

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT



1965

The University of Newcastle opens its doors, with the first 138 students graduating in 1966.



1973

The Great Hall opens following a community “buy-a-brick” campaign started by alumni and former Lord Mayor, Dr Frank Purdue CBE.



1974

Open Foundation is established to provide a free pathway program to gain entry to the University. Today, it's the oldest and largest program of its kind in Australia.



1978

2NURFM begins broadcasting and is keeping our community connected decades later with the support of donors.



1981

Friends of the University forms and goes on to raise over \$1 million for scholarships and university projects to date.



1983

From its beginnings in the 1980's, the Wollotuka Institute formed to support the academic, health, practical and employment needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.



2011

The First Shaping Futures Scholarship is awarded and has since helped more than 670 students in need of financial support to achieve their dreams through education.



2010

The University launches its first workplace donation program. Now known as the Staff Donor Collective, members have donated close to \$500,000 to support causes through the University.



2002

The Newcastle Australia Institute of Higher Education in Singapore is opened.



1995

The Development Office is established to fundraise across the University and is now known as the Office of Alumni and Philanthropy.



1993

Harold Brawn leaves a \$5 million bequest to honour his wife, Gladys Brawn, in support of medical research.



1990

The first students graduate from the Indigenous Australian Medical Students Program.



2017

The Ma & Morley Scholarship Program is launched with a US\$20 million gift from the Jack Ma Foundation – the largest individual donation in the University's history. Formed through friendship, the Program aims to empower the next generation of globally aware and socially conscious leaders.



2018

The Paul Ramsay Foundation's \$17.4 million grant for quality teaching rounds is announced, with a further \$4.28 million pledged in 2024 – the largest philanthropic partnership supporting research in the University's history.



2021

The Mark Hughes Foundation establishes a dedicated research team led by the inaugural MHF Chair in Brain Cancer. A further generous donation in 2022 establishes the Mark Hughes Foundation Centre for Brain Cancer Research at the University, with over \$17.8 million pledged to date.



2022

Gifting Day launches bringing together staff, students, alumni and friends, and has since raised more than \$785,000 for programs to benefit our communities.



2025

Alumni Belinda and Adam MacDougall support female entrepreneurs with a gift to the Female Leadership and Innovation Program (FLiP).



The Sir William Tyree Foundation continues its support of scholarships, bringing their total pledge to almost \$1 million.



The 200,000th alum graduates. The University celebrates six decades of academic excellence, innovation and community impact.

Over 60 years, more than 12,000 people donate over \$200 million to shape a better tomorrow through the University of Newcastle.