From our early beginnings, we at the University of Newcastle have much to be grateful for. We pride ourselves on the fact that the University was established by a groundswell of support from the community.

The vision of the founding fathers was that the Great Hall be the symbolic heart of the institution, taking centre stage for official celebrations and ceremonies.

However, it was only through community support that the Great Hall was ever built. The fledgling university, which was granted autonomy in 1965, didn’t have the finances to construct the building alone. In the true spirit of philanthropy the community stepped in to raise the much needed funds. Former Lord Mayor of Newcastle Frank Purdue headed the fundraising campaign, beginning in 1966 with a public appeal for $600,000.

Long-time university supporter Bill Burges recalls his parents William and Iris Burges being actively involved in the fundraising campaign.

“My mother used to bake cakes and sell them at cakes stalls to raise money to build the Great Hall. We all threw our support behind the new university – our university.”

The money was raised through larger corporate donations and significant community support - the ‘buy-a-brick’ campaign gave everyone a chance to have a stake in the building and the University. The final funding came from a matching grant from the Commonwealth and State governments.

But the community support did not stop here. Not only did the community raise the

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**INSIDE THE GIFT**

- Singapore alumni give back
- Bequest funds research into Diabetes
- Industry partners fund new Professor
- Graduate wins national art prize
- Scholarship kicks starts medical career

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The gift of the Great Hall is one of the earliest examples of how philanthropy has played a significant role in building and shaping this institution. Donations and sponsorships have touched every one of our faculties and schools, funded buildings and community spaces, supported life-changing research and projects that make a real difference in our community. It has also funded equipment, provided vital research tools and collections such as art, insects and books. Donations have also given assistance to students through scholarships and prizes to help relieve the financial burden of studying and also reward them for their achievements.

And as we approach our 50th anniversary in 2015 it is a wonderful time to pay tribute to the role the community has played in helping the University of Newcastle become the success it is today. The anniversary is about celebrating an institution that has its foundations in philanthropy as well how the relationship with the community forged our current path.

The Great Hall was officially opened in 1973 and since that time more than 125,000 students from 121 different countries have donned their graduation gowns, carefully climbed the stairs, tipped their caps and proudly accepted their testamur.

One wonders if those who bought a brick or made a donation in the late 60s could have imagined how the University of Newcastle would grow and flourish into what it is today.

The University has matured to an institution that is global in its outlook. We are no longer a small institution on the outskirts of the city of Newcastle. We now embrace many communities beyond the Hunter and our graduates are spread around the world. We are a major force educationally, economically, socially, and culturally.

The greatest of our achievements in the past 50 years have occurred because our supporters shared our vision. The ongoing commitment of our supporters has played an integral role in making that difference between a good and a truly great institution.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Through philanthropic support and corporate partnerships, the Foundation aims to advance the University’s strategic goals in research, education and community projects - all ultimately for the enrichment and advancement of our community. We will be working hard with the support of donors, partners, alumni and friends to realise a number of exciting initiatives around four core themes: Students, Spaces, Solutions and Sustainability.

We are establishing a Centre of Excellence in Equity for Higher Education, so that all students with the ambition and ability to come to university can realise their dream, irrespective of their background or circumstance.

The University is also embarking on an innovative building project in the Newcastle CBD. ‘NeW Space’ will offer state of the art teaching facilities for our Business and Law students.

And we are also introducing new Global Innovation Chairs, who will be the world’s top experts in emerging fields who have a track record in innovation. This will also strengthen the University’s reputation as a player on the world stage and in turn attract the best and brightest to our University.

2015 marks our 50th anniversary. We are very much looking forward to reconnecting with our alumni and friends to celebrate this important milestone. As mentioned in our cover story the Great Hall, was built through philanthropic support. This anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on all of those who contributed to making the University what it is today.

Giving is one of life’s simple pleasures and I hope you have gained some personal satisfaction from giving to support the many causes at the University of Newcastle.

Every gift makes a difference, no matter how large or small. From me, personally, thank you again for your generous support. I’m looking forward to seeing in what exciting ways our paths cross again this year.

Rebecca Hazell
Director of Development
New doctor Melanie Hudson has big plans and even bigger dreams. Her medical career has been kicked started thanks to the help and support of a scholarship.

Melanie was assisted financially during her studies by the Dr Pat Stevens Memorial Scholarship, which is funded by friends, relatives and colleagues of the much loved Taree doctor who passed away in 2007.

Dr Stevens was a long serving GP, who was involved in a wide range of sporting, cultural and medical activities in the Manning Valley.

According to one of the scholarship donors, Dr David Keegan, Dr Stevens was much loved and admired by his many friends and family, colleagues and patients and is greatly missed.

"The scholarship is a great way to honour his memory," Dr Keegan said.

Prior to winning the scholarship, Melanie was working two jobs trying to support herself and study at the same time.

"Winning the scholarship meant I didn't have to work as much, it was really good to be able to focus on my studies and I achieved better results because of it," Melanie said.

She has also recently returned from a trip to Ghana, where she volunteered at an orphanage while also working in a local hospital.

"I really appreciate how much the scholarship helped with my living and travelling expenses and it has opened up so many opportunities for me."

The scholarship also helped Melanie while she undertook a year-long rural placement at Manning Hospital for her fourth year of medicine degree.

Melanie wants to work more in rural areas and explore her passion for Indigenous health. And with her love of travel, Melanie also hopes to establish a future career in international aid relief.
Improving the quality of life of chronic pain sufferers is the aim of new research which has been supported by a philanthropic gift.

Ruth White is the latest recipient of the Ann Taylor PhD Scholarship in Primary Health Care Research.

The research higher degree scholarship was established to honour Ann Taylor, a well-respected nurse, by Cessnock Community Healthcare (formally known as the Cessnock Uni-Clinic).

Ruth’s research focuses on providing better care for chronic pain sufferers by using physiotherapy and cognitive behaviour therapy instead of relying on medication for treatment.

“‘We have been saying that it is safe and effective to take drugs for chronic pain long-term, now we are finding it’s not as harmless as we first thought.”

The support from the scholarship will help Ruth to purchase some much needed equipment for her research. It will also help in her day-to-day living expenses.

“The scholarship means I don’t have to keep working full time, I can have more time during the week to focus on my research.”

Although Ruth is still at the initial stages of her PhD, after completing it she hopes to continue to work and research simultaneously in the pain management and primary care areas.

The appointment of a new professor is set to further enhance the established record of the University’s Construction Management program as well as helping to build Australia’s construction industry, thanks to the support of industry partners.

Professor Peter Davis, a respected academic and industry professional with more than 30 years’ experience, has been appointed the newly established Chair of Construction Management.

Jointly funded by two of Australia’s leading construction companies – Lend Lease and John Holland – together with the University, the Chair will drive construction research and the teaching of more than 1,000 students.

“We look forward to seeing Professor Davis work on increasing the growing bank of national and international knowledge about construction management,” said Professor Brett Ninness, Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment.

“We gratefully acknowledge the generous contribution by Lend Lease and John Holland through the University of Newcastle Foundation to fund this Chair,” Professor Ninness said.

Lend Lease’s CEO, Construction and Infrastructure, David Saxelby, said Lend Lease was pleased to support Professor Davis as he helps develop and inspire the construction leaders of tomorrow.

John Holland’s Executive GM for Infrastructure, Chris Evans, said the appointment will help to ensure the improvement of construction management standards in Australia, to ensure the industry goes from strength to strength.

Professor Davis commenced teaching and research at Curtin University in 1994, prior to this working almost two decades in the private construction sector. He was most recently Professor and Head of the School of Built Environment at Curtin University.

“We have been saying that it is safe and effective to take drugs for chronic pain long-term, now we are finding it’s not as harmless as we first thought.”
2012 Jennie Thomas Travelling Art Scholar Shan Turner-Carroll has been making waves in the art world.

He was announced the 2013 winner of the prestigious $35,000 Dr Harold Schenberg Art Prize, a national prize established by the respected West Australian dermatologist.

Shan’s works were also selected to represent the University at the Hatched National Graduate Art exhibition, which featured 37 artists from 20 art schools across Australia at the Perth Institute of Creative Arts.

His Honours series ‘Primal Crown’ references his Burmese ancestry and Papua New Guinea family history and upbringing.

Of his inclusion in Hatched and his prize win Shan said was an honour and a great start to his fledging art career.

“To be included in the Hatched exhibition was huge for me but being selected for the prize was completely unexpected.

“Winning the Schenberg prize and knowing that people are connecting with my work will really allow me to further explore the concepts and processes that I’m interested in.”

2013 was a big year for Shan - he also travelled to Myanmar (Burma) with his Jennie Thomas Travelling Art Scholarship to explore his family history through photography. We look forward to see what 2014 has on offer for the talented artist.
A generous bequest is helping to fund research into preventing the onset of Type 2 diabetes in men at risk.

PhD candidate Elroy Aguiar is the first researcher to be awarded the Neville Eric Sansom Scholarship, which will assist him financially while he undertakes his pilot study.

“In this study I’m hoping to reduce some of the risk factors for Type 2 diabetes. We are trying to help these men lose weight, modify their diet and increase their exercise.

*Type 2 diabetes is one of the fastest growing chronic diseases in Australia. This is despite the fact that the majority of cases are preventable.

*Initially I am following 100 men for six months but I want to expand the project in the future. I’m truly grateful for this support.*

Fifty three year old Stewart McGowan is one of the participants in the pilot study. Both his father and uncle suffered from Type 2 diabetes.

“Through this study I’ve found out simple things, that I didn’t know to help me reduce my risk of getting diabetes. I’ve lost weight and am spending a lot more time exercising with my family, including taking my son on bike rides, which he loves,” Stewart said.

The early death of Eric Sansom’s son from complications from diabetes was the catalyst for the $350,000 bequest to the University to fund new research into the causes, treatment or prevention of the disease.

Mr Sansom wished to ensure his son’s legacy lived on through research into this condition.

Libby Rodgers-McPhee from the Foundation said making a bequest to the University of Newcastle is not just a gift – it’s an investment in the future.

“Each of us finds different ways to make our mark on the world. Eric Sansom is supporting something he was passionate about.”

Elroy’s research is also being funded through community donations to the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI).

DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE A LASTING IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

We believe education is the key.

You can help by leaving a bequest to the University of Newcastle.

By making a bequest in your Will to the University of Newcastle you can help fund life changing research or a scholarship that helps students to gain an education.

“My education has been so important to me on the path I have taken in my own life, so giving money to the University makes sense to me and links me to my interests – medicine, the environment and engineering.” – Roy Palmer

For more information on making a bequest contact the University of Newcastle Foundation on (02) 4921 7453 or visit www.newcastle.edu.au/foundation.

It’s your choice. It’s your legacy.
SUPPORTER ‘THANK YOU’ EVENT

This special evening was not only a chance for us to say ‘thank you’ all our generous supporters but also showcase some of the ways in which your gifts are having a significant impact on the lives of students, the outcomes of our research, and the well-being of our community.

More than 100 people joined us for the event at the Foundation’s new home, the Industry Development Centre to celebrate the achievements of the past 12-months. Guests were also entertained and inspired by the stories of researcher Dr Francis Kay-Lambkin and the adventures of scholarship recipient Declan Clausen.

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