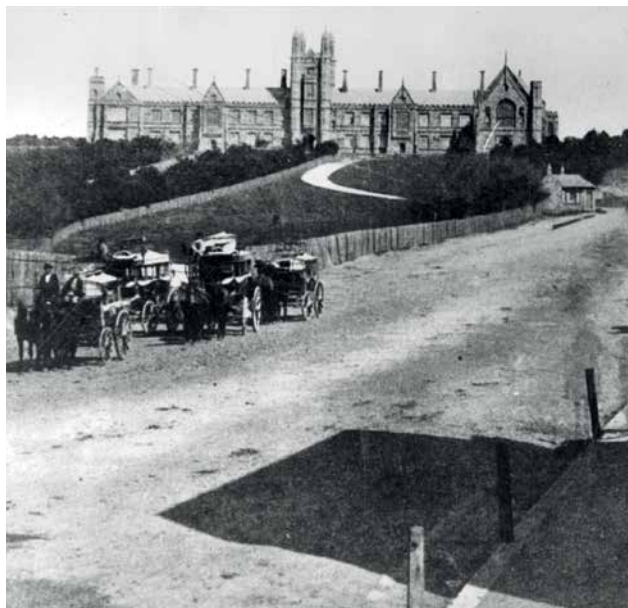




Challis Bequest Society News

10 years of the Challis Bequest Society



How giving has created history

Bequests have the power to fast-track the vital work we do at the University. It's been that way since 1850.

Above left, view from Parramatta Road to the Quadrangle, 1870; above right, the Quadrangle today. Image courtesy of the University of Sydney Archives, ref G3 224 0047

“Since 1850 the University has relied on the generosity of many to sustain it. Benefaction has come from individuals who subscribed to the belief in the betterment of the world through education and scholarship. This has been vital to the history of the University,” says Associate Professor Julia Horne, Historian and Co-author of *Sydney: The Making of a Public University*.

In 1853, only a few months after the admission of the first student, a benefactor drew up an endowment agreement with the University. Thomas Barker's gift of £1000 held great symbolic significance; the interest alone was enough to fund a student scholarship.

In 1880, a bequest from the society's namesake, John Henry Challis, of £276,000 (valued at more than \$45 million today), set a precedent for inspired giving. Used to set up the University's first professorships in the areas of Law, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Biology, Civil Engineering, English Literature, History and Philosophy, the bequest changed lives and history at Sydney.

"The Challis bequest had a further influence in articulating the meaning of the University to late 19th century colonial society," Associate Professor Horne says.

Since then, bequests of great significance have made a profound impact on the University's work, from feline research to research into cancer, creating research chairs, funding science and engineering disciplines, and establishing the Macleay Museum to house Sir William Macleay's natural history collection, as well as Fisher Library.

During the Great Depression, when the NSW Government had reduced its funding to the University, bequests were particularly important. In 1919, the University was grateful to receive a bequest in the order of one-third of grazier Samuel McCaughey's £1 million estate (his gift to the

University is valued at more than \$23 million today). McCaughey, who made his fortune from sheep and wool, left this endowment for general purposes.

Similarly, George Henry Bosch changed lives with donations he provided throughout the 1920s to support cancer research. In 1927, his donation of £27,000 endowed the Chair in Histology and Embryology and, in 1928, he gave the University a further £200,000 to create chairs in Medicine, Surgery and Bacteriology.

"These chairs were a great step towards strengthening the clinical teaching and research capacity of the Faculty of Medicine," Associate Professor Horne says. "In addition, they made it possible for the University to apply for support from the Rockefeller Foundation for the construction of the new medical school." When Bosch died in 1934, he left most of his estate to the University of Sydney Medical School.

Women have also held a significant place in the history of benefaction at the University. "As early as 1874, women approached the University to give money for scholarships and lectureships, sometimes as part of their husband's dying wishes," says Associate Professor Horne.



Fernand Léger's *Académie Moderne*, Paris, c. 1924, silver gelatin photograph, 16.5 x 35.5 cm, photographer unknown; Edith Power Bequest 1961, the University of Sydney, managed by the Museum of Contemporary Art

J. W. Power is pictured 5th from left.

"In addition to supporting the brightest and most deserving students, philanthropy has contributed to developing a general liberal education."

Associate Professor Julia Horne
Historian and Co-author of *Sydney: The Making of a Public University*.



J. W. Power, *Apollon et Daphné*, 1929, oil on canvas, 109.5 x 63.6 cm, Edith Power Bequest 1961, the University of Sydney, managed by the Museum of Contemporary Art

The first woman to make a bequest to the University was Sophia Hovell in 1876. The wife of William Hilton Hovell, explorer and settler, her legacy of £6000 in memory of her husband established a lectureship in Geology. Now known as the Edgeworth David Professor of Geology and William Hilton Hovell Lecturer, the bequest reflected the need to expand science as a new degree.

The arts, including fine arts, writing and music, have also benefited greatly from generous bequests. In 1961 John Wardell Power left £2 million (valued at more than \$45 million today) to be used to introduce the latest artistic ideas from around the world to Australia.

"The Power bequest, which came into effect in 1962 after the death of his wife, Edith, enabled the University to purchase a diverse collection of contemporary art – from pop art to Latin American kinetic art," says Associate Professor Horne. "It also established the Power Institute with a research library, public education program and a residency scheme for Australian artists at the Cité Internationale des Arts cultural complex in Paris."

The Power Bequest also provided core funding for Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art, opened in 1991. Also in 1962, Eleanor Wood left £415,000 (now worth more than \$11 million) to establish travelling scholarships and Sydney University Press, while in 2005 George and Mary Henderson bequeathed \$16 million for the advancement of music.

"One of the largest collections of ancient artefacts in the country and notable ethnographic, natural history and art collections belong to the University," Associate Professor Horne says. "The University is responsible for the care and upkeep of these valuable collections, all of which come at significant cost, rarely covered by government funding.

"In addition to supporting the brightest and most deserving students, philanthropy has contributed to developing a general liberal education, especially the support and development of the arts and sciences," she says.

Bequests have changed lives and the course of history at the University and continue to do so today.

Visionaries transform eye research

For more than three decades, the Save Sight Institute has been world leader in eye research. Professor Peter McCluskey knows how important bequests have been to achieving its many breakthroughs.

“Having good vision is critically important – if you can see well, you will age well and age productively,” says Peter McCluskey, Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and Eye Health, and Director of the Save Sight Institute. The institute forms part of the University of Sydney Medical School, and incorporates the University’s Discipline of Clinical Ophthalmology, which is responsible for the teaching of ophthalmology and research skills to undergraduate and postgraduate medical, ophthalmology, research and vision science students. Through the discipline of ophthalmology, the Save Sight Institute is responsible for training 80 percent of ophthalmologists in NSW.

The institute’s clinic provides specialist services across the spectrum of ophthalmic conditions, with a focus on rare eye conditions, specialist investigations and research. As a tertiary referral centre, the clinic attracts the most severe and complex eye disorders, and leads research into eye diseases and conditions throughout Australia and overseas. Its renowned team of researchers and doctors is at the forefront of ophthalmic breakthroughs, and their findings have saved the sight of many people living with eye disease since the institute was formed in 1985.

Some of this research includes the use of intravitreal steroids for macular diseases. The first clinical trials were conducted at the institute in the 1990s, and their use is now ‘standard of care’ treatment for many different macular diseases. “Intraocular steroids have been applied to diabetic

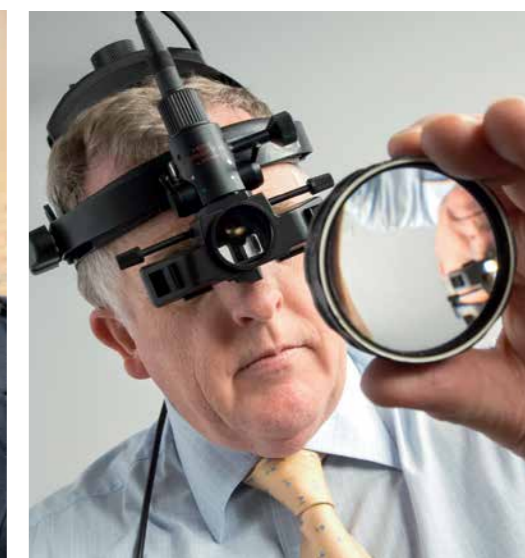
retinopathy, macular oedema and retinal vascular disease. It has revolutionised the outcomes of many of those diseases,” Professor McCluskey says.

“People who have vision impairment, or who are legally blind with severe vision impairment, have much higher rates of depression, falls, hip fractures, and hospital admissions,” he adds. “If you can’t see you become socially isolated, you become reliant on others, and you lose independence.”

With a team motivated to minimise the impacts of eye disease and related conditions, Professor McCluskey says the institute relies on the generosity of its benefactors.

“Bequests and donations are critically important to our ability to flourish as a research institute,” he says. “Bequests such as Diana Mackintosh’s for macular degeneration research are vital for us, and this one came at a timely moment.”

Ms Mackintosh’s substantial donation of almost \$300,000 will support the Macular Research Group, which develops new treatments to reduce the prevalence of blindness from macular disease. The group is headed by Professor Mark Gillies, and made up of three cohesive research units working closely with Sydney Eye Hospital. Donations are also funding an international project, led by Professor Gillies, looking at causes of a common macular disease known as MacTel, or macular telangiectasia. Researchers are trialling potential treatments for this previously untreatable disease.



Left, Professor Mark Gillies; above right, Professor Peter McCluskey.

Unparalleled collection

A recent donation from John and Shirley Sarks will fund a researcher in perpetuity to perform research on age-related macular degeneration, building on the Sarks’ groundbreaking research from the 1970s and 80s.

“Not only have the Sarks made a generous contribution to eye research, they have given us their collection of specimens, which is unparalleled anywhere in the world,” says Professor McCluskey. “Now we have a researcher to apply modern techniques to this disease and we’ve got the specimens on which to do it.”

Research at the institute covers all major parts of the eye and is integrated across laboratory research, clinical trials, implementation and ongoing patient monitoring. Research areas include cataract, corneal, eye cancer, lens development, macular, retinal blindness, glaucoma, ocular repair, ophthalmic pathology, retinal development, inflammatory eye disease and more.

The institute is well placed, through its combined clinical and research-based strategies, to apply expertise from across the University in genome engineering, sequencing, vector and stem cell technology, to these issues causing blindness.

“For diseases of the eye’s window – the cornea – we are also finding solutions,” Professor McCluskey says. “This is critical, as corneal disease is a leading cause of irreversible visual impairment that affects all ages.”

Professor Stephanie Watson’s team at the institute has developed therapies to treat corneal disease. Stem cell therapies have restored sight and, for corneal infection (keratitis), new models of care are reducing the burden on both the patient and the health system.

“We have also created ‘Save Sight Registries’ to track the progress and outcomes for people being treated for these diseases in real time,” says Professor McCluskey. “The module for macular degeneration is the largest, prospectively gathered database of patient outcomes for treatment of macular degeneration in the world.”

The data being gathered from the registries is leading to a better understanding of outcomes, and is changing the way these diseases are treated.

Much of Save Sight Institute’s research is conducted thanks to the generosity of people like Ms Diana Mackintosh. If you would like more information on how to support the Save Sight Institute, please contact the Planned Giving team on 02 8627 8824.

Bequests transform the University

This timeline shows just a few of the many bequests, great and small, which have supported its growth and transformation since 1850.



The Anderson Stuart Building, with MacLaurin Hall under construction, 1900; image courtesy of the University of Sydney Archives, ref G3 224 0040.

Samuel McCaughey; image courtesy of the University of Sydney Archives, ref G3 224 1897.



The Conservatorium Orchestra performs in the Great Hall, 1990; image courtesy of the University of Sydney Archives, ref G77 1 0215



Elwin à Beckett in front of Wilton House, Salisbury, UK, 1956

1852

38 students enrolled and 38 staff including three professors.



Undergraduate students, circa 1857-8.

1876
Sophia Hovell
She established a lectureship in geology in memory of her husband, William Hilton Hovell.

Amount: £6000

1884
Thomas Fisher
He bequeathed funds for the building and maintenance of the University's first library.

Amount: £30,000



John Henry Challis; image courtesy of the University of Sydney Archives, ref G3 224 0654.

1880
John Henry Challis
His transformative bequest funded the University's first professorships in Law, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Biology, Engineering, English, History and Philosophy.

Amount: £276,000 (valued at more than \$45 million in 2016)



Interior of the MacLay Museum, 1972; image courtesy of the University of Sydney Archives, ref G77 1 0042

1891
Sir William Macleay
He bequeathed the family's natural history collection and funds to employ a curator for the Macleay Museum.

Amount: £6000 for the natural history museum

1905
Peter Nicol Russell
Engineering is consolidated through the Peter Nicol Russell endowments which established scholarships and provided support for teaching.

Amount: £100,000

1928
George Henry Bosch
He funded research and the creation of chairs in Medicine, Surgery and Bacteriology and opened the way for support from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Amount: £227,000



George Henry Bosch; image courtesy of the University of Sydney Archives, ref G3 224 1720.

1962
Eleanor Wood
Her bequest funded travelling scholarships and enabled the establishment of the Sydney University Press.

Amount: £415,000 (more than \$11 million in 2016)



Sydney University Press Building on City Road, 1986

1992
Jacqueline Diana Oscar Paul
The JDO Paul Trust supports research into the causes and treatment of mental disorders.

Amount: \$2 million to date

1993
Valentine Charlton
The Valentine Charlton bequest funded the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre, which ensures high-quality veterinary care. It also supports teaching and research at the University.

Amount: \$2.8 million

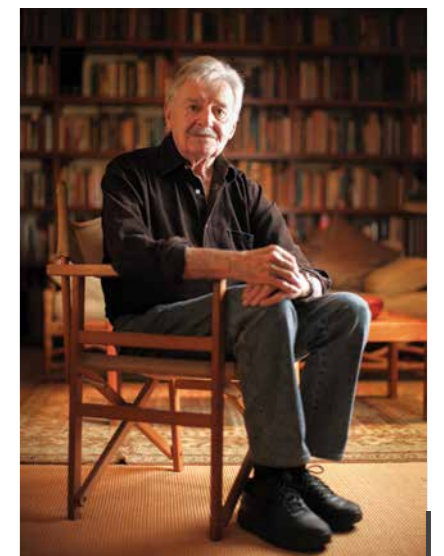
2013
Emma Elwin a'Beckett
The William Arthur Martin a'Beckett Cancer Research Trust supports cancer research, with a particular emphasis on bowel cancer research at the Charles Perkins Centre.

Amount: \$14.9 million



2015
Peter Sculthorpe
His bequest will establish the first Chair of Australian Music to support, promote and advance music in Australia.

Amount: more than \$4.2 million



2016
More than **56,700 students** enrolled and over **7920 staff FTE** including **3655 academic FTE***

*Student and staff data are as at 31/3/2016. Academic staff FTE includes casual staff.

2011
Nancy Roma Paech
The Nancy Roma Paech bequest for agriculture funds scholarships and an academic chair in Range Science in the University's Centre for Carbon, Water and Food.

Amount: \$8.7 million

Advancing educational research

Dr Ray Debus, teacher, researcher, professor and University of Sydney alumnus, has ensured his passion for the advancement of education lives on well after his passing.

Alumnus and Associate Professor Dr Ray Debus taught and researched in the area of educational psychology at the University of Sydney from 1958 to 1996. Following his retirement, he remained an Honorary Associate in the faculty until permanently retiring in 2009.

Dr Debus dedicated his lifetime work at the University to the advancement of education. However, he also ensured his legacy would live on by bequeathing almost \$1 million to establish an endowed fund. This fund will enable honours students and graduates to pursue advanced studies or research in the field of education.

“Associate Professor Ray Debus was an esteemed educational psychologist who advised and mentored many doctoral students and early career researchers during the time he worked in the Faculty of Education,” says Professor Diane Mayer, Head of School and Dean, Sydney School of Education and Social Work.

Many of Dr Debus’s students are now prominent educational researchers. Dr Debus remained involved in supervising postgraduate research students until 2009.

According to Professor Mayer, the Sydney School of Education and Social Work is dedicated to preparing high-quality teachers through research-led programs, as well as providing professional and ongoing learning opportunities for teachers, and to conduct leading international research to inform the profession and influence policy – goals that were close to Dr Debus’s heart.



“Our challenge is to ensure that each and every school student is given the best possible opportunity to succeed and achieve positive learning outcomes,” Professor Mayer says. “To do that we are preparing the next generation of researchers and scholars. It is our vision to be a national and international leader in education, social work and social policy.”

The University will achieve this, she says, through excellence in professional education, rigorous research, and informed and critical engagement with theory, policy and practice.

“The bequest from Dr Debus will support high-quality researchers committed to excellence in professional education and critical engagement with policy and practice in ways designed to ensure socially just educational outcomes,” Professor Mayer says.

Dr Debus was also the patron of the NSW Institute of Educational Research. He was a founding member of the Australian Association for Research in Education in 1970 and remained an active member of that association until his death in 2014.

“The Sydney School of Education and Social Work is honoured to accept the bequest from Dr Debus for scholarships to support honours students or candidates in research higher degree programs,” says Professor Mayer. “These scholarships will enable student to pursue advanced studies or research in the field of education in Australia or overseas, and realise Dr Debus’s commitment to high-quality and impactful educational research.”

A message from the bequest team

We are delighted to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Challis Bequest Society this year. The society was launched in August 2007 at a special lunch held in the University’s Great Hall to honour those who support the University through a testamentary gift.

More than 170 valued supporters who at the time had indicated they had left a bequest to the University were invited to the launch. All were offered membership of the newly established society.

Since then the Challis Bequest Society has grown substantially and now has more than 500 members. During the past 10 years we have been greatly honoured to meet so many members and others who have chosen not to take up ‘active’ membership. We thank you for sharing your stories and passions with us.

We will continue to make contact and visit our members and friends wherever possible. If you have not heard from us for a while and would like to arrange a visit, please contact us so we can schedule a time with you.

Wendy Marceau and Angela Topping

Challis Bequest Society events

Friday 26 October, 12 to 2.30pm
Challis Bequest Society lunch
The Great Hall, the Quadrangle

Public events at the Nicholson Museum

1 April, 2 – 3pm*
Dr Jude Philp
Crossing the Owen Stanley Ranges in 1890s PNG
Venue: General Lecture Theatre

11 April^
Dr Julia Kindt
Nostalgia: From Homer to Vintage Hats

6 May, 2 – 3pm*
Dr Robert Veel
Venice and the ancient world: Byzantine and Roman Models
Venue: General Lecture Theatre

11 May, 5.30 for 6pm*
Leah Lui-Chivizhe
Reconnecting turtle shell masks to Islander histories
Venue: Nicholson Museum

18 May, 3 – 4pm*
Curator’s tour of the Nicholson Museum for International Museum Day
Venue: Nicholson Museum

25 May^
A performance by Department of Classics and Ancient History students
Aristophanes’ Clouds

3 June, 2 – 3pm*
Dr Jamie Fraser
A Postcard from Carchemish: in the footsteps of Lawrence of Arabia
Venue: ???

29 June^
A Life in Archaeology: In Conversation with Vincent Megaw
*Free talk but we ask you to book.

^6pm (for 6.30pm) to 7.30pm.
Venue: Nicholson Museum
Cost: \$40 (\$30 for Friends of Nicholson Museum and guests). Complimentary tickets are available to Legacy members (those who have provided the bequest office with a copy of their will, or relevant clause in the will).

Sydney Ideas

This unique program of regular, free forums brings together leading academics and researchers to talks and conversations on a diverse range of topics and issues. For details of events in the series, please visit:

– sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas

For details of all University of Sydney events, please visit

– whatson.sydney.edu.au/events

To RSVP for the events listed, please contact Angela Topping.

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