

# THE DON MCNAIR HERBARIUM



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NEWCASTLE**  
AUSTRALIA

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Illustration (Honours) 2015

## **BENEFITING RESEARCH, TEACHING AND THE COMMUNITY**

The University of Newcastle's Herbarium is an internationally recognised teaching and research resource for plant taxonomy, plant ecology, biology, genetics and natural history illustration.

The Herbarium was created through Don McNair's unique gift to the University of Newcastle and our community in 1995. The collection of plant specimens he donated enables our students, researchers and community to develop a deep understanding of our diverse and unique range of native plants and the role that science and education plays in their conservation.

### **ABOUT THE HERBARIUM**

Don McNair collected dried and pressed plant specimens for almost 70 years. Through his donation of these unique specimens, his subsequent bequest to contribute to the upkeep of the Herbarium, plus generous donations and work from community members, our students and researchers continue to explore the history and distribution of flora.

This includes:

- Developing students' and researchers' plant identification and curatorial skills
- Providing an important potential source of DNA of the flora of the region
- Recording plant distribution and highlighting changes over time
- Acting as a repository for a specimen reference collection that can be accessed for species identification

The Herbarium is housed at the University, where all specimen information is databased. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the process of digitisation of the collection has begun. When you become a donor, you can help us further develop this system so our researchers can continue to break new ground.

The Herbarium contains an array of more than 14,500 dried plant specimens, focusing on flora of the Mid-North Coast and Hunter regions of New South Wales, as well as flora of the arid zones of New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory.

The impact of the Herbarium is critical in so many of the University's fields of research. Since 1995, the Herbarium has aided in supporting a number of projects including mined-land rehabilitation, research on plant species to protect streams and riverbanks and studying compounds extracted from native species with potential use as liver cancer treatment drugs.

Today, the Herbarium continues to grow via the lodgement of any specimens that are used for research purposes at the University, as well as generous donations from individuals and organisations. Current database upgrades and specimen digitisation projects are designed to increase accessibility of the collection to researchers, students and the community, both locally and world-wide.

# JOIN US IN OUR MOVEMENT TO GIVE **NEW** TO THE WORLD

## DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE?

The Herbarium relies on a dedicated group of volunteers to keep it running, but its success and sustainability is largely dependent on the generosity of our donors. We are looking for passionate individuals to partner with us to make a greater collective impact. When you donate, you will help to maintain, grow and further increase accessibility of the collection for the benefit of future generations.

Please support the University's students, researchers and our communities by making a donation to support the Don McNair Herbarium today.

As with all donations to the University of Newcastle, 100% of your gift will be directed to the ongoing support of the Herbarium. **Please consider donating today.**

## DONATION FORM

### YES! I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY'S DON MCNAIR HERBARIUM

Please accept my tax deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Please debit a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card

(complete information below or set-up monthly donations online at [newcastle.edu.au/donate](http://newcastle.edu.au/donate))

### MY DETAILS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

### I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE MY DONATION ABOVE VIA:

Cheque/money order (made payable to The University of Newcastle)

Credit card  Visa  Mastercard

I authorise my credit card to be debited the amount above.

Credit Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like more information about making a bequest or special gift to the University of Newcastle

I would like to discuss other ways to give through the University of Newcastle to support students and research

## HOW TO GIVE

### DONATE ONLINE

At our secure website:  
[newcastle.edu.au/donate](http://newcastle.edu.au/donate)  
and specify 'Herbarium'

### EMAIL

Contact us on:  
[donate@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:donate@newcastle.edu.au)

### TELEPHONE

Call us on: +61 2 4921 8612

### MAIL

Return this completed form to:  
The Office of Alumni and Philanthropy  
IDC Building,  
University Drive  
Callaghan, NSW 2308