



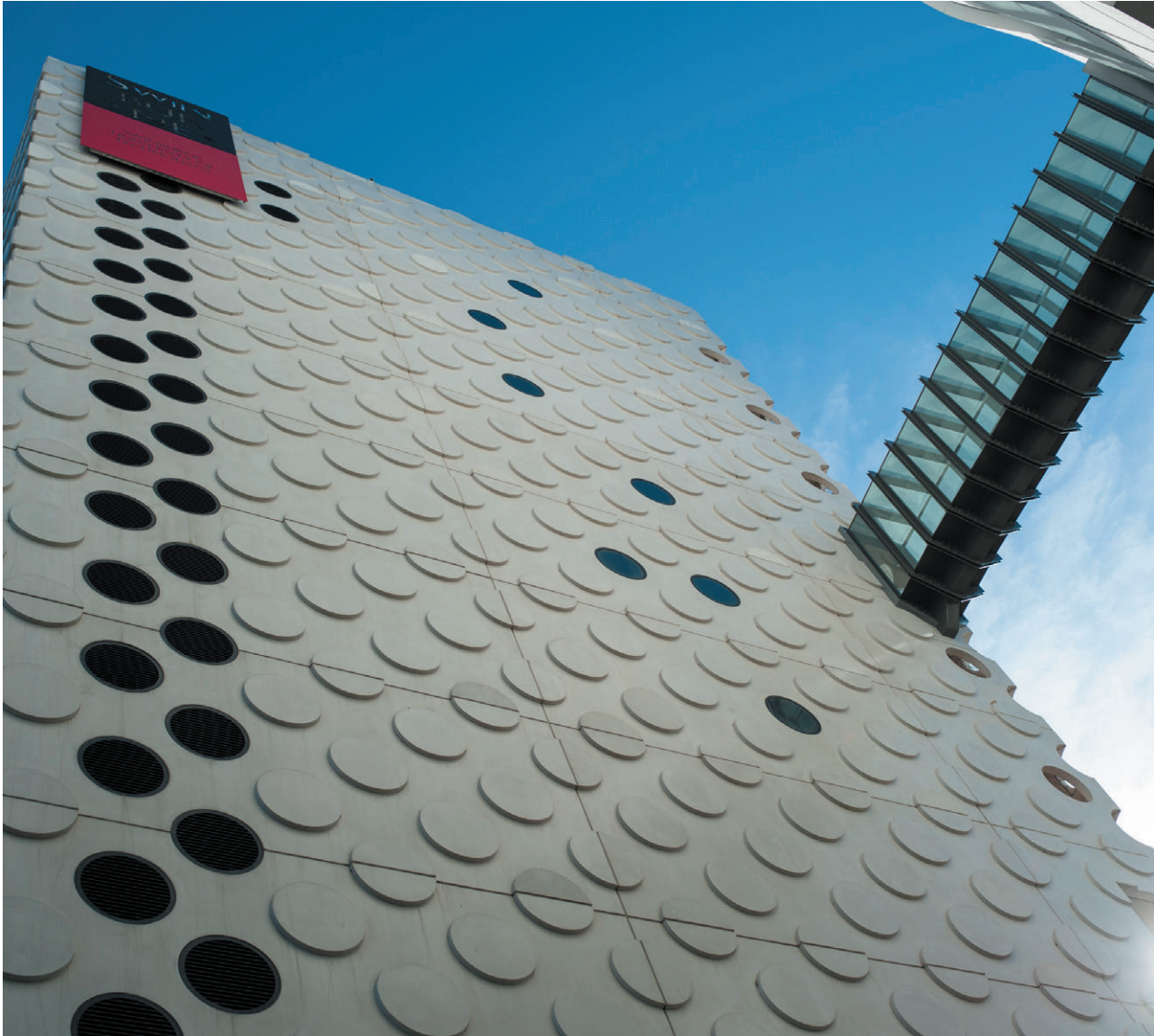
Impact Report

How your support is making a difference in the Swinburne community and beyond.

swinburne.edu.au



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Acknowledgment of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which Swinburne’s Australian campuses are located in Melbourne’s east and outer-east, and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

A message to our valued supporters – thank you for your support



In a year that tested and challenged our global community, we are more grateful than ever for your support.

On behalf of Swinburne University of Technology, thank you for the extraordinary opportunities you are making possible in our Swinburne community and beyond.

In this Impact Report you will see just some of the exceptional ways your support is inspiring change in the lives of our students and enabling our researchers to make life-changing innovations.

This past year we have been humbled by the many thoughtful and creative examples of our supporters and alumni ‘paying it forward’ to the next generation – through donations, scholarships, volunteering, work experience and industry placement opportunities, and mentoring programs.

The spirit of generosity and kindness is truly alive and well at Swinburne – and Swinburne would not be what it is without you.

The impact of your philanthropy has been more powerful and transformational than ever as we have faced unimaginable challenges together.

This is perhaps seen most clearly through the rallying of our community behind the Swinburne Student Emergency Fund, which we launched in response to devastating bushfires in early 2020 and the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Your generous support provided urgent relief – and hope – to thousands of our students when they needed it most.

As we contemplate the post COVID-19 landscape and the complex problems facing our world, we know that the future will not be without its challenges.

Swinburne has this year launched our new Horizon 2025 strategy that will be instrumental in helping to solve these challenges, with a vision of **bringing people and technology together to build a better world.**

We have set ourselves some ambitious ‘moon shots’ that will build Swinburne as the prototype of a new university – one that delivers guaranteed work experience to our students with the goal that all our graduates will secure

or create a job and one that works hand-in-hand with industry and partners to make a real difference in the world.

Integral to our new strategy is working together with you, our alumni, donors, supporters and industry partners. We look forward to sharing exciting opportunities with you in coming months.

On behalf of the entire Swinburne family, thank you again for your support, friendship and continued partnership which we hope will continue for years to come.

To view Swinburne’s Horizon 2025 strategic plan, please visit: swi.nu/horizon-2025

Professor Pascale Quester
Vice-Chancellor and President

Belinda Collins
Director of Advancement



Professor Pascale Quester
Vice-Chancellor and President



Belinda Collins
Director of Advancement

Thank you

Through your donations and support you gave students encouragement and confidence to fulfil their potential. You inspired researchers to embark on new discoveries. You helped bring our community together.

For more than 110 years, Swinburne has remained true to our founding values of equipping students, no matter their background, to thrive in their chosen paths and finding innovative solutions to global challenges.

Our plans are ambitious and our dreams are big – but only made possible with the help of philanthropy and the unwavering commitment and passion of our supporter community.

Your support helps bring to life new ideas and discoveries that otherwise would not see the light of day, enabling research and innovation that makes a difference.

Your support empowers students to shape a new future, often sparking a desire in them to consider how they might be able to do the same for those that come after them.

Every day, thanks to you, we are able to do what we have set out to do.

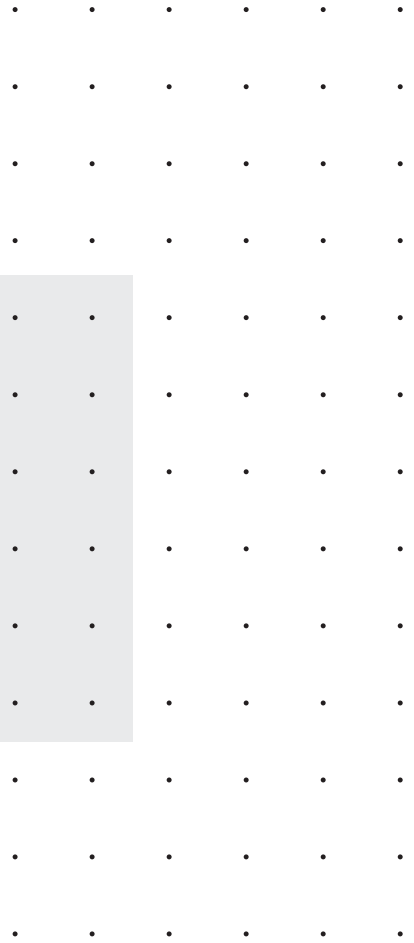
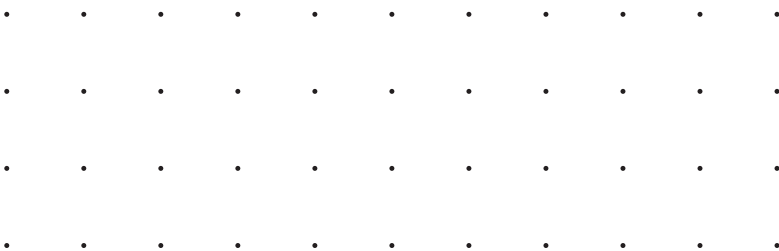
The power of your gift also goes far beyond just the individuals or research projects you support. As the ripple effect of your support takes hold, families, communities and societies are being impacted for the better.

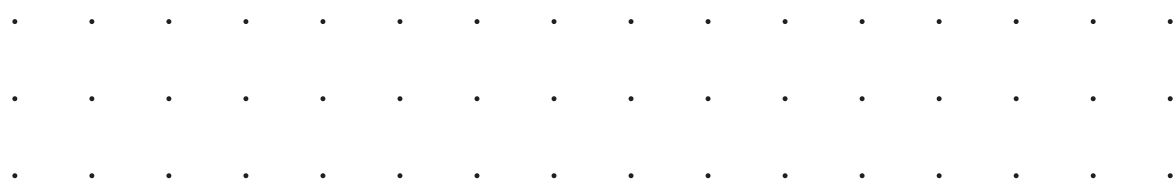
Thank you for your inspirational and transformational support.

“You have changed someone’s life drastically just by funding this scholarship. You never realise how much a scholarship can impact not only the recipient but also their family for the better; it gives people like me – a small town country girl – more opportunities to be the best they can be and open doors that were otherwise closed or harder to open.”

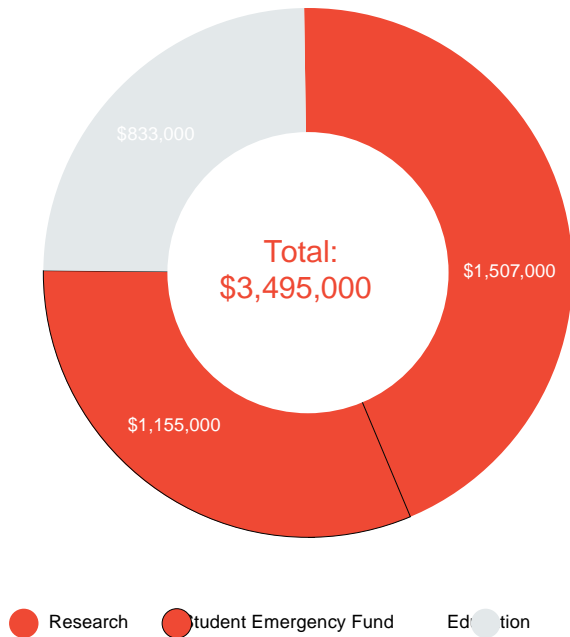
Chelsea Jeal

2nd year Bachelor of Business /
Bachelor of Design
Apollo Fund Scholarship recipient

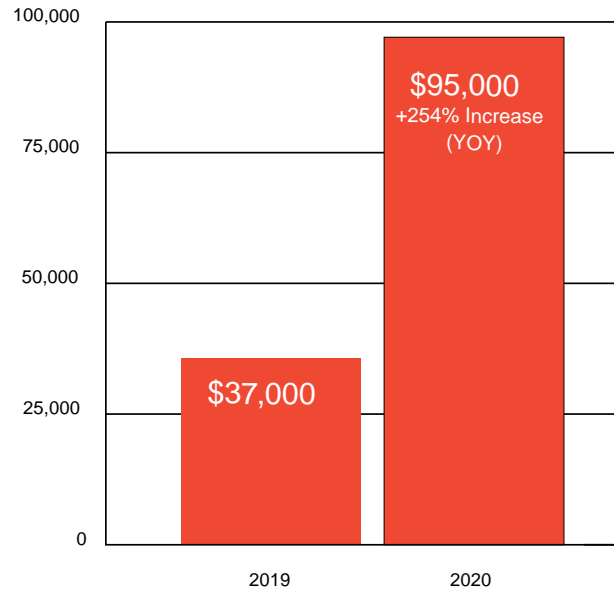




Total funds raised



Workplace Giving



Largest individual donation

\$738,500

This generous bequest gift of \$738,500 is for scholarships

+227% growth in new donors



Student Emergency Fund

New in 2020

7100
Total number of grants and vouchers issued

\$674
Average grant value

Cultivating a lifeline of care and compassion for our older generation

The Arcare Family Foundation is supporting Swinburne's national telehealth counselling and support service project which is helping aged care residents through trying times and mental health struggles.



It is well documented that the prevalence of mental health issues, such as loneliness isolation, anxiety, depression, among those living in residential aged care has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to support from the Arcare Family Foundation, Swinburne's Wellbeing Clinic for Older Adults is addressing these issues head-on through the establishment of a free national telehealth counselling and support service.

As well as supporting aged care residents, the service also offers support to their family members and aged care staff at no cost, making it the first service of its kind that caters to the needs of all three cohorts.

This free service is delivered by counsellors, social work interns and counselling postgraduate students who are supervised by experienced practitioners.

As well as providing emotional support for older adults, the project is also providing

valuable training and experience to students from around Australia to equip them to become our future mental health and aged care clinicians.

Those involved in operating the service say that older adults in residential aged care facilities have been embracing video communication, and many of them have appreciated the opportunity to maintain social connections while learning how to use technology.

'The Telehealth service has been a tremendous help to so many older adults, family members and aged care staff throughout these isolating times, and we are proud to see our support evolve into such a worthy cause,' says Anita Hopkins, Executive Officer of Arcare Family Foundation.

Swinburne Vice-Chancellor Professor Pascale Quester says the pandemic has been a deeply challenging time for everyone.

'We are fortunate that these challenges have played to our

strengths of innovation, adaptability and technological advancement. These are all values we proudly share with the Arcare Family Foundation.'

'The telehealth counselling and support service is a shining example of what can be achieved when a partnership is formed on such important shared values, no matter how challenging the circumstances.'

Using the power of reminiscence to support aged care residents

The Arcare Family Foundation also made a generous contribution to Swinburne's Digital Stories program for aged care residents.

As part of this program, Swinburne students studying psychology, counselling and nursing make weekly

“The Telehealth service has been a tremendous help to so many older adults, family members and aged care staff throughout these isolating times, and we are proud to see our support evolve into such a worthy cause.”

Anita Hopkins

Executive Officer at Arcare Family Foundation

Aida Brydon, Provisional Psychologist and Swinburne Telehealth Counselling and Support Services team member



visits to aged care residents to listen to and record their life-affirming experiences, and work with them to record videos about their life.

The digital stories can be used to familiarise staff members with a resident’s background, passions, and needs. In doing so, staff deepen their understanding and appreciation of residents’ lives and can better cater to their individual needs. It also preserves important family stories for future generations.

‘By portraying the residents’ own perspective of their stories through these beautiful videos, facility staff gain a greater appreciation for their individuality,’ says Anita.

‘This appreciation has paved the way for residents to be supported and cared for in ways that are more consistent with their own values, interests and preferences. We are so pleased to see these wonderful creations contribute to a world with more care, respect and appreciation for our older Australians.’

To learn more about Swinburne’s Wellbeing Clinic for Older Adults visit www.swinburne.edu.au/research/centres-groups-clinics/wellbeing-clinic/

Women leading the way in STEM

Avanade, the leading digital innovator of the Microsoft ecosystem, has partnered with Swinburne to launch its first Women in STEM scholarship program in Australia.



(Left to right) Avanade's Christina Lourantos, Talent Acquisition Coordinator, Vanessa Tieppo, Senior Consultant, Talent Acquisition and Pauline Wilkinson, Manager, Business HR with Swinburne's Anna Gigliotti, Senior Development Manager and Belinda Collins, Director of Advancement.

“As we navigate this period of uncertainty, we believe STEM skills will be pivotal to the ongoing recovery and rapid pace of change.”

Carol Gobby

Executive Sales Leadership and Corporate Citizenship Lead at Avanade Australia

The Avanade Women in STEM Scholarship program is empowering and inspiring Swinburne students to pursue education and careers in science, technology, engineering and maths.

The program is Avanade's first in Australia and provides students with financial support, internship opportunities and invitations to events for hands-on learning. The students also receive mentoring and coaching from Avanade Australia leaders throughout their scholarships and may be offered graduate placements upon completion of their degrees.

The underrepresentation of women in STEM is widely acknowledged as a social and economic issue. Girls and women are still significantly less likely to enter and complete a STEM degree, enter into STEM professions and climb associated career ladders. This smaller talent pool contributes to Australia's underperformance in STEM, relative to comparable countries.

Swinburne Vice-Chancellor Professor Pascale Quester says this new scholarship builds on Swinburne's legacy of encouraging the brightest women to pursue STEM and advance Australia's competitive capability.

‘Swinburne has a strong culture of gender equity and inclusion. Avanade's values of equality, progression and innovation filled with passion and purpose align firmly with our own, and we are delighted to embark on this growing partnership,’ she says.

Executive Sales Leadership and Corporate Citizenship Lead at Avanade Australia, Carol Gobby says Avanade and Swinburne share a mutual desire to help more people access the opportunities and benefits of technology and education.

‘As we navigate this period of uncertainty, we believe STEM skills will be pivotal to the ongoing recovery and rapid pace of change. We want to make a genuine human impact by helping to improve

the diversity within those sectors across Australia - ensuring as many people as possible are trained and ready for the jobs of the future,’ she says.

Ella Lengerer-Barrett is one of the four inaugural scholarship recipients, with aspirations of pursuing a career in space.

She says ‘in a perfect world’ she would end up working at NASA or the Australian Space Agency.

‘I want to constantly be pursuing further knowledge in science. I want to (quietly) make an impact in the world, working behind the scenes to achieve something amazing.’

Leading the creative video revolution

Since 2018, creative video technology innovator Blackmagic Design, has been generously supporting Swinburne film and television students through donations of equipment and meaningful work experience opportunities.



Swinburne Pause Fest production student crew



Blackmagic's relationship with Swinburne began with its generous donation of cutting-edge equipment to Swinburne's Pathways and Vocational Education (PAVE) Film and Television department, including its flagship colour correction and video editing software famous for its use in successful films such as *Mulan* and *JoJo Rabbit*, and TV series *Normal People* and *The Walking Dead*.

In 2020, a further donation of state-of-the-art broadcasting equipment enabled a production team of 35 recent Swinburne graduates to gain valuable work experience live-broadcasting *Pause Fest* – a festival celebrating creativity, innovation, business and startups from around the world founded by Swinburne alum George Hedon.

The Swinburne *Pause Fest* production student crew managed all video production, social media live streaming, and content creation for the festival. Along the way, they made valuable industry connections.

Nathan Klooger, a graduate of the Advanced Diploma of Screen and Media – Film and Television, says working on *Pause Fest* was an 'experience like no other'.

'Working on *Pause Fest* really helped me hone my communications and practical skills, and gave me momentum to push myself. I think the experience has really helped my freelance career. I'm now working on advertisements, music videos, and short films.'

Over the past few years, Melbourne-based Blackmagic Design has seen a staggering increase in success, which CEO and Founder Grant Petty attributes to ramping up its investment in research and development. As a well-deserved result of Blackmagic's devotion to innovating world-class hardware and software, the team have now won more industry awards for innovation than any other manufacturer in the TV industry.

'Blackmagic Design was founded to promote creative freedom. And as a leading designer and manufacturer of products for film and television, our company has given millions of creative people the opportunity to reinvent themselves and to explore their future,' says Grant.

"Blackmagic Design is excited to support Swinburne's Vocational Education program so young people get the opportunity to challenge the world with new styles of creative content that have never been seen before."

Grant Petty

CEO and Founder,
Blackmagic Design

Inspiring students to achieve their full potential

Swinburne’s Chief Operating Officer Nancy Gullo-Collins is paying it forward and investing in future role models through the Nancy Gullo Scholarship.

Nancy has experienced how life-changing the generous support of others can be.

‘I was the recipient of a scholarship at university, which broke a cycle within my family in terms of educational outcomes and led me to many more years of education and a thirst for knowledge. I believe support is necessary to ensure that people from all different economic and cultural backgrounds achieve their full potential. I want this scholarship to support students who might otherwise have difficulty undertaking further education,’ she says.

‘I hope this scholarship will be similarly impactful and that perhaps one day, the recipients will pay it forward by having a positive ripple effect within their community, being a strong role model for others to look up to. I passionately believe that education is the driver of development for our community.’

Xavier Alexander is a first-year Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Law student and a grateful recipient of the Nancy Gullo Scholarship.

Growing up, Xavier was often unsure whether he would be able to fulfil his aspiration of going to university and pursuing his passion for business and law, due to his circumstances. However, thanks to Nancy, he has been able to focus on developing the skills he is most passionate about.

‘This was my first time receiving this kind of financial support,’ says Xavier. ‘I was stunned and delighted when I found out that I had been selected; I am beyond grateful for this opportunity and support.’

The scholarship has assisted Xavier with his living expenses and technology needs for studying and allowed him to focus on pursuing his career goals.

He says there are also many ‘intangible differences’ that being supported by a scholarship enables.

‘The generosity of the donors has reduced my stress levels, helping me produce much better work...increased my work effort and has also given me more confidence in my studies and my future years of studying,’ he says.

“This opportunity will never be forgotten. Now I aspire to give back and perhaps even start my own scholarship in my future professional years.”

Xavier Alexander

Nancy Gullo Scholarship recipient



Supporting students the Swinburne way

You showed our students the true power of philanthropy when they needed it most.

The bushfires over the summer of 2019-20 devastated much of Australia, particularly regions of Victoria. The grief and trauma of the bushfires left many Swinburne students in a vulnerable and uncertain position. In response to this, the Student Emergency Fund (SEF) was created to provide critical financial support to our students.

Shortly after, this devastation was compounded by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even more Swinburne students were left vulnerable due to loss of employment, housing, insecurity, isolation and loneliness, particularly our international students.

Within weeks of the COVID-19 outbreak in Australia, the impact of restrictions was felt, and is still being felt some 18 months on. Swinburne received emails from students who did not know how they would continue to study and afford basic living expenses and necessities.

In response, Swinburne embarked on its most ambitious giving campaign to support students in need, via the Student Emergency Fund.

Gifts donated by our community to the SEF exceeded \$1.1 million, directly improving our students' lives when they needed it most.

Donations were received from all around the world and more first-time donations and donations from younger donors were received than ever before.

Swinburne and the Victorian Government supplemented this generous support to provide students with urgently needed cash payments.

To date, Swinburne has received and assessed over 10,000 applications from students and offered over 7,000 grants totaling \$4.5 million.

Thousands of domestic and international students have found great relief and comfort in this support, like student Gurubabilage Fernando who had to face the impact of the pandemic on top of her already challenging life circumstances.

'I would like to thank all Swinburne donors for their support during this difficult time in my life,' says Gurubabilage.

'I fell pregnant around the same time the effects of the pandemic kicked in, and it was hard to stay optimistic as I struggled to care for myself and my growing baby. My partner and I lost our jobs, and I was a long way from home. We had to spend all our savings to take care of ourselves and didn't know how we'd be able to afford to take care of our baby. I was so relieved and grateful when I received financial support. The extra money enabled me to buy necessities for myself and my baby and continue my education journey at Swinburne without the constant stress of worrying how I'd get by.'

Director of Student Administration and Library Services, Michelle Gillespie, says the community's willingness to support students during such a challenging time was inspiring to witness.

'It was just so rewarding and reassuring to see people care, and the generosity from staff and our alumni was astounding.'

Michelle says many grant recipients shared that the funds allowed them to afford basic supplies and gave them a much-needed mental health boost when they were struggling the most.

'It's a superb example of the difference we can make when we come together as a community. Swinburne's objective has been to foster a philanthropic spirit in the university and the broader community – and in coming together, we have well and truly achieved that, and very deserving students have received a lifeline as a result.'

Michelle believes the support is likely to have a significant long-term impact as students go on to share the philanthropic spirit embodied by the Fund.

'Our students felt that Swinburne cared about their wellbeing and said that if they had an opportunity to give back, they would. It really goes to show how much the support meant to them and how far-reaching the impact of the Fund could be.'

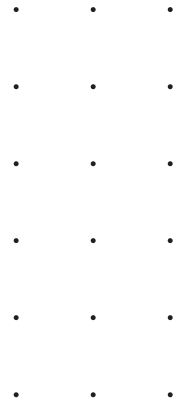
“I would like to thank all Swinburne donors for their support during this difficult time in my life. The extra money enabled me to buy necessities for myself and my baby and continue my education without the constant stress of worrying how I’d get by.”

Gurubabilage Fernando

Student Emergency Fund grant recipient



Investing to ensure all cultures thrive through education



The Asian Australian Foundation [AAF] is empowering Swinburne students from culturally diverse backgrounds, such as Indigenous, migrant and refugee communities, through scholarships and education.



Cheri Ong, Founder, Chair and Board Director of AAF

The Asian Australian Foundation (AAF) began their relationship with Swinburne in 2020 with a generous donation to the Student Emergency Fund to provide critical financial support to students experiencing hardship during COVID-19.

The Foundation is now further supporting Swinburne students through two scholarships for students from diverse backgrounds who have demonstrated a commitment to community involvement.

As well as this financial support, scholarship recipients are given opportunities to participate in AAF events and will also be offered work placements through AAF's wide network of donors and supporters.

'We're very excited to be deepening our relationship with Swinburne,' says Cheri Ong, Founder, Chair and Board Director of AAF.

'Our primary mission is to connect and bring together the resources of Asian Australians to shape a dynamic Asian

philanthropic presence in Australia. We hope to give a voice to students and equip them with the strength and resources they need to be heard, to actively participate in the community, and leave a lasting impact.'

'Knowing Swinburne's dedication to cultural diversity and inclusivity, we knew that this would be a strong and impactful partnership rooted in shared values of empowerment, equality and inspiring change.'

Software engineering student, Matifadza (Mati) Mukodi is a recipient of a one-year AAF scholarship. When she graduates, she wants to help companies use software to innovate their operations, and work for a 'meaningful cause'.

'I don't know what I would do without the scholarship. University is not easy, and neither is STEM. This scholarship reminds me that I can achieve my goals and navigate any obstacles that come my way. I just need to believe in myself the way that the Asian Australian Foundation has.'

AAF Board Director Noel Leung says, 'As a future-focused foundation, we appreciate Swinburne's devotion to innovation and its commitment to creating lifelong learners of all backgrounds.'

'The underlying purpose and message of all the work we do is to "Give Voice and Inspire Change", which is exactly what we hope to achieve with these scholarships.'

"This scholarship reminds me that I can achieve my goals and navigate any obstacles that come my way. I just need to believe in myself the way that the Asian Australian Foundation has."

Matifadza (Mati) Mukodi

Asian Australian Foundation
Scholarship recipient

Helping students to fly high



Sean Sheridan-Ferrie, Piers Fowler Flight Instructor Scholarship recipient

Seven years ago, the Fowler family established a trust in memory of their beloved son and brother, Piers. Today, the Swinburne community and budding aviation students continue to benefit from this legacy.

Piers Fowler was an integral player in the Australian aviation industry for over 20 years, with a love of both flying and teaching the next generation of aviation professionals.

Sadly, he passed away on 4 June 2013, just short of his fortieth year.

As a student, and then a teacher at Swinburne, Piers was a dear friend to many at the university.

Swinburne is honoured that Piers' family has established several programs to recognise his life, his love of aviation and his time at Swinburne through the Piers K Fowler Trust.

'Piers was generous and kind to all. He was loyal to his friends and family, and I want to continue what he liked to do most – share the skills and learning of aviation with other pilots,' says John Fowler, Piers' father.

'He was compassionate and spent many hours volunteering his time in support of aspiring young aviators and – outside the industry – in the areas of homelessness and education for children who might otherwise miss out. He was honest, hard-working and caring, and his passing was a loss. We, his family, have valued the opportunity to benefit others and hopefully transform lives in his memory.'

Over the past seven years, Piers Fowler Scholarships have been awarded to many students who have gone on to experience the world of aviation. One student who understands the full impact of this generous legacy is Sean Sheridan-Ferrie, the recipient of the Piers Fowler Flight Instructor Scholarship in 2020.

'Receiving this scholarship will help me become a flight instructor so that I can help shape and aid the future pilots of Australia; this is something that I am

both excited about and committed to,' says Sean.

'Although the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the aviation industry, I am optimistic that the industry will return to full operation and continue to provide services to travellers, both domestically and internationally.'

In 2019 and 2020, the Piers K Fowler Trust established two additional awards – the Piers Fowler mentoring program and a leadership program.

'In all areas of aviation, there needs to be strong leadership – someone who is focussed, caring and decisive,' says John.

'These scholarships give students opportunities for educational and personal development, as they explore the aviation industry, develop personally and contribute to wider wellbeing.'

Finding family and friendship through education

A Swinburne business alumnus of 37 years, Michael Langhammer and his family have deepened their Swinburne connection by supporting students.

Michael Langhammer is an inspiring example of someone who has found a great sense of fulfilment through giving, financially and practically, to students.

Michael, his wife Jillian, and their two children, Jack and Jessie, are a tight-knit family who are all closely involved with the experience of giving.

Having graduated from Swinburne with a Bachelor of Business in 1984 and returning to complete a Master of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in 2019, Michael knows first-hand the value of a good education.

'It was a tremendous education, and I was always struck by how everyone around me was so passionate about being there,' says Michael. 'For me, Swinburne had and continues to have a fantastic ethos, ethics and community spirit. The community has been like a second family to me, so naturally I wanted to keep in touch with people I met from my days as a student and give back however I can.'

After graduating from Swinburne, Michael went on to join Pitcher Partners' predecessor firm in 1987 and was a partner in the Business Advisory and Assurance Division of Pitcher Partners Melbourne.

During his time there, Michael facilitated several work placement opportunities for Swinburne students with several of them continuing on to work at Pitcher Partners.

'There is a big overlap between the two cultures of Swinburne and Pitcher Partners in the sense that both are very practical and hands-on, making Swinburne students a great fit for our placements,' Michael explains. 'We've always thought very highly of the candidates...and it brings great joy to see them succeed.'

Michael's passion for supporting students' growth saw him establish The Apollo Fund - First in Family Scholarship which provides \$7,500 per year for up to three years to commencing business students who are the first in their family to attend university.

Michael knows that being the first in a family to attend university often comes with additional challenges.

'Some of the students we support are country kids who have to re-locate to Melbourne and pay rent, get part-time jobs, be away from their families and support networks, and look after themselves, so that extra money to pay for school books, public transport and other essentials can certainly make a big difference.'

When deciding on the scope of their support, Michael and Jillian reflected on the importance of family values in their own lives and what it would mean to them to make an impact in the lives of other families.

'So often disadvantaged families would love nothing more than to see their kids pursue their dreams at university, but they don't have the resources to facilitate that journey. The First in Family Scholarship aims to open up that doorway to opportunities, success and family pride without putting too much financial pressure on the students or their parents. We receive updates on all the students' progress, and it's tear-jerking every time. It gives you such a sense of pride in what they're achieving and knowing that, in some way, you made their lives a little easier.'

Michael also donates to the Accounting Futures Fund, which helps to provide innovative education, real-world experiences and financial support to the next generation of accountants.

Looking to the future, the Langhammer family is driven to leave a lasting impact that will go on.

'I'd definitely like to think that what we're giving today will leave a lasting legacy. By putting a little away at a time and getting our kids involved in the process, our legacy should be able to continue for many decades to come.'



Swinburne Alumni currently working at Pitchers Partners.
(Back row) Stephanie Shaw, Harry Littleford, Michael Langhammer, Ebony Carter, William Wright, Tom Vrsecky
(Front row) Kaitlin Luu, Luke Dilabio, Ross Vardaro, Angelina Toon

“There is a big overlap between the two cultures of Swinburne and Pitcher Partners in the sense that both are very practical and hands-on, making Swinburne students a great fit for our placements.”

Michael Langhammer

Former partner in the Business Advisory and Assurance Division at Pitcher Partners Melbourne

Backing the ambitions of future-ready accountants

Swinburne accounting alumni are paying it forward and creating opportunities for budding accountants through the establishment of the Accounting Futures Fund.

Emerging digital technologies, artificial intelligence and an abundance of data are driving monumental change to most professions across the globe – and accounting is no exception.

As a university of technology, Swinburne is at the forefront of reimagining accounting education to nurture the accounting leaders of tomorrow – those with a strong and varied skillset and an ability to harness new technologies.

Launched in February 2020, the Accounting Futures Fund equips Swinburne accounting students for the future of work through three key initiatives: Accounting Futures Scholarships, the Beta Alpha Psi Chapter and a state-of-the-art digital space, the iiLab.

The Accounting Futures Scholarships provide vital financial support to accounting students who demonstrate academic excellence and are experiencing personal or financial challenges.

The Beta Alpha Psi Chapter (BAP) is an international honour society for exceptional accounting, finance and information systems students, only available to universities with AACSB international accreditation. Swinburne is the sixth Australian university chapter.

The BAP society focuses on developing future leaders through professional events and learning activities – and Swinburne’s chapter has not let the pandemic get in the way of capitalising on this prestigious new opportunity.

Its members have launched an active online program of events and learning activities, including hosting a ‘Think Tank’ with accounting software giant Xero to develop ideas for empowering school students to become more financially savvy. This effort saw them take out the ‘Runners Up’ prize at the Deloitte Best Practices Competition – Beta Alpha Psi Oceania Region.

‘The ‘Think Tank’ initiative was the perfect opportunity to expand the skill set of Swinburne members through using the Xero Learn software, while also encouraging the development of key professional skills such as project management, teamwork, and public speaking,’ says Annabelle McKenzie, Vice-President of the Swinburne BAP Chapter.

In 2021, a mentoring program has been established which pairs each of the 30 BAP members with a Swinburne alumni who is able to support and guide the students on their career journeys – and strong relationships are already being forged.

The Swinburne Insight and Innovations Lab (iiLab) is a state-of-the-art digital space for students, researchers and industry partners to connect and collaborate. The cutting-edge interfaces planned to be a part of the space will equip students to use the new technologies of the modern business world.

Swinburne accounting alum and co-founder of KordaMentha, Mark Korda is one of the driving forces behind the Fund and passionate about the opportunities it brings.

‘Swinburne gave me an invaluable education when I was a student, so I’m thrilled to be giving back through such an important project for current and future students,’ he says.

‘With the generous contribution from our donors, the Accounting Futures Fund has already made great strides in empowering our accounting students to pursue their ambitions and create a brighter future. It’s also important to remember that we still have some way to go to meet our funding goal to see our vision through to reality. I’d like to encourage my fellow Swinburne accounting alumni to give back in whatever capacity you can. Your support can be truly transformative.



“Being a part of Swinburne’s Beta Alpha Psi Chapter has helped shape me into the young professional I have always dreamed of being. We are a group of individuals who are invested in evolving ourselves into the best financial information professionals we can be.”

Annabelle McKenzie

Vice-President of the Swinburne Beta Alpha Psi Chapter

A life-changing gift

Jean Barry's generous gift to Swinburne when she passed away in 2017 is empowering students like Linda to overcome barriers to learning and dream big.

After graduating from a Bachelor of Arts at Swinburne in 1989, Jean Barry remained a passionate and active Swinburne alum, enjoying the camaraderie of the Swinburne community.

During her life, Jean was passionate about inclusivity and ensuring women had equal access to education. When she passed away in 2017, the Jean Barry Scholarship for Women was established to carry on her legacy and support female students over the age of 25 to achieve their full academic potential.

Linda*, a social sciences student at Swinburne, is the first recipient of the scholarship. She says her learning experience has been transformed by Jean's generous gift.

'I do not have the words to express how grateful I am for being given this opportunity,' says Linda. 'Even today, it still brings tears to my eyes, just as it did when they called me to tell me the amazing news that I had been selected for the scholarship.'

'Throughout school and still to this day, I have struggled with dyslexia, but technology has made a life-changing difference in giving me the tools I need to succeed. I would never have imagined I would be going to such a leading university to pursue my passion for social science. The scholarship gives me the financial support I need to access all the resources necessary for me to thrive.'

As well as giving Linda the support she needs while studying at Swinburne, the scholarship is also nurturing her long-term goal of being an agent of change for others like her and raising awareness and understanding of learning difficulties.

'My goal is to support others with learning difficulties and to help teachers understand how to support students with learning disabilities and how to focus on their student's strengths. I would also like to assist families with children not on the spectrum, but who still find social interaction and learning a challenge,' says Linda. 'It would be amazing to see my support help others the same way Jean's support has helped me.'

*This name has been changed as the student requested to remain anonymous

"The scholarship gives me the financial support I need to access all the tools and resources necessary for me to thrive...my goal is to support others with learning difficulties and to help teachers understand how to support students with learning disabilities and how to focus on their student's strengths."

Jean Barry Scholarship for Women recipient

Thank you

We whole-heartedly thank our family of supporters for the remarkable ways you are making a difference in our community and beyond. Together, we are creating lasting change and helping to build a better world.

