

# CELEBRATING THOSE WHO MAKE THE FUTURE BRIGHTER



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

HONOURING  
BEQUESTS  
2023

*Cover image:*

*The late Lesley Harold Brawn  
and Gladys Brawn*



We celebrate the lives of those who have so generously left an enduring legacy beyond their lifetime.

We honour them by sharing their stories and the impact their kindness has enabled.

We remember them and acknowledge the continued positive effect their generosity is having on the lives of others.

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.



## HONOURING OUR SUPPORTERS

This booklet shares the stories of some of our wonderful supporters who have chosen to make a difference beyond their lifetime by leaving a gift in their Will to the University. I am so grateful for their dedication to making the future brighter and ensuring their passions live on, and I am privileged to see the impact of their generosity.

With their support, we can deliver on our mission of providing an outstanding experience to our students and serving our regions through innovation, research and education. Their generosity gives students from all walks of life the opportunity to participate in higher education. Their kindness supports our researchers to find solutions to local, national and global problems. Their gifts provide important programs for the benefit of our community.

We are honoured to carry out the wishes of our supporters and to continue their legacy. We know that their generosity will positively impact lives for many years to come.

**Professor Alex Zelinsky AO**  
Vice-Chancellor and President

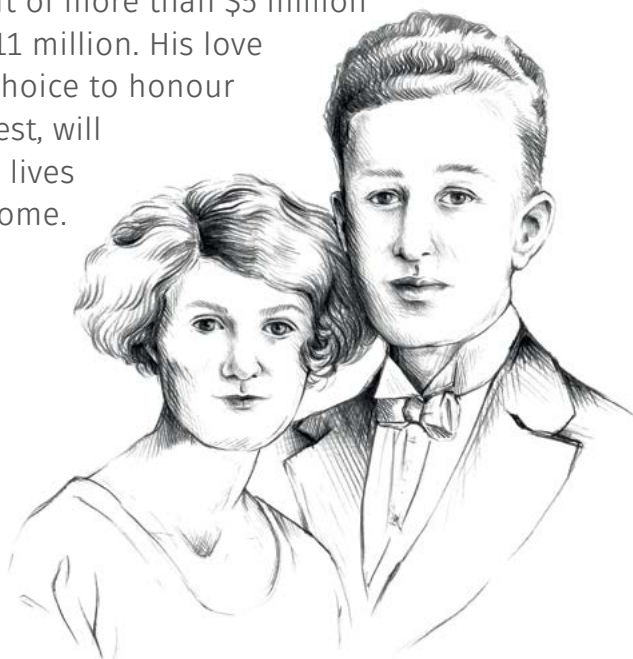
# A LEGACY OF LOVE

**When Mr Leslie Harold Brawn sadly lost his beloved wife, Gladys, he chose to honour her by creating a memorial fellowship scheme that was funded both during his life and through a bequest.**

This act of love continues to change the lives of millions of people across Australia and the world through the Gladys M Brawn Memorial Bequest Fellowship. These fellowships support a variety of projects in health by attracting and retaining outstanding career scientists to the University of Newcastle's College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing.

Brawn Fellows have undertaken important research into areas including cancer, clinical pharmacology, mental health, nutrition and dietetics, clinical toxicology, neuroscience, mothers and babies, vaccines, immunity and viruses. Their research has produced many significant findings.

Mr Brawn's initial gift of more than \$5 million is now worth over \$11 million. His love for Gladys, and his choice to honour her through a bequest, will continue to improve lives for generations to come.



# SHAPING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

"I would like to thank the late Judy Kennedy, the wonderful donor of the Judy Kennedy Shaping Futures Indigenous Health Scholarship. Thank you for supporting a future for Indigenous doctors and making dreams a reality. This scholarship will help me to achieve my dream of becoming a doctor, as I can now focus solely on my study without financial stress."

## **Darcy**

Proud Anaiwan woman, Bachelor of Medical Science/Doctor of Medicine student

Judy Kennedy Shaping Futures  
Postgraduate Indigenous Health  
Scholarship recipient



# ENDURING LEGACIES THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL GENEROSITY

The University of Newcastle community is most grateful to the following individuals for their exceptional generosity and kindness demonstrated through a gift beyond their lifetime.

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Sister Kathleen Alderson

Mr Harold Brawn

Mrs Mary Allen

Mr Norman Bushman

Mrs Matilda Asars

Canon Bill Childs

Mrs Elizabeth Aston

Dr Beryl Collier

Ms Joan Bale

Mrs Janet Copley

Mrs Gladys Barnard

Ms Carmel Costello

Mr Eric Bauer

Ms Thora Crighton

Ms Mary Beasy

Ms Nellie Currie

Ms Jenny Blakey

Mrs Betty Dobrianskyj

Ms Valasi Bleazard

Dr John Duggan AM

Mr Laurie Bogan

Mr Frank Duncan

Ms Margaret Farrell  
Mr Edmund Furner  
Ms Betty Fyffe  
Ms Barbara Graham  
Ms Isobel Hancock  
Professor Kelter Hartley  
Ms Elaine Hayworth  
Dr Peter Hendry AO  
Dr Alan Hewson AM  
Professor Daphne Keats  
Ms Judy Kennedy  
Ms Nellie Knight  
Mr Frank Ledbury  
Mr John Lee  
Ms Rita Leech  
Mr Lewis Lewis  
Ms Reta Light  
Ms Leonie Martin  
Dr Don McNair  
Dr Bruce Messmer  
Mr David Miller

Emeritus Professor  
Keith Morgan  
Mrs Ruby O'Sullivan  
Mr Peter Pickhover  
Mrs Mary Rankin  
Ms Jane Reid-Harle  
Ms Diana Rose  
Ms Greta Ryan  
Mrs Valerie Ryan  
Mr Eric Sansom  
Mrs Margaret Schmidt  
Ms Rebecca Scott-Brown  
Mrs Margaret Senior OAM  
Ms Mary Sherriff  
Mrs Mary Sneddon  
Ms Pauline Snow  
Mrs Jessie Speight  
Mrs Krista Thompson  
Mr Ernie Walpole  
Mrs Francoise Wansey  
Mrs Belle Wiese



# MRS MARY ALLEN



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With very special thanks for  
those gifts received in 2022



**The late Mary Allen resided in the USA. Despite the geographic distance she was devoted to her Australian and English nephews. She chose to remember her nephew Gerard, who sadly passed away in 2015, by leaving a bequest to the Gerard Beiboer Shaping Futures Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering.**

Mary Allen was a strong woman and active community leader who volunteered for many worthy organisations and charities. She volunteered at local government, the theatre and arts, helped out at animal shelters and was heavily involved with her local Zoo. Her passion for Schnauzers was evident when at the age of 80 she travelled right across the United States to pick up a rescue schnauzer she was adopting.

Mary loved her five nephews, coming to all the major events in their lives including graduations and weddings. The whole family were devastated when Gerard, an alumnus of the University, passed away. Gerard grew up in a single parent low-income family in Newcastle. Gerard was forced to work and study part time to achieve his dream of becoming a mechanical engineer. It was, at times, a rough right of passage. To honour Gerard and to help other struggling aspiring engineers, the family set up the Gerard Beiboer Shaping Futures Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering, assisting students facing educational disadvantage to pursue higher education.

Mary was very passionate about the scholarship and donated throughout her life. She enjoyed reading the stories of the recipients.

Thanks to Mary's devotion and love, the Gerard Beiboer Shaping Futures Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering will continue to assist students to pursue their educational goals for many years. A fine legacy of a wonderful woman.

# PROFESSOR DAPHNE KEATS



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**The late Professor Daphne Keats was a distinguished staff member of the University and a psychology trailblazer. Her passion for cross-cultural psychology will live on through her generous bequest.**

Born in Sydney in 1925, Daphne's fierce determination and intellect was evident from a young age. She earned herself a place at the selective North Sydney Girls High School, and graduated from the University of Sydney in 1946.

Daphne joined the University of Newcastle as a lecturer in Psychology in 1970. Alongside her husband, the late Professor John Keats, she led the field in developing programs of cross-cultural psychology studies.

Daphne's strong relationships led to important collaboration across university teaching and course planning, professional development and research supervision in both Australia and Asia. Her legacy includes the interweaving of research and teaching in the cross-cultural psychology field.

Daphne's prolific output of published books, research publications and related work is another testament to her enduring intellect, curiosity and generosity towards her field. In their lifetime, the Keats established the John and Daphne Keats Endowment Research Fund to philanthropically support research in the School of Psychology. This fund provides an invaluable resource to PhD students and staff to support pilot and small projects that enable subsequent large collaborative cross-cultural grants and initiatives.

Daphne's generous bequest to the Endowment Fund and the Daphne Keats Chair in Cross-Cultural Psychology will ensure that her passion and legacy will continue to positively impact researchers and research output for generations to come.

# MS RITA LEECH



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**The late Rita Leech knew the importance of education and hated discrimination, oppression and injustice. Her passion for equity will live on through the Rita Leech Indigenous Scholarship.**

Maria Theresia van Zon, Rita Leech, was born in the Netherlands. As a teenager she knew war and occupation, cold, fear and near starvation. As one of many siblings and partly owing to the depredations of war, Rita had no opportunity for the tertiary education for which she was so eminently suited.

As a young woman Rita came to Australia. She was intelligent, feisty and determined, quickly learning the modes and mores of a new country. Throughout her life she was a vocal opponent of all forms of injustice. After her husband died, she moved to the Central Coast. On learning of the dreadful colonial legacy with regard to Indigenous people, she volunteered for many years with the local Aboriginal Reconciliation Group.

In her seventies, she decided to go to university, majoring in French and German and gaining high distinctions. At that point fate led to Bernard, the love of her later life. With typical courage, she chose their life together above completing her studies, having proved to herself that she could succeed academically.

This scholarship is the fruit of Rita's life experience and love of justice.

# MRS JESSIE BARRIE SPEIGHT

**The late Jessie Barrie Speight was a charitable woman. She has left an ongoing legacy to medical research.**

Jessie shared her life with her beloved husband, the late John Speight, and was a treasured sister and aunty to her family.

Jessie chose to leave part of her estate to the University of Newcastle, which was an unexpected but greatly appreciated gift. We don't know much about Jessie, but we would love to learn more so we can appropriately recognise her generosity. We do know that her kindness will change the lives of many through her legacy to medical research.

Jessie's gift will allow our researchers to make further breakthroughs that will change lives for the better. Her generosity supports our commitment to prioritise and invest in research that impacts the health of local and global communities.

Jessie's commitment to helping others and her passion for supporting medical research is reflected in her other public bequest to The Cancer Information & Support Society. We are honoured to be part of Jessie's legacy and know that her generosity will help future generations to live healthier lives.

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# WHY I HAVE CHOSEN TO LEAVE A BEQUEST

“I thought I would help by leaving my estate to the University’s Shaping Futures Scholarship Fund to support disadvantaged medical students. I would like to think the funds could help hard-working students who may do something wonderful with their future.”

**Margaret Brewer**



Thank you for taking the time  
to honour and remember  
some remarkable supporters  
of the University of Newcastle.

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## FIND OUT MORE

If you would like to know more about the  
inspiring people featured in this booklet,  
to discuss a gift in your Will or update us on  
your wishes, please contact Catherine using  
the details below.



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