



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

# Your Legacy Their Future

Empowering the Next Generation



# You can make a big difference

A gift in your Will, no matter the amount, is one of the most powerful ways you can help shape the future.

A gift in your Will creates a legacy of support for what you are passionate about.

At UNSW we are committed to honouring your wishes and ensuring your gift is used as intended. UNSW has a broad range of educational opportunities and fields of research. Your support and generosity will be used to create the best possible future, advancing new research, empowering students, and educating our next leaders.

**Gifts in Will are the most common and often the most straightforward planned gifts.**

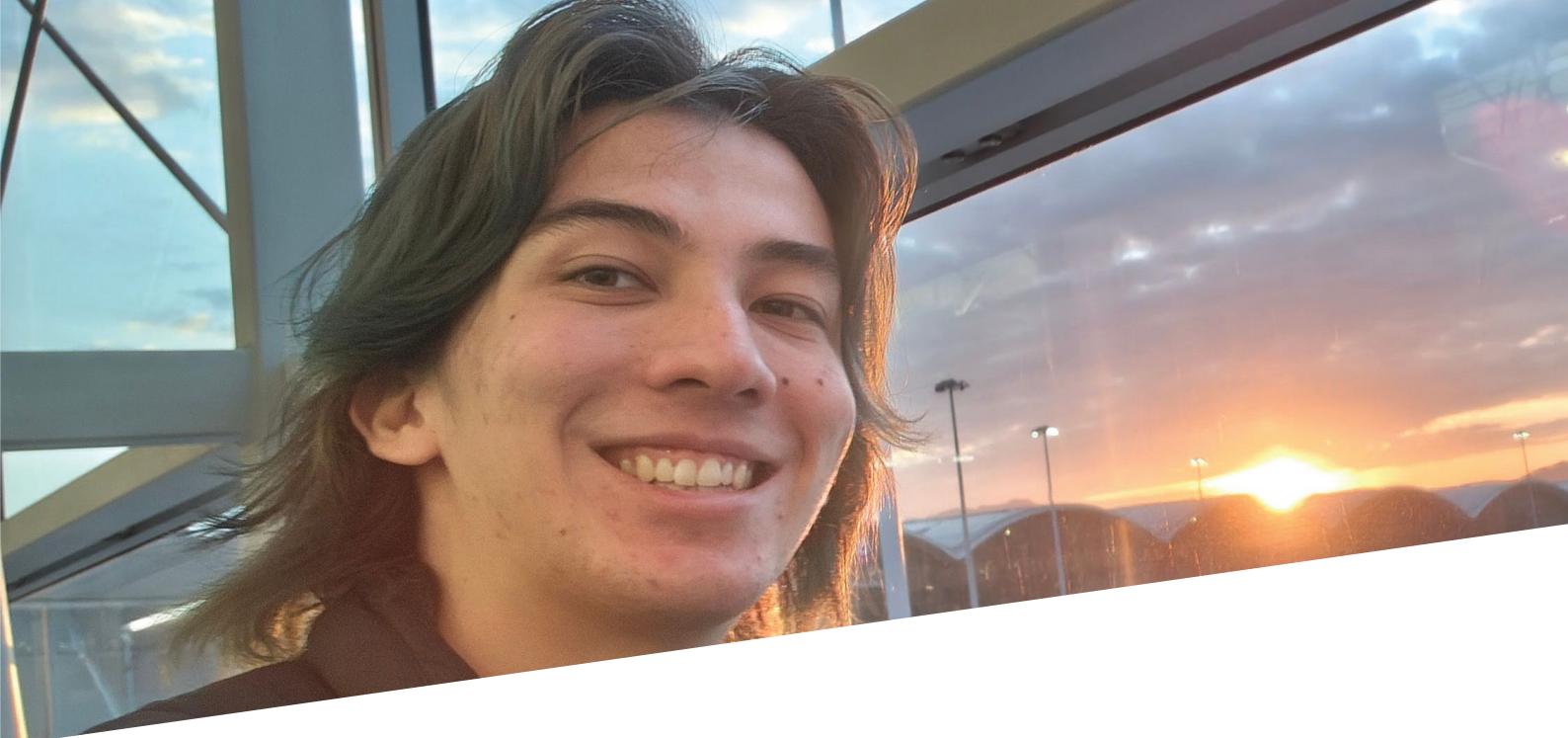
Whether it is funding research into new treatments for rare diseases, advancing solar power, or providing scholarships that will enable regional students to pursue their dreams and complete a degree at UNSW, a gift in your Will can make a huge difference. You can designate your gift to any area of impact you choose or leave your gift undesignated to fund the University's highest priorities.

You may change your Will at any time if your circumstances change. You retain control and use of your assets during your lifetime. You don't need to be wealthy to include a gift in your Will. Any amount can have an impact or can make a difference.

*“Over the last four decades, we've moved from hopelessness to hope and from stigma to science. Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHeBA) is a world leader in dementia research, and your contributions will fund research not only into early diagnosis, treatment and care for those with dementia and other age-related brain disorders, but also prevention and positive aging for the future.”*

Scientia Professor Henry Brodaty





# Helping students to achieve their dreams

If ever there is an example of how crucial a scholarship can be to enable a worthy student to attend UNSW, no matter what the circumstances, it would be that of WenYuan Limschnieder.

WenYuan, an engineering and science student, was deeply worried when record-breaking floods devastated his hometown of Taree on the mid-north coast of NSW early in 2025. Their family home was cut off from everything, and they had no help for almost a week. A storage area and roof of a building his parents had bought in which to set up a law firm were severely water damaged.

But thanks to the University's Ian and Barbara Burgess Memorial Rural Scholarship, WenYuan was able to continue his studies.

"Having the financial backing of a scholarship meant that I was not reliant on my parents for anything – they never needed to send me money at all. That was a huge relief, knowing they could look after themselves and my sisters and their business," Wen Yuan said.

"It's really daunting living in Sydney when you move there from the country. Everything is so incredibly expensive. It's an enormous boost for people like me from underprivileged backgrounds," he said. "And on top of that, when you are from the country, you might face natural disasters like the one my family did."

Before the UNSW alumnus and legendary business leader Dr Ian Burgess, AO, passed away in 2014, he and his wife Barbara set up the Ian and Barbara Burgess Memorial Scholarship as a gift in his Will. The scholarships support rural students in Engineering and Science.



Ian knew from first-hand experience that attending university can be transformational for individuals, whatever their background or circumstances might be.

As a country boy, Ian spent most of his school years as a boarder at The Kings School before moving on campus into a hostel managed by the University. His gratitude prompted him to set up a scholarship to give others the same chance of attending university career as he did, feeling supported and nurtured.

The couple's niece Janet Twigden finds it deeply moving to know that "Every year, there is a family standing around a kitchen table and a young person who opens a letter and says, 'Wow, I've won a scholarship.'"

"I am so proud of them that they are using the rewards of a lifetime to create a better world," Janet said.

Scholarships at UNSW do more than provide financial assistance – they are a catalyst for change. When we remove the barriers that prevent talented students from accessing education, we allow them to reach their full potential.

Now in his third year of a Bachelor of Renewable Energy Engineering and a Bachelor of Advanced Science (Chemistry), WenYuan is excited about developing or improving technologies such as solar power to provide clean, accessible and affordable energy.

# Revolutionary Research

Dr Michael Janitz is a researcher with a big dream: to develop a test that would help sufferers of multiple system atrophy (MSA) – a rare and poorly understood neurodegenerative disease that impairs mobility, breathing, sight and speech. It affects about 2500 Australians.

There is currently no cure or treatment for MSA, but early diagnosis enables better management of the disease and could one day lead to more effective treatments.

At the time, the molecular geneticist at UNSW's School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Science had been researching MSA for more than a decade, after previously studying neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Because the clinical symptoms of MSA are similar to Parkinson's disease, many people spend years going from specialist to specialist before finally getting a correct diagnosis. The average time from diagnosis to death is seven to nine years. "This highlighted the need to develop a test that could provide unequivocal diagnosis," said Dr Janitz.

But securing the money to do this was a big hurdle. "It's a very under-funded area in general. There are no dedicated government-funded programs for MSA," he said.

Then a gift changed everything.

In October 2022, a MSA patient who he had been in close contact with, Michael Chahine, had tragically passed away. Michael, who had been a successful fashion retailer, had left a large gift to the MSA Research Fund at UNSW in his Will.

This gift allowed Dr Janitz's team to further investigate potential molecular biomarkers for MSA and now Dr Janitz believes his team will soon be able to create a blood test to detect MSA.

**"Michael's gift in his Will has been a game-changer, lifting our research to another level in terms of scale and complexity."**

"From our first meeting, he listened very intently to what we were saying and what we were trying to achieve. I think his diagnosis made him realise that research would be a good thing to support. Research is slow – it won't deliver outcomes in a year. Michael recognised that, and he still chose to support our work. He wasn't just thinking of himself – he was thinking more broadly about the future."

Michael's selflessness, at a time of great vulnerability, will improve the lives of countless patients living with MSA.





"My desire to give back to society has been present all through my practice and my life."

## Passing on good fortune to others

Associate Professor Richard Millard made a remarkable gift in his Will to UNSW, establishing the Millard Scholarship program to provide medical scholarships for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Richard had a humble childhood. His mother died when he was 13 and his father died three years later. He lived with his aunt where he studied hard and was determined to succeed. After a free education in England, he won a scholarship to Westminster Medical School in London. From there, he hit his stride. After obtaining a fellowship with the Royal College of Surgeons in England, he came to Australia in 1978 and became a pioneer in urology specialising in bladder control problems, particularly for those with spinal cord injuries.

"I came from a relatively poor family. There was no spare money, and I was very grateful for free education. I always felt a great debt of gratitude that I had been able to get to medical school and get the education that I would never have been able to if I had to rely on help from my family," Richard said.

"My desire to give back to society has been present all through my practice and my life. I believe that if you get something out of the goodness of someone else's heart that enables you to do something you would not have been able to otherwise do, you have a duty to society to pay it back," he said. "It was something drummed into me as a teenager, and I just carried on with this belief."

Richard's gift in Will supports students in need of financial assistance to pursue studies at UNSW Medicine and Health. His wish is for all Millard Scholars to complete medical school debt-free.

# How to make a gift in Will

Including UNSW in your Will is simpler than you might think. With the right wording, your solicitor can ensure your loved ones are looked after first and your legacy gift reflects your values. We respect that making a gift in your Will is a very personal decision. You can choose to remain anonymous or allow us to acknowledge your generosity during your lifetime.

## **There are different types of bequests:**

- Specific bequest: You may designate a specific dollar amount or property, such as real estate, securities, or artworks, that you wish to leave to the University.
- Residual bequest: You may donate the remainder or a portion of your estate to the University after all debts, taxes, expenses and other obligations (gifts to loved ones) have been looked after.

It is important to note that these options may have different tax implications depending on your situation. Your lawyer or financial adviser will be able to explain these to you.

## **UNSW has two separate investment portfolios for its philanthropic donations:**

- Beneficial funds: These are spent down and used in their entirety, generally within a relatively short time frame of three to five years.
- Endowed funds: These funds invest the capital and expend the interest component. An endowment fund generates long-term returns for your donation to ensure your legacy lives on well into the future. Income is provided every year in perpetuity to carry out your wishes and the designated purpose of the fund. Note that endowed funds require minimum donation values. Please speak with a member of the Future Giving team if you are considering a gift in Will to establish an endowed fund.





# Thank You.

When you leave a gift in your Will to UNSW, you join a community of more than 500 visionary supporters, known as the Scientia Circle, who believe in creating knowledge, opportunities and solutions for generations to come.

Giving in this special and impactful way ensures your legacy endures.

## How you can help

If you'd like to learn more, please visit [unsw.edu.au/giving/ways-to-give/leaving-a-gift-in-your-will](http://unsw.edu.au/giving/ways-to-give/leaving-a-gift-in-your-will)

Alternatively, please don't hesitate to contact:

### **Janet Hall**

Division of Societal Impact, Equity and Engagement

P: 61 478 492 032

E: [j.e.hall@unsw.edu.au](mailto:j.e.hall@unsw.edu.au)

[giftsinwills@unsw.edu.au](mailto:giftsinwills@unsw.edu.au)

