



A great start to 2016

I wish to commend our new students on how well they have settled into the UC community and our student leaders for setting the positive culture for the year. The great thing about living at UC has always been that it gives students a high quality, personalised learning experience. This is continually evolving with enriched academic and wellbeing programs and new learning facilities under construction. Living at UC helps students build a strong network of friends for life. As the heart and hub of our community, the new dining hall will be where so many of these relationships are formed. There are so many opportunities at UC which give our students the chance to fully explore university life and enjoy it to the full.

The UC 2017 Project

Since late December, work has been well underway on the UC 2017 Project. Due to required demolition work, we have a smaller cohort of 154 students. I would like to thank the students and staff for their ongoing patience, flexibility and good will as the Project has come to life. If you have been to College recently you will notice that things are looking very different each day, and we anticipate with much excitement what is to come next year.

The 2017 UC Community

In 2017, University College will grow to a community of 320 students. This will ensure that more students have the opportunity for a supportive college experience. Every year far more eligible students apply for College places than we have available. Importantly, we will retain our strong ties with rural and regional Victorian students who currently account for 50% of our cohort. Approximately 30% of students at the University of Melbourne hail from overseas. We intend to continue to reflect this in our community in 2017. The College expects the remaining 20% of the cohort will be made up of interstate and Melbourne metropolitan students.

Philanthropy and Scholarships

Since the College was founded in 1937, we have been fortunate to benefit from a growing culture of philanthropy. Scholarships have always provided essential support for our students to overcome social and financial disadvantage and encouraged academic excellence. At this year's Scholars Dinner one of those scholarship recipients, alumnus and Council member, Mr Matthew O'Keefe (2004-6) gave a moving account of the difference this support had made for him. In our audience was

Miss Jill Williams (1960-61) one of the College's longstanding and generous donors. Jill has responded to the overwhelming need to enable greater access to a college experience for today's rural students. To that end, she is supporting two half-scholarships this year. The fortunate recipients are Indianna Wickes and Damian Nelson. These scholarships mark a significant milestone for the College and we are very grateful to Jill for her generosity in making this possible.

Dr Jennifer McDonald
Head of College



Damian Nelson, Jill Williams and Indy Wickes