

# DONOR IMPACT REPORT

2019

Featuring the 2020  
Student Emergency Fund



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# MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR LINDA KRISTJANSON AO

2020 will be a year that we all remember. We have been tested by a number of challenges, including the devastating bushfires early in the year and more recently, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We have all been affected in different ways and we continue to learn how best to live and work in the future. We have discovered how resilient we can be.

During this time, the response of our Swinburne community has been remarkable and heart-warming. The generosity of our supporter community is helping students to continue to access a world-class education. Our students are fulfilling their professional purpose and taking focused steps towards a brighter future. Your support is also empowering our exceptionally talented researchers to solve some of the world's most complex problems.

You, our generous supporter community, have achieved \$1 million in support of students facing hardship through COVID-19. This outpouring of financial and practical assistance activated our core values and mission to help all students fulfil their goals and dreams. Your messages of encouragement to our students facing financial pressures also lifted their spirits.

And although 2020 has been an extraordinary year, it is important to celebrate the impact of your philanthropic gifts throughout 2019.

Last year we continued to drive a strong research-led innovation strategy with significant philanthropic support. This support allows us to pursue ground-breaking research, particularly in the areas of health and mental health, community wellbeing and the encouragement of young girls into STEM careers.

Thanks to the extraordinary contributions of our community, our donor-funded scholarships program has also been increasing steadily. As a result, more and more deserving students have been supported financially through their studies, some of whom are the first in their families to attend university.

As we look ahead to the next chapter of our story, I am delighted to introduce Professor Pascale Quester. As you may know, Professor Quester commenced as Swinburne's new Vice-Chancellor in August 2020. We have worked closely together in recent months and I have shared with Pascale the strength and resilience of the Swinburne community as we have faced the challenges of a global pandemic. Professor Quester's experience, energy and drive will lead Swinburne to create even greater impact in the future. There has never been a more exciting time to be part of this wonderful community.



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**Thank you for supporting Swinburne and making it the world-class institution that we see today.**

I want to close with a heartfelt thank you.

I have been privileged to lead Swinburne for almost 10 years. During that time, I have been most grateful for your generous commitment to Swinburne, to our mission and our students. You have made the decision to invest through us to change lives and make a global impact through your giving. I truly believe that education combined with philanthropy are two of the most powerful tools we can marshal to shape the future.

Thank you for your commitment, enthusiasm and passion.

Thank you for championing outstanding research and innovations that make a difference.

Thank you for supporting and inspiring our students.

I have been humbled to be part of such a generous, compassionate community of like-minded people. Swinburne would not be what it is without you. I wish you the very best.

**Professor Linda Kristjanson AO, FAICD, FTSE, PhD**  
Vice-Chancellor and President

# MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR PASCALE QUESTER

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**As an institution, we must embrace rather than shy away from this challenge.**



As I commence my role, I feel privileged to join Swinburne as the Vice-Chancellor and President. The messages of welcome I have received from the Swinburne community have been quite overwhelming. They speak volumes of the culture of this fine institution.

I want to say a special thank you to Professor Linda Kristjanson AO. Linda has led Swinburne with an uncompromising passion and vision for the future and I am very grateful for her example, support and generosity as we make this transition together.

The work and resilience of our academic staff, researchers and educators alike, and the efforts of our professional workforce, who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to support our students and to continue to look for technological solutions and new knowledge in these uncertain times must be acknowledged. I have been humbled to see such an extraordinary level of support for students through the university's Student Emergency Fund. In making a donation myself, my message to our students is that on the other side of this pandemic they will be even more resilient and ready to overcome anything that life throws at them. An education at Swinburne is a passport for a better future and I look forward to being part of a community that places such great value in its learners. To all of you who helped our students through this challenging time, my deepest gratitude and heart-felt thanks.

As I settle into my role with Swinburne, I reflect on what it is that makes this institution so special. To me, it is our innovative culture, the fact that we are so vested in technology that it pervades all of our programs and all of our research, but it is also our unique capability to offer the best of both higher education and vocational education which gives us a very solid foundation for differentiation.

As we look ahead, we know that the future will not be without its challenges. As an institution, we must embrace rather than shy away from this challenge. Enabling society to prepare for a different future is fundamentally what universities do. And to prepare learners and industry partners for a technology-rich future is what Swinburne must specifically excel in doing. This makes the continued transformative role of philanthropy, and the special contribution of our donors and benefactors more critical than ever.

I look forward to meeting you all very soon as we set out together to achieve the amazing promise of this great institution.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pascale Quester'.

**Professor Pascale Quester**

Swinburne's new Vice-Chancellor and President

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT



On behalf of Swinburne University, thank you. What we have experienced this year is our institution and supporter community at its best – united and shining through unprecedented times. We hope you and your family are safe and well and we thank you for the investment and the trust you have placed in us.

While still far from clear waters, when we look to the future and consider the deep connection with our supporter community, we move forward with a strong sense of optimism.

When we think of the complex problems of our time, Swinburne is already in there, responding. Whether it be the ongoing effects on mental health of COVID-19; the fundamental responsibility to better care for our elderly, our vulnerable and our planet; the daunting economic recovery, and the sometimes-forgotten task of restoring life and hope to bushfire affected regions, Swinburne is already working to find practical solutions to today's problems.

Our internal rigour is matched by an enviable supporter community, who in equal parts provides thoughtful investment for long-term change and, as 2020 has demonstrated, responds when members of our community are in crisis.

Swinburne's Donor Impact Report celebrates the impact of inspired and innovative giving; and is a mark of our gratitude to the community that walks alongside us. This report covers not only 2019, but the 2020 Student Emergency Fund, supported so generously by our community. This year, more than any other, we pause and reflect on what we've been able to achieve as a result of your generosity and what shape this may take in the future.

We celebrate the impact delivered through 10 years of investment from the Barbara Dicker Brain Sciences Foundation, which, since its inception, has given rise to a new generation of leaders in mental health and wellbeing.

Wanting to leave a better world for his grandchildren, Steve Graham's vision is to inspire leadership for the greater good. Steve's investment and long-term partnership allowed Swinburne researchers to deliver the Australian Leadership Index (ALI): a tool to measure and publish Australians' perceptions of our leaders across all sectors on a quarterly basis, to inspire a national conversation about leadership and how we foster leadership for social good.

The Dicker and Graham families understand that to deliver the bold change they wish to see in the world, requires partnership with an institution which has the capacity to make it happen. They chose Swinburne; trusting in alignment of values and culture, excellence of research and strength of governance.

The announcement of Swinburne's partnership with Hearts and Minds Investment Company in 2019 heralds a very different approach to philanthropy. This novel partnership provides discretionary funds to Swinburne's Centre for Human Psychopharmacology, trusting in the judgement of the expert team within to do what it does best: conduct world-leading research exploring the cognitive and mood effects of natural substances, pharmaceuticals, recreational drugs and dietary interventions across the lifespan.

Swinburne's core purpose is to serve our students. Our hearts broke as thousands reached out to Swinburne to meet their basic needs of survival during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In a modern world, students may not belong to a community group, or to a Church or a sporting club – but they belong to Swinburne. The response was inspiring and humbling. We came together and walked with our students, even in the most testing of times.

It's our hope that highlighting these very different examples of impact delivered through philanthropy will encourage you to pause and reflect on your own giving to Swinburne. What motivates you to give? What do you want to achieve through your support? Whether that be changing the life of one student through a scholarship or investing in a broader vision for change.

My goal is for Swinburne to be the best place to invest in order to deliver social good. I am passionate about what we can achieve when we come together.

In closing, our supporter community bids a sad farewell to our Vice-Chancellor & President, Professor Linda Kristjanson AO who has led with immense distinction and compassion for the past 10 years. We welcome our new Vice-Chancellor & President Professor Pascale Quester, who has demonstrated her commitment to philanthropy and to Swinburne by giving to our Student Emergency Fund even prior to arriving in Melbourne. We also farewelled Michelle Macgregor Owen our Executive Director of Advancement and acknowledge that much of the impact shared within this report owes its origins to Michelle's leadership.

We welcome your feedback on this report as well as conversations about what you would like to achieve in partnership with Swinburne.

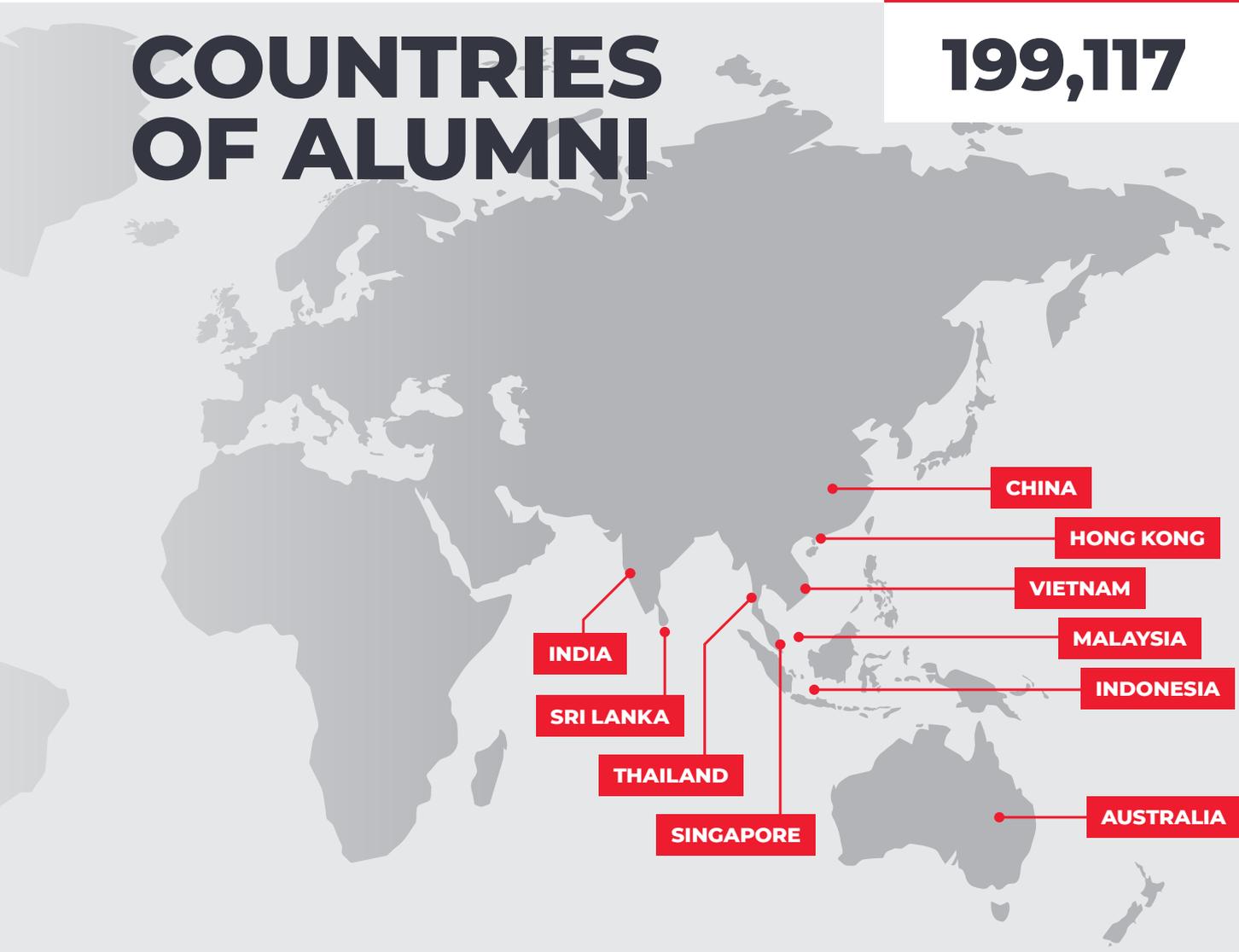
On behalf of Swinburne, once again, thank you.

**Belinda Collins**  
Director, Development

# TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF ALUMNI

TOTAL  
NUMBER OF  
ALUMNI

199,117



## \$ TOTAL FUNDS SECURED 2019

# \$3,448,505

**% DIFFERENCE FUNDS SECURED COMPARED TO 2018**



# 21%

### \$ BREAKDOWN BY SUPPORTER CATEGORY

Category	Funds Secured \$
Alumni	\$548,617
Corporates	\$860,179
Other Individuals	\$1,005,947
Other Organisations	\$116,935
Trust/Foundation	\$916,827
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,448,505</b>

### % BREAKDOWN OF DIRECTED SUPPORT BY CATEGORY

Category	Funds Secured \$	%
Unrestricted	\$65,097	2%
Restricted for Student & Staff bursaries and scholarships	\$1,606,904	47%
Restricted for Capital projects and infrastructure		-
Restricted for Research programs and partnerships	\$1,658,370	48%
Restricted for Other purpose	\$118,134	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,448,505</b>	

### % BREAKDOWN OF DIRECTED SUPPORT BY CATEGORY

Category	Funds Secured \$	%
Emerging priorities	\$183,231	5%
Future-ready learners	\$1,606,904	47%
Research with impact	\$1,658,370	48%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,448,505</b>	



**STAFF GIVING**



## 57 STAFF GAVE

# \$37,279

THROUGH WORKPLACE GIVING

# SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS THROUGH THEIR HARDEST YEAR YET

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**I lost my job and I barely have enough money to buy food at the moment. It's been two days since I've had a proper meal. Unfortunately, there is no one here to support me. My home country is also in lockdown so I can't receive any help from there either.**

**JEREMY\***

Master of Construction & Infrastructure Management international student

In recent months, these devastating sentiments were repeated by thousands of students from Swinburne and across Australia due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. While this affected us all in different ways, both domestic and international students were left especially vulnerable due to loss of employment, housing insecurity and a lack of social and family support.

It was the Swinburne community who were able to dig deep and rally together to support our students hit by the ongoing challenges that many have faced this year, including some that were still dealing with the effects of the Australian bushfires.

The Swinburne Student Emergency Fund was originally established to support students affected by the bushfire disaster. However, due to the ongoing financial crisis of the global outbreak of COVID-19, the university expanded the fund to support students facing other significant hardships.

In an extraordinary effort, \$1 million in philanthropic contributions was raised to support students through COVID-19. Every sector of Swinburne's community rallied, from our Council members and Executive Group, to our staff, alumni and friends. Donations were received from all around the world – New Zealand to Mexico, Japan to Germany and everywhere in between. We also received more first time as well as younger donors than ever before. Swinburne as an institution has also contributed significant support. With around 4,000 applications from domestic and international students so far, we have been able to distribute cash grants quickly so students can cover necessities such as rent,

food, utilities and healthcare. This reflects our community's commitment to ensuring that all students from local and international communities are supported, valued and able to fulfil their goals through a world class education.

Nearly 200 Swinburne staff have also rallied to generously support students, raising more than double the amount of any previous workplace giving appeal.

'I have been overwhelmed by the level of support our students have received from our community through this difficult time. The generosity and compassion of our entire community has been remarkable," said Swinburne Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Linda Kristjanson AO.

'I have had the privilege of leading Swinburne for nearly 10 years and I have never witnessed such an outpouring of support and kindness as we are seeing now. This community spirit is something I have come to know as a wonderful part of our Swinburne culture,' she said.

Swinburne has also introduced practical measures including accommodation support for students in vulnerable living conditions, increased health and wellbeing support as well as food programs. Students have also received academic considerations such as extended fee and census date deadlines, virtualised labs, free laptop loans, access to free software, and 24/7 advisory support for study advice, careers and employability guidance.

More than just contributing dollars, we have also been inundated with uplifting messages of support to students from our community offering them hope and encouragement:

'It is a difficult time but try to stay positive, together we can support each other and get through this crisis.' – Laurie & Olga Pole, Australia

'Dear Swinburne Students, hang in there! Better days are coming. You will rise above and beyond all this one day. Don't let today affect your worthiness in any way. I am sure a way will come around to help you with everything you need. Don't lose hope! Hope is everything! I hope you and your friends and family are doing safe! A grateful Swinburne alumni!' – Vijeta Ahuja, India

In these tough times, we cannot thank you enough for your selfless contributions and for partnering with us to ensure that students from all backgrounds can continue to pursue their dreams and ambitions. While this report focuses on 2019, we would be remiss if we did not include the Student Emergency Fund, so generously supported by our community in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

# THE ASX COMPANY CHAMPIONING HEARTS AND MINDS



**Hearts and Minds Investments Limited is a unique Australian listed investment company with two objectives: to maximise long-term returns to shareholders by investing in high conviction ideas; and to provide vital financial support to leading medical research institutes across Australia. This charitable goal is made possible by waiving typical investment fees, enabling the fund to donate over \$9m since its inception in November 2018.**

Swinburne's Centre for Human Psychopharmacology is honoured to have been selected by one of Hearts and Minds' fund managers, Cooper Investors, a recipient of funding.



**There are many quality-of-life issues that can be enhanced from a better understanding of human cognition, mood and behaviour.**

**PAUL RAYSON**

Hearts and Minds Chief Executive Officer  
Swinburne Business alumnus

'These are issues that will affect most of us either directly, or those close to us, at some stage of our life,' he says.

The philanthropic focus at Cooper Investors is a strong element of the firm's culture. The philanthropic program spans both mental health medical research and also the provision of direct services.

'When we agreed to participate as a manager for Hearts and Minds Investments Company we didn't envisage being at the forefront of a mental health medical research curve, yet the events of 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic have escalated the need for evidence-based research on what works and what will not, to improve the mental health of our nation,' says Cooper Investors Head of Philanthropy, Natalie Elliott.

This progressive philanthropic partnership provides discretionary funds to Swinburne's Centre for Human Psychopharmacology, trusting in the judgement of the expert team within to do what it does best: conduct world-leading research exploring the cognitive and mood effects of natural substances, pharmaceuticals, recreational drugs and dietary interventions across an individual's lifespan.

'We understand the pressures faced by universities and research institutes. The funds provided through Hearts and Minds are untied – allowing researchers to direct support to areas of research they believe will have the greatest impact. Only philanthropy, not government has the unique ability to do this,' says Ms Elliott.

'We need the philanthropic sector to apply its 'risk capital' and enable strong Institutions to continue to develop and lead cutting edge research, and in particular for mid-career researchers to build teams that can be then supported by Government via ARC or NHMRC channels which scale and leverage the outcomes private capital can provide,' Ms Elliott adds.

Both Hearts and Minds Investments Limited and Cooper Investors are committed to growing a sustainable funding model for beneficiaries like Swinburne, believing in our world-class researchers to tackle the clinical problems of today, and those yet to come.

'We see the world class research conducted by the team as having the potential to make a positive impact on issues affecting the human mind and behaviour. It's great to see the team at Swinburne tackling some of these issues that we believe will lead to improved treatments and management of cognitive health,' says Mr Rayson.

# TURNING GIRLS' PASSION FOR STEM INTO AN ENTERPRISING CAREER

Philanthropy is enabling Swinburne researchers to tackle the underrepresentation of women and girls in Australia's STEM sector.



Supported by The Invergowrie Foundation, the 'Enterprise + STEM' project collaborated with 30 Victorian secondary schools to create and evaluate educational resources that are used in classrooms. The Invergowrie Foundation, whose primary focus is to advance the education of girls and women in Victoria, has a long association with Swinburne. In 1933 the McPherson Family gifted their property 'Invergowrie' to The Invergowrie Foundation to advance education for girls and women, and Sir William McPherson was a member of the original Swinburne College Council.

'In Australia, there are many leaks and blockages in the pipeline from primary school to STEM careers,' Associate Professor Therese Keane explains. 'It is an undisputed fact that this is especially true for females.'

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**We need young girls and women to see successful female STEM role models who hold senior positions so they believe they can do it themselves.**

**Associate Professor Therese Keane**  
Swinburne University of Technology

Pictured: Associate Professor Therese Keane and Dr Tanya Linden

Secondary school girls are less likely to choose STEM subjects than boys, while only one-third of Australian secondary school students who enrol in STEM degrees are female. Meanwhile, women represent just 28 per cent of those employed in the STEM workforce.

'Compared to males, females are less likely to enter STEM degrees, complete their studies, secure employment and rise within STEM ranks,' she says.

Research shows there continues to be a lack of visibly successful women STEM role models for school students, and Keane suggests that in order to counter biased narratives, intervention should occur at a young age.

'Australia currently underperforms in STEM on the global stage and developing STEM skills is essential to Australia's economic competitiveness,' she explains. 'Tackling the issue of gender inequality in STEM is as much an economic imperative as it is an issue of justice and equity.'

The team of researchers including Associate Professor Therese Keane, Associate Professor Naomi Birdthistle, Dr Tanya Linden and Dr Bronwyn Eager developed a series of educational resources and case studies that are freely available. They are designed to be fun and engaging for students, and they've been mapped to the Victorian Curriculum. The project highlights the careers of local inspirational women in STEM including Lina Qasem, founder of ROBOFUN, an organisation that helps girls learn how to code and develop a love of robotics, STEM entrepreneur Dr Elicia Wong, space lawyer Kim Ellis, Code Like A Girl social enterprise co-founder Vanessa Doake, and businesswoman Natasha Mandie.

Alongside the free resources, the research team developed a 'train-the-trainers' course, to help teachers deliver the materials in a way that maximises their benefit for students.

Associate Professor Therese Keane believes the flow-on effects from sharing these women's stories with young girls could be profound, noting the adage 'you can't be what you can't see.'

'Role models provide visual pathways to our future selves. We need young girls and women to see successful female STEM role models who hold senior positions so they believe they can do it themselves,' she says.

At the end of 2019, the Invergowrie Foundation confirmed a further \$330,000 of funding to Swinburne to advance female primary school students in STEM education and careers across Victoria.

→ [ENTERPRISEANDSTEM.ONLINE](https://www.enterpriseandstem.online)



# PHILANTHROPY DONE DIFFERENTLY

Pictured: Collier Charitable Fund's Executive Officer, Wendy Lewis, Swinburne professional placement student, Megan Kelly and Launch Housing's Fundraising and Business Development Lead, Kalimar Donvin-Irons

**In a new model, Swinburne has created an opportunity for charitable organisations to give back in a different way, by funding Swinburne students to undertake work placements at not-for-profit organisations.**

Understanding that not all organisations can afford to host a paid student placement, the Collier Charitable Fund has collaborated with Swinburne as the first philanthropic partner to take part in a new way of building capacity for not-for-profit organisations.

'The approach being undertaken by Swinburne and Collier is just another great example of how we can support not-for-profits to build capacity,' says Executive Officer of the Collier Charitable Fund, Wendy Lewis.

'It is also an opportunity to support and mentor students who are interested in making a difference and getting involved in the not-for-profit sector,' she says.

For many years, Swinburne has offered professional placements for students. However, Media and Communications student Megan Kelly was the first student to undertake this new model of professional placement at Victorian housing and homelessness service Launch Housing, her time there being



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**This placement has helped me define my future career path.**

**Megan Kelly**

Student, Media and Communications

fully funded by the Collier Charitable Fund. Working at Launch Housing has given Megan an insight into the challenges faced by not for profit organisations.

‘I’m incredibly proud of the work I have created with Launch Housing and am surprised by how much I have been able to complete in such a short amount of time,’ says Megan.

‘Working on projects that you know will raise awareness and improve the livelihood of people experiencing homelessness puts a bounce in my step. It’s the best part of working at Launch Housing.’

Launch Housing’s Fundraising and Business Development Lead, Kalimar Donvin-Irons says the organisation is very grateful for the support from Collier. ‘Without the generosity of the Collier Charitable Fund, we wouldn’t be able to take part in a program such as this. Partnering with them to initiate this placement has been such a success for Launch Housing,’ she says.

Megan completed the second half of her placement with another not-for-profit, Philanthropy Australia, providing invaluable communications support that they wouldn’t have been able to otherwise afford.

‘This placement has helped me define my future career path because I can now say with certainty that I want to remain in the not-for-profit sector and work for organisations that strive for social change,’ says Megan.

→ [SWI.NU/PROFPLACE](https://www.swinburn.edu.au/profplace)

# LANDMARK SUPPORT DRIVING SWINBURNE FORWARD

## ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

**We know that around 20% of Australians will experience a mental illness in their lifetime. However, poor access to and lack of services, social isolation and loneliness, higher socioeconomic disadvantage and other factors mean that rates of self-harm and suicide are much higher in rural and remote areas.**

With the generous support of the Paul Ramsay Foundation and the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Swinburne researchers have conducted two vital projects: one is evaluating and developing critical, large-scale insights to address the broader wellbeing and mental health issues of rural Australia, and the other is a grassroots project aimed at building rural mental health communities.

In 2019 the Swinburne Social Innovation Research Institute, in collaboration with other universities and research centres, investigated gaps in activities that could make a lasting change to Australian rural mental health. The study, funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation, identified the two overarching problems of social disadvantage and that existing services in rural areas are fragmented and largely inaccessible.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer of SANE Australia, Dr Michelle Blanchard explains that the research supported by the Paul

Ramsay Foundation is critical in helping service providers like SANE engage with cutting-edge research and contribute to the generation of evidence in a far more effective and impactful way.

'SANE Australia has been really pleased to be able to partner with the Swinburne Social Innovation Research Institute to understand the role of online communities like SANE Forums in improving the health and wellbeing of people in rural and regional communities,' says Dr Blanchard.

Through the philanthropic funding of the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Professor Jane Farmer's team has also led the Collective Impact for Community Mental Health project aimed at building rural mental health communities to optimise accessibility to mental health services. Previous research shows that rural health services are challenged in affording, recruiting and retaining skilled health professionals, leaving them unable to provide specialist 24/7 mental health support. Therefore, a community, co-produced initiative seeks to alleviate some of the mental health challenges that rural communities face.

In partnership with Heathcote Health, Cobaw Community Health, The Kilmore and District Hospital and the Murray Primary Health Network, this project has already delivered results by building capacity of local services, increasing awareness, decreasing stigma and mobilising the community as a resource.

'This project has run exceptionally and enables us to launch our action plan. Poor mental health and social isolation are two of the most significant challenges facing our local community and implementation of the action plan will enable us to work towards addressing these challenges in an informed way, using evidence-based best practice models and the local knowledge and community engagement gained through the project,' says Chief Executive Officer of Heathcote Health, Dan Douglass.

# RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

**Last year Swinburne received landmark support from philanthropic trusts and foundations and other organisations that are set to drive an exciting number of research opportunities and programs, with a focus on health and education. Here are a few examples:**

## **HOPE ASSISTANCE LOCAL TRADIES**

This grassroots suicide prevention charity has funded critical research to evaluate mental health training for tradies.

## **LORD MAYOR'S CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

A grant for a pilot program is strengthening and upskilling not-for-profits to better utilise data to address social good challenges.

## **ARCARE FAMILY FOUNDATION**

With a generous grant, Swinburne's Wellbeing Clinic for Older Adults is conducting The Digital Story Project. The project aims to improve the quality of life of aged care residents through companionship, as students co-produce digital video stories to celebrate their individuality and life-affirming experiences.

## **PICK MY PROJECT**

With support from the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Swinburne Young Mums program was able to develop a successful skincare microbusiness, Mummafly. The program provides students with the opportunity to gain work experience within an operating business while completing VCAL and Certificate II Retail & Business qualifications and caring for their young babies in class at the same time.

## **EQUITY TRUSTEES**

Through funding provided by Equity Trustees, the Swinburne Social Start Up Studio was able to establish an initiative working with early-stage social enterprises. The initiative works with early-stage social enterprises to develop and test ideas, building knowledge to strengthen the social enterprise ecosystem.

## **SWINBURNE PHILANTHROPY AND SOCIAL IMPACT ALUMNI**

A new scholarship was established by the Swinburne Philanthropy and Social Impact Alumni that will support a student undertaking a Master of Social Impact.

## **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL (VICTORIA) PARTNERS**

Thanks to the generosity of our Rotary International (Victoria) partners, deserving students received various life-changing support, including:

- Rotary Club of Balwyn provided a grant for an Asylum Seeker and Refugee Scholarship.
- Rotary Club of Camberwell kindly supported the Camberwell Community Service Awards, First Aid, Responsible Service of Alcohol and Food Handling courses, and Christmas hampers for the Young Mums students, and a Student Achievement Award.
- Rotary Club of Knox provided a grant for an Outstanding Horticulture Student.
- Rotary Club of Boronia provided a grant for the Swinburne Apprentice of the Year.

## **MT. CUBA ASTRONOMICAL FOUNDATION**

Upgrades to the Molonglo radio telescope facility will enable up to a 50-fold increase in the discovery rate of fast radio bursts that originate in distant galaxies.

# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SUPPORT

**In 2010 Dr Ian Dicker AM and his family decided to honour Ian's late wife Barbara Dicker in a truly remarkable way by establishing the Barbara Dicker Brain Sciences Foundation (BDBSF). The BDBSF supports research at Swinburne that focuses on enhancing the wellbeing of people affected by neurological and psychological disorders.**

As a successful entrepreneur and former President of the Hawthorn Football Club, Ian's passion for people and the community runs deep. Armed with a desire to invest in long-term change and help others facing similar battles as his late wife did, Ian turned to philanthropy to make the difference.

'We were keen to look at supporting research in a meaningful way. After a discussion with several institutions, we felt that Swinburne was more innovative in their approach,' says Ian's son and Chair of the BDBSF, Dr Tony Dicker.

'It is very satisfying to see the fruits from this 10-year partnership. Such a large volume of research has blossomed from early seed funding, and many early career researchers have now become senior academics,' he says.

Each year the BDBSF awards \$100,000 in seed funding given as small grants to support researchers at Swinburne. These seed grants are vital in driving research innovations and supporting early career researchers to study and understand the complexities of neurological and psychological conditions. Through Swinburne's Centre for Mental Health and state-of-the-art neuro-imaging facilities, an applied focus on improving the mental health of individuals has seen the university take significant steps towards creating a better future for all.

'Since its inception, the Foundation has generously supported applied research in brain and psychological sciences, with a view to helping diagnose, treat and prevent depression and related mental health conditions, sleep disorders, and dementia,' says Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Linda Kristjanson AO.

'The ultimate goal is to find a cure, treatment or prevention for these conditions,' she says.

Approximately 20% of adults are affected by adverse mental health problems every year. With the added stress of the coronavirus outbreak, Swinburne is more committed than ever to delivering positive outcomes to individuals and communities affected by depression, dementia, and sleep disorders.

To facilitate the engagement of world-leaders in brain science research, an annual Barbara Dicker Oration is delivered at Swinburne, profiling inspiring work by leading mental health researchers and academics.

'Our partnership with the Barbara Dicker Brain Sciences Foundation exemplifies a strong mutual commitment as we forge ahead together in a deliberate and concerted effort to find cures, treatments and preventions for these conditions,' says Swinburne's Director of the Iverson Health Innovation Institute, Professor Gavin Lambert.

Pictured: Swinburne's Director of the Iverson Health Innovation Institute, Professor Gavin Lambert, Swinburne's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Aleksandar Subic, Canadian psychiatrist Dr Gustavo Turecki, Swinburne's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Linda Kristjanson AO, BDBSF Chair, Dr Tony Dicker and BDBSF Founder, Dr Ian Dicker AM at the Barbara Dicker Oration 2019 where Dr Turecki delivered The toll of childhood trauma: how pain shapes the brain.



# SHOWCASING THE IMPACT OF GRANTS FROM THE BARBARA DICKER BRAIN SCIENCES FOUNDATION

## NURSING: THE FRONT LINE IN HOLISTIC CARE

Professor Sunil Bhar has been the recipient of eight grants from the Barbara Dicker Brain Sciences Foundation, from 2011 to 2016. Bhar's research in aged care, clinical psychology and mood disorders includes ways to improve mental health services through those who often have the most contact time with patients. His research led to the development of a training programme for nurses within acute psychogeriatric units. The initial pilot training highlighted the benefits of training for nurses' levels of confidence and competence in using psychotherapeutic skills. He is also co-director of Swinburne's Wellbeing Clinic for Older Adults which has recently launched a free national telehealth counselling and support service to provide emotional support to older adults during the coronavirus situation.

## ADDRESSING THE LONELINESS PROBLEM

Dr Michelle Lim is a Senior Lecturer in Clinical Psychology and leads the Social Health and Wellbeing (SHAW) Laboratory. For many years, her research into loneliness and how it can negatively impact social functioning and exacerbate mental health symptoms such as social anxiety, depression, and paranoia has been greatly accelerated thanks to critical seed funding from the Barbara Dicker Brain Sciences Foundation. Since the awarding of her first research grant in 2014, she has gone on to develop multiple evidence-based solutions to address the loneliness problem. Dr Lim is also the Scientific Chair of the Australian Coalition to End Loneliness, which guides government agencies and not-for-profit organisations to deliver evidence-based community messaging and interventions in loneliness.

## UNDERSTANDING MORE ABOUT HEARING VOICES

Dr Wei Lin Toh is leading studies which she hopes will increase our knowledge and reduce stigma around the experiences of hearing voices among those with mood-related disorders such as bipolar disorder and severe depression. Dr Toh's funding from the Barbara Dicker Brain Sciences Foundation enabled her to conduct a large-scale study involving 170 participants who shared their own stories in the hope that their sharing will help reduce the stigma associated with voice-hearing.

→ [SWI.NU/SEEDFUNDING](https://swi.nu/seedfunding)



# SCHOLARSHIP ENCOURAGES LIFELONG LEARNING

**Harry Bennett was interested in studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Robotics and Mechatronics) and Computer Science for one simple reason.**

Harry's first interest in technology was sparked by reading about the likes of astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin. However, he drew ongoing inspiration from a key figure closer to home.

'I began to admire [famed engineer and soldier] Sir John Monash and the contributions he made to Australian society,' he says.

'In my final years of studying, I took to heart his philosophy on the importance of equipping oneself for life, not solely for your own benefit, but for the benefit of the whole community. He instilled in me the importance of considering the community at large in the scope of my work,' Harry reflects.

In particular, Harry is excited about the field of robotics, which he says is well-positioned to help drive human progress into the future.

'We can make an impact, and propel ourselves forward in the fields of medicine, transport and space exploration,' he says.

While studying at Swinburne, Harry was able to spend a year in a high impact research team at the Defence Science and Technology Group, based in South Australia. He also received a Digitary Computer Science Scholarship.

The Digitary Computer Science Scholarship offers financial assistance to Swinburne students in their final year of a Bachelor of Computer Science. Digitary is an international company that's grown to become the leading online platform for certifying, sharing and verifying academic credentials.

'We are incredibly proud to sponsor the Digitary Computer Science Scholarship. The values and vision of Swinburne University strongly align with Digitary's own, and we are committed supporters of the university and its students,' says Digitary's Chief Technology Officer, Takis Diakoumis.

As a global company, Digitary is passionate about lifelong learning and enhancing employability of students.

'With the Digitary Computer Science Scholarship program, we strive to make a positive impact on the lives and learning opportunities of our scholarship recipients, and that is ultimately the most rewarding part,' says Mr Diakoumis.

→ [SWI.NU/GIVINGSTORY](https://swi.nu/givingstory)



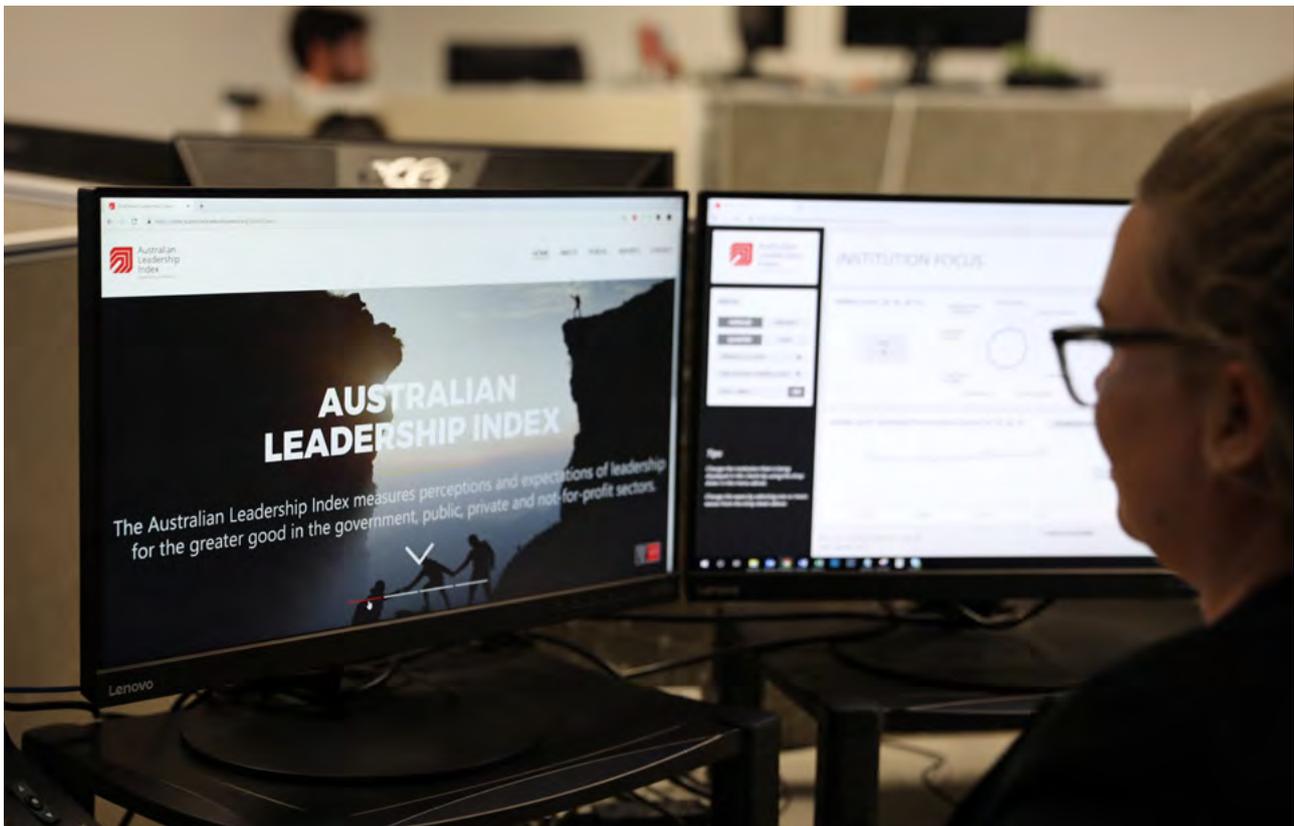


“

**I want to make an impact and a difference. There are so many ways to do that with the education I received at Swinburne.**

**Harry Bennett**

Student, Bachelor of Engineering (Robotics and Mechatronics) and Computer Science



# DRIVING LEADERSHIP FOR THE GREATER GOOD

**‘We live in uncertain and volatile times,’ says Swinburne Chancellor, Professor John Pollaers OAM. ‘There is a general sense among Australians...that we are not well served by our leaders and institutions. Australians are yearning for leadership that serves the wider public interest.’**

## **IN TIMES LIKE THESE, LEADERSHIP THAT SERVES THE GREATER GOOD IS CRITICAL.**

Recognising this challenge, alumnus Steve Graham invested to enable Swinburne academics to create the Australian Leadership Index (ALI). It's a first-of-its-kind project that aims to create a new national dialogue about leadership in Australia and improve and increase the practice of leadership for the greater good.

Funded entirely by Graham's philanthropy, both personally and through the Graham Foundation, the ALI measures and tracks public perceptions and expectations of leadership for the greater good in Australia. It also sheds new light on the drivers of public perceptions of leadership for the greater good in the government, public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Since September 2018, the ALI research team has surveyed 1,000 people from a representative sample of Australians four times a year.

All data is made freely available to anybody who wants it – from members of the media to leaders in the government, business and not-for-profit sectors – in the hope of improving leadership for the greater good.



Pictured: Swinburne's Senior Lecturer in Leadership, Dr Sam Wilson



## Australian Leadership Index

Graduating from engineering in 1973, Steve Graham established Bitu-mill – a successful civil and road construction company. Later on, in the late 1990s, Graham started the Boat O’Craigio winery in the Yarra Valley. Along with his wife Margaret, he is a member of the Ethel Swinburne Society for bequestors and says his approach to philanthropy is simple.

‘I don’t donate money; I invest in people and projects,’ Graham explains. This approach mirrors trends that have seen a move toward impact driven philanthropic investment.

The ALI has already produced revealing insights. Since September 2018, when measurement began, the ALI had never recorded a positive ALI score for overall impressions of leadership for the greater good. However, perceptions changed dramatically as the COVID-19 situation evolved and institutions of all types responded to the unfolding public health crisis.

The ALI has also revealed stark differences between perceptions of the government sector and the public sectors, the former seen to serve self and vested interests and the latter seen to serve the wider public interest. Notably, in response to COVID-19, the government sector recorded its first ever positive ALI score, which indicates that most people judge governments to be showing leadership for the greater good during this time.

Dr Sam Wilson, who co-created and now leads the Australian Leadership Index, observes that crises, such as this pandemic, crystallise a shared understanding of the common good and encourage people and institutions to pull together in a manner not typical of more ordinary times.

‘The COVID-19 pandemic has necessarily brought a wider public interest in the state of leadership to the fore, and we have seen institutions, across all sectors, respond by instigating measures to protect the greater good,’ says Dr Wilson.

‘By shining a light on leadership for the greater good, what it looks and sounds like, and how it can be improved, this pandemic may yet have a silver lining for the future,’ he says.

Professor John Pollaers OAM notes frankly that discussing what good leadership looks like is ‘not an easy conversation’. But researchers now know from their media analyses that Australians want to have these conversations anyway.

‘A better understanding of leadership for the greater good can only bode well for the future because as we are well aware at Swinburne, what we learn now plants the seed for even greater knowledge in the future,’ he says.

→ [AUSTRALIANLEADERSHIPINDEX.ORG](https://australianleadershipindex.org)

# SWINBURNE SCHOLARS SHINE BRIGHTER WITH COMMUNITY SUPPORT



“

**I have been inspired and supported by my lecturers, classmates and fellow GAF scholars during my time at Swinburne. With their support, I have been able to achieve so much more than on my own.**

**Connor Morgan**

Student, Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Business



**Receiving a scholarship from The George Alexander Foundation (GAF) gave fourth year Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Business student Connor Morgan much more than financial support. It led to something more profound: the confidence and support he needed to participate fully in the Swinburne community.**

Established in 1972 by businessman, inventor and philanthropist George Alexander AM, The George Alexander Foundation supports young people with access to education, particularly those from rural and remote areas. GAF scholars also make valuable contributions to the local community through volunteering.

The first GAF scholarship was awarded to a Swinburne student in 2007. Since this time, the total number of annual scholarships awarded is 175.

'I live quite a distance away from university, so I decided to apply for the scholarship to assist me with travel costs,' Connor explains. He soon discovered a GAF scholarship was about more than just monetary assistance.

'It represents a community of young people who are passionate about their local communities and who want to support others in accessing tertiary education,' says Connor. Connor decided to apply for the scholarship after talking with the Swinburne Scholarships team at Open Day. He chose Swinburne because of the university values of creativity, diversity and community. In particular, he singles out the Faculty of Business and Law's dedication to future technologies and innovation.

'Not only did Swinburne have a beautiful campus in the heart of Melbourne but the lecturers, students and staff were welcoming and friendly. I found that it aligned perfectly with my future career aspirations.' Connor has always had a strong interest in how the law governs the way we live. Since Connor's time as a high school student his professional goal has been clear: to become a practising lawyer.

In 2019 Connor took on the role of President of the Swinburne Law Students' Society and he also represented the university as a member of the Swinburne mooting – or mock trial – team.

'I have been inspired and supported by my lecturers, classmates and fellow GAF scholars during my time at Swinburne,' he adds. 'With their support, I have been able to achieve so much more than on my own.'

As for Connor, he is keen to extend his gratitude to all donors to the university, particularly for recognising that 'tomorrow's changemakers are studying today.'

'It is with their support, commitment and dedication to students, that young people like me can access tertiary education in order to help others in our local communities,' he says.

→ [SWI.NU/GIVINGSTORY](https://www.swinburne.edu.au/givingstory)

# 2019 HONOUR ROLL

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If your name has been omitted, please accept our apologies and contact our office. We also thank our donors who prefer to remain anonymous.

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