



# Lincoln Legacy Society Newsletter 2023

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## Message from the Vice-Chancellor



*Welcome to our latest edition of the Lincoln Legacy Society Newsletter, where we capture some of the faces and stories featured in our celebratory function earlier in the year.*

**M**acquarie University serves and engages the world through our dual mission of providing transformative learning and teaching for our students, and advancing the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge through our research.

The Lincoln Legacy Society morning tea was an opportunity for Macquarie University to express our gratitude for supporting our pioneering culture of education, research and health. The connection between this forward-thinking community and the University enables us to drive a culture that creates positive change. With your support, we provide inspirational and life-changing learning opportunities, invest in cutting-edge research and establish world-class teaching facilities.

Your forward-thinking generosity and your own remarkable story support our dual mission, as evidenced on each page of this newsletter. The inspirational stories of our generous donors making a difference in fields close to their hearts and the groundbreaking research improving lives worldwide impress on me the impact we can all have on those around us.

*Thank you for entrusting us with your legacy. With your support, we are shaping a future where your generosity will resonate for generations to come.*

**Professor S Bruce Dowton**  
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT

# Celebrating generosity and vision: the Lincoln Legacy Society morning tea



**T**he annual Lincoln Legacy Society morning tea is a heartwarming event that brings together visionaries who have generously left a gift in their will to support Macquarie University.

Lincoln Legacy Society members play a vital role in our institution, providing unwavering support and generous philanthropy. Their contributions enable Macquarie to make a positive impact on the world, transform lives and nurture future leaders. Through their thoughtful bequests, members empower the University to offer scholarships, conduct groundbreaking research and create world-class learning facilities, as well as provide educational opportunities to aspiring students who may not have otherwise dreamed of attending university.

Almost 40 guests attended the event, embracing the spirit of generosity and a shared vision. Adding musical harmony to the occasion, the University's a cappella group, Macappella, delivered a fantastic performance, followed by a warm welcome speech by Professor S Bruce Dowton, Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie University.

*Highlights of the event included moving speeches by students Jade Bunt and Bailey Beattie, both recipients of the esteemed Dunmore Lang College Regional and Rural Scholarship. Their stories served as testaments to how the Lincoln Legacy Society's support has opened doors to transformative opportunities for young minds.*

The morning tea also featured a special presentation to welcome Ms Natalie Ritchie (see page 13) as a new Lincoln Legacy Society member. Ms Ritchie's passion for Egyptology has inspired her to enable future Egyptologists to study and engage in the ancient world, and to leave a legacy in academia.

Filled with lively conversations and the heartfelt sharing of stories, the Lincoln Legacy Society morning tea was truly a celebration of giving back and leaving a legacy that will shape lives and enrich education for generations to come.

(See more images on pages 10 and 11.)



Contact the  
Philanthropy Office on  
(02) 9850 1386 or at email  
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@mq.edu.au



## Scholarship recipients

*Jade Bunt and Bailey Beattie were our two student scholarship speakers at this year's event, and they certainly left an impact on everyone seated in the room, with their honest accounts of how scholarships have enabled them to pursue their otherwise 'dream' to come to the big smoke to study.*

*Both students are from rural New South Wales: Jade is from Dubbo and Bailey is from Broken Hill. The idea of leaving school after the HSC and pursuing their dreams of studying came to fruition when they applied for and were successful in obtaining a Macquarie Dunmore Lang College Rural and Regional Scholarship.*



### Jade Bunt

**J**ade grew up in Dubbo, and her choice of study was not offered anywhere near home. It seemed her dream was unattainable, until she became a successful scholarship recipient.

With a supportive family and her beloved grandparents instilling the power of dreaming, she was told, "You're going to make it all the way to the top one day, Sugar." Now, in her fourth year of the Bachelor of Psychology and Bachelor of Laws, she is well on her way.

Having a family affiliation in the justice system, Jade found that law was a natural step. With her scholarship success, she was able to study in Sydney without needing to concern herself or her family with finances but, instead, focus on her studies and achieve her dream.

*Jade's experience has enabled her to engage in university life, volunteer, compete in the Macquarie University Law Society's moot competitions, represent her peers on boards, be a student adviser and, establish herself in the world she wants to prosper in.*

Jade has already worked in her community to inspire other students to chase their dreams. When she reaches her own financial security, she aims to donate and scholarships to perpetuate the cycle.



## Bailey Beattie

**B**ailey, hailing from Broken Hill, believes in the adage that “luck is what happens when hard work meets opportunity”.

Coming from a family that has worked the land with sheep and cattle for generations, Bailey wanted different but couldn’t envisage university as a possibility.

However, he was faced with luck and opportunity when a careers adviser suggested he get qualifications, such as a university degree, as playing footy may not be enough.

Bailey applied for and successfully secured a scholarship. The relief he felt, knowing there was no financial strain on his family, made his university dream seem achievable.

In his final year of the Bachelor of Business, Bailey has made the most of every opportunity that has come his way. He has built a strong network, maintains a great work ethic, and holds a permanent part-time role with a residential construction company while studying full-time.

*“I am where I am because of those who have donated to scholarships.” One day, he also hopes to pay it forward so the next “small-town country kid” can achieve their dreams too.*

# Showcasing collaborative triumphs in pioneering cancer research

*Each year, the University hosts events to help members of our community gain a better understanding of the exciting research and developments taking place in various fields.*

**A**t a recent gathering, almost 150 alumni and donors came together at the Art Gallery of New South Wales for an event showcasing pioneering cancer research at Macquarie. Hosted by Professor Helen Rizos, from Macquarie Medical School, this event shed light on the multidisciplinary efforts of the Macquarie Cancer Research Network.

## Unveiling clinical innovations

Professor Howard Gurney, Director of the Macquarie University Clinical Trials Unit, introduced cutting-edge approaches to predicting patient responses to cancer therapies in real time. His revelations highlighted the progress in cancer treatment while acknowledging the challenges that persist.



Event host Professor Helen Rizos, Macquarie Medical School



Professor Howard Gurney, Director of Clinical Trials and Head of the Macquarie University Hospital Cancer Program

## Empowerment through innovation

Dr Noushin Nasiri, who holds an Early Career Fellowship from the Cancer Institute NSW and is known for helping bridge the gap between medicine and engineering, showcased her work on a personalised UV-sensing device. This wearable innovation has the potential to revolutionise sun safety,

a critical concern in Australia where skin cancers, including melanoma, are alarmingly prevalent due to UV exposure. Dr Nasiri's device offers wearers a personal UV dosage alert system, an approach that could significantly reduce the risk of skin cancers.

## A vision for zero deaths from melanoma

Professor Rizos and her team have a vision for zero deaths from melanoma. They are working closely with the Macquarie University Clinical Trials Unit and Melanoma Institute Australia to develop minimally invasive blood tests to predict patient outcomes and guide treatment selection. This groundbreaking endeavour complements the UV-sensing device developed by Dr Nasiri.

Professor Rizos said, "One in two people will get cancer in their lifetime. Our researchers and clinicians at MQ Health are in a unique position to help those of us living with cancer, those who have survived cancer and all of us who are impacted by cancer."



Dr Noushin Nasiri, Head of the NanoTech Laboratory, School of Engineering



Engaging Q&A: Our expert panel addressed audience questions with insightful answers.

L-R: Dr Noushin Nasiri; Professor Patrick McNeil, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Medicine and Health), and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences; Professor Howard Gurney, Director of Clinical Trials; and Professor Helen Rizos

## Wrapping up a visionary event

The event concluded on an optimistic note, underscoring the collaborative spirit and innovative prowess propelling Macquarie's cancer research initiatives.

The fusion of medical insights, technological innovation and collaborative ethos showcased during the event served as a testament to the remarkable advancements in the ongoing battle against cancer.



# The Macquarie Advantage

*Since joining the University more than a year ago, Professor Rorden Wilkinson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), has come to recognise the distinct 'Macquarie Advantage'. Here, he explains how it can guide us as we set a strategic course for the future.*

Professor Rorden Wilkinson speaking at the Lincoln Legacy Society morning tea

It has been an extraordinary first year at Macquarie, and I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received from everyone here. The genuine desire of the Macquarie community to provide a transformational educational experience, and the care and compassion that they show towards our students, is humbling.

It is clear that our unique advantage lies in the quality of our teaching, the experiences we craft for our students, our industry connections, our collaborative culture, and the values of care and compassion that underpin our University.

As we navigate the shifting sands of the higher education landscape, our unique advantage will guide us into the future. We have the opportunity to build on the areas where we have genuine strength, where we can make meaningful improvements, and where we might be sector pioneers.

The University has already begun thinking strategically about how we might build on the Macquarie Advantage. Colleagues and students have been helping with the initial designs for this strategy. I am grateful for their insights and look forward to engaging with the broader University community in the months ahead to understand our collective aspirations for the future of education at Macquarie.

I have been fortunate to speak with many Macquarie alumni since joining the University, all of whom have shared with me the extraordinary impact our education has had on their lives. Their time at Macquarie really did prove to be transformational. I am delighted to be part of a community so committed to making a difference in the world.





# Macquarie University Cancer Biobank



*Each year, the University hosts events to help members of our community gain a better understanding of the exciting research and developments taking place in various fields.*

## Collecting for a cure

The Macquarie University Cancer Biobank is unique in the breadth of its activity and the innovative research it promotes. The biobank collects tissue and blood from patients under investigation or treatment for cancer at Macquarie University's Health Sciences Centre, MQ Health, which includes Macquarie University Hospital and a range of specialist clinics. The Macquarie University Cancer Biobank has been certified by the Biobank Certification Program led by NSW Health Pathology.

## What is a biospecimen bank?

A biospecimen bank is a collection of samples from tissues or fluids (from the skin, organs and blood) that are stored for current and future research purposes. Biospecimen banks also record clinical information and pathology reports associated with biospecimens.

## What are the objectives of the Macquarie University Cancer Biobank?

The objective of the Macquarie University Cancer Biobank is to facilitate research into the cause, development, diagnosis and treatment of cancer/tumours.

Biospecimens and patient information associated with the samples will be made available to researchers who are conducting ethically approved cancer research.



## Lincoln Legacy Society morning tea



Macappella with a great rendition of 'Ophelia'



A campus walk – Faculty of Arts building where our museum is based



From left: Shyman and Sue







From left: Jade and Richard sharing stories



From left: Emma and Pamela



Our Vice-Chancellor talking to esteemed friends Cliff (left) and Derek (right)



From left: Iman, Adam, Hannah, Richard and Katalin



Patricia and David enjoying the campus tour



## Member spotlight



### Daphne Thornton and John Hosie

“John Hosie and I were invited to the inaugural function to launch the Lincoln Legacy Society, and it was from there that we both decided to leave a bequest to Macquarie University. We were particularly impressed by the openness of the University to accommodate to our wishes about the direction of our bequest.

John was the very first honours master's student in the history faculty at Macquarie. I began my BA studies at Macquarie in the late '60s but moved to the US and finished my degree there. I completed my social work degree at Sydney University.

John was a historian with a number of books to his credit and also a teacher at secondary and tertiary level. His interest was in establishing a program in schools that addresses the needs of children who are experiencing severe disruption in their childhood, for example, the death of a parent or a difficult parental divorce.

*“My interest as a social worker is in dementia care. For many years I worked in rehabilitation and geriatrics departments. I have had a vast experience of dementia at both the professional and personal level as John now has dementia.”*

I have had the privilege of meeting with a number of researchers at Macquarie in the dementia field and have been greatly impressed with their dedication to their research and their empathy for the patients and their carers. I have trust and confidence that my bequest will be put to good use.

In Australia there are currently approximately 400,000 people living with dementia. It seems an overwhelming amount of suffering at so many levels. I believe that for every patient with dementia there are at least two family members suffering

with them. Dementia robs the sufferers of their personality, their memory and their histories, and it robs us of the loved one that we hold dear. It is among the curablest of diseases because we are currently helpless before its relentless progress.

I liken my daily visit to the dementia ward to being as if I have a wound in my heart and every day, I reopen the wound. It never heals. Nevertheless, my visits still provide some beautiful moments, and these are treasured.

I would consider myself blessed if my bequest could in some way go towards finding a cure for dementia so that the future generations do not face the challenge of such a devastating disease.”



## Member spotlight



### Natalie Ritchie

In 2008, with two young children aged 2 and 4 and a lifelong awe for ancient history, Natalie Ritchie was happily surprised to find that a world-class school of Egyptology was located not just in the Southern Hemisphere but at Macquarie in Sydney. She began hieroglyphs classes in the Continuing Education program at Macquarie, with the intention of writing an Egyptological novel. That quickly led to enrolling in the masters program, from which she graduated in 2011, having completed a dig at one of Macquarie's archaeological concessions at Tehna in Middle Egypt, which was interrupted by the Arab Spring revolution. Since then, she has maintained continuous contact with the Australian Centre for Egyptology, attending its annual conferences and dinner and online seminars. She currently participates in a weekly hieroglyph translation group run by a Macquarie tutor and, as a professional editor, is planning to establish a specialist Egyptology academic editing service.

She wished to leave a sum to the Australian Centre for Egyptology. In consultation with Andrew Graves, Senior Development Manager in the Philanthropy arm of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, and Dr Karin Sowada, Director of the Australian Centre for Egyptology, a decision was reached on the best way to word the bequest to direct the funds to the most appropriate purposes while still leaving the centre ample scope for using the bequest as they see fit in the future. Whether the bequest is used for a travel grant, a piece of field equipment, an event or some other purpose, Natalie says it is heartening to know that future Egyptologists will benefit.

"I receive so much deep-seated joy when engaging with Egyptology," she said. "To know that I can pass some of the immense privilege of studying this most splendid of ancient cultures on to others in the future, to know that the joy of studying this extraordinary subject does not end with me, is wonderful."

## Macquarie Law School

*The new Michael Kirby Building, home to the Macquarie Law School, will open in 2024 and embody a bold new vision for a new world of legal education and Macquarie University. The building will cover an impressive 8600 square metres for aspiring new legal students.*



*Construction of the Michael Kirby Building is expected to be completed at the end of this year.*

In June, Chancellor Emeritus the Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG and his partner, Johan van Vloten, were given a tour of the soon-to-be-completed Macquarie Law School at 17 Wally's Walk.

The innovative new Michael Kirby Building, named for Honourable Kirby's contribution to the University and the Australian legal profession, is set to be the purpose-built home for Macquarie Law School and other key initiatives, including Wallumatta Legal, the Aboriginal Legal Career Pathways program and a professional legal clinic space for students.

Created with engagement in mind, the open-plan building design embodies the welcoming ethos of Macquarie Law

School, while clever internal connections encourage collaboration and the free exchange of ideas between educators, students, researchers, industry and the greater community.

Having opportunities to engage with the community is a particularly important feature of legal education at Macquarie, as the Honourable Mr Kirby – a prominent advocate for social justice – has noted.

“Reminding law students, whilst they undertake their studies at Macquarie Law School, of the realities of injustice and inequality in Australia is not only helpful for those in need – it is also a big motivator for what originally inspires most law students to get involved with the law,” the Honourable Mr Kirby said.





Professor Lise Barry, Dean of Macquarie Law School, said the new building will allow Macquarie students to take their understanding of their role as legal professionals to a new level.

“This building will truly be a hub for the next generation of legal leaders,” she said. “The design fosters intellectual curiosity and promotes professional competency by encouraging students to integrate the skills they have developed in their courses to real-world applications.”

The building’s features include cutting-edge teaching spaces, lecture theatres, recording studios, independent and collaborative study and research centres, an outdoor area and an event space.

The Honourable Mr Kirby was particularly excited to see the ‘floating’ moot court taking shape. The first of its kind in Australia, the court extends beyond the Wally’s Walk facade and will serve as a prominent reminder to the whole campus community of the important role universities play in shaping the nation’s future.

“The Michael Kirby Building solidifies the future of Macquarie Law School as an agent of positive change,” said Professor Dowton. “Not only will it support our ambition to deliver a future-focused and transformative student experience at Macquarie, but it also creates a vibrant hub on our Wallumattagal Campus, as we work with partners and communities to create a more just, ethical and inclusive future for us all.”

Clockwise: Viewing of the site, Professor S Bruce Dowton, Vice-Chancellor, and the Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG, Macquarie Law School building school.

## PHILANTHROPY

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