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Your support makes a big difference

2015 was a watershed year for the University of Tasmania and the Foundation, thanks in no small part to the extraordinary outpouring of goodwill and support from alumni.

You helped make our 125th year truly memorable, a period when celebration of past and current achievements was balanced by reflection and forward-thinking. For your many and varied contributions to that I am deeply grateful.

The anniversary was a major occasion, with 150 events co-ordinated and led by the Advancement office. By far the biggest event was Welcome Home Week, which encompassed Open Day and Research Week, and attracted more than 23,000 people.

Undoubtedly, a good proportion of those alumni who joined in the festivities were former scholarship holders.

The University’s reputation as one of Australia’s leading teaching and learning institutions is partly underpinned by a significant scholarships program. Our generous graduates have provided more than $32 million funding to this program over the past 21 years. Last year, 409 students were supported by scholarships.

Figures such as these should be a particular source of pride for Colin Jackson OAM. When the final curtain came down on our milestone year it also signalled the end of Colin’s three-and-a-half years as Chair of the Foundation.

During his chairmanship, funds under management increased from $30.9 million to $47.2 million, and a $15 million capital campaign for the second stage of the Medical Science Precinct project was successfully managed.

I hope Colin continues to maintain his interest in the future development of the University and the goals of the Foundation. In the meantime, I would like to welcome Stuart Clues, who was appointed the new Chair at the December board meeting.

Currently leading the Co-ordinator-General’s Red Tape Reduction Project, Stuart is a former executive director of the Housing Industry Association’s Tasmanian chapter and, before that, a senior executive with the Trust Bank. Given the University’s keen recent interest in the built environment, I think he is a timely appointment.

My very best wishes to Stuart in his new role, and to all alumni as we begin a new year full of promise.

“You helped make our 125th year truly memorable, a period when celebration of past and current achievements was balanced by reflection and forward-thinking”

Professor Peter Rathjen
Vice-Chancellor,
University of Tasmania
Almost 30 years after arriving in Tasmania as a 17-year-old Iranian refugee, plastic surgeon Dr Mansoor Mirkazemi was awarded a University of Tasmania Foundation Graduate Award 2015 at a gala dinner in Burnie in June.

After completing secondary school in Tasmania, Dr Mirkazemi spent a year performing voluntary service in Haifa, Israel, before being admitted to the School of Medicine, University of Tasmania.

He graduated in 1995 and completed his internship and two years of basic surgical training at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

The next few years he worked with plastic, orthopaedic and general surgeons as a registrar. In 2002, Dr Mirkazemi moved to Victoria, where he trained under the auspices of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons in General Surgery for two years. He then trained for another four years in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, in cosmetic surgery, hand surgery, reconstructive breast surgery and skin cancer surgery.

Dr Mirkazemi is actively involved in teaching plastic surgery trainees and is the Supervisor of Training at the Victorian Plastic Surgery Unit. He travels to Indonesia and Fiji every year as an Interplast volunteer to help those who do not have access to medical treatment.

He treats children with cleft lips and palates, burn injuries, hand injuries and tumours.

Dr Mirkazemi is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, and a member of the Australian Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, Australasian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery and the Australasian Cleft Lip and Palate Association.

Former University of Tasmania Foundation chair Colin Jackson OAM said: “Mansoor has not only achieved his goal of becoming a doctor, but also has realised his vision of being able to help those in need. He is a shining example of giving back to the larger community through his donation of skills and time.

“He is a shining example of giving back to the larger community through his donation of skills and time.”

Former University of Tasmania Foundation chair Colin Jackson OAM
“I wanted to set [the scholarship] up, enjoy seeing the results and see [my children] involved.”

Gerald Loughran
Medical marvel

The Loughran Family Scholarship

A promising Medical Research student will be awarded the inaugural Loughran Family Scholarship this year.

Mr Loughran said he wanted to do so now so he may live to see the outcomes from the successful scholar’s research.

“I thought it was better to do something while I’m alive, rather than after I’m gone,” he said.

“It was also an opportunity to involve my children; my daughter Alison studied at the University of Tasmania and is now a doctor in Sydney, and my son David is a carer in Hobart.

“I wanted to set [the scholarship] up, enjoy seeing the results and see [my children] involved.”

The scholarship will grant one student – preferably from the state’s North-West coast where Mr Loughran’s family grew up – $5,000 a year for four years of the course, to help them move to Hobart to study.

The Bachelor of Medical Research is designed to develop an understanding of the human body and its functions at a cellular, molecular and systems level, to understand the biological processes associated with disease.

Fields of specialty include neuroscience, genetics, pathology and biochemistry and molecular biology.

Mr Loughran said such research was increasingly important as people lived longer and benefitted from medical intervention.

“[The research] will provide an ongoing benefit to people over a long period of time … and the scholarship will help those who require financial assistance to study,” he said.
$4.4 million
Total value of your donations

$2.9 million
Total value of scholarships awarded

$171,810
Total donations to Annual Appeal

338
Total donors to Annual Appeal

1650
Total number of donors

172
Donors who have given consecutively for five years or more
At its essence, the University of Tasmania is about people, and as members of our community and alumni you play an essential role in the life of the University.

We greatly appreciate your continued commitment, loyalty and support, and we were pleased to receive gifts totalling $4,425,625 in 2015.

The University of Tasmania Foundation is particularly committed to making higher education a reality for as many people as possible. Through the continued generosity of our community, the University’s scholarship program was able to support 409 students in 2015. While this is very significant indeed, there were another 1,920 eligible students that we were not able to assist. It is our goal to be able to assist all students in need of scholarship support.

In 2015, the University of Tasmania Foundation managed 231 endowed funds with a total value of $47.2 million.

A great many of these endowed funds support scholarships, and all leave a lasting legacy for the individuals and families who established them.

We are especially proud of the six new 125th Anniversary Scholarships that were established in 2015, each of which is a testament to our first 125 years and an investment in the next 125.

Scholarships:
UTAS Foundation payments to scholarships

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Scholarship category by number of awards

- 43% Academic merit
- 31% Financial need and region/location
- 21% Specialty scholarships
- 5% Sports and music

Graph reflective of full University scholarship program, not just foundation-sponsored awards

Funds:
Managed funds

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Legacy of a lifetime
The George Alexander Foundation

The philanthropic ideals of many generous people and organisations allow the University of Tasmania Foundation to help students and potential students fulfil their dreams of studying at – and graduating from – the University of Tasmania.

One such person is the late George Alexander AM (1910-2008), who in 1972 set up an independent foundation to share his wealth and give back to the community.

The George Alexander Foundation’s main focus is helping young people, especially those from rural and regional areas, to fulfil their educational goals and reach their potential.

The George Alexander Foundation began partnering with the University of Tasmania to offer scholarships in 2013 and recently renewed its commitment to the scholarship program until 2018. Five students are selected for GAF scholarships each year, and the scholarships are valued at $24,000 in total paid over the course of their degree. Scholars are selected based on their academic merit, community involvement and leadership potential.

George was a man of vision and generosity who triumphed against the odds as a teenage English immigrant-turned-entrepreneur.

Born in London in 1910, George was raised by his grandparents who lived in Hampshire.

He was a bright student with an ambition to become a motor mechanic, but his family could not afford the cost of an apprenticeship, so he left school at 13 to work in a bicycle shop.

In 1926, at 15, George migrated to Australia under the Big Brother Movement, an organisation which brought young British men to Australia to work on the land.

In the early 1930s, George fulfilled his dream of becoming a mechanic. He enrolled in evening classes in mechanics and management at the Gordon Institute, where he also became a part-time lecturer.

During World War II, he became a production engineer and then manager of a munitions factory.

George combined his knowledge of mechanics and engineering with a creative mind and invented some highly successful products during his business career.

Charitable:
The late George Alexander AM in 1972 set up an independent foundation to share his wealth and give back to the community.

George Alexander was a man of vision and generosity who triumphed against the odds.
After the war finished, he used his savings to set up a factory to manufacture one of his inventions, a system of brass hose fittings. The business expanded through the acquisition of smaller companies and was highly successful.

He sold the business in 1976 and moved to Queensland. Rather than retire, George simply shifted gears and developed extensive interests in property development.

George created the foundation in his name to use his wealth in a constructive way. He was particularly aware of the obstacles he had faced as a child and his own lack of education, and was inspired to help talented young people make the most of their potential.

George was active and alert and maintained his interest in the work of the foundation until his death in February 2008.

The GAF Scholarship Program is now the cornerstone of the University of Tasmania Foundation’s grant-making, to support students who need to relocate from home to further their education at the University of Tasmania.

The foundation remains indebted to George Alexander’s vision and generosity.

Continued from p11

[George Alexander] was inspired to help talented young people make the most of their potential.


Photo courtesy George Alexander Foundation
George Alexander Foundation Scholarship

2015 George Alexander Foundation Scholars

Josh Stevenson

Travelling from Oatlands to Hobart every day for school is a thing of the past for Josh Stevenson, 19, who was awarded a George Alexander Foundation scholarship in 2015.

The Claremont College student was Dux in 2014 and achieved an ATAR score of 98.2. He began a combined Science and ICT degree last year, with a major and minor in mathematics.

The scholarship helped Stevenson move into a rental property in Moonah so he could be close to campus.

“It’s been a big change, but I’m settled in now,” he said. “I had to get on buses early every day to get to college, so it’s a lot better this year.”

Stevenson said the scholarship had taken away the financial stress of studying.

“It lets me focus on my classes … and think about my degree and where it’s going,” he said.

Stevenson said he hoped his degree would lead to further study and research in mathematics.

Tara Lewis

Kingston’s Tara Lewis, 19, used her 2015 George Alexander Foundation scholarship to move to Launceston and begin a Bachelor of Education.

“I started uni straight from Year 12 at Hobart College,” she said.

“I’ve wanted to do teaching for a long time, since I was a kid.”

Lewis said she had applied for several scholarships to assist with the costs of further education.

“I thought, I may as well apply, and I had a good teacher who helped me write and edit my application,” she said.

 “[The scholarship] has helped me so much, moving to Launceston was a big move and very costly.

“I’ve been able to pay for all the things involved with renting, as well as travelling expenses coming back to see my family, and with books.

“I also bought an iPad so I could watch my lectures online.”

Lewis said she had started a savings account to put towards her HELP fees at the end of her course.

“It’s also meant I don’t have to work as much, so I can enjoy studying and enjoy the university lifestyle,” she said.

“It lets me focus on my classes... and think about my degree and where it’s going.”
New donors …

your gifts, with thanks, in 2015

Every gift received is greatly appreciated. On behalf of the University of Tasmania, we sincerely thank all donors for enhancing the experience of University of Tasmania students in 2015. All donations of more than $200 are acknowledged.

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Increasing access to education

University of Tasmania Scholarship Fund – 2015 Appeal

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, the Annual Scholarship Fund has helped hundreds of deserving students complete their education at the University of Tasmania.

The Annual Scholarship Fund is a demonstration of the power of collective giving. During 2015, our 125th anniversary, 338 alumni and friends contributed more than $171,810 to the Annual Scholarship Fund.

Scholarships make all the difference to students who otherwise would not have the means to access a University of Tasmania education.

Your ongoing support ensures we continue to attract the best and brightest students, regardless of their geographic location or financial circumstances. We sincerely thank all of our donors, both new and continuing.

Through your generosity, students continue to access a first-class education, which puts them at the forefront of global understanding in many fields of knowledge and enables them to make a valuable contribution to the state, the nation and the world.

Through your generosity, students continue to access a first-class education, which puts them at the forefront of global understanding.
The Don Gaffney Memorial Scholarship will be awarded for the first time this year, thanks to the generous support of the Merridew Foundation.

When Don’s daughter Sarah Merridew was growing up in Hobart in the 1960s, it was still common for girls to leave school after Year 10.

“Careers advice wasn’t very forthcoming in those days,” she laughed.

However, Sarah and her three sisters were encouraged to continue their education, particularly by their father, a metallurgist who graduated with honours in chemistry and geology from the University of Tasmania in 1949.

Sarah went on to study economics at the University, where she met her husband George, from Devonport, who studied medicine. Both graduated in 1972.

“George and I both valued the education we received at the University of Tasmania, so we decided two or three years ago to set up a private ancillary fund [the Merridew Foundation], which gave us an ongoing way of donating money to worthwhile causes in a meaningful way,” she said.

“We discussed it with our daughters [Alison and Nancy], who both thought it was a lovely idea.”

Sarah had also discussed the idea with her father – who still took an active interest in the University – in the years before his death in September 2014.

“He specifically mentioned that when he was doing his honours, there was a female student from the North-West coast, and said how difficult it must have been for her family to support her, being away from home just after the war,” she said.

The Merridew Foundation will support the new scholarship for a female science, engineering or technology student from the North or North-West of the state to complete her post-graduate studies.

The scholarship will provide the recipient with $25,000 a year for up to two years.
All donors …

Your gifts, with thanks, in 2015

Our alumni and friends make a real difference and your support is greatly valued. Every gift is important.

On behalf of the University of Tasmania, the Foundation gratefully acknowledges the significant contributions of all our donors.

The highlighted names represent those who have given for five or more consecutive years and we would like to recognise these outstanding donors for their continued support.

UP TO $200

Thank you to all donors who supported the University with donations up to $200. Every gift is valued, as each provides encouragement and increases opportunity.

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Bell Bay Alumimium
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John Williamson
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Ahead of the learning curve

Motivating young students to continue their studies is no child’s play. But a new Tasmanian initiative may have found the key to encouraging higher education.

Last year, two new priorities for the University of Tasmania Foundation were unveiled: the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment and the Children’s University Tasmania. In July, Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen launched the Children’s University, a significant initiative aimed at encouraging the state’s young learners to continue into higher education.

The Children’s University will operate under the auspices of the Peter Underwood Centre, which was established last February to boost Tasmania’s educational outcomes.

“We believe the key to educational attainment is starting early with children and their families.”

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen

“Tasmania has a long way to go in encouraging its students to continue their education to the end of Year 10, Year 12 and beyond,” Professor Rathjen said. “We believe the key to educational attainment is starting early with children and their families.”

Children’s University Tasmania will cater to children aged seven to 14 and will initially target urban schools in areas of greatest need, before being rolled out across the state.

The initiative promotes higher education by rewarding participation in learning opportunities outside of school hours, with formal certificates awarded at yearly graduation ceremonies to recognise students who complete each award level in their Passport to Learning.

The Passport awards are completed by attaining the required number of hours at validated learning activities through local providers such as sports clubs, museums and galleries; at schools during lunchtime and after school; and at University of Tasmania campuses during school holidays.

The Underwood Centre and the Children’s University component have been developed in partnership with the Tasmanian Government.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education) Professor David Sadler said the Children’s University was a tangible example of the Centre working to improve the state’s educational attainment, through partnerships between the University, government, schools, institutions such as museums and galleries and the community.

“This program has already seen success across the UK and is now being rolled out across parts of Europe and Asia,” he said. “We are confident it can also drive an uplift in our educational outcomes.”

It is anticipated the first
graduation ceremonies will be held this year.

The Children’s University started in Birmingham, England, in the early 1990s, and the Children’s University Trust was established in 2006. The initiative has spread across the UK and to the Netherlands, Malaysia and Turkey.

In 2013, Adelaide University secured the Australian rights to the program, and the University of Tasmania is the first in the country to join them.
Celebrating a bright future

Alumni and friends

Our 125th anniversary celebrations have provided an exciting platform for the University of Tasmania to engage its alumni, donors and friends like never before – and in unprecedented numbers around the world.

More than 100,000 of our graduates live and work in 104 countries across all continents, where their skills, experience and generosity continue to have a major impact on the global stage.

Reflecting this, the University has staged 18 special alumni receptions around the world to engage our alumni, donors and friends in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, the UK, the US and throughout Australia. More than 1600 alumni, friends and donors joined together at these events to celebrate and show their pride in their University.

In a major 125th anniversary highlight, the largest-scale alumni celebration ever attempted by any Australian tertiary institution proved to be an outstanding success.

Welcome Home Week saw more than 23,000 people attend nearly 150 special celebratory events and activities to reconnect with former classmates and lecturers and re-embrace the institution that turned them into citizens of the world.

As the official opening event of Welcome Home Week, a state reception in Hobart provided a stunning backdrop for the signing of a historic partnership with the state, which – in the next decade – holds the promise of shifting Tasmania onto surer economic and educational footings.

It has been a year of recognising the achievements of some outstanding past graduates and special friends that help make our University distinctive.

...the largest-scale alumni celebration ever attempted by any Australian tertiary institution.
Honorary degrees were awarded to author and alumna Dr Christobel Mattingley AM (BA Hons 1951) and also the Governor of Yogyakarta Special Region, His Majesty Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X, for his outstanding contribution to democracy and the social and economic development of Indonesia. Many more alumni received Queen’s Birthday and Australia Day honours, along with a host of other awards and citations throughout the world.

Foundation Graduate Awards were awarded to two outstanding alumni, including Iranian-born refugee and successful plastic surgeon and volunteer worker Dr Mansoor Mirkazemi and Tasmania’s Co-ordinator-General John Perry at glittering University dinners in Burnie and Launceston.

Man Booker Prize-winning author Richard Flanagan received the Distinguished Alumni Award at the Hobart University Dinner.

Last year, we also celebrated the achievements of 7000 of our newest alumni at well-attended graduation ceremonies in Sydney, Hobart, Launceston, Burnie, Shanghai and Hangzhou.

Our alumni have continued to give back and invest in the future of their alma mater this year.

More than 360 of our graduate family donated to student scholarships and vital research projects, with a further 300 alumni volunteering their time, specialist knowledge and skills to help with activities such as the Career Mentor Program, Alumni Receptions Series, Alumni Committee and Welcome Home Week.

For more information about how you can reconnect and become involved with the University of Tasmania Alumni program, visit utas.edu.au/alumni or email Alumni.Office@utas.edu.au

American dream

The University of Tasmania Foundation USA was created in 2006 to support, promote and encourage education and research in the United States and Australia in connection with the University of Tasmania.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charity recognised by the US government, providing a vehicle for US taxpayers to support students, teaching, scholarships and programs.

The Foundation’s volunteer Board of Directors is comprised of distinguished individuals with Tasmanian connections who proudly support the University of Tasmania through the UTAS Foundation USA.

In the past decade, the Foundation has raised funds and granted nearly $2 million to the University of Tasmania. Gifts can be directed to any of our priority areas and the University of Tasmania Foundation USA also supports a Study Abroad Scholarship for US students to experience the quality and richness of life at the University of Tasmania.

New York-area alumni and friends gathered at the Princeton Club of New York in September for an evening with VC Professor Peter Rathjen to commemorate the 125th anniversary.

For more information about the University of Tasmania Foundation USA, visit https://secure.utas.edu.au/giving/foundationusa or email cynthia@utasfoundationusa.org
The Tasmanian devil is an icon and the official emblem of our island state. Yet, regrettably, it is endangered as the wild population has been struck down by contagious cancer devil facial tumour disease (DFTD), causing the loss of more than 80 per cent of the marsupials across large areas of Tasmania.

This year, a second transmissible cancer was identified that is very similar to DFTD.

The Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal calls on passionate individuals, businesses, foundations and schools to rally for the cause and help raise much-needed philanthropic support.

The future for the species has been significantly enhanced in recent years. A highly successful insurance population has been established and investigation into the nature and spread of the disease has progressed.

There is a genuine opportunity to provide support for research that may well be on the verge of extraordinary success. Researchers are in a position to develop a vaccine that has rekindled hopes of saving this iconic species in the wild.

A vaccination that will address both types of devil facial cancers is being developed in a collaborative effort between Australian and international researchers, led by the University of Tasmania’s Menzies Institute for Medical Research. It is hoped this will provide devils with life-long protection against the disease and facilitate the rebuilding of disease-free populations in the wild. At the forefront of this effort was a world-first field trial late last year, which saw 20 vaccinated, disease-free Tasmanian devils released back into a diseased area.

If the vaccine proves successful, experts believe the prospects for rebuilding disease-free populations are high. If we achieve this outcome, it could well prove to be one of the most successful population rehabilitation programs of a critically endangered species in the world.

To achieve this vision, there are multi-faceted devil research and conservation programs. In 2015, more than $400,000 raised by the Devil Appeal was committed to projects running this year. Students, experienced research team leaders and cutting-edge projects have all received funding and the Devil Grant and Scholarship recipients continue to have a tangible impact on the future of the Tassie devil.

We therefore thank our supporters, many of whom have generously donated for several years, and acknowledge their help in securing a future for the Tasmanian devil.

For more information on the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal, visit www.tassiedevil.com.au or email devil.appeal@utas.edu.au
The gift that keeps on giving

Every bequest, large or small, makes a lasting impact

Making a bequest, or a gift in your Will, to the University of Tasmania is a way of ensuring lasting benefits for future generations of students and providing vital funding for world-class research.

Christine Hurley is one of our supporters who has decided to include the University in her Will. We sincerely thank her for her foresight and future gift.

Christine worked at the University between 1972 and 2000 in several positions within administration. After her retirement, she enrolled part-time as a mature-age student in an undergraduate degree in Antarctic Science in 2005.

During her studies, Christine returned to work at the University in 2009, helping the interim director of the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) in its establishment.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Antarctic Science in 2011, and was one of the first IMAS students to graduate with Honours in Antarctic Science in December 2013.

Christine is now in her mid-70s, a University Associate in Marine and Antarctic Futures with IMAS, and last year continued her studies in Law of the Oceans and Antarctic, and Environmental Law, through the Faculty of Law.

“I can never entirely repay the debt in respect of the many happy and productive years which I have been privileged to enjoy, courtesy of the University and its staff and students,” Christine said.

“However, I have made a provision in my will – in due course, and not too soon, I trust – to fund a scholarship for an aspiring student interested in Antarctic and Marine Science who might otherwise not be able to pursue their goals.”

To discuss making a bequest to the University, or if you have already included the University in your Will, please contact our Advancement Coordinator Gaye French on (03) 6226 7544 or email gaye.french@utas.edu.au

“I can never entirely repay the debt in respect of the many happy and productive years which I have been privileged to enjoy courtesy of the University and its staff and students.”

Christine Hurley
2015 A Year in Review

Peter Cochrane
“The scholarship has provided me with a unique opportunity and honour to represent social justice, which I am very committed to.”

Charlotte Froelich
Zoe Ewart Memorial Tasmania University Scholarship in Law, 2015 recipient

“The scholarship has provided me with a unique opportunity and honour to represent social justice, which I am very committed to.”

Charlotte Froelich
Zoe Ewart Memorial Tasmania University Scholarship in Law, 2015 recipient

“Dedication to support general practice as the cornerstone of health service in Tasmania ... will be perpetuated through this scholarship, which is designed to inspire enthusiasm for the profession of general practice.”

The Division of General Practice (Tas) Southern Region Inc
2015 scholarship donor
“I would like to thank my sponsors for all the support that they have given for the past three years. This award has definitely helped me to continue my education and achieve what I have today.”

Gurleen Grewal
Springboard to Higher Education Access Bursary, 2015 scholar

The achievements listed in the 2015 Year in Review celebrate the remarkable generosity of our alumni and friends, and their abiding belief in the University of Tasmania and its capacity to powerfully and positively contribute to society.

2015 marked the 125th anniversary of the University of Tasmania, and the University family attended gatherings all around the world to express their genuine love and ongoing commitment to this very special institution. It was a year of wonderful celebration and more, a promise of continuing excellence into the future.

I would like to personally thank you for your support in 2015 – you make a very real difference for the University of Tasmania.

Young Dawkins
Executive Director
Advancement and CEO
University of Tasmania
Foundation

“From a financial perspective, receiving the scholarship has enabled me the freedom to engage with University life and focus on my studies.”

Terri Rundle
DHHS Environmental Health Scholarship, 2015 recipient
Thank you

The time we spend at university is remarkable. We meet people who become lifelong friends, we learn to express thoughts and ideas in a focused manner, and we become confident in our ability to contribute to society.

So, to all of you who help make this transformative process possible, we say again, thank you. Your support of the University of Tasmania today helps ensure a brighter and better world tomorrow.

HOW TO DONATE:
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