

A Year in Review 2019

PHILANTHROPY AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

*A memorial scholarship helps
bring a pioneering new heart
procedure to Tasmania -
Dr Heath Adams, Dr Vasheya
Naidoo and their son Arthur.*



UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA

CONTENTS

- 04 HELP SAVE ICONIC SPECIES**
Endemic animals being brought back from the brink by philanthropy
- 06 BRAIN RESEARCH BOOST**
Multi-generational giving kickstarts cutting-edge study
- 08 KIMBERLEY DIAMOND SHINES**
Ossa Prize the launching pad for singer's burgeoning career
- 10 MOUNTAINS OF HOPE**
A man forced to flee his homeland is given the chance to transform his life
- 12 STATE OF THE HEART**
A memorial scholarship has enabled alumnus Dr Heath Adams to learn an innovative heart procedure
- 14 AN ENDURING LEGACY**
Betty's bequest will help secure the Tasmanian devils' survival
- 16 ENGINEERING ASPIRATIONS**
Scholarship springboards student to success
- 18 GIFT LEADS TO PERFECT SCORE**
Family of carers share in young scholar's achievement
- 20 THE PRESENT OF TIME**
Leading forensic pathologist on the importance of learning from the dead and of enjoying life
- 22 IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY**
Your giving has supported hundreds of students
- 24 WHY GIVE?**
Every gift, of every size, has the power to transform
- 25 ALL DONORS**
Thank you to all donors whose support will provide lasting benefits to the University

STUDENTS SPEAK FROM THE HEART



Janine Chang Fung Martel

Recipient of the Cuthbertson Elite Research Scholarship

Please accept my deepest gratitude for your kind contribution. I hope I can thank you for your support through the outcomes of my research and show you how, with your help, we are able to assist dairy farmers prepare for future climates and provide them with tools to use in the challenging times ahead.



Allison Dooley

Recipient of the Whitehead Family West North-West Scholarship

I would like to pass on to you my continued appreciation and assurance of how receiving your generous scholarship continues to make my university journey less stressful for me and my son.



Jarra Lewis

Recipient of the Caterpillar Underground Mining Scholarship in Engineering

It is an honour to be recognised through this scholarship and I did not expect to receive anything like it during my time at university. The scholarship has provided me with strong motivation to continue my studies and future career at the highest of my capabilities.



Alec Cross

Recipient of the Irene Phelps Memorial Scholarship

Going through the year with this support has allowed me to focus more on my academic career and less on the financial issues with my living expenses. Whatever I go into, whatever I become, I hope to help and support others like the Irene Phelps Memorial Scholarship has supported me.



Claire Weeding

Recipient of the 2019 Fairbrother Foundation Scholarship

I will be forever grateful for this opportunity to further my education. Through this experience I have been able to prove to myself and others that I am able to achieve my goals and aspirations.

THANK YOU

SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE TAKES SHAPE

Looking back on 2019, it was a year when in the course of developing our new Strategic Plan we thought a lot about how the University can contribute to Tasmania's future as a society that is truly sustainable, healthy, well-educated, equitable and prosperous.

We recognise that our donors and supporters have such an important role to play in realising that vision. It starts with access to education. We are the only higher education provider based in Tasmania, a State which has a historically poor higher education attainment rate. This rate isn't just poor; it is the country's lowest. If Tasmania is to flourish, we cannot let this continue.

On an island such as ours, financial and geographical barriers to accessing higher education will be experienced by many people for the foreseeable future. Nonetheless, we know that with persistence, we can overcome this. Some of the personal stories you will find herein reveal what a profound impact this can have.

As these stories bring home, one of the ways we can begin to address these barriers is through our scholarships, so many of which are supported by donors such as yourselves. Indeed, in 2019 you helped support 409 new and continuing scholarship students.

To ensure our program is responsive to the needs of young Tasmanians, we have recently redesigned our scholarship program, with an emphasis on improving access for students who face significant economic, social or political barriers to higher education. We are in the early stages of this important project, and I look forward to sharing more about this with you as it progresses.

Tasmania's future will be profoundly shaped by the research we do, and many donors in 2019 supported this important work. Your generosity underpinned advances in research, learning and innovation, some of which you can read about in these pages. The significant and impactful projects that you supported will have a lasting benefit to our island State, and beyond.

Thank you for making the University one of your priorities. The progress we have made so far gives us great confidence that with your goodwill and generosity, we are well-placed to tackle the challenges ahead and achieve our goals for Tasmania.

Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor



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Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor

YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP SAVE OUR ICONIC SPECIES

ENDEMIC ANIMALS BEING BROUGHT BACK FROM THE BRINK BY PHILANTHROPY

The need to protect Australia's iconic species has never been as great. It's estimated the recent bushfires killed more than a billion animals. Those that survived the devastation lost large swathes of their habitat and face food and water shortages. While Tasmania was largely spared, many of our endemic animals are still grappling with disease and changing environments.

Under threat: Red handfish are only found in two small patches of reef in south-eastern Tasmania.



RICK STUART-SMITH

Yet, amid the devastation, there is cause for optimism. It's evidenced by the intention and action of donors to the University of Tasmania. They are showing their commitment to ensure that our unique and diverse wildlife endures by funding cutting-edge research, conservation and management.

Take the red handfish, known for using its hand-shaped fins to walk along the seafloor. Endemic to the waters off south-east Tasmania, it is critically endangered with fewer than 100 adults thought to exist in the wild.

In 2019, the red handfish received a helping hand from donors. The Handfish Conservation Project launched a fundraiser offering people the opportunity to name one of the last remaining fish.

Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) researcher Dr Rick Stuart-Smith said this could be the last chance to save this species from extinction.

"It is hoped that being able to name a red handfish will help engage people on the plight of the species by highlighting just how critical population numbers are," Dr Stuart-Smith said.

At the time of publication, 20 fish had new monikers, ranging from Ginger Ninja to Knuckles.

Conservation efforts were also boosted last year when 50 red handfish hatchlings were born at IMAS.

Meanwhile, the University's scientists are leading research into a deadly disease of wombats. Sarcoptic mange causes hair loss, skin thickening, an extreme immune response, and ultimately death. It was introduced to Australia by European settlers and their domestic animals.

The team are investigating the use of a long-lasting treatment to control mange in wombat populations. The University's research into sustainable and effective ways to manage and prevent outbreaks is supported by philanthropy.

Last year, the team announced that for the first time they had determined the population genetic structure of the bare-nosed wombat across south-east Australia to help understand the best way to conserve the species.

"Sarcoptic mange causes such severe suffering to these animals, but I am heartened by the advances we have made in treating this disease in wild wombats," Senior Lecturer in Wildlife Ecology Dr Scott Carver said.

"Philanthropic support has played a major role in helping in our research reach this point.



HOUNDSTOOTH STUDIO

Philanthropic support has played a major role in helping in our research reach this point.

Dr Scott Carver, Senior Lecturer in Wildlife Ecology

“I am confident we will soon have simple and feasible tools to cure individual wombats and manage the disease in small populations, which will be a wonderful animal welfare and conservation success.”

The mission to ensure there is a disease-free future for the world’s largest carnivorous marsupial in the wild, the Tasmanian devil, also continues to gather momentum.

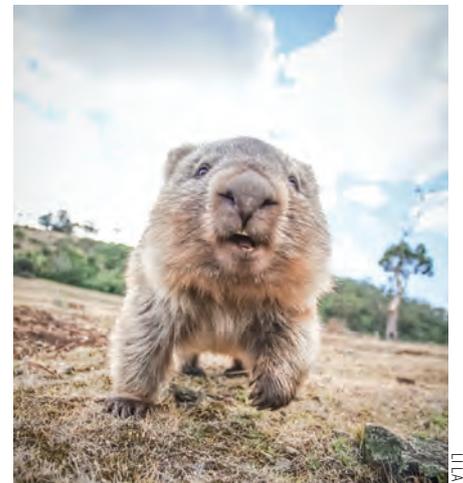
The Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal has received incredible support from around the world, helping the University

and key collaborators continue to unravel the mysteries of the contagious cancer, Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD). In 2019, the team continued its vital monitoring and tracking. Researchers also generated ground-breaking new insights into DFTD, which will help shed light on cancer development, evolution and immune invasion.

In addition, they developed new strategies for vaccine development, to prevent any further contagious cancers arising.

Dr Rodrigo Hamede from the School of Biological Sciences said that together with generous donors, they were building a brighter future for Tasmanian devils.

Turn to page 14 to read a story of how one woman’s desire to give back to Tasmania, the place she called home, inspired an exceptional gift to help save the Tasmanian devils.



LILIAN

Mission: Top, the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal has received incredible support from around the world; above, the University’s scientists are leading research into a deadly disease afflicting wombats.

WORLD-CLASS BRAIN RESEARCH BOOST

MULTI-GENERATIONAL GIVING KICKSTARTS CUTTING-EDGE STUDY

Pioneering research into two of the world's greatest health threats has been bolstered by a generous donation from a family intent on changing the world for the better.

Scientists from the University of Tasmania's Wicking Dementia Research Centre are creating lab-grown human 'mini-brains' to improve our understanding of dementia and traumatic brain injury.

Fifty million people live with dementia globally. Without a medical breakthrough, that figure is expected to rise with the rapidly ageing population.

Researchers at the Hobart-based centre have been at the forefront of research into Alzheimer's disease and traumatic brain injury, which together are thought to affect more than 700,000 Australians.

Now, thanks to a donation from the Merridew Foundation, their efforts will be boosted. The foundation was set up by Launceston couple George and Sarah Merridew and their two daughters, Nancy and Alison, so they could support projects they believed in.

"Our support of the human neuronal study acknowledges one of my brothers, an accomplished journalist, who had dementia from age 55 until he died 10 years later," Dr Merridew said.

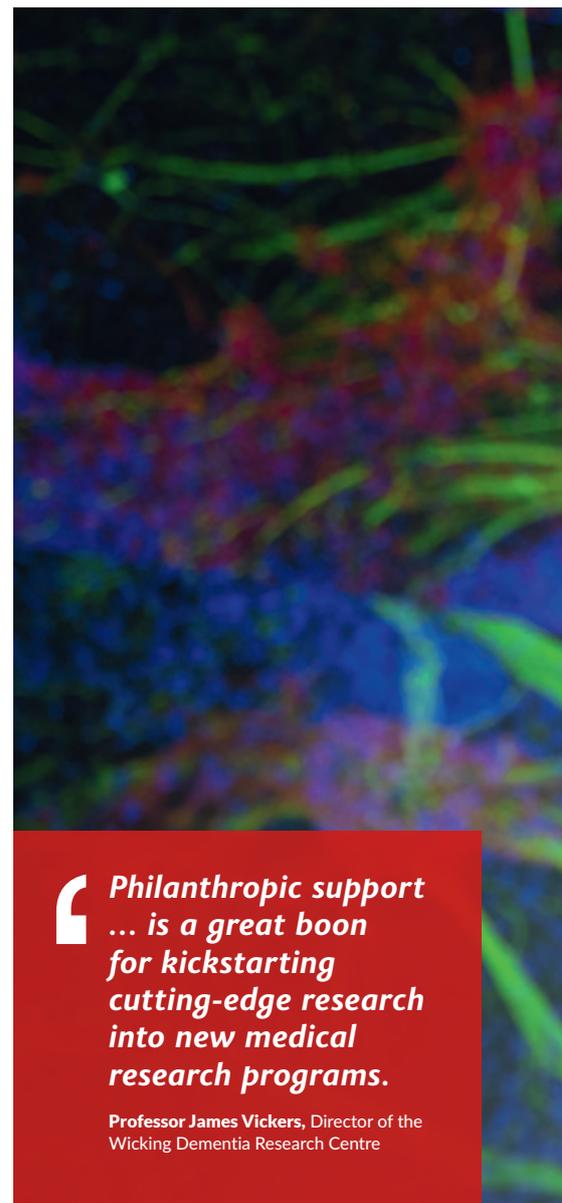
Over three years, the foundation will donate \$75,000 to support cutting-edge research, where scientists change skin cells – derived from tissue donated by Tasmanians – into pluripotent stem cells and then into nerve cells. These cells are then grown into organoids, also known as mini-brains. The tiny 3D structures closely resemble the make-up of the human brain, paving the way for improved investigations into causes and treatment.

Director of the Wicking Centre Professor James Vickers said the work builds on stem cell research led by Associate Professor Tony Cook. It represents a terrific opportunity to boost research towards an understanding of how human nerve cells respond to injury and neurodegenerative disease.

"Philanthropic support, such as the funding donated by the Merridew Foundation, is a great boon for kickstarting cutting-edge research into new medical research programs," Professor Vickers said.

The mini-brains will help researchers study the way the brain responds to repetitive traumatic injury and the similarities between the condition and Alzheimer's disease.

In the long-term, researchers hope to use them to screen for existing drugs that may be effective in treating dementia and



Philanthropic support ... is a great boon for kickstarting cutting-edge research into new medical research programs.

Professor James Vickers, Director of the Wicking Dementia Research Centre

traumatic brain injury. They are also aiming to investigate new therapeutic approaches to protect and regenerate the cells that make up the brain and nervous system.

George and Sarah Merridew are University of Tasmania alumni, graduating from Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery and Bachelor of Economics respectively. They believe their education



PETER MATHEW

gave them a great impetus in life. Their foundation also supports scholarships, a women's shelter, youth programs at the PCYC and research into nanoparticles to reduce destructive inflammation due to cerebral malaria, viral encephalitis, and stroke.

"Our family has received largesse of many kinds in past decades from many quarters:

Australian and overseas," Dr Merridew said.

"We are reciprocating to the broad community, if not to our original benefactors."

The Wicking Dementia and Research Centre was founded by philanthropy. It is a global leader in research into the cause, prevention and care of dementia and provides free accessible education. To find out more, visit utas.edu.au/wicking

Building blocks:

The work builds on stem cell research led by Associate Professor Tony Cook.

KIMBERLEY DIAMOND SET TO SHINE IN HIT SHOW

OSSA PRIZE THE LAUNCHING PAD FOR
SINGER'S BURGEONING CAREER

Talented Tasmanian-born singer Naarah Barnes has hit the high note of her career, landing a starring role in the hit stage show *The Sapphires*.

The University of Tasmania alumna will be catapulted onto the national stage, spending 2020 performing in the award-winning musical, which is based on the true story of the first popular Aboriginal all-female group.

Naarah is delighted to be fulfilling her dream of touring around Australia, allowing people to press pause on their lives and connect with the pure joy of music.

Music and storytelling were almost written into her DNA.

Naarah is a member of the Gidja people from the Kimberley in Western Australia and the first person in her family to attend university.

More than two decades ago, her parents left their small Aboriginal community, surrounded by the remote region's wild rivers, gorges and vast landscapes, with a dream of starting a family in Tasmania.

When Naarah was a child, her parents bought a book from a Hobart op shop, providing her first opportunity to learn

music. Her parents soon saw her passion and potential, and formal lessons began.

She said that the pathway to success in a highly competitive industry such as music was challenging, but she has persevered.

In her final year of a Bachelor of Music at the University's Conservatorium of Music, Naarah was propelled into the spotlight after winning the coveted Ossa Musical Performance Prize.

It is awarded to a student to help them pursue excellence in musicianship and performance. The prize funds a solo tour, which includes performances in Launceston, Burnie, Swansea and Hobart.

"The Ossa Prize set me up for what I am going to do next," Naarah said.

"All of a sudden, I was performing all the time and learning so much in the process, including how to talk to an audience and what to do when you make a mistake.

"The difference from the first show to the last was huge. It was an amazing opportunity."

The benefactors of the prize are former University of Tasmania Deputy Chancellor, prominent businessman and alumnus Rod Roberts and his wife, Cecile.

Rod grew up on a farm near Wynyard. He has since amassed significant experience in the business world. His career has included spending several decades running listed companies and being both director and chairman of organisations across a range of sectors, including agriculture, automotive and media.

Rod said he and his family were keen to support the University in its endeavours and ensure that money was directed to areas that were often difficult to fund and could lead to greater community participation and enrichment.

The Ossa Prize set me up for what I am going to do next. All of a sudden, I was performing all the time and learning so much in the process.

Naarah Barnes, singer and University of Tasmania alumna



On song: Naarah Barnes is about to grace the national stage.

“I’m keenly aware of the general lack of exposure to the arts in regional Tasmania,” Rod said.

“As a family, we talked about the fine arts, which seems to be relatively well catered for; however, there is little public emphasis on music, particularly classical music. The tour is a modest attempt to bring high-quality music to places where it is rarely heard.”

The couple were anonymous donors, but they recently changed their status. Rod is on the board of the Royal Flying Doctors Service where he has seen how public donations may inspire others to act.

Part of what is important to the Roberts family is that the prize has the potential to increase participation in music, whether that’s as performers, supporters or concert-goers.

The family had the pleasure of seeing Naarah perform in 2019.

“She’s an extremely enthusiastic performer, and I wish her all the best in what is sure to be a marvellous career,” Rod said.

To register your interest in attending the 2020 performances, email university.giving@utas.edu.au

MOUNTAINS OF HOPE

AFTER YEARS OF LIVING IN LIMBO, A YOUNG MAN FORCED TO FLEE HIS HOMELAND IS GIVEN THE CHANCE TO TRANSFORM HIS LIFE

When Mostafa Faraji looks up at kunanyi, the ancient mountain dominating Hobart, it reminds him of home.

The geological mass provides a deep and visible connection to the rugged mountainous region of Iran that he was forced to flee.

Mostafa is only 22, but he has spent most of his life fighting: for freedom, safety and basic human rights.

He is one of up to 35 million Kurds who come from Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Armenia. They are one of the largest ethnic groups in the Middle East, but they do not have a nation state.

Helping hand:

Mostafa Faraji was given the chance to study at the University of Tasmania.

“For generations Kurds have been persecuted,” Mostafa said.

He said their language was outlawed, their identity denied, their lands seized, and violent chemical attacks occurred.

“I suddenly realised I had no rights, no voice and no future.”

At 15, he left his homeland and loving family behind and began his journey as a refugee. He arrived in Australia in 2013.

“Being in indefinite detention is like being in jail for a crime you didn’t commit.

“To cope many of us would stay awake in the night and talk to each other and sleep in the day.”

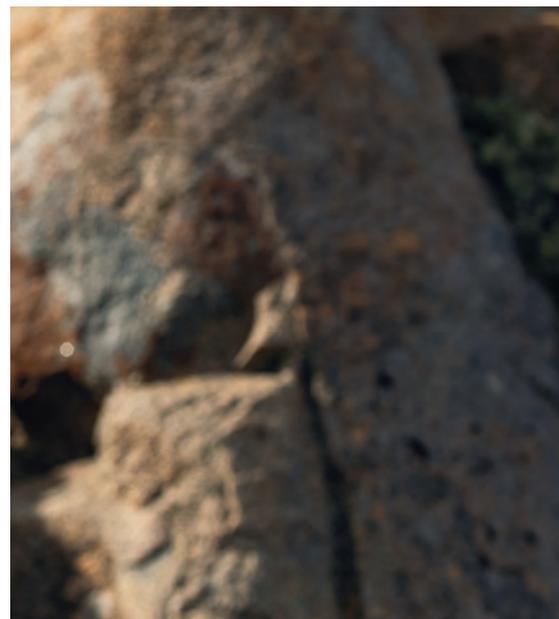
Mostafa now lives in Hobart on a Safe Haven Enterprise visa, which allows refugees to temporarily work and study, but only in regional areas.

The visa presents challenges: work can be scarce, studying costly – as they don’t qualify for financial support – and many refugees live in limbo, scared they will be sent back.

But last year he received an opportunity that will forever change his life.

He became a student at the University of Tasmania thanks to the Tasmanian Asylum Seeker Scholarship.

It was established in 2016 after the



I have witnessed so much in my life, but I'm thankful there are people who stand up for human rights, who want to make a difference so that refugees can be seen and heard and contribute to society.

Mostafa Faraji, recipient of the Tasmanian Asylum Seeker Scholarship

SARA GLAOLIA

University saw the need to provide access to higher education to asylum seekers and it became part of the Refugee Council of Australia’s Education for All Campaign. A year later, a generous anonymous donor saw the scholarship on the website and expressed interest in offering further support.

Together with the donor, the University supports up to three new asylum seekers a year, providing them with the opportunity to study an undergraduate degree for free.



There are 19 universities around Australia offering similar scholarships that waive tuition fees.

“I am truly grateful for the opportunity I have been given,” Mostafa said.

“To be able to give back to the community is something that I want to do, and this is helping me do that. It is a great honour.

“I have witnessed so much in my life, but I’m thankful there are people who stand up for human rights, who want to make a difference so that refugees can

be seen and heard and can contribute to society.”

The scholarship’s highly engaged donor is updated regularly on each of the nine student’s progress to ensure that the \$10,000 living allowance provided is alleviating their individual barriers to study.

Mostafa has chosen to study the Fast Track Bachelor of Nursing. He wants to help others.

“My goal is to be a physician one day, but for now, I would like to be a nurse for

experience purposes and give back to my newly adopted home Tasmania.”

His only wish now is that every refugee had the same opportunity to pursue their dreams and give back to the community.

Nine young people from some of the most troubled parts of the world have received a Tasmanian Asylum Seeker Scholarship between 2017 and 2019. To help us support students with scholarships visit utas.edu.au/giving

SAVING HEARTS, ENRICHING MINDS

A MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP HAS ENABLED ALUMNUS DR HEATH ADAMS TO LEARN AN INNOVATIVE HEART PROCEDURE

Heart disease is the leading single cause of death in Tasmania, sustained by high rates of smoking, diabetes, obesity and sedentary behaviour.

It's a big challenge to overcome, with the need for improved prevention, education and treatment, but one University of Tasmania alumnus is determined to help heal those already affected.

It's been 16 years since Dr Heath Adams (BMedSci, MBBS 2009) stepped foot on the Sandy Bay campus to study medicine, driven by a desire to help others and a healthy dose of ambition.

Like many talented Tasmanian teenagers, Dr Adams had the opportunity to study interstate.

"In hindsight, deciding to remain in Hobart and study at the University of Tasmania, from a professional and personal standpoint, was one of the best decisions I ever made," Dr Adams said.

He forged lifelong friendships, had family support while he studied, and his alma mater proved supportive long after his graduation, when he won the Dr M G Ciezar

Memorial Scholarship to travel to the UK to work and study at St Thomas Hospital, London.

St Thomas is a worldwide centre for excellence in a heart procedure called transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI). It allows an interventional cardiologist to replace a patient's aortic valve with keyhole surgery, without the need for a general anaesthetic.

It has been shown to have superior results for the elderly with severe aortic stenosis, compared to traditional surgical aortic valve replacement.

Thanks to his scholarship, Dr Adams was able to perform more than 200 of these procedures, and he has published two book chapters and nine peer-reviewed manuscripts in the field of valvular heart disease. In addition, he won the best clinical case at the 2019 European structural heart disease conference.

The TAVI procedure is available to Australian patients, but Tasmanians must travel interstate for treatment.

Now that Dr Adams is returning to his home state to take up a position as an

interventional and structural cardiologist at the Royal Hobart Hospital, he hopes to pioneer the use of this procedure in Tasmania.

"Travelling interstate for treatment is quite disruptive as patients can be frail and with limited social supports," he said.

"Furthermore, some patients decline treatment, as an interstate trip can become too much.

"With the support of the RHH heart team and the Tasmanian Health Service, I am hoping to set up a local TAVI service. Being a home-grown doctor with international experience, I am in the perfect position to make this happen."

Dr Adams' clinical work and studies in the UK were supported by the Dr MG Ciezar Memorial Scholarship, which was made possible by a bequest to the University by the late Mrs Irene Ciezar. It helps University of Tasmania medical graduates further their studies in cardiovascular medicine in the UK.

Home to serve:

Dr Heath Adams,
Dr Vasheya Naidoo
and son Arthur on
Bellerive Beach.



‘ Deciding to remain in Hobart and study at the University of Tasmania, from a professional and personal standpoint, was one of the best decisions I ever made.

Dr Heath Adams, recipient of the Dr M G Ciezar Memorial Scholarship



AFTER A LIFETIME OF CARING, AN ENDURING LEGACY

Young love: Bob and Pauline “Betty” Barnett in 1950.

BETTY’S BEQUEST WILL HELP SECURE THE DEVILS’ SURVIVAL

For many years Pauline Barnett (née Solomon) longed to return to the place where she grew up and so dearly missed, Tasmania. But life had other plans.

Pauline, known to most as Betty, first laid eyes on the island as a child, when her parents moved from Perth to Hobart to find work during the Depression. Her parents bought the Lindisfarne store on the sunny eastern shore.

For Betty, a nursing career was almost inevitable.

“She was kind, caring and always considered others’ needs ahead of her own,” recalls her daughter Alice.

Betty trained in Queenstown and Melbourne before returning to Hobart to work as a nurse. She met husband-to-be Robert Lawrence Barnett, or Bob, when he was a hospital patient. They married and moved to America for two decades.

In the late 1970s, the family moved to the UK, where they raised their children. When Bob had a serious stroke in his late 60s, Betty did what she did best and cared for him.

“Over the years his health deteriorated, and my mother was his sole carer, doing everything for him over the last 10 years of his life. In September 2012, my father died,” Alice said.

“Once he passed away, it became clear that my mother would be unable to return to Tasmania to live. This was partly due to failing health – after a lifetime of caring for others – financial reasons and complications over citizenship.”

Five years later, when Betty passed away, Alice took her home, carrying her ashes across several continents.

“Mum always wanted to return, and we made sure we honoured her wish,” Alice said.

She was laid to rest in the Dunalley cemetery with her mother and father.

“It was a sad time, but at least I know Mum is where she always wanted to be,” Alice said.

It is in Tasmania that Betty’s legacy will live on; for she left a gift in her will that would give something back to her home State.

“As my mother did not have enough money to return and support herself back in Tasmania she wanted her money to help in a positive way to provide a long-lasting benefit to Tasmania,” Alice said.

Betty left a bequest of more than \$200,000 to the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal, which supports the University of Tasmania and partners in their bid to stop the spread of the Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD).

Her youngest brother, Geoffrey Solomon, said he remembers seeing the last remaining Tasmanian tiger at the

Hobart Zoo – a forlorn creature – with Betty when they were children.

When she first heard of the plight of the devils, Betty was so concerned that they might suffer the same fate that she wanted to do something to help.

Her gift was a truly generous and impactful one.

Betty’s bequest is providing the opportunity for two early-career researchers with ecology and laboratory backgrounds to collaborate to bring new insights into the disease, publish scientific papers and build additional funding pathways. It is the start of a long and lasting scientific journey that is likely to yield significant benefits.

Alice said her mother would be pleased to know her gift was being used to help support young researchers working to secure the devils’ survival.

It’s fitting that Betty, who spent her life caring for others, has left a legacy that will continue to give so much to so many.

If you wish to explore leaving a bequest to the University, please call 03 6226 1920 for a confidential discussion

As my mother did not have enough money to return and support herself back in Tasmania she wanted her money to help in a positive way to provide a long-lasting benefit to Tasmania.

Alice Barnett, daughter of Pauline “Betty” Barnett (née Solomon), who left a bequest to the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal

Grand plans:
Engineering student
Lewis Nicholls
wants to work in
renewable energy.

ENGINEERING ASPIRATIONS

SCHOLARSHIP SPRINGBOARDS STUDENT TO SUCCESS

Lewis Nicholls was always surrounded by the power of the elements. He grew up breathing air that's considered the cleanest in the world. Nearby the winds are so fierce they whip up some of the world's biggest swells and make 80-metre wind turbines whirl effortlessly.

The North West Coast of Tasmania is perfectly placed to generate wind power, an ideal breeding ground for cattle, and attracts world-class surfers to ride the waves. But like many remote Australian regions, it's too small to accommodate the educational needs of teenagers, who must travel further afield.

Lewis first left the family farm – 550 acres of hilly green pastures in Marrawah – when he was 16. He would live in Burnie during the week to study at college and return home on weekends. It was at this point that he first felt the positive impact of philanthropy. Lewis received the University of Tasmania Woolnorth Wind Farm Springboard to Higher Education Bursary.

Each year, the University of Tasmania partners with trusts, foundations, individual donors and local and state government to encourage students to continue into senior secondary school and tertiary study through the University of Tasmania Springboard to Higher Education Bursary

Program. Since its inception in 2002, more than 900 students have benefited.

Lewis used his bursary to help offset the cost of travelling more than 260km a week for college. Unsure of what to do next, he took a gap year, where he worked on the family farm by day and at the local pub by night. It was during the late nights and early starts that he began to think about his future. He was proficient in maths and science, passionate about all that was clean and green, and excited by the idea of studying electronics. A Bachelor of Engineering seemed the obvious choice.

“The worst part of the degree was that I would have to leave home and my parents and study in Hobart, but I was also pretty excited about the opportunity,” Lewis said.

“I went straight onto the University of Tasmania scholarship portal and started applying for scholarships.”

When he found out he would receive The George Alexander Foundation Relocation and Living Support Scholarship, he said it was quite simply “awesome”. The independent philanthropic group was established in 1972 by George Alexander AM (1910-2008) to support talented young people from rural and remote areas to overcome barriers to further education and fulfil their leadership potential. “The scholarship was \$6,000 a year for four

years, but later I found out I received an extension on my Springboard Bursary, which is now \$3,000 a year for the next three years, which is out of this world.

“When I first moved to Hobart, I used some of the money to buy the basics I would need to live: a bed and study desk, as well as all the textbooks and stationery.

“I put the rest straight in a savings account and set up a recurring payment, so I was effectively getting paid a wage. It meant I didn't have to work; I could focus on my studies.”

Lewis said distance and finance were significant barriers to study.

“I most likely wouldn't be at university if I didn't get a scholarship and I want to thank my donors because without them I don't know where I would be,” he said.

Now in his second year of engineering, Lewis has worked out where his future lies, and it's inspired by his childhood on the wild and windy West Coast: “I want to work in renewable energy, whether that's solar, wind or wave,” Lewis said.



I most likely wouldn't be at university if I didn't get a scholarship.

Lewis Nicholls, recipient of the University of Tasmania Woolnorth Wind Farm Springboard to Higher Education Bursary, as well as The George Alexander Foundation Relocation and Living Support Scholarship



‘ *Being able to see scholars such as Kelcie contribute to medical research that will improve the way we live our lives is incredibly rewarding. It’s a real privilege.*

Gerald Loughran, who established the Loughran Family Scholarship

Special bond:
Kelcie Miller with
scholarship donor
Gerald Loughran.

A GENEROUS GIFT LEADS TO A PERFECT SCORE

FAMILY OF CARERS SHARE IN SCHOLAR'S ACHIEVEMENT

Gerald Loughran's two children were born with the caring gene: Alison is a neonatologist and David is a carer. But their desire to help others extends beyond the bedside, back to where so many of life's lessons begin: in the classroom.

The Loughran family hail from the North West Coast of Tasmania. As Alison spent six years in Hobart studying medicine, they were familiar with the financial and emotional strain that students face when they must travel from one tip of the island to another. That's why Gerald and his children set up The Loughran Family Scholarship: to ease the burden on students who need to travel to study health.

Kelcie Miller can claim a few firsts. When she left picturesque Penguin to complete a Bachelor of Medical Research in Hobart, she was the first in her family to study at university. She was also the first recipient of the Loughran Family Scholarship, in 2015.

When she graduated last year, the alumna had a special request. Could she invite her donors to attend the ceremony?

When Gerald received the invitation, his response was instant.

"I wouldn't have missed it," he said. "I felt privileged to be part of such a momentous occasion in Kelcie's life."

Joining her friends and family at the

Federation Concert Hall in Hobart, Gerald heard Kelcie deliver the valedictory address. She spoke of the challenges many students had overcome to reach their goals.

"These sacrifices may have been financial. They may have been social. Some have moved away from their homes, from their friends and families, many have sacrificed a great deal of sleep."

Kelcie is proud of her persistence, determination and willingness to succeed, which she will carry with her throughout her life.

When Kelcie's family met Gerald for the first time they were strangers, but they bonded instantly, marvelling at her success. There were firm handshakes, words of thanks and a shared sense of pride.

"I was so grateful that Gerald came to the graduation: his support has been invaluable," Kelcie said.

Being able to spend less time worrying about finances has meant that Kelcie could focus on her studies. The result? A perfect score consisting of straight High Distinctions.

"I'm so proud, I worked hard, and it has paid off," Kelcie said.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Kelcie's focus has already moved to the future. She is fascinated by the science behind medicine and how this can be harnessed to improve lives.

This year, she will start her honours in epidemiology, which involves looking at the risk factors of disease in different populations and how we may be able to reduce those risks.

"I'm very interested in physical activity and how it can improve health."

While Kelcie was the first person in her family to attend university, the desire to make a difference has rubbed off on her siblings.

"My younger sister is almost finished her degree in paramedicine, and my other sister is about to start tertiary studies in teaching," she said.

For Gerald, it is a great source of pride to see how his family's gift is making a tangible difference in the lives of students.

"It's much more difficult for students who have to leave home to study, particularly those from the North West Coast, and it's just fantastic to know that we can make it an easier transition," he said.

"Being able to see scholars such as Kelcie contribute to medical research that will improve the way we live our lives is incredibly rewarding. It's a real privilege."

'Guardian of the dead': Alumnus Professor Roger Byard is a leading forensic pathologist.

ALUMNUS GIVES THE PRESENT OF TIME

LEADING FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING FROM THE DEAD, AND OF ENJOYING LIFE

Professor Roger Byard AO PSM is one of the world's leading experts in forensic pathology. He has performed more than 6,000 autopsies, written more than 800 research papers, holds senior clinical and research posts and is regularly called upon to examine and lecture in countries as far afield as Kazakhstan.

Yet, the University of Tasmania alumnus still finds room in his busy schedule to give the gift of time to his alma mater.

Most recently, Professor Byard returned to Hobart to present the prestigious Arthur Cobbold Memorial Lecture, which was presented in partnership with the Dark MOFO program for the first time.

"I have always had very good memories of my time at UTAS and have been a donor to the University's research activities, including the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal, for nearly 10 years now," Professor Byard said.

"It had been my real wish to return to Hobart some time and take up a position with the University so that I could give back some of what it has given to me."

The annual lecture on contemporary medical issues was established by the University and Dr Elizabeth Cobbold as a memorial to Arthur Cobbold's contribution to the School of Medicine, and to medical

education. Emeritus Professor Cobbold AM OBE died in December 2009 after a distinguished career in medical education. He was the Foundation Professor and Head of the Department of Physiology in the original Tasmanian School of Medicine and served as Dean of the School for a record 13 years.

A former pupil of Emeritus Professor Cobbold, Professor Byard said he was honoured to be invited to present the lecture and pay tribute to the work of his former teacher.

"I owe Professor Cobbold and UTAS a tremendous amount for starting me off in my career," he said.

"He was a truly inspirational character and mentor, and it was wonderful to have his widow Elizabeth in the audience."

Since the lecture began in 2011, more than 1,000 people have heard fascinating insights from eminent speakers on clinical trials, obesity, ageing and heart disease.

Professor Byard's lecture "Lessons from the Mortuary" explored the importance of learning from the dead, from a pathology perspective.

Tasmanian-born Professor Byard holds the George Richard Marks Chair of Pathology at the University of Adelaide and is a senior forensic pathologist at Forensic Science SA in Adelaide. He graduated from

the University of Tasmania with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree in 1978 and was awarded the University's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2016.

Professor Byard's contribution to disaster victim identification and sudden infant and childhood death is world-leading.

"Forensic pathology can clarify questions on current and historical cases," Professor Byard told the audience.

"We are so frightened of death but there is no hiding from it. It is the one thing that we share.

"Forensic pathologists are the guardians of the dead, and it is a very privileged position and one we take very seriously."

Professor Byard spoke of the tragic and captivating cases he's been involved in, such as the infamous Snowtown 'bodies in the barrels' murders and described the disaster identification process following the Bali bombings and Boxing Day Tsunami as two of the most difficult assignments of his career.

Professor Byard ended the lecture with a clear message for the audience: enjoy life!

To read more about our alumni community, share your story or to reconnect with the University of Tasmania, visit utas.edu.au/alumni or contact the Alumni Relations Team on Alumni.Office@utas.edu.au or +61 3 6324 6052



‘ We are so frightened of death but there is no hiding from it. It is the one thing that we share.

Professor Roger Byard, AO PSM

PETER MATHEW

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY

YOUR GIVING HAS SUPPORTED HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS

We are delighted to welcome more than 600 new donors to our wonderful community of givers who are helping to transform the lives of young Tasmanians and enrich our academic community. Thank you to our donors, alumni, partners and friends, for your generosity.

The impact of your giving is telling. In 2019, the university had funds under management of \$66.2 million, which alleviated financial hardship for students and enabled them to thrive academically. It also provides the University with the opportunity to build for the future, and investigate complex issues facing our world.

In 2019, a major review of the

philanthropic funds held in the University of Tasmania's investment portfolio was undertaken. It aimed to ensure that: donor interests are being upheld; enough funds are available to fulfil the funds' objectives, and; that University commitments are being met.

A new summary report on the performance of the University's managed funds has been sent to all donors whose gifts are endowed.

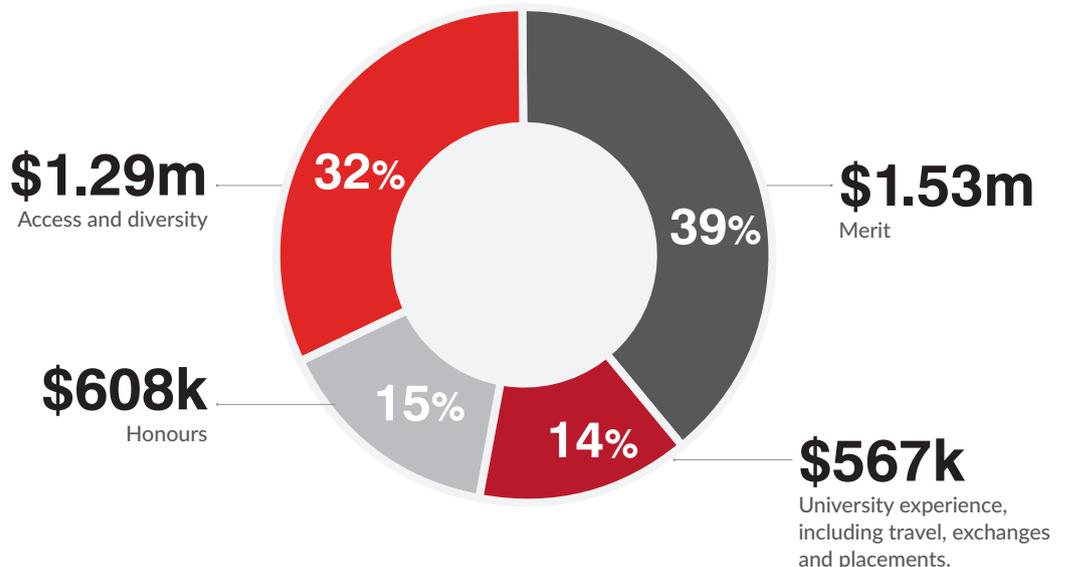
The report is available to others by request, via giving@utas.edu.au

With your help, the University aspires to achieve more, too. In 2019, 2,500 students lodged more than 12,000 applications for support. We supported

409 new and continuing students with philanthropically funded scholarships, thanks to the remarkable generosity of individuals and organisations.

With your continued involvement; we hope to extend scholarship support to more Tasmanians and continue to expand the frontiers of knowledge and progress wide-ranging initiatives to benefit our community.

ALL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2019 COMMENCEMENT*



* Excluding Higher Degree by Research Scholarships

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

*2019 FIGURES

FUNDS UNDER
MANAGEMENT
WITH A VALUE OF



\$66m

\$9.9m

TOTAL
DONATIONS



409

NEW AND CONTINUING
STUDENTS
SUPPORTED BY
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1716*

Total Donors

Whose generous contributions will transform the lives of students and enrich research at the University



506*

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The Domain Society recognises donors who have supported the University for five consecutive years or more



94

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The Bequest Society recognises donors who have confirmed their intention to leave a bequest to the University of Tasmania in their Will

* For the period: 1/9/2018- 31/12/2019

WHY GIVE?

EVERY GIFT, OF EVERY SIZE, HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM

I hope you have enjoyed reading about the many and varied ways in which members of our community – alumni, friends, companies, charitable organisations and other partners – have come together to support students and faculty in their scholarly endeavours. I am grateful for the contribution you make to improving the lives of others, and for the hope and inspiration that comes from the people and projects that have been supported.

Across the 15 years I've worked in the tertiary sector I have been asked: 'Why give to a university when there are so many other more needy charities to support?' Perhaps the simplest response is to say universities are where we address the important issues of tomorrow, rather than urgent problems of today. Our lens is wide, and the perspective is long, but the contribution to society is profound. From developing bright, capable and curious graduates ready to contribute professionally and personally in their community, to researchers who are stimulating innovation and finding solutions to local, national and global challenges, donors to universities

are investing in a future that is full of possibilities and potential.

Another question that regularly comes up is: 'How could my \$50 or \$100 possibly make a difference compared with those who can give so much more?' Agreed, substantial gifts are remarkable acts of foresight and generosity that are worthy of praise and celebration. But truly, every dollar helps. Not only can you be reassured that every cent of your gift goes to your chosen area of support within the University, but as a large and diverse community, when your gift is

Philanthropy at the University of Tasmania has a new governing body called the **University Foundation Committee (UFC)**, which, in 2019, had its first full year of operation. The UFC reports to the University Council and ensures that donor interests are protected and that the University reaches the highest standards of philanthropic management.



LILA

pooled together with others, many small gifts combine to make a seismic change. Every gift, of every size, is important and appreciated. To that end, I hope that the example and experiences of those included in this report have provided inspiration and encouragement to others and will prompt newcomers to the donor community to 'give giving a go'. Like big gifts, small gifts also have the power to transform.

Kate Robertson
Executive Director, Advancement

Details of the current committee membership can be found on the University's website: utas.edu.au/university-council

To contact the UFC, please email UFC@utas.edu.au

The University is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). One hundred per cent of donations are directed to the donor's area of choice.

ALL DONORS

Thank you to everyone who is making an impact on Tasmania and beyond by supporting students, enabling research and enhancing the campus environment.

We'd like to give an extra special shout-out to our new donors, whose names are listed in bold on the following pages.

All donations over \$200 received between 1 September 2018 and 31 December 2019 have been acknowledged.

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**A LITTLE GIFT, GIVEN OFTEN,
 GOES A LONG WAY**



Robyn Nandan knows all too well the extraordinary impact a tertiary education can have. Not just on an individual, but also on a family, and the generations that follow.

It all began with a farm boy, who was given an opportunity to attend university.

This bright boy was Robyn's grandfather, Philip Lewis Griffiths, who received a scholarship to study at the University of Tasmania. He graduated 110 years ago with a Bachelor of Laws.

It had a lasting effect on their family. Robyn's father obtained science and engineering degrees, while her mother graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. Robyn followed in her footsteps, completing a Bachelor of Arts before adding a Diploma of Education.

Five out of her six children are also alumni, with qualifications in arts, law, nursing, education, commerce and science respectively.

"As a teacher, I have taught many children from families where no one has been to university," she said. "I feel it's important to help people to seek further education, because the better-educated society is, the better society will be."

Robyn has been giving for more than 10 years. She said the amount she donates varies each year, but she believes there is always the capacity to give something.

This is a belief instilled in her by her family's own experience of the transformative power of education, her faith and a desire to improve the world around her.



For more information about
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