Donors are helping Kate McEntee to empower the underprivileged.

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YOU’VE HELPED CHANGE IT.
FOR GOOD.

THANK YOU
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gift of scholarship

YOUR SUPPORT
is giving new hope
to dementia patients

DONATIONS
are saving lives
with clean water

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THINKING

Donors are helping Kate McEntee to empower the underprivileged.

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This time last year, Monash University recognised its growing community of donors by unveiling a Donor Wall at the heart of the Clayton campus.

In just five years, tens of thousands of alumni, staff, students and donors have become Champions For Change.

The Monash Change It. For Good. campaign is the largest fundraising campaign launched by the University, and I have been inspired and heartened by the enthusiastic and generous response of our community. In this edition of Champions For Change, we are highlighting projects and programs that are powered by donors joining forces to make the change they want to see in the world.

Change It. For Good. focuses on four priorities that reflect the passions of our alumni, friends, students and staff: education for all, saving lives, global solutions and thriving communities.

For example, each year more than 6500 students are supported by Achieving Potential scholarships, funded by Monash and through the generosity of alumni and other supporters. Many of these academically talented students would not otherwise be able to attend university and participate fully in all that Monash campus life has to offer.

You can read more about Achieving Potential on page 18.

One of our most popular community fundraising programs is the annual Run for Refugees. Last year, more than 240 Monash runners participated in Run Melbourne and the Melbourne Marathon, raising over $125,000. I would particularly like to thank the hundreds of Monash students and staff who ran together and raised funds together in order to provide an opportunity to promising students from our refugee community.

In this edition, we also provide an update on the medical research that has been supported by our community of donors. For example, many of our alumni donors have provided vital funding to the Inhaled Oxytocin Project, and these donations support essential community education programs. You can read the latest on this global initiative on page 21.

I hope you will take a few moments to read about the difference we are making together. I know that I was reminded of the words of the inspirational activist, social worker and longest serving woman in the US Congress, Barbara Mikulski, who once said: “Each one of us can make a difference. Together we make change.”

I look forward to the day, in the not too distant future, when our Donor Wall (pictured left) will feature 50,000 names, and I extend my warmest thanks to the donors who have joined us to Change It. For Good.

Professor Margaret Gardner AC
President and Vice-Chancellor
Monash University
Kate McEntee and Chris Nyineve are addressing inequity through their graduate research.

Innovation is a tricky business, requiring mastery of previous advances alongside sufficient detachment from those norms to visualise something better.

Turning an idea into reality requires a long list of arduous endeavours – creativity, deep thinking, rigorous trial-and-error research, collaboration, mentorship and unremitting determination – as well as a large dollop of luck.

The intensity of the process means that few people have the financial means to follow it through.

Given that innovation is vital to the wellbeing of modern societies, how are the people who undertake this work supported?

Professor Matthew Gillespie, Vice-Provost, Faculty and Graduate Affairs at Monash University, says the answer may surprise some: a good deal of the heavy lifting is actually performed by the humble PhD scholarship.

“Postgraduate students, by and large, are a very strong workforce within a university. They make advances at the cutting edge of human endeavour, and they are a university’s future thought leaders,” he says.

One of the most significant gifts to Monash has recently established the Raydon Scholars program. This transformational endowed PhD scholarship allows six talented Monash University PhD students a year to activate their research as a force for social good. Made possible by a generous $8.8m donation from the Narodowski Investment Trust, it is one of Australia’s largest philanthropic gifts towards supporting the next generation of researchers in the social sciences and humanities field.

All six inaugural scholars are focused on creating positive change in the areas of social justice, inclusion, human rights and sustainability, and are drawn from the faculties of Arts, Law, Education and Art, Design & Architecture (MADA).

“We are deeply grateful for this generous gift, which is supporting some of our best and brightest minds in contributing to impactful research for the social good of the community,” Matthew says.
“I think the donors are doing a great job, and I am confident that, in the future, history will be very kind to them for enabling studies that will bear very great fruit.”

CHRIS NYINEVI

“Water is the most fundamental of human needs, and its scarcity remains one of the world’s most pressing issues. For many, the act of bathing or quenching one’s thirst is a daily battle that all too often ends in tragedy. An estimated 844 million people do not have access to clean water – a shocking reality that sees millions die every year from diseases caused by contaminated water. And as the human population increases and the climate changes, the need to secure a safe water supply intensifies.

Recognising this, Monash University has allied with Oxfam to create the Oxfam–Monash Partnership (OMP). It’s part of the Monash Sustainable Development Institute (MSDI), and seeks to find innovative solutions to global challenges.

In a bid to provide clean, potable water, OMP research and development teams have directed their efforts towards finding better ways to deliver clean, potable water to those in need.”

RAYDON SCHOLAR

CHRIS NYINEVI

“My goal with this PhD project is to work on an alternative strategy that can make change much more rapidly,” Chris says. This involves developing a legal argument that uses existing international legal principles to hold investors accountable and liable for damages they cause.

“Ultimately, I want to provide the foundations for arguing a case at international arbitration that sets a new and fairer precedent,” he says.

Importantly, Chris has a teaching job waiting for him at his alma mater – the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi – where no course in international investment law exists.

That means the expertise and connections Chris gains while at Monash will help build capacity in these issues in Ghana well into the future. Chris is based at Monash Law.

"I grew up in Ghana, West Africa, where I witnessed firsthand a lack of accountability by corporations for abuses of human rights, social justice and the environment, in particular from mining of natural resources,” he says.

He sees an unfair power dynamic within the legal frameworks (customary international law and international investment agreements) that govern these relationships. Legal obligations reside with the host country to protect the investment activity, but grant the nation and its people little recourse to protect human rights and the environment.

While there are initiatives underway to correct such power inequality through new international agreements, this approach entails timeframes measured in decades.

Kate, however, wants to apply it to the design of social services for diverse communities.

To that end, she is broadening the human-centric nature of design thinking by bringing in Kimberlé Crenshaw’s 1989 concept of intersectionality. In this, dominant social identities – race, sex, gender identity, sexuality, able-bodiedness and class – are seen to form a hierarchy of privilege that results in an interlocked system of discrimination and disadvantage.

“I want to develop practices that social service providers can use to explore identity issues to address how these invisible forces of power and privilege make their way into the design of services and perpetuate disempowerment,” she says.

Kate’s ultimate goal is to help ensure that life outcomes aren’t based on people’s identity characteristics. Kate is based at Monash Art Design and Architecture.

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created a desalination system that uses solar-powered membrane-separation technology to remove contaminants. And your support is funding crucial field testing that will enable its introduction into communities. Eleanor Jackson of MSDI says the best way to create change is to work with communities and give people agency over their own lives. It’s this, combined with rigorous research, that forges new solutions to entrenched problems. And, she says, by joining the best of Monash’s meticulous academia with Oxfam’s hands-on approach, positive outcomes for some of the world’s most vulnerable people can be created.

WATER FROM THE SUN

The desalination system treats brackish water to make it safe for humans, providing a cost-effective and energy-efficient solution to water scarcity in both developing countries and regional areas. The solar-driven water purification system achieves continuous clean water production with almost 100 per cent salt removal.

As program lead, Eleanor says the solution is lifesaving, and is one of the most exciting and potentially impactful projects in which she’s been involved.

“Ultimately, the goal is to bestow clean, hygienic drinking water on those in remote and off-grid areas, who are dealing with the ramifications of poor water quality,” she says. Impacts from a lack of clean water can be profound and far-reaching, wrecking communities with death and disease. Children are often riddled with infection and, if they survive, can be permanently weakened and their growth stunted, and their brain development can suffer.

The benefits of clean water and hygienic conditions to families are evident. In developing countries, mothers have reported their children are healthier and more active. They have more energy and are more inquisitive and exuberant.

SUPPORTING ACT

The desalination technology and the OMF would not have occurred without the generosity and the belief of several parties, such as Percy Baxter Charitable Trust and Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation. And just as crucial to its success are big-hearted donors like you who support it.

Donations will play an important role in the success of the desalination system, Eleanor says. They will support its field testing, local redesign and scaling up of the system, which in turn will increase access to clean water for – and the health and wellbeing of – many people.

MSDI donors are helping to provide safe, clean water to those in need and, therefore, are contributing to the health and autonomy of people’s lives.

As the knowledge and innovation on the topic continually expands, Eleanor says it’s a challenging – but exciting – time to be involved in the project and to change the world for good.

“I am pleased to play a role in this project and the potentially profound impact of our innovative and low-cost water treatment system,” Eleanor says. “It could save lives and improve the health and livelihood of people in many remote and off-grid communities across the world. I’m proud to be a part of it.”

The foresight and support of our donors has been crucial to developing this innovative technology solution, which has the potential to benefit some of the most vulnerable people across the world.

ELEANOR JACKSON

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

A TIME FOR CHANGE – TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

In 2016, Monash signed a landmark commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals laid down by the United Nations, with the University pledging its dedication to bringing worldwide economic prosperity, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. The 17 goals include targets for global health, education, gender equality, justice, employment and climate change, and among them is a goal of universally accessible clean water and sanitation.

With Monash, you can play a fundamental role in ending water scarcity and achieving equitable access to safe and affordable water for all.

You can read more about Monash’s goals at monash.edu/sustainable-development-goals.

MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about innovative engineering solutions for global problems, contact Ciara O’Donnell at ciara.odonnell@monash.edu.
Joy and tears have greeted animations that bring Indigenous languages on the brink of extinction to life – thanks to the generosity of the Alan and Elizabeth Finkel Foundation.

Words Clarisa Collis

Every four cycles of the moon, a language dies - a historical rate of loss averaged from the disappearance of languages globally since 1960. Of this landslide into extinction, which is silencing an increasing number of the world’s 6900 languages (half of which are endangered), Australia has the worst track record of linguistic peril, with 90 per cent of Indigenous languages ‘critically endangered.’

In 2017, in central Victoria’s Goulburn River Valley region, the Taungurung Aboriginal people looked to the moon as an age-old totem of death at the funeral of a community member. But in a digital twist, the face of the moon they looked upon was a 3D animated one brought to life in the Taungurung language through its starring role in a short animated film telling the creation story of Winjara Wiganthanyn (Why We All Die).

This vivid, computer-generated work is one of 20 animations produced to date as part of Monash University’s Wunungu Awara project, formerly the Monash Country Lines Archive, developed from 2011 thanks to the philanthropic support from the Alan and Elizabeth Finkel Foundation. Overseeing the project, Professor Lynette Russell AM, Monash Indigenous Centre director, says Wunungu Awara has had a “transformational” impact in helping to preserve, and sometimes revive, Indigenous languages.

For instance, working in conjunction with Aboriginal communities and linguists, the project contributed to the revival of the Taungurung language, which had not been spoken in central Victoria for almost 100 years following the death of its last native speaker. Another animation, which hails from the Northern Territory, features the last native speaker of Garawa Kunindji dialect, Maureen Timothy, telling the story of Murukara Ngarakadatbawur: Kamangarajanyi (Emu Hunters of Excellence) in the months before she passed away. “Support received from the Alan and Elizabeth Finkel Foundation has put the project on the map,” Lynette says. The Foundation donated $1 million in 2011 to establish the project, and a further $1.4 million in 2019 to expand its scope. “Without that support the project wouldn’t exist. “The project has given us the opportunity to liaise, engage and communicate with Aboriginal communities across Australia, which is at the forefront of everything we do in partnership with Indigenous people,” says Lynette, an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow.

Wunungu Awara, meaning ‘strong and healthy; a vital place’ in Yanyuwa language, is the brainchild of Associate Professor John Bradley of the Monash Indigenous Centre. John leads the project team, which includes lead animator and artistic director Brent McKee, award-winning Indigenous performer and project manager Fred Leone, and education archivist David Harworth. John, Wunungu Awara founder and director, says the animations, told in 12 languages (so far), help Indigenous people to reclaim a “complex sense of self.” “Through looking to the value of land, country, culture and language as important parts of Indigenous communities, the animations create a powerful sense of self, of wellbeing and identity,” John says.

Ongoing support through the Alan and Elizabeth Finkel Foundation reflects the donors’ “rare vision” in giving to Indigenous families, as well as the wider Australian population, he says. “Their gift is allowing Indigenous Australia to work with their languages and cutting-edge technology to produce visions of their culture that allow all Australians to learn and understand more about this vast continent. “We see the joy, and sometimes tears, of the Indigenous families we work with when they see their completed animations.”

THE ALAN AND ELIZABETH FINKEL FOUNDATION IS HELPING CHANGE THIS.
A $10 million grant from the Macquarie Group Foundation to further develop the World Mosquito Program. This will assist in accelerating the program to reach its goal of protecting 100 million people by 2023.

A $5 million grant from the Financial Markets Foundation for Children to establish an endowment fund supporting a new Chair in Neonatal Paediatrics. The professorship will work to convert research on premature births into new treatments.

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THANK YOU FOR CREATING CHANGE WITH MONASH.

RECORD-BREAKING YEAR

- More than $100m in philanthropic gifts and charitable funds pledged
- 7244 donors contributed in 2019, up 20% on 2018
- 33 new bequests confirmed

THERE ARE MANY CHALLENGES FACING OUR WORLD TODAY.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE
BRAIN POWER

Fighting diseases such as Alzheimer’s is challenging, but with your donations, Associate Professor Kate Hoy is developing groundbreaking treatments for these debilitating conditions.

**Associate Professor Kate Hoy** leads a team at the Monash University and Epworth Centre for Innovation in Mental Health, investigating novel treatments for cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer’s, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), schizophrenia and Huntington’s disease, as well as for traumatic brain injuries.

Using brain stimulation techniques, including those proven effective in treating depression, clinical trials are underway in her world-leading research aimed at improving the memory function of people with Alzheimer’s. It’s work that has progressed thanks, in no small part, to thousands of dollars donated by supporters like you.

“Those donations are often the difference between pursuing a really innovative idea or not,” says Kate. “And it may not seem like a lot in the context of how much clinical trials cost, but sometimes it’s just all you need to keep things ticking over; to get that little bit more data to support a large application. So those donations are critical.”

**Words Melissa Marino  Photo Daniel Mahon**

POSITIVE IMPACT

Alzheimer’s is the most common form of dementia, which is the second-leading cause of death in Australia, and the leading cause among women. In Kate’s trials, 50 people with mild or moderate Alzheimer’s have undergone a form of transcranial magnetic stimulation called theta burst stimulation (TBS) – a technique that uses a magnetic field to generate electrical activity in specific regions of the brain, ‘ringing’ damaged cells to rebuild connections.

Yvonne is one of those patients. As the head of a successful self-made business, the youthful and energetic 71-year-old has always been willing to break ground. With a background in psychology, she also understands the importance of supporting new research.

“Anything that can enhance people’s health and appreciation of life is worthwhile,” she says. “Given that Alzheimer’s has such an impact not only on the people who have it but also their families and friends, if we can address it in a simple, effective way, that would be just amazing.”

Yvonne says, for her, being involved in the trial has had a positive impact. She’s experienced an increased clarity in her thinking and her ability to recall. Whether or not that was a placebo effect, there’s no doubting the renewed confidence she now feels after being knocked “off-balance” by her diagnosis.

“I went into the research project without strong expectations, but I have really gained apparent benefits,” she says. “I’m more confident about recalling what I have been reading, and just getting into my car and driving to the Epworth was great. I hadn’t driven for months and I was very nervous about getting behind the wheel, but after doing it once my confidence came back. It’s been great to feel like the me of old!”

WAYS FORWARD

Kate says while it’s too early in the trial for definitive findings, there are positive signs that indicate the research is worth pursuing. Trial data is being analysed to determine levels of improvement in memory function and how long those benefits last.

Continued donations will help fund more trials of longer or multiple treatments to sustain any improvements for as long as possible. And Kate is also starting a long-term dementia-prevention study, treating people with mild cognitive impairment with a form of gentle electrical stimulation called transcranial alternating current stimulation (TACS).

In people with Alzheimer’s, Kate explains, particular disease proteins congregate around neurons in the brain, damaging them and their ability to connect. Without the ability to talk to each other, these neurons break down, lose contact and eventually die, reducing functional connectivity in the brain. While other researchers are working to reduce harmful protein levels, Kate is targeting those nodes in the brain’s network, stimulating activity to repair the damaged connections – and therefore people’s cognitive function.

“I would like to see different types of brain stimulation developed to modulate brain activity and give people options for improving their cognition when they have these significant disorders – particularly dementia,” she says. “I want to ensure people’s brain health is as strong as possible for as long as possible, and even if we can do something that delays [disease] progression for one or two years, that is really significant.”

**MORE INFORMATION**

To find out more about Monash’s ambitious program of research into dementia, including the new National Centre for Healthy Ageing, contact Marita O’Callaghan at marita.o'callaghan@monash.edu.

**Your support allows us to pursue research into much-needed innovative treatment approaches for dementia. Thank you for your generosity and your vision.”**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KATE HOY (LEFT)
BeyonD borders

Students are addressing some of the world’s biggest challenges in-country with support from business, government and community groups alike.

Words Melissa Marino

Gemma Crosby is passionate about sustainability. But the science and global studies student says she had often questioned whether achieving sustainable development on a broad scale was possible.

That changed after she took part in the Monash Global Immersion Guarantee (GIG) program – an endeavour funded by government and generous business and community donors. While working in India on a project converting waste to biogas, Gemma realised that efforts underway at a local level around the world could make a collective difference.

“To be immersed in Mumbai, we got a contextual understanding. We met so many people acting on the issues, which was so different to studying it back in university where people acting on the issues, which was so contextual understanding. We met so many of their world view and in the way they see change that happens, personally, in terms of their world view and in the way they see themselves – and the impact they can have is quite significant,” Bodean says.

Local knowledge

This summer, more than 560 students completed two-week GIG placements in China, India, Italy, Malaysia and Indonesia, where Monash University has its own campuses or partner institutions.

“Students get a firsthand understanding of the reality and complexity of what it means to address these issues at the local level,” says Bodean. “And regardless of what career they pursue, they are likely to work globally, so they need those skills and experience in intercultural awareness.”

They also develop specific skills and knowledge that will enable them to contribute directly to the work of local agencies, looking at issues such as safer public transport and waste management.

“In terms of sustainable development, it’s important to have that globally minded perspective and intercultural competency if we are going to make a difference and get work done,” Gemma says.

Creating global citizens

Inspired by GIG, Gemma has just completed an internship with the Centre for Environmental Research and Education in Mumbai, designing and delivering education programs around renewable energy in schools that are fitted with solar panels. She’s one of several GIG students who have returned overseas for further work with partner agencies. This, says Bodean, is part of a conscious effort to maintain long-term relationships with international partners – providing both in-country benefits and development pathways for students.

These are benefits recognised by the Australian Government, which has provided $4 million for the GIG program’s work through its New Colombo Plan. This ‘soft diplomacy’ links international education and foreign policy by supporting a regionally literate graduate workforce with the ability to engage long term, says Bodean.

“And that goes to the heart of the GIG program in that it helps students understand their position in our regional, bilateral relationships, and signals to these countries that Australia wants to invest with them.”

Along with support from a number of donors, the transformational GIG study program will continue to evolve in each country and be available to students regardless of their financial means.

This commitment to social equity reaps many rewards, says Bodean. “When students from different disciplinary, cultural, social and political backgrounds work together, responding to these challenges with new ideas – that’s where the magic happens.”


globaL imMERSION gUARANTEE (GIG)

Thank you for helping to mobilise a generation of graduates to build important regional and global relationships.

- Air China
- Asia Pacific Capital
- Australia China Agribusiness Association
- Australia China Exhibition
- Australia China Innovation Centre (ACIC)
- Australia Golden Fortune Sci-Tech Innovation Alliance (AGSIA)
- Australian Wine Legend Group
- Bodhi Foundation
- Dainty Business
- Global Business College of Australia
- Laurel International
- Lake Cooper Estate

More information

To find out more about helping students to become global citizens, contact Lisa Mitchell at lisa.anne.mitchell@monash.edu.
Many students receiving scholarships want to contribute back and give someone else that support...

Kate Duyvestyn, director of social inclusion at Monash University.

Kate Duyvestyn says she’s got the best job in the world. As the director of Social Inclusion at Monash University, she oversees equity scholarships under the Achieving Potential scholarship program.

Supporting people with diverse backgrounds, the scholarships provide opportunities for students who may not otherwise have had access to tertiary education. These students include refugees, Indigenous students, and people from low socio-economic backgrounds and rural or remote areas.

“I get to do what I love, and that’s to make sure more people have the opportunity to go to university,” Kate says. “And to really see the impact on students – to see them grow and develop, and to see the difference in their smile from one year to the next – is enormous.”

The four Achieving Potential scholarships – Humanitarian, Community Leaders, Accommodation and General Support – assist in several ways. “They really enable students to focus on their studies, but also to participate more in all the extracurricular activities university has to offer – and we think those experiences are really important because they ensure better graduate outcomes,” she says.

More than 6500 students are supported by equity scholarships, funded by Monash and through the generosity of alumni and other supporters.

Alongside substantial funding for the University for many years, the recent growth in the program, Kate says, has been possible thanks to the generosity of the donor and student community. In particular, an increase in donations has allowed programs for students from under-represented communities to expand – particularly the Humanitarian scholarship and the Community Leaders scholarship.

COMMUNITY LEADERS
Monash Community Leaders scholars receive monetary support and mentor secondary school students from under-represented communities, helping them make the transition to university.

Having started in 2012 with 90 school students and 35 mentors, the program now supports more than 600 mentees and 400 mentors annually.

Tertiary and school students with similar interests and backgrounds are matched, allowing mentors to give tailored advice to mentees and help students prepare for university life.

“The program has a massive impact – not only on the school students who transition very well (retention rates for former mentees are higher than the general student body), but also on the mentors themselves,” Kate says. “The money helps, but it’s the experience they get so much out of.”

Through a ‘cycle of mentoring’, the scholars are supported by mentor leaders themselves, helping to make connections within the University and transition to the workforce.

They build communication and professional skills, gain leadership experience and, in turn, share that knowledge with their mentees.

“I’ve been given this opportunity and I want to support somebody else to have the same experience.”

Kate Duyvestyn
HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

Also of great pride to Kate is the growth of the Humanitarian Scholarship – an initiative strongly supported by alumni and students through individual donations and the fundraiser Run for Refugees. Awarded to asylum-seeker students who would otherwise be subject to full international student fees, these scholarships, offered to two students in the program’s first year and 28 in its most recent, pay those fees and provide a bursary for living expenses.

For these students, the scholarship is the difference between attending university or not and that significant impact, Kate says, is why these scholarships have garnered such grassroots support.

“Students are very socially aware, and they recognise the impact education has and that it’s not necessarily available to all,” she says. “They want to help people to have the same opportunities they have, and they don’t have to give a lot, but every little bit helps.”

Kate says she expects support for scholarships to continue to grow as their impacts build.

“Scholars are doing lots of different things, but quite a lot are going into social enterprises – and they want to just keep giving back and having an impact,” she says.

2019 ACHIEVING POTENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

864

SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS

307

COMMUNITY LEADERS SCHOLARSHIPS

46

HUMANITARIAN SCHOLARSHIPS

131

ACCOMMODATION SCHOLARSHIPS

To find out more about how you can help students from under-represented communities, contact Gillian Dodgin at gillian.dodgin@monash.edu.

ARNAV PRASAD (ABOVE LEFT) COMMUNITY LEADERS SCHOLAR, BACHELOR OF COMMERCE/BACHELOR OF COMMERCE SPECIALIST

I’ve always been enthusiastic about education and I believe everyone should have the opportunity to pursue whatever they’re passionate about.

My mentees have grown more self-reliant. They can now manage their time more effectively, and balance their studies and free time. They have a better idea of what they want to pursue in university and their future careers. I’ve benefited from this relationship because it has strengthened my interpersonal skills and ability to communicate effectively.

Thank you for your generous donations. The scholarship has been a huge help. University has many expenses – books, stationery, parking and so on. The scholarship enables me not to worry about these and focus on my education.

ANKITA SEHGAL (ABOVE LEFT) COMMUNITY LEADERS SCHOLAR, BACHELOR OF COMMERCE/BACHELOR OF GLOBAL STUDIES

I loved the idea of supporting students in high school with VCE and the transition to university through the Access Monash Mentoring program. I’m able to provide my mentees with insight into university through my own experience.

I think my mentees have grown more in confidence with the transition from high school to university. They have also developed clearer communication skills.

A big thankyou to the donors of this scholarship; it has made a world of difference for me. Before, I was working multiple jobs to support myself, but now I don’t need to stress about my university expenses.

And I’m able to give back through the program to support high school students with VCE and the transition to university.

In Uganda’s Mulago Hospital – one of the world’s busiest maternity facilities – Pete Lambert had a revelation. The program director of Monash University’s Inhaled Oxytocin Project was on an in-country education visit, made possible through generous alumni donations.

While there, Pete, along with project leader Professor Michelle McIntosh and coordinator Dr Toni Oliver, realised the prototype they were developing to reduce maternal deaths could have a far wider reach than originally envisaged.

Each year 300,000 women die due to pregnancy-related causes, mostly in resource-poor countries, with postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) – defined as excessive bleeding post-childbirth – the leading cause.

An extra dose of the hormone oxytocin reduces this risk if administered to the mother one to two minutes after childbirth. In its current injectable form, oxytocin needs refrigeration and a skilled medical professional to administer it. In contrast, Monash’s prototype delivers the hormone as an inhaled powder, which is heat-stable and simple to use.

Originally the team visualised the product being useful outside large facilities, where access to cold-chain storage or skilled medics is limited. However, Pete says this view has broadened after visiting Mulago hospital, which sees about 100 births every day, and where “busy midwives talk of playing baby catch”.

“Its simplicity is critical for less-trained workers and busy facilities. On that trip, with so many babies being born around us, we began to better appreciate how crucial simplicity is – and that was made possible with alumni donations,” Pete says. “Visiting target countries helps educate us on adoption barriers and local usage settings, which, in turn, inform product development.” The team is now busy preparing for phase three trials.

BREATHE OF LIFE

Your generosity is helping to expand the scope of Monash’s inhaled oxytocin prototype – with lifesaving consequences for new mothers.

Words Rebecca Thyer

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EACH YEAR, 300,000 WOMEN DIE DUE TO PREGNANCY-RELATED CAUSES.

THANK YOU – YOUR GIFT IS HELPING CHANGE THIS. FOR GOOD.

WORDS

OF LIFE

REBECCA THYER
**SAVING LIVES**

To begin in 2021, they will involve up to 4000 women in developed and target countries, testing how the prototype compares to the existing injectable oxytocin in a range of settings.

**MORE INFORMATION**

To find out more about Monash research to improve the health of mothers and babies, contact Megan O’Connor at megan.oconnor@monash.edu.

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**REBEL WITH A CAUSE**

John Blakeley, co-founding editor of *Lot’s Wife*, gives back to Monash.

*Words Gio Braidotti Photo Glenn Hunt*

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**TO THE SOUND OF ROCK’N’ROLL**

To the sound of rock’n’roll and the take-off near a spaceship launching the first human into space, 1961 heralded a thrust for cultural change and technological innovation. It was also the year that Monash University opened its doors.

Capturing the essence of the early 1960s was John Blakeley, who helped to leave a permanent record of the making of the new University’s identity in its newspaper.

Now, more than five decades later, John is gifting his collection of that newspaper – *Lot’s Wife* – and memorabilia from the university’s earliest years back to Monash. This includes his student card (number 0000193), gold-edged invitations to the ‘Recovery Ball’ and Monash Film Club programs. He’s also made a bequest in his will.

“Monash gave me things of value – sound academic foundations, a sense of self, lifelong friends and skills, particularly with writing,” he says. “I felt it was appropriate to give something back.”

In 1964, John – along with fellow students Tony Schauble and Damien Broderick – was handed editorial responsibility of a somewhat lackluster university newspaper called Chaos. Together, they turned the publication into the influential and now legendary *Lot’s Wife*.

“It was Damien who came up with the name – an allusion to the biblical figure who defied a command not to look back to the doomed city of Sodom and was turned to a pillar of salt,” John says.

“We intended it as a warning to students not to entertain nostalgia for the past. We were saying: ‘Don’t let this happen to you, or to Monash.’ It was a sentiment shared by the University as it aspired to become a research powerhouse, but one free from tradition and convention.”

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**IN THE SPIRIT**

John’s gift serves not only as an evocative social record of a particular time, sparking memories and discussion, but also as a reminder to current students of the founding spirit of the University – challenging convention and embracing innovation. “This is about realising what some parts of the past mean to the present,” he says. “It’s not only looking back, but also looking forward.”

In the 1960s, *Lot’s Wife* broke plenty of ground. Tony led the publication into colour and as education studies director at the Open Learning Institute. Damien has written and edited more than 70 science-fiction books, and Tony is an entrepreneur who, in 1966 with *Lot’s Wife* subsequent editor Philip Frazer, co-founded Australia’s first pop music newspaper, Go-Set, which introduced pop charts to the nation and Ian ‘Molly’ Meldrum to music journalism – and outsold Time magazine in the process.

John’s career exemplifies the Monash motto, Ancora Imparo (I am still learning), and he urges today’s students to heed its message. “That motto is not limiting – it’s open-ended and it encourages you to embrace whatever Monash has given you, academically and socially, for the rest of your life,” he says. “When you graduate it doesn’t end there – and my realisation of that is why I’m giving back.”

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**LEAVING A LEGACY**

John Blakeley was the first of his family to attend university, but not the first in his family to donate to Monash. His father, Clem Blakeley OBE, a retired group captain in the RAAF, was so appreciative of the education provided to his son that he made a donation towards the construction of a campus hall. It’s in honour of his father’s memory that John has made a bequest to Monash in his will.

“It’s a small donation – we won’t be building another ‘Ming Wing’, I tell you – but it’s a gesture to put something back because Monash gave me a great deal. And I’d encourage fellow graduates to think about it because, even as small as those gestures may be, they’re meaningful to the institution.”

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**MORE INFORMATION**

See how your legacy can help Change It. For Good. Visit monash.edu/giving/bequests or contact Karen Brown at karen.w.brown@monash.edu to find out more about options for leaving a gift in your will.