make-it challenge" using materials such as Lego robotics, blocks, sticks, and cardboard.

"These challenges encourage free-thinking by getting the students to achieve a certain goal in a set amount of time, changing the challenge each time slightly during the workshop so students have to refine their initial design to meet the next challenge. It would be available to both primary and high school students," Stuart says.

"Everyone is starting to recognise that STEM skills are essential for the future of the economy and we need to look at ways to address that. Research shows students tend to switch off these subjects in high school so by giving

them engaging activities we hope that within a couple of hours of exciting and fun challenges we can continue to hold their attention. Ultimately, it's about having more students coming out of high school who want to do further study in STEM subjects."

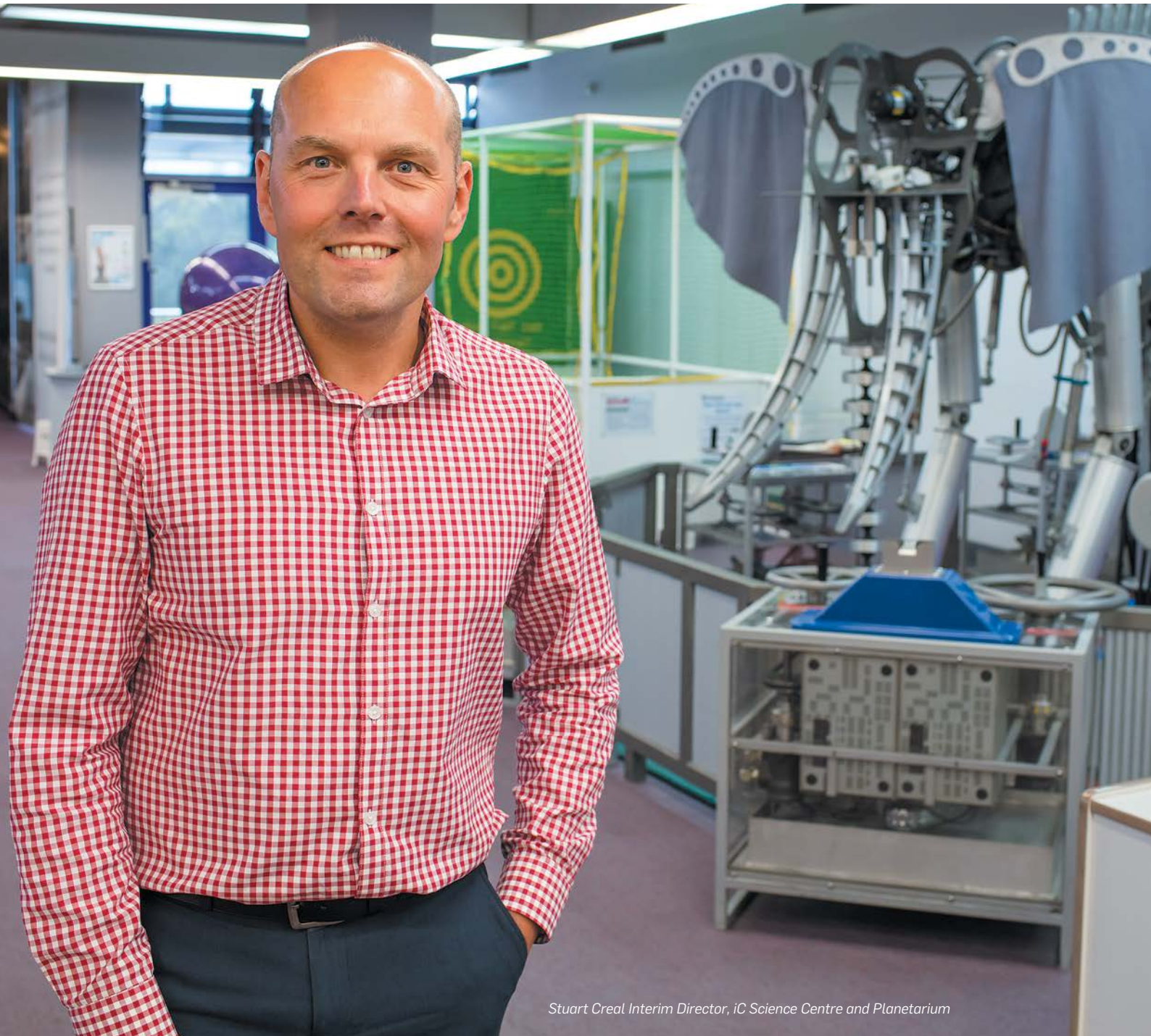
To add to the experience, students will be introduced to some of the high-end research and science undertaken at the University. At the Centre they will be able to engage with a scientist-in-residence and have access to a small, informal lab environment.

As well as the new projects and programs, the Science Centre is looking to make existing offerings bigger and better but this will depend on attracting the necessary funding.

"The Planetarium equipment is aging, and it would be wonderful if we could bring it up to the digital age. It could offer things like data visualisation with the potential to create a unique, interactive teaching environment. UOW lectures could be held in the space, medical data could be visualised as could economic data, and if it went 3D it would be the first of its kind in Australia," Stuart says.

Also on the drawing board is a new suite of hands-on interactive science exhibits, catering for both primary and high school students. Stuart would like to see them conducting a series of real science experiments, including analysis and comparison of results, as well as still learning through hands-on play and interaction.

"Something we have already been doing is strengthening and aligning the exhibit collection more strongly to the curriculum...This also includes the development of preparation material and lesson plans before schools visit, worksheets and activities for when they visit, and follow-up lesson plans. The more we can do to support teachers and schools the greater benefit it will be for the education of STEM."



Stuart Creal Interim Director, iC Science Centre and Planetarium

"Presently the iC Science Centre and Planetarium generates 66% of its income from visitors and therefore the ability to grow and develop is reliant on sponsorship and donations. We have a positive intern program in which the UOW students we employ are trained in a host of skills like interacting with the public and schools and presenting shows and that costs us \$280,000 a year to run," he says.

"Supporting the Science Centre can be done through the most simple of ways. We have a team of 30 volunteers who give in kind as well as in financial support. A number of years ago, they built a donation box into which people drop spare change. We empty that every quarter and it has close to \$700 which we plough back in to the centre."

"Since April we have been capturing our visitor data and we are seeing that our

visitors are coming from further afield including the Sutherland Shire and Western Sydney. It shows there is demand for this type of experience and a lot of families are realising you can spend time together, have fun and get an education at the same time."

2015 has been an exceptionally successful year but 2016 has the potential to see the Science Centre become a centre of excellence in STEM.

Regional Development

The University of Wollongong is proud of our long history with the Illawarra and our regional communities. Here we celebrate the foundations, businesses and individuals who share our commitment to enriching communities and creating positive change throughout their regions.



AREAS COMMITTED TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Orange
- Sydney
- Southern Highlands
- Wollongong & Illawarra
- Goulburn
- Shoalhaven Region
- Batemans Bay
- Moruya
- Bega
- Pambula

RMB Lawyers:

The Next Generation of Lawyers

In a dual achievement this year, RMB Lawyers both celebrated its 130th anniversary and received recognition for Australia's leading regional law firm. The award recognises commitment to their profession and their community, exemplified in their long-term partnership with the UOW School of Law.

Through their internships for students, support for the Jack Goldring Memorial Scholarship and their experienced mentoring and advice, RMB Lawyers has helped to ensure UOW law graduates are among the most sought after in Australia.

When the then, Faculty of Law now known as School of Law first opened its doors to new undergraduates nearly 25 years ago, RMB Lawyers, provided work experience for one intern each year. Now 16 lawyers-in-training are taken under the firm's wings as part of their practical training.

"Our firm has grown 500 per cent in the past 10 years and 60 per cent of our lawyers are University of Wollongong Graduates," says RMB Lawyers Managing Partner, Craig Osborne.

"We also have on staff currently seven clerks who work for us part-time as well as studying."

With eight offices around NSW, RMB Lawyers offers many opportunities for UOW law graduates. Craig sees their work-ready skills and community engagement as central to helping to change the culture of the industry in Australia. It is a vision which was close to the heart of the founding Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Jack Goldring.

"We like to employ solicitors who come to us via the regional training system as the majority of our clients are mums and dads, and small businesses," Craig says.

"Lots of graduates who do their study through UOW love regional work. We offer a lot of the same things big city firms offer and now we are offering a new pathway with a recent addition to our services."

"This comes in the form of a separate legal process outsourcing business to capital city based law firms and corporate in house legal teams so it will mean we are able to take on an even bigger intake of UOW students, clerks and lawyers."

As well as helping to give up-and-coming lawyers the chance to learn from some of the best regional practitioners in Australia, RMB Lawyers has been one of the principle supporters of the Jack Goldring Memorial Scholarship.



*Craig Osborne,
RMB Lawyers
Managing Partner*

Worth \$10,000 each year, the Scholarship was established in recognition of the late Professor Jack Goldring, UOW's Foundation Dean of Law from 1990-1995. Professor Goldring's vision for the style of law school he established at UOW was shaped by his passion for social justice and for opening up access to legal education, especially for Indigenous students and students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Professor Goldring went on to become a distinguished member of the Law Reform Commission and a highly regarded District Court Judge.

This year RMB Lawyers supported the scholarship fund with a gift of \$25,000, taking its total commitment to \$50,000 since the fund was established in 2013.

"As a firm, we admired Jack Goldring and his commitment to social justice and ethics, as it is what we also believe in," Craig says.

"The Jack Goldring Scholarship is awarded to one UOW law student each year who is unashamedly seeking out a career in areas of social justice, assisting the underprivileged or involving themselves in innovation, with respect to law reform."

"Many of us at RMB Lawyers also knew the late Jack Goldring well. We knew him as the founding Dean of the Faculty of Law, and as a Judge, a leader, a friend and perhaps most importantly, a wonderful human being. Whatever Jack did he did with fairness and social justice on his keen mind."

"Jack influenced us all positively and we hope that the administering of this scholarship in his name will continue to have a positive effect and influence in the practice of law and the behaviour of people."

Craig says RMB Lawyers' continued relationship with UOW has been fundamental to the firm's sustainability, relevance and success.

"There is nothing like practical training. The students need it, but business needs it as well and a young mind coming through helps businesses to stay relevant," he says.

Garry Wilbraham, the Secretary Manager of the Bomaderry Bowling Club and Hollea Elley Bomaderry Bowling Club Scholarship Recipient



Bomaderry Bowling Club:

Scholarships Supporting Local Students

Fifteen years ago, Garry Wilbraham, the Secretary Manager of the Bomaderry Bowling Club approached his Board with a proposal that he hoped would change the lives and prospects of young people in the Shoalhaven.

For many years the Club had been a great supporter of talented sports men and women in the area, 'digging deep' to help them achieve their goals and dreams of representative glory.

In 1993, the Board decided to look at promoting those with a different type of potential and talent. In that year, they encountered the late Dr Ray Cleary, a redoubtable advocate of higher education in the Shoalhaven and Head of the first UOW campus in the region at Berry.

"Ray came in and did some training with the Board. We [the Club] had always heavily sponsored sport but Ray helped us see there was a deficiency in academic studies in the region that we should really be looking at," Garry says.

Despite many of the Board members not having had the opportunity to attend University themselves, Garry says they all saw the establishment of a scholarship for a student to study at the Shoalhaven campus as a worthwhile commitment and investment.

From a \$1000 scholarship for one student 15 years ago, the Bomaderry Bowling Club now supports three students to the value of \$1000 each per year for three years. The scholarships are open to first and second year students studying any degree through both the UOW Shoalhaven campus and the main campus at Wollongong.

"We realised we were naïve as a Club 15 years ago about the need to support academic pursuits. We sponsor a lot of money in sport but we didn't have the maturity as an organisation to foster the University. The Bomaderry Bowling Club has strong connections with the University of Wollongong and we feel part of the team and help out wherever we can."

"Because we now, as an organisation, care about that academic future for the Shoalhaven, we are positive that this support will help foster the desire for further education in our young people."

"We are positive that this support will help foster the desire for further education in our young people."

"Some of the students we have supported have written to us to thank us for the help we provided through the years," says Garry.

One of those students is Hollea Elley, a 2013-2015 scholarship recipient.

Hollea has remained in the Shoalhaven region of Callala Beach, a 1.5 hour drive south of UOW's main campus, whilst studying. Coming from a single parent family she knew that a scholarship would give her much-needed support during her studies.

"I managed to work two days a week throughout my studies but there is only so much that can pay off my textbooks, petrol and parking for the semesters. The scholarship helped me with all those things."

Hollea has since graduated from UOW with a Bachelor of Commerce and currently works at CareSouth, a local not-for-profit organisation in Nowra. She attributes this great outcome to the opportunity the scholarship provided.

"The scholarship allowed me to find work locally. It meant moving to Wollongong to go to University was no longer a requirement because I had more money to spend on travel and was able to stay local, all achieved through the help of the Bomaderry Bowling Club."

Hollea says that without local organisations such as the Bomaderry Bowling Club supporting local students, some individuals may not have had the opportunity to pursue their goals, especially in tertiary education.

"Local students like myself find it hard and daunting in our first semester to travel up to University everyday but, with the support from the Bomaderry Bowling Club, it becomes possible."

"I would like to say thank you to those who have supported the Bomaderry Bowling Club. Without your kind, generous donation, students like myself would otherwise not get the opportunity to gain a tertiary education," Hollea says.

Coffee for a Cause:

Raising Awareness for UOW's Learning and Development Fund

In 2014 the UOW Coffee for a Cause campaign raised over \$3000 for UOW's Learning and Development Fund (L&D). Encouraged by this success the Community Engagement Team aimed higher in 2015 by taking the campaign to the Illawarra.

The month-long campaign raised funds for UOW's Learning and Development Fund which offers ten scholarships valued at \$3000 per annum over three years, all made possible by the generosity of UOW alumni, staff and our community.

Participating cafes at UOW campuses donated 20 cents for every coffee sold from August 3rd till 7th. More than 25 cafes throughout the Illawarra came on board in 2015 by displaying collection tins to capture local support. The goal of the 2015 campaign was to reach further in UOW regions and communities and continue to raise awareness of The Learning and Development Fund.

The planning paid off with the campaign raising more than \$4,300 in just four weeks. Since its inception in 2008 the simple act of buying a coffee has raised more than \$22,000 for student scholarships.

The success of the campaign was not only measured in the dollar value. It was also a testament to exceptional efforts by UOW's regional campuses at Southern Sydney, Batemans Bay, Bega and Moss Vale, which hosted donation-based morning teas.

Grill'd Wollongong promoted UOW's Coffee for a Cause via its own monthly 'Local Matters' campaign which runs each month of the year to raise awareness and support for local causes. Illawarra locals voted for the Learning and Development Fund during August in the 'Local Matters' campaign which saw an extra \$300 donation.

Sarah Lisle from the UOW Community Engagement Team says she was awed by the community support.

"I was overwhelmed by the support of Grill'd and the participating local cafés when starting the conversation about 'Coffee for a Cause'. The community support of the University was significant. The wider community recognising that the Learning and Development Fund is a worthy cause enables more locals to achieve their education ambitions. I truly believe from little things big things grow and together we will achieve great things."

2015's outstanding Coffee for a Cause campaign has motivated the UOW Community Engagement Team to strengthen this year's campaign and continue to build the bridge between UOW and our communities.



THANK YOU
#UOWCoffee4aCause

RAISED: \$4370.85

NUMBER OF COFFEES SOLD: 16,874





Staff of Grill'd Wollongong presenting a cheque to staff of UOW's Advancement Division



The Mumbulla Foundation:

Creating Bright Futures for Local Students

Bega is known for its green hills, dairy farms and close community, but it's now also a region offering growth through education. Local students can now aim for a future that was once out of reach due to their remote location and its modest economy.

Thanks to a Bega Valley not-for-profit organisation – The Mumbulla Foundation – the dream of a university education is now a reality for even more students.

Established in 2000, the Foundation raises funds through private donations, with matching grants of up to \$25,000 through the Bega Valley Shire Council. The funds are then distributed to diverse community organisations in the Shire.

"The Foundation supports everything you can think of, from health, the arts, through to resources for life saving. Grants are given in response to applications from organisations once a year," says Gary Potts, Chair and Treasurer of the Foundation.

The University of Wollongong, through its Bega campus, is honoured to have been one of the first organisations to receive the Foundation's support, which now provides \$3000 annually for three students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, in any area of study.

"The Mumbulla Foundation has been supporting Bega students to study at University for the past 15 years, and this year we increased our support."

"We were looking for activities to support, and given there was [a] UOW Bega campus, we decided to support a local student with a scholarship."

"It has been so successful and beneficial we have doubled our support over the years."

Gary says a key idea behind supporting local students was to keep them in the area where they could ultimately pass on their knowledge and use their education for the good of the local community. With a new, regional hospital set to open in the region soon, Gary says many of those that have benefitted from the scholarship will find work close to home.

"There will be even better prospects for students to stay in the area," he says.

"We keep our eyes and ears open to make sure things are working properly and the feedback we have from students who have been a recipient of the Foundation's scholarships has been very good."

A Mumbulla scholarship in 2014 offered Kate Shook a prized opportunity to return to her home region. After completing her undergraduate degrees in Canberra, she was able to complete a Graduate Diploma of Primary Education at UOW's Bega Campus.

"I was always focused on getting work in the local area. It did make me proud to receive a local scholarship having grown up in the Bega Valley and knowing many people in the community," Kate says.

"I am very grateful to the Mumbulla Foundation. I would encourage them to support university students because, as I'm sure many of them would know, studying can be tough sometimes and any help, financial or otherwise, is fantastic."

"It is not just the money that helps out local students. Equally important is the boost the scholarship provides to both their motivation for studying and to their future career prospects."

The 2014 scholarship set Kate on a path that has led to a permanent teaching position locally and she is driven to further develop her teaching skills.

Gary says that the Foundation will continue to support students and to improve the community into the future.

"The fact we have increased our support is proof of the benefit these types of scholarships have to the area. The Bega Valley is a lower income area and a lot of students have families with modest salaries, so providing financial support to them is important as it will then help change their lives and the lives of their community for the better."

Early Start Engagement Centres:

Opening Young Minds to Hands-On Learning

Jo Grimmond is a passionate believer in the power of technology to transform the early childhood sector and the role it can play today in a child's development.

Jo is an educator at one of the 41 Engagement Centres partnered with Early Start. A ground-breaking initiative at the University of Wollongong, Early Start offers a unique model for early childhood education. Jo is excited by how new technologies are being employed to enrich that critical learning period.

"As educators, the integration of technology means we are able to give our children high expectations and extend their learning as far as they want to go," Jo says.

Early Start's purpose is to drive social transformation and deliver better outcomes for children, particularly those from vulnerable or disadvantaged backgrounds and living in regional, rural and remote communities. It includes a revolutionary facility that uniquely combines research, teaching and

community engagement in enriching the earliest years of life.

At the heart of the Early Start initiative are the partnerships with Engagement Centres, early childhood and care centres located across NSW and ACT. The Engagement Centres are often isolated and under-resourced, with some serving the most disadvantaged families and communities across the state. Partnering with the Centres has allowed for innovative learning to be pioneered in the areas where it is most vital.

For Jo and the Centre she works for in Moruya, the introduction of the Early Start 'technology bundle' has been a significant contributor in delivering better outcomes for all the children.

"I am constantly amazed with how the children use collaborative and cognitive skills that they have learned through the use of the technology and then directly transfer the learning into other more traditional areas of play. We are seeing the children collaborate more effectively using high level negotiation and problem solving skills on complicated projects."

"Last year a child attended the Centre exhibiting some difficult behaviour. We used the SMART Board as a time for him to engage on his own when the other children were outside. It was another way to help him calm his body and refocus. In no time at all the aggressive behaviour that we once saw dissipated. We also now see him engaging with other children, teaching and guiding the younger children on the SMART board, reinforcing his self-esteem," Jo says.

These exciting outcomes are just the beginning of what is to come from this long-term partnership between Early Start and the Engagement Centres.

As Early Start's comprehensive hands-on understanding of issues, challenges and barriers faced by early childhood educators in the community grows, so too will the opportunities and possibilities.

The support and the philanthropic assistance UOW receives from our communities are vital to the success of this Nation-leading initiative as it motivates young minds and brings about beneficial social change.

Associate Professor Pauline Lysaght with children from one of the Early Start Engagement Centres



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UOW Used Books - the Alumni Bookshop:

Celebrating a Record of Scholarship Support

The Alumni Bookshop, now known as "UOW Used Books", began in humble lodgings at UOW's Campus East grounds in the 1990s and recently relocated to the UOW's main campus. For those 20 years, it has provided much needed support for students.

The Bookshop is run by dedicated Alumni volunteers from the Campus Chapter. While Christine Thompson, the current Chair of the Chapter, speaks proudly of what the Bookshop has achieved, she also looks forward, with her colleagues, to raising its profile on campus for the greater benefit of students, staff and the community.

"We take donated books of all sorts and resell them to student and staff, as well as the broader community. Our volunteers agree that part of our brief is to make books available at a small cost to everyone, so everyone benefits from our presence on campus," Christine says.

Not only does the Bookshop sell used books, it raises funds to support the financial security of students in need. To date, it has brought in around \$250,000 to directly fund scholarships.

Christine says the main purpose of these scholarships is to support those who need it most and to recognise worthy students.

"As we fund two new scholarships per year and each runs for 3 years, we contribute \$12,000 per year in scholarship dollars."

Christine hopes that building community awareness and continuing to run market stalls in 2016 will promote the Bookshop's image and meet vital fundraising goals.

Christine encourages individuals to donate and keep books in circulation.

"Each prize is not a lot but, as students receive the prize during their final year, we trust that it may help with thesis or graduation costs. The main thing is the recognition of merit in the performance of students."

"The Alumni Bookshop is also committed to encouraging excellence at UOW with \$200 Bookshop prizes available in each school of the University. With the current Faculty and School structure these awards total over \$4,500 in prize money."

"Each prize is not a lot but, as students receive the prize during their final year, we trust that it may help with thesis printing or graduation costs. The main thing is the recognition of merit in the performance of students. We hope that recognition is a boost in their final undergraduate year," Christine says.

"We are happy to take most donated books and text material. These days many people are relocating, downsizing and reassessing their need for books... pretty much any part of your library could be absolute treasure to another book lover. Let us sort out what we can use so please liberate your books to start a new life with a new owner."

"Consider giving us your books so we can help all students in need and celebrate excellence at UOW."

For details on how you can volunteer or for more information about making donations of new or used books, phone +61 2 4221 5977 or email alumni@uow.edu.au



*Glenn Fowler, UOW Graduate
and IT professional*

Glenn Fowler:

Sharing the Proceeds of Personal Success

Glenn Fowler isn't your stereotypical philanthropist. He doesn't own a global empire, or even a small one, and he's not entering his "autumn years".

Glenn is a 35-year-old, UOW alumnus, with a double degree in Computer Science and Maths, who now works in IT. He is also one of the youngest supporters of research at the University of Wollongong.

After graduating in 2001, Glenn had started on a successful career path when he spoke to a UOW student during the Annual Alumni Phone Appeal. This was a real "wake-up call" for Glenn, making him think seriously about how he could give back to the institution that helped him achieve his own goals.

"The student caller talked about the research UOW was doing into a dementia study, and with a family history of dementia, it pushed me towards supporting it," he says.

"I donate to a few other organisations as well and I figured supporting areas of research at the University was another way in which I could turn my money into something that I know will help others."

"As a programmer, my brain is actually my livelihood so I figured investing to protect it is worthwhile."

Since Glenn's initial donation in 2011, he has continued to support dementia research at UOW and after speaking with Ainslie Tweedie the Development Manager in 2014, Glenn was pleased to hear he could broaden his support to help further the research being conducted at UOW into solar energy.

"In 2014 I asked Ainslie Tweedie if there was any research going on at UOW into solar energy as it is also a passion of mine."

"Global warming is a real problem and I believe it is essential to find a way to produce energy in a much cleaner way to make sure there is a future for the next generations."

"By supporting both dementia and solar energy research I know my money is going to help make things better in the future. I can afford to give to research and I feel it is a far better use of my money."

"Not having the medical or engineering skills to directly advance these areas myself, I see the value in supporting those who can, to create a positive change which will contribute to future generations."

David Groves:

Creating a Legacy

The University of Wollongong has played an important role in the Groves family for more than 40 years.

David was one of the first graduates to accept his degree from the newly independent university in 1975 but his association with the campus was established even before then.

His father, Frederick, worked at the University when it was still a college of the University of NSW and it was when David finished school that the former Port Kembla student decided that he wanted to graduate from the burgeoning institution.

"My family has always had a close relationship with the South Coast and the University of Wollongong," David says.

"Two of my nephews have graduated from UOW and my mother and sister still live in the region. When I graduated, I had the option of receiving my qualification from the then College associated with UNSW or from UOW. I chose the University of Wollongong."

David's commitment to the University has continued and taken tangible form. In 2003, David and his wife, Kathryn, began donating to UOW student scholarships and are now two of the longest-term supporters.

To that end, David and Kathryn chose to support the Learning and Development Fund which helps students with financial hardship to attend and stay at university.

"My father firmly believed that scholarships should not just go to the smartest kid. He admired the ones who worked the hardest."

"My wife and I support a lot of things from the surf club to the Botanic Gardens and the Australian Rugby Foundation," David says.

"The University is close to both our hearts. My father firmly believed that scholarships should not just go to the smartest kid. He admired the ones who worked the hardest."

"He used to say that perseverance and perspiration were everything and that the person who worked the hardest deserved to get results."

Currently the Learning and Development Fund supports 10 students with a \$3000 per annum scholarship over three years. The aim is to increase that support to give more eligible students their chance for a university education.

"Kathryn and I have been lucky in our lives and we wanted to give something back," David says.

"I was the first in my family to go to university so I like the idea of bursaries and scholarships which can help students to achieve their own goals."

OUTCOMES OF THE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUND SINCE 2006



Number of L&D recipients 2008

7 x \$1000



Number of L&D recipients 2015

10 x \$9000
(\$3000 per year)



Total contributed to L&D since 2006
\$439,978.49



Total number of scholarships given
91

*David Groves UOW Graduate
and Learning and Development
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International Development

From our humble beginnings in 1951, the University of Wollongong now has global reach with campuses and partnerships internationally.

As we are now connected more than ever we see the importance to prepare our students to become graduates who are competitive on the global stage. An international experience like study abroad or exchange provides a huge growth opportunity for those who take up the challenge and we want to encourage more students to do so.

Geoff McQueen:

Excelling in the Digital Age

It's Tuesday evening during Convention Week in San Francisco and the creative buzz is palpable. Tech savvy trendsetters gather to present new directions that will influence the way we live and communicate.

UOW Alumnus, Geoff McQueen, is right in the centre of it all, talking to fellow alumni about transformation. Not as you would expect about technological disruption, but the transformation of the city of Wollongong. While he is now based 12,000km away, in many ways Geoff's heart is still in Wollongong.

In early 2015 Geoff published a long paper on his blog about the transformation of his hometown and it resonated with audiences who have a connection to Wollongong around the world.

Geoff is no stranger to seeing opportunities from a different perspective. A true entrepreneur, he leads from the front and he understands the impact of international experience. Geoff is the CEO of San Francisco-based company Accelo which has more than half its global workforce in Wollongong.

Reflecting on his successes, he recognises a debt to the "hard love and challenges" of studying at university level. He received his Masters of Business Administration from UOW's Sydney Business School and is an Honorary Fellow in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences at UOW.

"Being expected to learn without being spoon fed while still having plenty of access to support and advice was great, if not easy," Geoff says.

"The challenge of the coursework clearly produces a great graduate too. This hard love and challenge is a big part of why more than 90 per cent of the engineers in our company are UOW alumni."

After creating Accelo, it would have been easy to leave Wollongong behind, but combining the energy and influence of Silicon Valley with the talent and lifestyle of Wollongong has proved to be the company's X-factor. Geoff has an unshakable connection and commitment to his home town but a fond love of his adopted country the United States of America, highlighting that it provides a platform to succeed that nowhere else in the world can compete with.

"The reality is Australia - and I know this won't be popular - doesn't matter in the global market. We've got a tiny percentage of the world's GDP spread among a relatively small population a long way away from the rest of the world. Australians do best when we think about the world as our market,

Geoff shares his knowledge with recent UOW graduates who move to San Francisco, giving them tips on everything from securing the right visa from where to live. He also employs talented engineers and IT specialists in Wollongong and regularly shares his industry insight with the Faculty when back on campus.

Applying this level of commitment he took another step forward when he became one of the first donors to the UOW USA Foundation, supporting the Student Global Mobility Scholarships with his personal donation.

"On the global mobility front, I think the best people should work where they can make the biggest positive impact to the world and while that might be down the street from North Gong, it might also be further afield."

"Australians do best when we think about the world as our market, our stage, and for most businesses, winning in these markets means getting out there."

our stage, and for most businesses, winning in these markets means getting out there."

After re-locating to California, Geoff realised the incomparable beauty and welcoming community of the UOW campus. With its natural environment and warm people was the trigger for his passion to ensure that current UOW students have the opportunity to be truly global.

"I think you don't really know until you give something a try or at least have the option to consider it as a serious possibility - which is why I support students being as globally mobile as possible," Geoff says.

Geoff has some wise advice to current students on how to get the most from UOW.

"Double down on the experience and build the best relationships you can from your time together while you're at UOW. Don't be afraid to pin your ears back and strive for something outrageous - just don't put too much effort into chasing the rats to get first place in the rat race."

Like all great entrepreneurs, Geoff shows insight, grit and a commitment to the next game-changing breakthrough, all qualities he is determined to foster in the next generation of UOW students.

*Geoff McQueen UOW Graduate and CEO
of San Francisco based company Accelo*



Stephanie Bean:

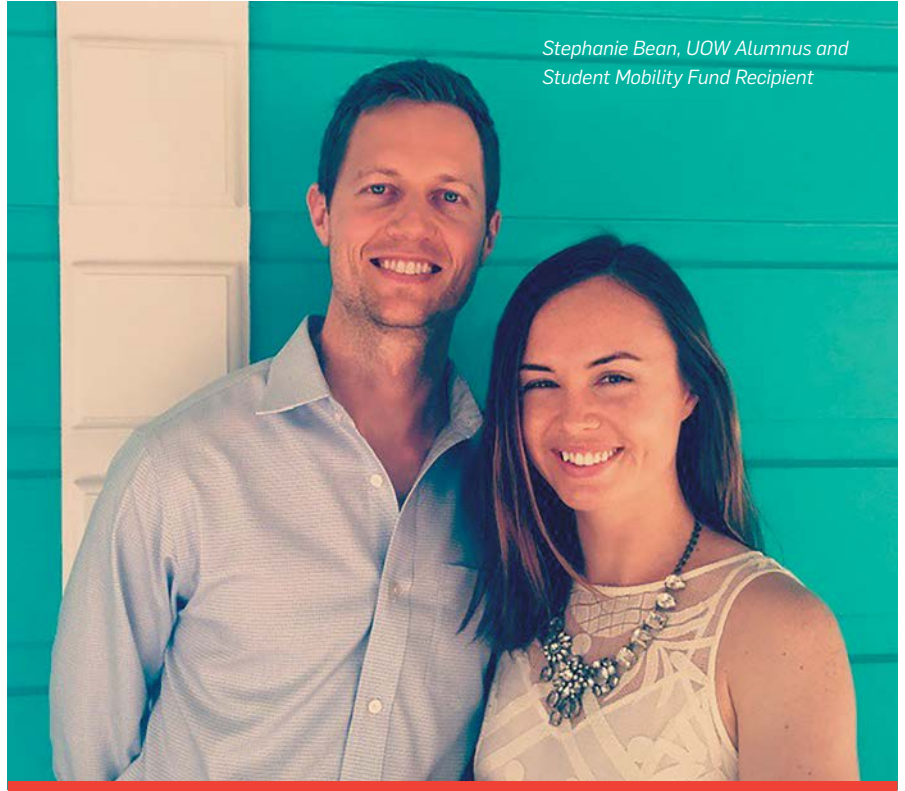
Student Mobility Fund Opening a World of Opportunity

High-tech coding and communications didn't seem to have much in common for Stephanie Bean until she completed a semester-long exchange program at the University of Colorado in Boulder, United States of America (USA).

Seven years on from that life-changing experience, Stephanie, a UOW alumnus, is now working for one of the world's biggest technology giants, Google, as a Knowledge Engine Program Manager. She attributes her successful career to the opportunity the University's Student Mobility Fund gave her to study in the USA.

"I was working a couple of jobs and studying and without the extra financial support of the Student Mobility Fund I don't think it would have been possible to go to Boulder," Stephanie says.

"The extra \$1000 towards my trip was truly beneficial. The study exchange opened my eyes to the opportunities that are available and the different fields that my degree in literature and communications could lead."



Stephanie Bean, UOW Alumnus and Student Mobility Fund Recipient

"The study exchange gave me an opportunity to try something different, and to give myself a shot at looking where my career may go."

Stephanie has now been living in the US for the past six years after first securing a job in the technology industry with Microsoft before moving to Google.

"[Living and working in the US] is not something I ever anticipated," she says.

"The study exchange gave me an opportunity to try something different, and to give myself a shot at looking

where my career may go. I was also lucky enough to do an internship while I was there. I knew where the world was heading in terms of technology but I don't think I would have achieved what I have without going to the University of Colorado."

"The Student Mobility Fund helped make that happen and really helped make my dreams a reality."

To create new moments for students like Stephanie visit:

uowusafoundation.org/giving

To read more stories about what International-based alumni are achieving overseas visit:

uowusafoundation.org

Or contact the UOW USA Foundation for more information:
info@uowusafoundation.org

Health and Medical Research

Our communities have been long term supporters of our researchers, enabling them to make remarkable medical breakthroughs. Breakthroughs which help us to understand the course of disease and research aiding medical solutions.

Here we showcase some of these great minds and the individuals and groups which make it all possible through your support.



Illawarra Cancer Carers:

Giving Hope to Cancer Patients and their Families

Twenty-five years ago, 12 Illawarra residents came together to look at ways to raise funds to help cancer patients in the region. They wanted to help buy equipment for both patients and the hospital; to make life a little simpler for those facing their biggest challenge.

Today, the Illawarra Cancer Carers (ICC) has grown to nearly 300 members. They have raised and donated more than \$3.25 million. Nearly \$620,000 of that has been directed to the University of Wollongong, endowing researchers with the vital funding to move from the seed of an idea to the development of actual drug therapies.

ICC's interest was initially attracted to the work of Wollongong-based Oncologist Professor Philip Clingan. Their first donation helped buy a mouse

house for the preliminary trials of the new drug which Professor Clingan is now using in patient trials.

Professor Clingan's work on a new drug compound to help treat colorectal cancer has been a major recipient of the ICC's generosity. The group has also now become contributors to funding Professor Marie Ranson's research into another drug compound - a 'single injection' formulation of two widely used chemotherapy drugs, 5-Fluorouracil (5FU) and its biomodulator Leucovorin. Her new formulation is pH neutral and does not have the administration side effects of current 5FU chemotherapy formulations.

"One of the mantras of the Illawarra Cancer Carers when it started was that it would be 100 per cent volunteer and our donations would be 100 per cent

local," says ICC President Ian Mackay.

"When we started we concentrated on patient support at Wollongong Hospital and then, when UOW started doing research into cancer, we began supporting that as well. The causes we now support have evolved as the services for cancer patients and their families have evolved."

In 2007, the ICC was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Community Service for its ongoing and substantial support of cancer research at UOW.

"Our core motto is to support work that is being done for cancer patients and their families— that is intrinsically going to be of immediate benefit to them," Ian says.

"We want to get as much bang for our buck as possible, and by donating



Members of the Illawarra Cancer Carers from left to right; Leslie Adie, President Ian Mackay, Wendy Gray and Judy Mackay



to local causes, groups and institutions we are assured of that."

Like many community organisations, ICC depends on its dedicated volunteers to organise fundraising events.

In 1990 a humble market stall run by a handful of founding volunteers made about \$80. Since then, the ICC has increasingly diversified its funding activities and gained the trust of the giving public through its reputation as a major contributor to services for those battling cancer and their families.

"There are three main streams to our activities – providing face-to-face care; raising funds; and distributing those funds to provide care, improve equipment and facilities within the hospital system or support cancer research at UOW," Ian says.

"The principal sources of funds we raise internally are from our market stalls. Additionally, we have the Christmas wrappers, the Christmas baskets day, the Bunnings BBQs contributing to our fundraising. Through all these groups we raise about \$50,000-\$60,000 a year."

"Our annual Banquet at the Beach is our major fundraiser. With the support of many sponsors and the huge support of the local community, the Banquets have been very successful and raise about \$130,000-150,000 on average."

"There are a large number of donations and support from Illawarra businesses, clubs, individual donors and various other community groups for which we are forever grateful. From all sources we now raise about \$320,000 annually."

ICC and its supporters appreciate the regular reports they receive from Professors Clingan and Ranson. As Ian says, hearing about the research and its benefits validates the work of the volunteers, cementing the ICC's mission to support local research that is enriching the prospects for local cancer patients and their families.

"Community support has been, and will continue to be used to build on our cancer research capacity in the Illawarra to develop novel anti-cancer drug testing and research into a range of innovative cancer treatment options that will benefit patients in the Illawarra, across Australia and the world," Professor Ranson says.

Show your support and make a gift today

Help us elevate our students, illuminate the world through research and cultivate our communities. Join over 3,000 supporters and make a gift today.

All gifts to the University of Wollongong are tax deductible.

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I would like to make a gift to the University of Wollongong in my Will

Yes I want to support UOW with a tax deductible donation of:

- \$20 \$50
- \$100 \$200
- \$500 Other.....

I would like my donation made:

- Monthly Annually Once only

Please direct my gift to:

- Scholarships (Elevate our students)
- Research (Illuminate our world)
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- Area of greatest need
- Other

PAYMENT DETAILS

- Visa MasterCard American Express

Card Number:

Expiry Date:

Name on Card:

Signature:

Today's date:

OR

I enclose my cheque/money order (payable to the University of Wollongong)



Esme Gallagher:

Leaving a Generous Legacy to Prolong the Lives of Others



(Standing) Professor Philip Clingan and (Seated) Professor Marie Ranson

Esme Gallagher first met Professor Philip Clingan, leading Illawarra medical oncologist, as a 67 year old breast cancer patient in 1998. She would go on to have treatment under Professor Clingan's supervision for the next 15 years.

During this time Esme developed an interest in finding new treatments for cancer sufferers and was interested in the development in new drugs that would prolong the lives of cancer patients. An interest that would go on to reap long term benefits for research into cancer treatment at the University of Wollongong.

"We discussed the progress of a new drug, Deflexifol being developed at the University of Wollongong, which is based on chemotherapy drug 5-Fluouracil (5FU)," Professor Clingan says.

"She was very keen on supporting any new drug development that would benefit patients. It was an honour and a surprise that she decided to bequest some funding towards this research. The main benefit of Deflexifol is its potential ability to deliver an effective chemotherapeutic regimen that patients can tolerate over repeated treatment cycles."

Esme's bequest of \$370,000 in 2015 has assisted in the funding of the phase 1 clinical trial, a trial which sees innovation in translational research from the lab to the patient and is a culmination of over 10 years of research.

"The funding has really assisted in our development of the phase 1 trial. We have treated 23 patients to date and will be entering the final phase of this trial in the next few months with results ready for publication at the end of the year," Professor Clingan says.

Esme's generous donation has had a significant impact on the development of the new drug Deflexifol and the funding of the phase 1 clinical trial and Professor Clingan's ongoing research into prolonging and improving the lives of cancer patients.

"I am grateful for Esme's contribution to this study and I am sure she would be pleased to see the results of her donation in the good work we have been able to do with the University of Wollongong," Professor Clingan says.

Create a powerful and lasting reminder of your life and values by leaving a gift in your Will. Well beyond your lifetime, your gift will have a positive impact on the well-being of future generations.

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift to UOW in your Will please contact:

Ainslie Tweedie
Development Manager
Lower Lever, Building 36
University of Wollongong

Phone: +61 2 4221 4722
Email: ainslieb@uow.edu.au



Dr Lezanne Ooi:

Unlocking the Secrets of the Brain

The eyes may be the window to the soul but the skin may hold the answer to unlocking some of the secrets of the brain.

University of Wollongong Neuroscientist and Stem Cell expert, Dr Lezanne Ooi, is studying the skin of people living with Alzheimer's disease to discover why certain neurons degenerate and start the wildfire that robs people of their memories.

Studying the outside of the body to help to find out what's happening inside may seem a peculiar approach, but Dr Ooi uses skin cells donated by people living with Alzheimer's Disease and converts them into pluripotent stem cells and neurons in a petri dish in her lab.

"We are able to study fundamental differences in the proteins made by cells from Alzheimer's patients, and those made by other people," Dr Ooi says.

Dr Ooi's research is aiming to find ways to use 'reprogrammed' skin cells, donated by patients, for disease modelling and drug discovery.

"We are using skin cells that have been donated by Alzheimer's patients to unravel the mystery of why a protein called Apolipoprotein E (apoE) is such an important risk factor in Alzheimer's disease," Dr Ooi says.

Dr Ooi has been working on this research for around four years and says they are now able to identify the specific molecules that act to protect neurons before they are damaged. That work can lead to the development of targeted treatments to stop the initial degeneration of specific neurons..

"We want to look at how these molecules may modulate inflammation, which is a major component of Alzheimers disease."

"We can also determine why specific neurons are susceptible to dying in diseases like Alzheimer's and Motor Neuron Disease."

Dr Ooi says research funds are being directed towards developing and testing those molecules and subsequently some of the pathways they may take in the disease process. She has also discovered a way to model the splitting of a specific enzyme thought to play a major role in the onset and development of Alzheimer's disease.

"We already have clues that proteins are functioning at a higher level so we take known inhibitors of those enzymes and using structural information, make predictions about what a better inhibitor may look like."

"I had been studying cellular neuroscience for a number of years, but my grandmother's diagnosis was a big motivation to learn more about it," she says.

"I have always been fascinated by the brain – it is often described as the last frontier. There is still so much to find out about it, how it works on a cellular level and what happens when the brain goes awry in disease."

"As a scientist, I need to understand the biological process that my grandmother is going through, to identify why it is that some people suffer from this disease and help contribute to knowledge that may one day aid the development of better treatments."

"I have always been fascinated by the brain – it is often described as the last frontier."

"When we have done that, those molecules will then undergo testing to see if that structure is better. By measuring the molecule's activity and modulating its structure we have an idea of which molecules would be best in helping to develop future drug treatments."

Dr Ooi's passion for her research is also a personal quest for answers. Watching her grandmother's health decline after the onset of Alzheimer's, Dr Ooi says she changed the direction of her work to concentrate specifically on Alzheimer's and neuron decline.

"In some ways having a scientific background makes it easier to understand what is happening to loved ones with this illness because it is hard for the lay person to understand all the information which is out there and what you should believe."

"The scientific community has not done a very good job at getting information across to patients, so now, I do a lot of presentations to the public about what is known about the disease and what research is underway, as a way to try and help them understand more about what is going on."

*UOW Neuroscientist and Stem Cell
Researcher, Dr Lezanne Ooi*



Movement Disorder Foundation:

Advancing Treatment of Movement Disorders

Studying for a degree is hard enough for a student who can move around the campus freely. It is even harder for those with a movement disorder who can struggle to negotiate obstacles as simple as stairs. Thanks to the support of the Movement Disorder Foundation (MDF), they are being given a chance to complete their studies and even to contribute themselves to advances in the technologies that will alleviate those disorders.

The Foundation has recently taken a step beyond standard funding support, spurred on in part by a TV program seen by Dr Roland Bigg, the Executive Chairman. That program was about new technology coming out of the United States of America (USA) that was helping people with quadriplegia.

"At the time I remembered when I was a resident doctor at Royal North Shore Hospital working with patients with spinal injuries, and I used to think 'we can put a man on the moon but we can't do much for people who are paralysed'," Dr Biggs says.

"The news coming from the USA (Cleveland Case Western University under the leadership of Professor Hunter Peckham) was about the wonderful work engineers were doing with medical technologies to restore hand function to quadriplegics. It made sense to me that supporting a researcher in the area of biomedical engineering would be a way for the Foundation to help further the work in the area of movement disorders."

The Foundation decided to tap into the innovative potential of University of Wollongong researchers and students, especially in engineering and the area of nanotechnology.



(Standing) Mrs Joanne Pearson, Dr Peter Taylor, Mrs Helen Taylor, Dr Roly Bigg and Professor Randolph Martin (Seated) Mr Don Wheeler

"The Foundation started many years ago, originally inspired by my late uncle who had cerebral palsy. The Foundation was looking for some sort of medical research that would make a difference to those with movement disorders," Dr Bigg says.

Encouraged by Dr Bigg, MDF this year launched a new scholarship, worth up to \$8,500 annually, to support an engineering student with a movement disorder or disability. The point of difference was that the recipient was not only funded to complete their studies but also given the opportunity to move into the area of biomedical engineering to be part of advancing the understanding and treatment of their type of condition.

"There are more costs involved in going to university for a student with a disability," Dr Bigg says.

"The Foundation believes in the philosophy that if you give a man a fish he'll eat for one day, but if you teach him to fish he'll eat forever."

"The Foundation also wants Australia to take the baton and move forward with research into the area of technologies to help people living with movement disorders. We believe a student with a disability themselves will have that extra motivation and passion to pursue a career in the area of biomedical research."

"The Foundation hopes this scholarship support will help with motivating Australian effort in the area of disability."

"There is untapped potential in this area and engineers – especially biomedical engineers – are a big future hope for making breakthroughs in helping people with movement disorders."

A Message from the Development Team

ANNUAL ALUMNI APPEAL

Each year the Annual Alumni Appeal turns to its graduates to help raise funds for our students, researchers and communities.

2015 saw the appeal focus on three areas; Early Start's Toddler Cubby, In2Uni Scholarships, and The Learning & Development Fund.

All three areas seek to enhance community outcomes throughout the Illawarra and the communities we reach.

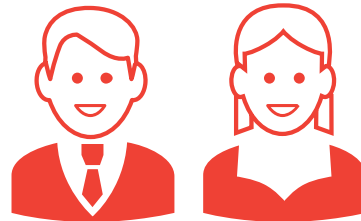
The Appeal is run by the Development Team and a number of student callers, who excitedly make the call.

For 2015 the Appeal involved 44 current students, calling alumni, 4 nights a week for a month. Through 221 pledges and 572 donations the Appeal has raised over \$143,850, this is a significant contribution to our overall achievements for 2015.

The success of this appeal would not have been possible without your generosity, so thank you.



Total funds raised
\$143,850



Number of Donors
572



Calls made
2408



Average Donated
\$251



Students employed
44



Pledges made
221

Ainslie Tweedie

A Message from the Manager

2015 was a very exciting year for the Development team and we are so pleased to share with you inspiring stories created through your support.

There were many changes this year with a number of new staff joining an already strong team. We are fortunate in that we love what we do because we get to work with passionate and generous people who are making a collective impact on the lives of many – our students, our researchers and our communities. This publication demonstrates just how significant your support plays in the life of the University and its continued success.

As a region we have seen Wollongong

and its surrounding areas undergo vast growth and expansion, seeing areas of health, medical and innovative research adapt to facilitate this change. Vital cancer drug research is being undertaken by local clinics, supported generously by the local community. This has been a long process for the researchers involved and it is great to see that the project continues to progress in the hope that it will achieve its objective: to have a drug delivery that improves the lives of so many suffering from cancer.

Focusing on our international ties, the University received its first gift through our UOW USA Foundation which is creating more opportunities for alumni

and friends of the University to stay connected and involved no matter the distance.


Support of students through scholarships continues to grow and we have seen many more individuals using their private wealth to continue to create opportunities for our future leaders.

We are overwhelmed by your generosity and we would like to sincerely thank you for your support.

We have ambitious goals for the future but we know that by working together we can make a collective impact. For 2016 we look forward to continuing to partner with you to create poignant moments in the lives of many.



Members of the Development Team: Alexandria Finch, Rachel Dyer, Ainslie Tweedie Development Manager, Cherie Polsson and Kathryn Devoy

A man with curly hair and sunglasses, wearing a blue t-shirt, is sitting on the edge of a boat. He is looking out towards a dense forest of green trees. The boat is on a body of water, and the scene is captured from a low angle, looking up at the man. The background is filled with sunlight filtering through the leaves, creating a bokeh effect. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

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Research** are the
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