

YOUR LEGACY YOUR PASSION YOUR IMPACT



SHAPE A BETTER WORLD THROUGH
A GIFT IN YOUR WILL



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Newcastle acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands within our footprint areas: Awabakal, Darkinjung, Biripai, Worimi, Wonnarua, and Eora Nations. We also pay respect to the wisdom of our Elders past and present.



WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE, WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION?

A future where every student, no matter their background or hardship, receives the support they need to pursue higher education and succeed. A future where bright minds are nourished to build better lives for their families and communities. A future where research and programs can transform lives, drive innovation and help our regions thrive.

For more than six decades the University of Newcastle has opened doors to higher education for thousands and pioneered groundbreaking research to solve local and global challenges. Our commitment to equity, excellence, engagement and sustainability guides us as we serve our communities.

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE WILL SHAPE A BETTER WORLD.



TOGETHER WE CAN TRANSFORM LIVES

The University of Newcastle has been entrusted with gifts in Wills for more than 60 years from many kind and generous members of the community.

We are grateful to the growing number of people choosing to leave a gift in their Will to the University of Newcastle to benefit the lives of others. It is a responsibility we nurture with our utmost commitment, care and respect.

Our gifts in Wills governance framework ensures that gifts in Wills are handled respectfully, consistently and transparently so that your gift delivers the greatest possible impact.

We listen to your wishes and support you in applying your gift to the causes you're passionate about. From ensuring all students have access to higher education regardless of their background or family circumstance, to supporting research and programs addressing some of our most pressing human and environmental concerns – your intent will be honoured.



The University of Newcastle is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) and a registered tax-exempt charity with Deductible Gift Recipient status issued by the Australian Taxation Office. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible in Australia.



MAKING AN IMPACT IS SOMETHING EVERYBODY CAN DO

Every gift is valuable and can change the world for the better. When people unite, every contribution can make a big impact.

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Deciding where to direct your gift is deeply personal. Our Gifts in Wills Officer is committed to supporting you to make informed decisions. We would love to learn more about the causes you care about and help you shape a better future through a gift that honours your legacy.

“It is extremely rewarding to know my bequest will continue my family’s legacy of supporting Indigenous education beyond my lifetime. I want Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to not only feel the weight of financial strain lifted, but also to know that someone believes in them, and their right and ability to fulfil their potential.”

Frances Doherty
Bequest and Scholarship Donor



A GIFT IN YOUR WILL COULD INCLUDE:



Your residual estate*
or a percentage
of your estate



An amount
of money



Property



Shares



Valuable art
or collections

* After providing for your loved ones, you can choose to gift the remainder of your estate to the University of Newcastle to support a cause you're passionate about.

HONOURING YOUR LEGACY

“We were honoured by the celebration of my Uncle and cannot thank you enough. The words spoken were so uplifting.”

Chris Hanson
Bequest Morning Tea guest

Pictured below.

Each year at our Bequest Morning Tea, we celebrate, honour and remember the extraordinary and generous people who have chosen to positively impact our community through a gift to the University of Newcastle in their Will.

We welcome family and friends, as well as supporters who have kindly let us know they intend to leave a gift in their Will for a cause close to their heart through the University.

Photos: 2024 Bequest Morning Tea.



3 SIMPLE STEPS TO INCLUDE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

1. CONSIDER YOUR IMPACT

Leaving a gift in your Will is a powerful way to reflect your values and create a lasting impact on the world. You can choose to advance research that's important to your family, create opportunities through education, or support programs that strengthen our communities. Our dedicated team is here to listen and offer guidance on how your gift can make the greatest difference for a cause you're passionate about.

2. CHOOSE THE TYPE OF GIFT

There are several types of gifts you can include in your Will, such as leaving a specific amount of money, a percentage of your estate or other assets. Understanding your options will help ensure your gift has the impact you intend. Some of these options are outlined on page 3, and we would be happy to talk them through with you. We also encourage you to speak with your legal or financial adviser to find the option that's right for you.

3. WRITE OR UPDATE YOUR WILL

After you have taken care of your loved ones, including the University of Newcastle in your Will can be as simple as updating an existing Will or creating a new one. We can provide suggested wording to share with your solicitor or legal adviser. If you choose to let us know your intentions, it will help us plan and honour your legacy in a way that feels right for you and your family. Most importantly, we'll always respect your privacy and your wishes.



HOW A GIFT IN YOUR WILL CAN SHAPE A BETTER WORLD



TRANSFORM LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

You can help people overcome barriers and achieve their potential. One in four of our domestic students come from disadvantaged areas, and nearly half of our undergraduate students are the first in their family to attend university¹. Your support can help talented students access higher education, succeed in their studies, and shape a brighter future for themselves, their families, and our communities.



SUPPORT LIFE- CHANGING RESEARCH

You can help drive research discoveries that will improve lives for generations to come. At the University of Newcastle, we bring together leading experts to solve the most pressing challenges of our time. From groundbreaking medical research for cancer and chronic disease, to vital environmental efforts to protect endangered Australian species, your support of life-changing research will shape a better world.

1 SPP 101 Program Profile (Annual) Power BI report as at 15 September 2025.





STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES

You can help build stronger, more connected and inclusive communities through programs at the University of Newcastle. Whether it's delivering essential speech pathology services to children in regional areas, keeping our community informed through the best of local radio or empowering people seeking asylum in Australia with access to education, your generosity will shape a better tomorrow.



DRIVE INNOVATION

You can leave an enduring legacy by investing in the physical spaces that will foster learning, collaboration and innovation for future generations. The University of Newcastle has always been a place where great minds are nurtured, discoveries are made and lives are changed. Your generosity can help provide state-of-the-art teaching, learning and research facilities that will serve students and the wider community for decades to come.



EMPOWERED CHOICES

Who will be our teachers and nurses of the future? Who will lead the next big breakthrough in medical research? Or create the technology needed to facilitate a new energy source? For Lachlan, learning about the aspirations and achievements of students from all disciplines is the most exciting part of supporting scholarships.

University of Newcastle alumnus, Lachlan King might be considered young to have thought about his legacy, but he believes writing a Will and considering what is important to be a positive experience.

After establishing two University of Newcastle Shaping Futures Scholarships, Lachlan made the decision to leave a gift in his Will to ensure he could continue to help disadvantaged students achieve their dreams through education beyond his lifetime.

Shaping Futures Scholarships support students facing hardship and educational disadvantage to continue their education. These students are often at risk of not being able to complete their studies without financial support.

“Hearing from students who have been able to use a bit of extra financial support to open pathways and fulfil their potential has been incredibly rewarding. I want to continue doing that for as long as I can into the future.”

Having an up-to-date Will is the best way to ensure the people close to you can carry out your wishes when the time comes to distribute your estate.

“My friend was awarded a scholarship and the experience of seeing a group of committed students awarded this opportunity was life-changing for me.

I saw the process of making a Will as an opportunity to reflect on my values. Being clear about my intention to support scholarships beyond my lifetime makes it easier for everyone.”

Lachlan King
Bequest and Scholarship
Donor

Pictured below.





“I would like to thank Lachlan for providing this scholarship, without it I would not have been able to afford my living expenses while attending university.

This scholarship helped pay for my accommodation while on work placements, textbooks, uniforms and travel expenses, reducing my stress and allowing me to focus on my studies. I am so grateful for Lachlan’s generosity that helped me achieve my dream of becoming a nurse.”

Seleana

2024 recipient of the Lachlan King Shaping Futures Scholarship

THE POWER OF EDUCATION

Everybody has different reasons for leaving a gift in their Will. For Frances Doherty, honouring her father and his contribution to education, specifically Indigenous education, is a driving force.

“I was raised in a family where the values of education and social justice were deeply ingrained in me from a young age. I became a teacher like my father to share my passion for science and learning with students from many different backgrounds.”

For her father, the late Jack Doherty, education was everything. He regarded tertiary education as a key factor in Aboriginal empowerment, working alongside colleagues to set up the first Newcastle Aboriginal Support Group in 1980. A scholarship now known as the Doherty Ellis Undergraduate Scholarship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students was established in his name to encourage and support First Nations peoples to study at the University of Newcastle.

Initially funded by community donations, Frances has been supporting this scholarship for many years, seeing the impact first-hand with more than 40 scholarships awarded since it began in 1992. Her decision to leave a gift in her Will to fund the scholarship beyond her lifetime will ensure her family’s passion for education continues.



“I’m proud to continue my father’s legacy of supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to study at the University of Newcastle, develop the skills and confidence to achieve their goals and become leaders in any field they choose to follow.”

Frances Doherty
Bequest and Scholarship Donor

Photo above: Frances Doherty and her father, Jack Doherty attending her graduation in 1980.

Photo left: Frances Doherty visiting the University’s Callaghan Campus.





Photo: Frances Doherty, Bequest and Scholarship Donor, and Nathan Towney, Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Engagement and Equity and 2003 recipient of the Jack Doherty Undergraduate Scholarship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students.

“When a student receives the support they need to succeed at university, it creates a ripple effect. The support of the Doherty family reaches far beyond helping individual students. It benefits families, impacts entire communities and changes lives forever.”

Nathan Towney
Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Engagement and Equity and 2003 recipient of the Jack Doherty Undergraduate Scholarship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND GROW

Scholarships provide vital support, often when students are feeling most challenged or are yet to believe in their own potential. This feeling is one that Nathan Towney, Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Engagement and Equity and the 2003 recipient of the Jack Doherty Undergraduate Scholarship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students, remembers well.

“As a young Wiradjuri man from Wellington NSW studying a Bachelor of Education, being awarded this scholarship changed the way I thought about myself and higher education in general. That someone who didn’t know me would put themselves in a position to help me financially really motivated me to succeed,” shared Nathan.

With more first-in-family and Indigenous students enrolled at the University of Newcastle than any other Australian university, scholarships not only provide financial support, but encourage students to believe in themselves.

“To choose to lift people up and create opportunity without ever seeing the benefit - just knowing in some way you are going to leave a legacy - that’s an amazing testament of a person’s character.”



Scan the QR code to watch Frances and Nathan’s story



Photo: Nathan Towney and his parents, Sue and Ab, attending his graduation in 2004.

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES

Harold ‘Peter’ Pickhover was a pioneering broadcaster in Newcastle. Thirty years on, a gift in his Will to the University of Newcastle to support 2NURFM, continues to nurture new talent and kickstart careers in broadcasting.

ABC journalist and proud alumna, Cecilia Connell is one of more than 100 students who have benefited from Peter’s decision to leave a gift in his Will to support journalism students through the University of Newcastle’s community radio station, 2NURFM. She remembers her time in the 2NURFM newsroom fondly.

“When you’re passionate about something you want to be doing it all the time. I’d be in the newsroom most days at 4.30am to help prepare the early news bulletins and present the sport before the rest of the newsroom started for the day. It was an amazing training ground where I learnt every aspect of the job.”

Providing vital training for journalism students who go on to work as broadcasters and presenters on local and national platforms is a big part of what makes 2NURFM a vital part of our community. Peter’s bequest ensures our communities benefit from high quality content and live broadcasting by supporting new talent.



“Peter just loved 2NURFM and I think he would be very proud of what the students he helped support have gone on to achieve.”

Ian Crouch
2NURFM News Director

Photo above: Peter Pickhover during his broadcasting days c. 1930s.

Photo left: Peter Pickhover, a broadcasting legend who continued his passion for radio long after he retired.

A LEGACY TO BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY

For more than 45 years, 2NURFM has proudly kept our community informed and connected by sharing the stories that matter most to our region.

2NURFM News Director, Ian Crouch believes Peter's legacy will ensure his passion for local radio continues to benefit communities by supporting the next generation of broadcasters who will deliver our trusted news.

"Peter's gift has a major impact on our ability to recognise the dedication and achievement of outstanding students across media production and radio journalism. It also helps maintain the quality and integrity of journalism, which benefits everybody.

To see the names on that honour roll, to follow their careers as broadcasters and presenters on local and national platforms, is a big part of what makes 2NURFM so special as a community radio station."

Photo below: 2NURFM News Director, Ian Crouch with Cecilia Connell, Bachelor of Communications, and past recipient of the Peter Pickhover Award for Excellence in Radio Journalism.

"Receiving the Peter Pickhover Award boosted my confidence and showed me that I was in the right place. Without doubt, the work-ready skills I gained at 2NURFM helped me get my start."

Cecilia Connell
ABC Journalist
2013 recipient of the Peter Pickhover Award for Excellence in Radio Journalism



LIFE-CHANGING RESEARCH

Associate Professor Nicole Nathan leads a healthy eating and physical activity program in our schools to help prevent the growing rates of obesity in children.

Associate Professor Nathan's pioneering programs and innovative approaches are the result of two decades of impactful work and an unwavering determination to improve public health – a passion shared by the late Nellie Knight.

Nellie left a gift in her Will to support promising researchers to explore new initiatives for the treatment and management of heart disease. To date, Nellie's kindness has supported the work of 12 researchers, including Associate Professor Nathan.

“One in four children are not a healthy weight and these children are at an increased risk of becoming overweight as adults which then increases their risk of developing cardiovascular disease and some cancers.”

An estimated 580,000 adults are living with coronary heart disease in Australia. It is one of the leading causes of death among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

“The direct health care costs for treating or managing unhealthy weight is in the billions, but the indirect costs are also really alarming. We want to keep kids healthy so that they've got wellbeing for life.”

The generosity and passion of Nellie Knight is making vital research and community programs to improve the lives of people, now and in the future, possible.

“It is always hard juggling work and family commitments but with Nellie Knight's help I was able to complete my research and obtain my PhD. This support enabled me to continue my research career and keep working on programs to help keep kids healthy.”

**Associate Professor
Nicole Nathan**
MRFF Investigator Fellow
School of Medicine and
Public Health

Pictured below.





**YOUR LEGACY WILL SHAPE
A BETTER WORLD**

“I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the late Norman Bushman for his generosity and support.

His passion for music and dedication to helping musicians thrive has profoundly inspired me. This scholarship has been life-changing, providing financial support throughout my music studies and motivating me to pursue a fulfilling career as a music teacher.”

Shyanne

2023 recipient of the Norman Bushman Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies in Voice

EXTRAORDINARY CHANGE CAN HAPPEN

Just ask alumnus, Michael Wilson. He wants to make a lasting impact for future generations by leaving a gift in his Will to support students studying environmental and life sciences.

How would you like to shape a better world?



“I’m leaving a gift in my Will to lift some of the financial burden for students who do not have the same support that I did. I got a lot out of university and I’d like to give that opportunity to someone else.”

Michael Wilson
Bequest and Scholarship
Donor



Scan the QR
code to watch
Michael’s story

**YOUR GIFT IS AN ACT OF
KINDNESS FROM ONE
PERSON TO ANOTHER.
THAT KINDNESS WILL
TRANSFORM LIVES AND
MAKE AN IMPACT FOR
GENERATIONS TO COME.**

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THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING A GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE IN YOUR WILL.

Bringing positive change to the lives of others would not be possible without people like you.

NEXT STEP

If you would like more information about how you can shape a better world through a gift in your Will to the University of Newcastle, please get in touch. We would love to hear more about the causes you're passionate about.

PLEASE CONTACT

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