

THE GIFT



TEAMING UP TO TACKLE BRAIN CANCER

**MARK HUGHES FOUNDATION COMMITS \$7.5 MILLION
TO SUPPORT BRAIN CANCER RESEARCH**



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

PHILANTHROPY NEWS

How your giving makes a difference

SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION

NEWS UPDATE



A PLACE FOR CONNECTION, CONVERSATION AND CELEBRATION

Congratulations to the winners of the Alumni House design competition Durbach Block Jagers Architects teaming up with Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture, Cox Inall Ridgeway, Surface Design and Northrop! The team have developed this truly inspiring concept that, when built, will be an exceptional home for our global alumni and wider community and an iconic landmark within the Newcastle CBD.

“Alumni House is a place for past and future connections. An alumni building is both for gathering in the present and sharing the memories of past experiences. Alumni House is a beacon, lighting the way back and forward”

Durbach Block Jagers Architects

This has been an exciting step towards realising the University’s aspiration to create Alumni House for our community. The University will now embark on a philanthropic fundraising campaign over the next two years to bring Alumni House to life.

Alumni House concept design by Durbach Block Jagers with Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture, Cox Inall Ridgeway, Surface Design and Northrop



“I have such fond memories of my time as a student and am very proud to call myself an alumnus of the University of Newcastle. For

the international alumni community, the opportunities created by Alumni House will extend around the globe, becoming a virtual engagement hub for us to connect with friends, industry and the Newcastle community and I look forward to visiting our new home for alumni in the city centre”

Sanket Bothra
Bachelor of Business, 2010

SHAPING FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP AND 2NURFM APPEAL IMPACT

Our Mid-Year Shaping Futures Scholarship Appeal saw an overwhelming response from our staff, alumni and community who collectively and very generously donated over \$150,000!

As shared in our Appeal letter which featured Georgia, a young Gomeri woman and Shaping Futures Scholarship recipient, over 720 students who faced unfair barriers to accessing higher education applied for a Shaping Futures Scholarship this year – a 20% increase from last year.

With the critical need for scholarships growing, we are so incredibly grateful for your support of our students. Your collective generosity, and the additional support through the University's matched scholarship initiative will see an additional 57 Shaping Futures Scholarships awarded next year – that's 57 students who won't miss out on the support they have courageously reached out for.

We are so thankful to all of our donors, who are passionate about a variety of causes and impactful initiatives across the University. While the majority of our supporters donated to Shaping Futures Scholarships (\$128,780), over \$20,000 in donations were directed to life-changing research and Student Hardship Grants.

The University's non-profit community radio station, 2NURFM, received wonderful support from the community through their mid-year appeal. More than 400 2NURFM supporters collectively donated over \$35,000 which will contribute to the much-needed replacement of studio equipment. This support ensures that 2NURFM will be here to stay.

SHAPING FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP APPEAL:

\$151,145*

RAISED BY **184 DONORS**



2NURFM APPEAL:

\$35,384

RAISED BY **464 DONORS**



LET'S SHAPE TOMORROW



2022
GIFTING DAY

GIFTING DAY 2022

It's a gift to bring together passionate people who make our world a better place.

And so, in the first quarter of 2022, the University will hold its first ever Gifting Day – uniting supporters, friends and believers, from near and far to shape a better tomorrow.

Gifting Day will empower our community of supporters to come together and make significant change for important causes, not only in our local communities, but potentially on a global scale.

The projects that you can support and raise awareness for are guided by four themes:

- Connected Communities
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Life-Changing Research
- A Sustainable Tomorrow

Stay tuned as we announce all the ways you can make an impact on Gifting Day!

To learn more about this exciting campaign, or to join our community of Gifting Day Ambassadors, visit newcastle.edu.au/gifting-day or contact Bec Stone on 02 4921 8612 or donor-relations@newcastle.edu.au

A PLACE FOR YOU

To read stories from students and researchers highlighting the impact of your generosity, visit our thank you page

newcastle.edu.au/thankyou

*Does not include the University's matched commitment, which is an additional \$100,000

TEAMING UP TO TACKLE BRAIN CANCER



The Mark Hughes Foundation (MHF) has committed \$7.5 million to fund a dedicated brain cancer team to drive critical research, education and health care improvements for brain cancer patients and their families.

The generous philanthropic commitment to the University of Newcastle will scale up Australia's brain cancer research over the next five years in an effort to significantly improve treatments and patient outcomes that have changed little in the past 30 years.

 Mark Hughes Foundation members (L-R Nicolas Dan, Julie Ainsworth, Britt Owens, Kirralee Hughes, Mark Hughes, Jenny Hawes and Sharyn Rogers)

Brain cancer kills more Australians under 40 than any other disease. It is the most complex cancer yet it is the most under-studied. Survival rates have hardly changed for 30 years.



“This generous gift from the Mark Hughes Foundation means we can accelerate the urgent work needed to provide better care and treatment outcomes for every brain cancer patient around the world.”

Professor Zee Upton
Pro Vice-Chancellor (College of Health,
Medicine and Wellbeing)

Former Newcastle Knights NRL player and father of three, Mark Hughes, hopes that a dedicated brain cancer team at the University of Newcastle will build on the momentum of existing collaborators to form a world-leading team to tackle this complex cancer.

“Our commitment will take brain cancer research to the next level – and quickly. By partnering with the University of Newcastle we are expanding the support team around every brain cancer patient, not just here, but everywhere around the world,” said Mr Hughes.



BRAIN POWER TO TARGET MOST COMPLEX CANCER

Harnessing the undeniable power of a team approach is at the core of the new philanthropic partnership. Taking research out of the lab and into the community will be a priority, with the University of Newcastle brain cancer team partnering with clinicians, patients and their families as part of the research program.

Each year around 1,600 Australians are diagnosed with brain cancer – and around 1,200 die – yet it is chronically underfunded, receiving less than 5 per cent of government cancer research funding.

The much-needed research will span all ages, but the team will seek to fill a recognised gap in adult brain cancer. Prevention, early detection, recovery and rehabilitation, treatments and models of care for all stages of brain cancer will be under the spotlight; and there will be opportunities for early career researchers and PhD candidates to drive future research in the field.



📹 Professor Brian Kelly, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) speaks to University of Newcastle staff at the Beanie for Brain Cancer fundraiser

📹 University of Newcastle staff at the Beanie for Brain Cancer fundraiser at Callaghan Campus after hearing from two of our own, Sarah Nash and Grace Bates, who shared their families' stories of battling brain cancer and how the Mark Hughes Foundation has been there every step of the way

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Newcastle, Professor Brian Kelly said in recruiting the Mark Hughes Foundation Chair in Brain Cancer, the University will be looking for both a cutting-edge researcher, and a committed and active clinician.

"To crack this disease and make a difference to the lives of people with brain cancer and their families we need fresh ideas and the courage to pursue them.

"We want our work to both improve the lives of people with brain cancer straight away and future-proof brain cancer research. Breakthroughs can happen when new perspectives and voices are heard."

BACKED BY THE MARK HUGHES FOUNDATION

The University of Newcastle is honoured to be building on the immense community support already generated by the Mark Hughes Foundation. After Mark was diagnosed with a high-grade brain tumour in 2013, he and his wife Kirralee Hughes formed the Foundation to raise funds for research, create awareness and support brain cancer patients and their families. By working together, we can urgently advance outcomes for brain cancer research and education to help families in Australia and across the globe struggling with this devastating disease.

To celebrate this great partnership why not grab your very own MHF beanie from markhughesfoundation.com.au

VALE VERA DEACON: CELEBRATING REGIONAL HISTORY



Vera Deacon OAM (1926 – 2021) brought Newcastle's history to life.

Vera Deacon left an indelible mark on her beloved city of Newcastle and most certainly the University of Newcastle. Vera tirelessly championed the safeguarding of our region's history and shared her stories and passions with many.

Vera's deep connection with the University began many years ago when she took the stories from her childhood and turned them into a gift for future generations by establishing the Vera Deacon Regional History Fund.

Since its establishment in 2008, the fund has received over \$300,000 in donations. These contributions have provided employment opportunities, mentoring and work experience opportunities. This has allowed library staff, volunteers and students to uncover, preserve and safeguard the region's important historical archives.

The Vera Deacon Regional History fund, through the commitment and generosity of our philanthropic community, will continue to be a focus for the University. Together we can enable Vera's remarkable legacy to live on and continue to make a difference in our region for years to come.

 Vera Deacon OAM in the University's Auchmuty Library, Special Collections office 2017

A PORTAL TO THE PAST

Hundreds of boxes containing thousands of individual items have been added to the University's Special Collections thanks to contributions to the Fund.

Digitised items include:

- A collection of Hunter regional maps and subdivision plans that would cover 2.5km if laid out in a straight line
- Thousands of local photographic images attracting over 70 million hits on photo sharing platform, Flickr
- 1,300 oral history recordings spanning hundreds of hours
- More than 5,000 pages of historical records from children's homes
- Two entire series of NBN TV programs from the 1970s and 1980s

The collection has also mapped 5,500 Aboriginal placenames across NSW and sponsored the creation of a virtual reality 3D Aboriginal Newcastle landscape amongst other projects.



"Vera Deacon's generosity over many years has strengthened our links to the past and benefited the community she loved. We are forever grateful for the cultural riches and conservation opportunities she has given us all."

Gianni Di Gravio OAM
University Archivist

The team in archives have wonderful aspirations to continue Vera's legacy. [If you would like to donate to the fund or learn more on how you can help the Vera Deacon Regional History Fund](#), please contact Bec Stone on 02 4921 8612 or donor-relations@newcastle.edu.au

ENGINEERING LEGEND INSPIRES NEXT GENERATION



When alumnus Mr CHOO Heng Thong (Bachelor of Engineering 1977) graduated from the University of Newcastle he had been forever impacted by the leadership and friendship of leading engineering educator Emeritus Professor Alan Roberts AM.

It was this deep connection and admiration that led Mr CHOO in 2011 to generously donate and initiate the Professor Alan Roberts Undergraduate Scholarship in Engineering, in recognition and thanks for his inspiring leadership over many decades.

Mr CHOO's vision was to grow a community of Professor Alan Roberts Scholars who shared Alan's passion for engineering, innovative research and solving problems within the industry.

Ten years on, seventeen gifted students have benefited from this much needed support; enabling them to overcome hardship to study engineering. Many other donors, inspired by Professor Alan Roberts have supported the fund. Through a collective effort, the fund is currently providing scholarships to up to four students annually in perpetuity. We hope to continue to grow the fund in Alan's name to enable its positive impact for generations to come.



"Giving a scholarship to a student is a way for us to recognise their hidden potential. Support for that should not end with one scholarship or one student. It should continue for as long as possible."

Emeritus Professor Alan Roberts AM

📺 Engineering students Mikayla, Ahmad, Zachariah and John recently toured TUNRA Bulk Solids with Emeritus Professor Roberts, with Mr CHOO joining them from Singapore via Zoom



"When I look back on my early years as a student at the University of Newcastle, I consider it a wonderful gift to have had been taught by a person such as Alan

Roberts. This helped me enormously in my own career and prompted me to consider how I can give back and ensure his outstanding legacy will continue."

CHOO Heng Thong

"This scholarship isn't necessarily about being the highest achiever. It's about supporting students who demonstrate motivation, commitment, and determination to succeed. These are qualities embodied by Alan Roberts in his life's work," says Mr CHOO.

Professor Alan Roberts has been an expert in the field of bulk solids handling for over 50 years, including 40 years at the University of Newcastle. A great champion of industry collaboration and innovation, Professor Roberts remains active in his research, consulting and mentoring roles despite having formally 'retired' at the end of 1993.

Do you enjoy hearing stories about other donors and what inspires them? Check out our donor videos at newcastle.edu.au/our-supporters

PARTNERING TOWARDS A BRIGHTER JOURNEY AHEAD



The Guyati, Garraka wa Witing Speech Pathology Project is a ground-breaking program to address the critical shortage of speech pathology services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in rural NSW.

The University of Newcastle is honoured to partner with not-for-profit organisations Gunawirra, the Dalaigur and Scribbly Gum Dalai Preschools in Kempsey, and philanthropic supporters, the Vonwiller Foundation to establish this unique pilot program. This much needed program will see final year Speech Pathology students help to empower communities and address early speech and language difficulties.

Named by community elders, *Guyati, Garraka wa Witing* means *Talk, Mouth and Lips* in the Dunghutti language.

📹 A smoking ceremony performed by Uncle John Kelly (Kempsey) at the launch of the program attended by local Aboriginal elders, the Director and Board Members from Dalaigur and Scribbly Gum Dalai Preschools, the CEO and Chairperson of Gunawirra, donors Chris and Julie Vonwiller, University staff, the Mayor of Kempsey, and pre-school children



“Watching this program come to life and seeing the beautiful collaboration form was just amazing to be a part of. Now watching and helping mould the program, seeing the students working with our children, staff and families has been truly wonderful. The emotions throughout the launch ceremony just showed the passion we all have to make a difference in our young Aboriginal children and their family’s lives. This program has so much potential, and this is just the beginning.”

Debbie Swanson
Director of Dalaigur & Scribbly Gum Dalai



“Gunawirra has worked closely with Dalaigur and Scribbly Gum Dalai Preschools for many years. We have always understood the needs of these preschool communities and have always set about

providing services that meet those needs. Working together with the Dalaigur and Scribbly Gum Dalai Preschools, Newcastle University and the Vonwiller Foundation, we will establish greater speech pathology services to assist in the child's educational development, which enables these children to be more confident and happier within themselves.”

Graham Toomey
Chief Executive Officer at Gunawirra

- Only 4.5% of speech pathology practitioners provide services to rural communities, with a handful of these being in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Most states and territories have no speech pathology services in public school systems at all.
- Rates of ear disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are amongst some of the highest in the world.
- Hearing loss related to ear disease can have direct impacts on children's speech, language and learning, social and emotional wellbeing and behaviour.

ADDRESSING THE SKILLS AND SERVICES SHORTAGE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children face many challenges around speech, language and literacy. Issues stem from complex health and social factors, compounded by long waiting lists for limited services.

This program will fill the high need for culturally appropriate speech pathology services for pre-school children and address the severe shortage of qualified professionals to fill the demand. It will also provide opportunities for final year Speech Pathology students to use their skills in real world situations whilst making a positive impact in the lives of children and families within this community.

University of Newcastle Speech Pathology Lecturer Dr Gwendalyn Webb said the aim was to develop a scalable model that can be rolled out to other rural and remote preschools to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in other communities.

“We know that early intervention for preschool-aged children is key to developing speech, language and literacy skills that will help children throughout the rest of their lives,” Dr Webb said.

“Extending this pilot program across NSW could have a huge impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's literacy and communication skills and ensure all of our children can reach their full potential.”

STUDENTS DEVELOPING CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Fourth-year Speech Pathology student Anuja Mehta was one of two University of Newcastle students selected as the inaugural students to complete her final year placement at Dalaigur and Scribbly Gum Dalai preschools as part of the program.

“Working with the children, care staff and families to build skills around hearing and communication and give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children the best chance of success when they start school was hugely rewarding. As a qualified Speech Pathologist, I hope I can continue to make a difference in this area.”



“Thanks to the generous support of the Vonwiller Foundation we can better support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children develop literacy and communication

skills and address the urgent need for speech pathology services in NSW.”

Dr Gwendalyn Webb (PhD, 2018)
Lecturer, School of Humanities and Social Science (Speech Pathology)

For more information about the impact this program is making, contact Leanne Innes on 02 4921 8612 or email donor-relations@newcastle.edu.au

HONOURING A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

As decorated Royal Australian Air Force personnel, the late couple, wife Krista and husband David Thompson lived their lives in service to others. Their lifetime of giving continues through their decision to leave a gift in their will to support disadvantaged students through the David Thompson Science Scholarship.

Krista and David Thompson were a remarkable couple, both retiring from the RAAF as Group Captains after distinguished service careers.

David 'Thommo' Thompson reached great heights in Air Traffic operations and command after studying Applied Physics when he left high school. In 2017, David passed away and passionate about keeping his memory alive, Krista set up a scholarship in his honour.

When Krista passed away in March 2020, not only did she leave behind a history of remarkable generosity, she chose to leave a bequest to the David Thompson Science Scholarship Fund, which will enable science students to continue to be supported through a yearly \$5,000 scholarship for decades to come.



 The late Krista and David Thompson who both served in the Royal Australian Air Force



“I am so grateful to have received this opportunity. It’s incredible to hear this scholarship will continue to help other students through their studies. For me, the Scholarship allowed me to take more opportunities, and have a deeper focus towards my studies. It also allowed me to participate in an international experience to study climate change issues affecting the Pacific Islands, which gave me a deeper passion for studying environmental science, both locally and internationally.”

Isabella Curtis

Bachelor of Science student and 2019 David Thompson Scholarship recipient

A LIFELONG PROBLEM SOLVER

As the first female to command a military unit in Afghanistan, Krista Thompson was known for her systematic and creative approach to problem-solving. Whether it be placing jet fighters in the sky to form a pattern, or managing her own health challenges, Krista was tenacious and inquisitive. Friends say she had ‘more ideas and projects than days to complete them’. Her bequest will create a lasting opportunity for inquiring minds to make a difference.



Our gifts in wills brochure is a guide to making a lasting impact beyond your lifetime.

To receive your free copy, contact Jessica Moore on 02 4921 8612 or email donor-relations@newcastle.edu.au

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP PUTS WASTE TO WORK

Turning trash into treasure, a new partnership between the University of Newcastle and Newcastle city's first five star hotel, Crystalbrook Kingsley, will put students, researchers and waste to work in a bid to drive sustainability in our community and reduce waste in the hospitality industry.

The partnership will see an annual \$5,000 Crystalbrook Kingsley Environmental Scholarship granted to a University of Newcastle student with a passion for practical solutions to improve environmental sustainability. Scholarship recipients will have the opportunity to work directly with the hotel to implement world-leading environmental practices and to collaborate in the discovery of new ways to reduce waste through research.

Crystalbrook Kingsley will also donate restaurant and bar waste to the University of Newcastle's Food Science Research Group in a collaboration that will see waste upcycled into new products for use in the hospitality industry.



▣ Newcastle's landmark Roundhouse building is now the newly opened Crystalbrook Kingsley, Newcastle city's first five-star hotel



“Our innovative collaboration with Crystalbrook Kingsley will ensure that our students and researchers stay at the forefront of waste utilisation research while finding new and creative ways to reuse waste products and reduce our environmental footprint.”

Professor Lee Smith
Pro Vice-Chancellor Engineering,
Science and Environment

DAILY DECISIONS DELIVER BIG CHANGE

The University of Newcastle has been named #1 in the world for partnering for a more sustainable future in the 2021 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings. Our collaboration with Crystalbrook Kingsley will unite our shared vision to deliver tangible change through innovative environmental solutions.

From removing the tiny shampoo bottles in guest bathrooms to serving locally sourced food in its bars and restaurants, Crystalbrook Kingsley is leading the hospitality industry with a commitment to sustainability and an appetite for opportunities that reduce its environmental impact. They are the first to introduce 100% waste free bathroom amenities across their portfolio. In two years the hotel group has saved over three million plastic bottles from entering landfill.

Together, the research partnership and scholarships will improve sustainability in our community and the hospitality industry worldwide while creating timely innovation to lead change and reduce our environmental footprint across other industries.

For a copy of the University's Environmental Sustainability Plan 2019-2025, contact James Rooney on 02 4921 8612 or donor-relations@newcastle.edu.au



2021 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings

WHY I GIVE

"I am a great believer in access to education, especially for women. It can be empowering and transformative. The scholarships offered by the University can make tertiary education a reality, not just a dream, for young women in our region.

My association with the University goes back to the 1980s when my mum worked in the printing department. I would visit her when I was on campus. When I came back to study again, I was a mum with three kids and a full-time job. Many things had changed in 20 years, but the parking woes (and the mosquitos) remained the same!

I'll never forget the dedication of my lecturers and tutors – they wanted to see their students succeed. One of my favourites was our statistics lecturer. He brought that dry subject to life with props, audience participation and real-life examples. I managed a credit (much to my surprise) largely due to his unorthodox lecturing style and a fantastic tutor.

All three of my children have or are currently studying at the University of Newcastle. I love that we have a world class facility locally so that they can continue to live at home and have family support while pursuing their dreams."

Anne Swan



Anne (Master of Environmental Management 2016; Bachelor of Environmental Science 2011), Zachary (Bachelor of Arts 2020), Glenn, Lachlan and Georgia

What's your story? Everyone has a different story about why they donate through the University of Newcastle and we would love to hear yours! Please email donor-relations@newcastle.edu.au or call 02 4921 8612

MEET THE TEAM



VAIDA SHAW

Fundraising Officer
(Community Giving)

My job, in a nutshell, is to support the development of our community giving programs and help deliver the University's inaugural Gifting Day that is coming up in 2022.

My favourite part of the job is

seeing the difference we can make in people's lives, our work truly has such a meaningful impact.

I'd like to be stuck in a lift with

someone who knows how to fix it because I'm very claustrophobic!

One day I'd love to travel again and see the Seven Wonders of the World.

Want to talk to us about our community giving initiatives?

Contact Vaida by calling 02 4921 8612 or emailing vaida.shaw@newcastle.edu.au

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

DONATE ONLINE

At our secure website:

EMAIL

Contact us at:
donor-relations@newcastle.edu.au

TELEPHONE

Call us on: +61 2 4921 8612

MAIL YOUR CHEQUE TO:

Office of Alumni and Philanthropy
IDC Building, University Drive
Callaghan, NSW 2308

IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE THE GIFT BY EMAIL

Please contact us at
donor-relations@newcastle.edu.au

Tax deductibility: Donations of \$2 or more to the University of Newcastle may be eligible deductions for income tax purposes under the Income Tax Act 1997. Privacy: The University of Newcastle complies with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998. Your personal information will be securely stored.

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