

KEY MILESTONES IN PHILANTHROPY

Since the College was founded in 1937, we have been fortunate to benefit from a continuing culture of philanthropy.

Scholarships have always provided support for our students to overcome social and financial disadvantage and encourage academic excellence. At last year's Scholars Dinner it was wonderful to hear one of those scholarship recipients, our first indigenous scholar, Dr Margaret Williams Weir (1958-1959), share her experiences and gratitude for the opportunity she was given.

In our audience was Miss Ann Miller (1960-61) one of the College's longstanding and generous donors, who responded to the need for today's indigenous students to benefit from a college experience. As a result, this year we have a newly established indigenous scholarship fund in Ann's name which supports two female undergraduate indigenous students, Michelle Kerrin and Tyarne Davis-Martin. This is a significant milestone for the College and we remain grateful to Ann for her generosity in making it possible.

Our aspiration is to increase the number of scholarships so that social and financial disadvantage is no barrier, particularly for our country students. I am delighted, therefore, to acknowledge the generous support of Mr Sandy McGregor (1988-1990) who has established the QLS Group scholarship for a student in financial need from the Western District. This full support scholarship has been truly life changing for the recipient, Daniel Michaels, who would not have been able to take up a place in College without Sandy's generous support.

Our focus in 2015 has also been on building the size of existing scholarships for returning students, many of whom are paying their own way through College. To this end, we are grateful to a number of our benefactors who have generously increased the level of support for their scholarships, including Jill Williams, Dr Ros Terry, Dr Loris Figgins-Pierce, Dr Robin and Jenny Stewardson, the Uebergang Foundation, the YMF and the David Syme Charitable Trust.

For their part, our students continue to show us how worthy they are of our support. Striving to do their best in all their pursuits, they consistently achieve high academic outcomes and greatly contribute to the life of the College. They are also inspired to sustain and support others in the community.

This year, a generous grant to the College from the Sidney Myer Foundation has enabled a wonderful new partnership to develop between our students and Footscray North Primary School to deliver hands on sustainability education to a disadvantaged refugee or migrant school community. In this five week project, UC students supported the Footscray North Primary School classes and their teachers in preparing presentations on the five topics areas of veggie gardens, composting, reusing, water saving and recycling.



It was heartening to see our student volunteers so inspired and passionate as they imparted their message to the attentive primary school audience. Their generosity of spirit and ability to engage made for some joyful encounters around environmental responsibility and sustainability, a cause dear to our hearts here at UC.

This partnership project was yet another way in which to engage our students in the culture of philanthropy from which the College has been fortunate to benefit in a continuous way. I thank all those who have contributed. It will be so important to build upon and enhance this culture as we seek to realise our vision for the College in the years ahead.

Dr Jennifer McDonald
Head of College



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