As children, we have active imaginations and the natural capacity to ‘dream big’. We imagine a future full of possibility. Education provides a critical link towards achieving our dreams. It empowers us to think in new ways, apply original ideas, and transform our lives, our community and the world. Our ability to dream is not always affected by our background, but unfortunately the opportunity to access education can be.

Access, participation and success are the fundamental values that lie at the heart of the University of Newcastle (UON). Our vision is to transform more lives through enhancing equity of access to higher education. This will be led through our newly established Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education. The centre is focusing on building on our research into delivering quality education to talented students irrespective of background.

“The challenge for us is to develop new models based on our success and push ourselves to make a difference to even more students’ lives – across Australia and beyond,” said Professor Andrew Parfitt, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

“The key to this is a solid understanding of what works, what doesn’t, and why, along with a commitment to sharing the outcomes of our research to help our students of tomorrow.”

UON is seeking philanthropic support towards funding the appointment of leading researchers and practitioners who will build on our international presence and partnerships. We are also seeking funds.
Recently I celebrated my one year anniversary at the University of Newcastle (UON). This milestone has been an opportunity for me to reflect how much is being achieved here at UON – it’s truly wonderful to be involved in such inspiring work.

I am also constantly reminded how fortunate we are to have many generous supporters – staff, alumni, community members and business and industry partners.

to help us develop innovative pathways to higher education.

We hope that by working together with community, business and philanthropic partners we can further enhance the centre’s reach and impact.

The outcome will be delivering new ways of working with students from disadvantaged backgrounds commencing in primary school, helping to take students from imagination to aspiration right through to graduation.

Not only do we want to help students, who are facing significant challenges, gain access to a tertiary education, but also support them while they study and help them reach graduation. Scholarships are a way we can help students most in need.

Our Shaping Futures Scholarship Fund, supports academically gifted students who are facing hardship.

Scholarships also provide encouragement and foster confidence which can profoundly change a student’s life.

Daniel Frost was one of the recipients of the inaugural Shaping Futures Scholarship in 2011. You might be familiar with Daniel. He featured in the 2014 Shaping Futures Appeal. Diagnosed with a rare bone disease, Daniel has endured the removal of more than 200 tumours, some cancerous.

Through the generosity of donors to the Shaping Futures Fund, Daniel was able to continue his studies, despite frequent hospitalisations and complete a Bachelor of Business.

“I’m proud to say that I’m now an alumnus. I wasn’t always sure I would reach this milestone – there were many times when graduating seemed out of reach for me, impossible to achieve,” said Daniel

Shaping Futures Scholarships have already helped deliver many more stories like Daniel’s. In fact 41 students so far have received a Shaping Futures Scholarship.

“It is our hope that by growing the Shaping Futures Fund into a perpetual endowment. Through strong philanthropic and industry partnerships, we will have a sustainable approach to supporting disadvantaged students and be able to share many more stories for many decades to come,” said UON Director of Development, Rebecca Hazell.

“We are hoping that by 2025 the fund will be large enough to support more than 100 students a year with a scholarships. We hope you can join us as we embark on this exciting plan.”

You can help support disadvantaged students studying at UON by donating to the Shaping Futures Scholarship Fund at our secure website at www.newcastle.edu.au/donate

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Recently I celebrated my one year anniversary at the University of Newcastle (UON). This milestone has been an opportunity for me to reflect how much is being achieved here at UON – it’s truly wonderful to be involved in such inspiring work.

I am also constantly reminded how fortunate we are to have many generous supporters – staff, alumni, community members and business and industry partners.

All give generously to a cause they are passionate about.

Not long ago I attended the inaugural UON Staff Giving ‘Thank You’ Morning Tea, along with more than 65 staff members and conjoints. We are very privileged to have had more than 320 staff and conjoints who have made a donation to UON over the years.

Our staff support many different initiatives and through their generosity the lives of many students have been changed, critical and potentially life-changing research has been undertaken and numerous community programs have commenced or grown.

We have some lovely photos from the event in this edition.

The Shaping Futures Scholarship Fund, which assists our disadvantaged students, is strongly supported by our staff and conjoints, along with our alumni and the community. Our vision for 2025 is to grow the fund to a size that it allows us to awards scholarships, to support those student most in need of help, in perpetuity. An exciting prospect!

Here at UON we aim to provide opportunities for people with ability, regardless of their background. As you can read in our cover story UON has established the Centre of Excellence in Equity for Higher Education.

We are looking forward to working in partnership with our alumni, community and corporate partners to raise funds to support research that delivers new ways of working with students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Access to education can not only change the lives of students but also their families and the communities that benefit from their achievements.

Every gift makes a difference here at UON, no matter how large or small. Thank you again for your generous support.

Rebecca Hazell
Director of Development
University of Newcastle
It's the end of an era for the Architecture Foundation, but certainly not the end of the line. The public ancillary fund run by a group of hardworking architecture graduates from the University of Newcastle has been wound up. Although the separate legal structure has been dissolved, the vision and the fundraising efforts of its members will go on.

"I think it will now actually give us more time to raise funds to support architecture students. We won't have to worry about all the paperwork and red tape that comes with running a separate legal entity now," said Bob Donaldson, one of the founding members of the group.

"All donations will still go towards helping architecture students -- they will just go directly to the University of Newcastle, instead of through the Architecture Foundation first."

The Architecture Foundation was established in 2000 to provide an annual travelling scholarship, the Parker Fellowship, to students studying architecture. The group has assisted more than 17 students through the scholarship and two additional commendation awards.

Shari Blanch, the latest Parker Fellowship recipient recently travelled through Africa and Asia to investigate architecture in developing countries.

The group presented an $80,000 donation to the University of Newcastle recently.

"We are very grateful to the Architecture Foundation members for all their hard work and we thank them for their generosity. We look forward to working closely with them in continuing to raise funds to support our talented architecture students and provide these students with international learning opportunities," said Rebecca Hazell, Director of Development, University of Newcastle.

The group will continue to hold its annual architecture awards dinner to help raise funds.

One of the most significant purchases made with Light bequest was a large collection of Australian poetry, mostly printed in the 19th century. This includes a first edition of the 'Man from Snowy River' printed in 1895.

These works form part of our Rare Book and Special Collections, currently containing more than 32,000 unique and valuable items, which are able to be accessed by the community.

According to University Archivist, Gionni Di Gravio, these works are a continuing source of inspiration for many in the region.

"Support from donors like Reta Light and others has helped us grow our collections to become major resources in their own right," said Gionni. "It also means we're able to assist many new research projects that continue to make important discoveries about our history."

Projects like 3D Virtual Newcastle, which saw creator Charles Martin construct a 3D model of early Aboriginal and Colonial Newcastle with financial support from the donor-funded Vera Deacon Regional History Fund.

"Together our historical collections and new heritage projects can help us imagine what life was like in the 19th century, discover how our region has changed and possibly revive skills from our past."

According to Gionni, the support of benefactors like Reta Light and Vera Deacon is very important in growing the library's resources for the benefit of the community.

"I hope their generosity continues to inspire others to consider how they too could invest in our culture and community resources for the future."

Making a bequest to the University can help enable research, support students through scholarships or fund many other University projects that help the community.

"Making a bequest is one of the most meaningful and lasting ways to make a gift to the University," says Director of Development, Rebecca Hazell.

"Bequests provide a way to give a gift that you may not be able to make during your lifetime and we are very grateful to those that choose to remember the University in this way."

For more information about leaving a legacy visit www.newcastle.edu.au/foundation
LIFE-LONG PASSION HONOURED

What began as a fledgling interest in cross-cultural psychology in the 1950s has become a life-long passion for retired Professor Daphne Keats.

The long-time University of Newcastle supporter is the driving force behind the establishment of a new Chair (Professor) in Cross-Cultural Psychology.

The new chair is being funded by a donation from Daphne herself and funds provided by the Faculty of Science and Information Technology. The University is delighted to recognise Daphne’s generosity and dedication to the field of cross-cultural psychology by naming the chair in her honour.

Cross-Cultural Psychology is the scientific comparison of mind and behaviour between different cultures.

The University has a long standing, international reputation in both research and teaching in Cross-Cultural Psychology. After working as a member of staff for 43 years, Professor Keats has retained a strong relationship with the School of Psychology and the University.

As well as raising the international profile of the school and the faculty, the Daphne Keats Chair will lead the charge to build a flagship program.

The announcement of the new Chair was celebrated by the University and the Faculty of Science and IT recently. The recruitment of the new chair is currently underway. The University is most grateful for the philanthropic support provided by Professor Keats.

CHALLENGE TAKES SCIENCE FROM LAB TO FAB

Could you build a bridge using wooden sticks? Or make a catapult out of string? Each year, more than 21,500 Year 10 students make these tasks look easy as they take part in Science and Engineering Challenge events around Australia.

Fuelled by the buzz of competition and creativity, students work together to solve activities based on principles of science. But amid all the fun, some serious decisions are being made about their future.

“The best thing about the Challenge is it opens young minds to possibility – the possibility that they can actually make a difference in the world and have a go at solving some of life's big issues through science,” said Science and Engineering Challenge Director, Terry Burns.

Indeed what started 15 years ago as a University of Newcastle (UON) program to encourage more students to study maths and science in high school has grown beyond all expectations.

From a one day event held on the NSW Central Coast in 2000, the award-winning program now involves 800 schools, 30 universities, local communities, businesses, government and industry nationwide.

It’s been credited with improving participation rates in HSC science and maths, providing a proven solution to the current skills shortage and having a profound impact on young lives.

“It’s exciting seeing young people actually change their life direction as a result of the program.

Our vision is to have the Challenge available to every student in Australia, either by expanding into new areas or offering more opportunities for students and teachers to get involved,” Terry said.

And this has been thanks to the support of the community, corporate partners, government funding and professional organisations nationally, along with a long-term commitment from UON. In fact almost $350,000 has been given in donations and sponsorship.

While the Challenge has grown exponentially, there’s more work to be done encouraging young people to choose a career in science, mathematics or engineering.

“While we purposefully engage with students before they make their Year 11 subject section, research also tells us that some students make important life decisions as early as Years 3, 4 and 5 when they decide what subjects interest them most.”

Terry is keen to add more primary school discovery days to the Challenge calendar and fund more scholarships for undergraduate students to work with the Challenge team designing learning programs and developing hands-on skills in science communications.

Additional funding could also be used to develop new internships for primary school teachers, helping them design and deliver exciting new learning programs to take back in their classrooms.

“We are very keen to build long term partnerships with companies that have similar ideals to us – to challenge young people's ideas about what a scientist or an engineer does and get them excited about making positive choices that could change their life.”

To donate to the Science and Engineering Challenge, visit our secure website at www.newcastle.edu.au/donate
YES! I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION

Amount of gift   A$

DONATE ONLINE
The safest way to donate is online at our secure website at www.newcastle.edu.au/donate

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Next year the University of Newcastle (UON) celebrates a remarkable 50 years of achievement. In 1965, those who began to build the University had a clear vision: a bushland campus that blended a traditional university with an innovative approach to the problems they faced. They also wanted a university that stayed connected to the community that had campaigned for its creation.

While we have spread our wings wide throughout the state and into Singapore, the city of Newcastle remains our spiritual home.

In 50 short years, UON, its staff and students, have made a remarkable impact on the region and the globe. Through outstanding achievements in research, innovation, teaching and learning, UON is recognised as an institution that is making its mark. In early 2014 we secured our place as Australia’s number one young university. This is an exciting time for the University of Newcastle as we continue to push boundaries to keep pace with the changing global landscape.

UON has matured from a locally-focused institution to one that is global in its outlook. Our people are some of the best in the field – sought-after at home and overseas.

Today more than 37,000 students are enrolled in programs across five faculties. More than 85 undergraduate programs are on offer and our range of postgraduate study options is continually growing. Working with communities locally, nationally and internationally, the University strives to lead the world in all our spheres of achievement – creating opportunities and delivering results.

As we prepare to make our mark on the next 50 years, we invite you to join in a celebration of our outstanding achievements – past, present and future.

Stay tuned for further updates! We look forward to sharing with you some exciting plans for growing our philanthropy program at UON.

Share your story

Do you have a story to share about the University of Newcastle? Whether you have memories as a local resident, a story as a student yourself or tales of working here – we would love to hear from you. Please contact us celebrate50@newcastle.edu.au
Academic excellence and commitment was recognised and rewarded at our annual Scholars’ Week celebrations, which were held recently. Students were presented with their scholarships certificates in front of family, friends and academics at a series of events held over a week in September.

More than 270 donor-funded scholarships are being awarded this year in addition to the University and Commonwealth supported scholarships. These scholarships are funded through donations by alumni, professional bodies, businesses and community members.

Among the recipients is Jodie Cochrane who is the inaugural recipient of the Catherine and Peter Tay High Achiever Engineering Undergraduate Scholarship. Worth $32,000 over four years, the scholarship is awarded to a commencing student in the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment with an ATAR of more than 99.0.

The scholarship is funded through a donation from generous graduate Mr Peter Tay and his wife Catherine, who reside in Singapore.

“Catherine and I are proud to help talented local students stay in Newcastle for their engineering studies and gain their higher education at one of the best engineering faculties in Australia,” said Mr Tay.

Jodie, who is studying Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) / Bachelor of Mathematics, said being awarded a scholarship can make a huge difference, reducing the financial strain of studying as well as boosting confidence.

“This scholarship motivated me to try to achieve top marks in my HSC. It has also allowed me to reduce my work hours giving me more time to dedicate to my studies. I will strive to make Catherine and Peter proud of my achievements,” said Ms Cochrane.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Caroline McMillen, said Scholars’ Week was about celebrating and recognising achievement and potential, as well as thanking the University’s generous supporters.

“The generosity of our benefactors is instrumental in ensuring the success of our students, and helps to provide students from all backgrounds the opportunity to pursue and succeed in higher education, an area UON is a national leader in,” Professor McMillen said.

### Scholarships

- **Catherine and Peter Tay High Achiever Engineering Undergraduate Scholarship**
  - Jodie Cochrane
  - Value: $32,000 over four years
  - Awarded to commencing student with ATAR of more than 99.0

### Thank You to UON Staff Supporters

Staff that support the University of Newcastle (UON) through donations were recognised and honoured for their generosity recently.

More than 65 staff members attended the Staff Giving ‘Thank You’ Morning Tea, which was hosted by Vice-Chancellor Professor Caroline McMillen and Chancellor Mr Paul Jeans.

The event was an opportunity to celebrate the difference that donations made by UON staff have made on the lives of our students, as well as the impact to our research efforts and community programs.

Staff and conjoint donors also heard from two scholarship recipients, Julia Gallagher (Shaping Futures Scholar) and Rowan Moses (Glen Avery Scholar), who spoke about the difference a scholarship has made to their lives.

More than 320 staff and conjoints have made a donation to UON over the years. One of the programs strongly supported by staff is the Shaping Futures Scholarship Fund. These scholarships are funded entirely through donations from staff, alumni and the community and help academically gifted students who are facing significant challenges – those students ‘most in need’.

UON staff and conjoints have contributed more than $42,000 to this fund. So far 41 students have been awarded a Shaping Futures Scholarship since the fund was established in 2011.

The Glen Avery Scholarship Fund has also been supported by many staff members. A scholarship was established to commemorate the life of a very dedicated staff member, Glen Avery, who sadly passed away suddenly in 2008.

His colleagues, especially those in Student and Academic Services have worked tirelessly to fundraise to ensure Glen is remembered and a student scholarship is awarded each year in his name. More than $83,000 has been raised for the Glen Avery Scholarship.

“Thank you to our staff and conjoint donors. We are truly honoured and very appreciative of your very generous gifts and fundraising efforts. We hope that you will continue to support our students, research and community projects,” said Rebecca Hazell, Director of Development.
UON STAFF GIVING ‘THANK YOU’ MORNING TEA

Next year we will be establishing a UON Staff Giving Committee. This group will be 'led by staff for our staff'.

The committee is part of a wider program which aims to give UON staff and conjoints greater opportunity to experience the joy that comes with supporting and being involved in something they are passionate about.

We are looking for individuals who are interested in becoming advocates in continuing to build a 'culture of giving' through the University to support education, students and research.

We are looking for dedicated people who are interested in providing fresh ideas, energy and advice.

Membership will be open to all staff, retired or former staff members and conjoints, who are committed to supporting UON through philanthropy. Stay tuned for more details.

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT UON?
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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