

# SAM HERITAGE



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

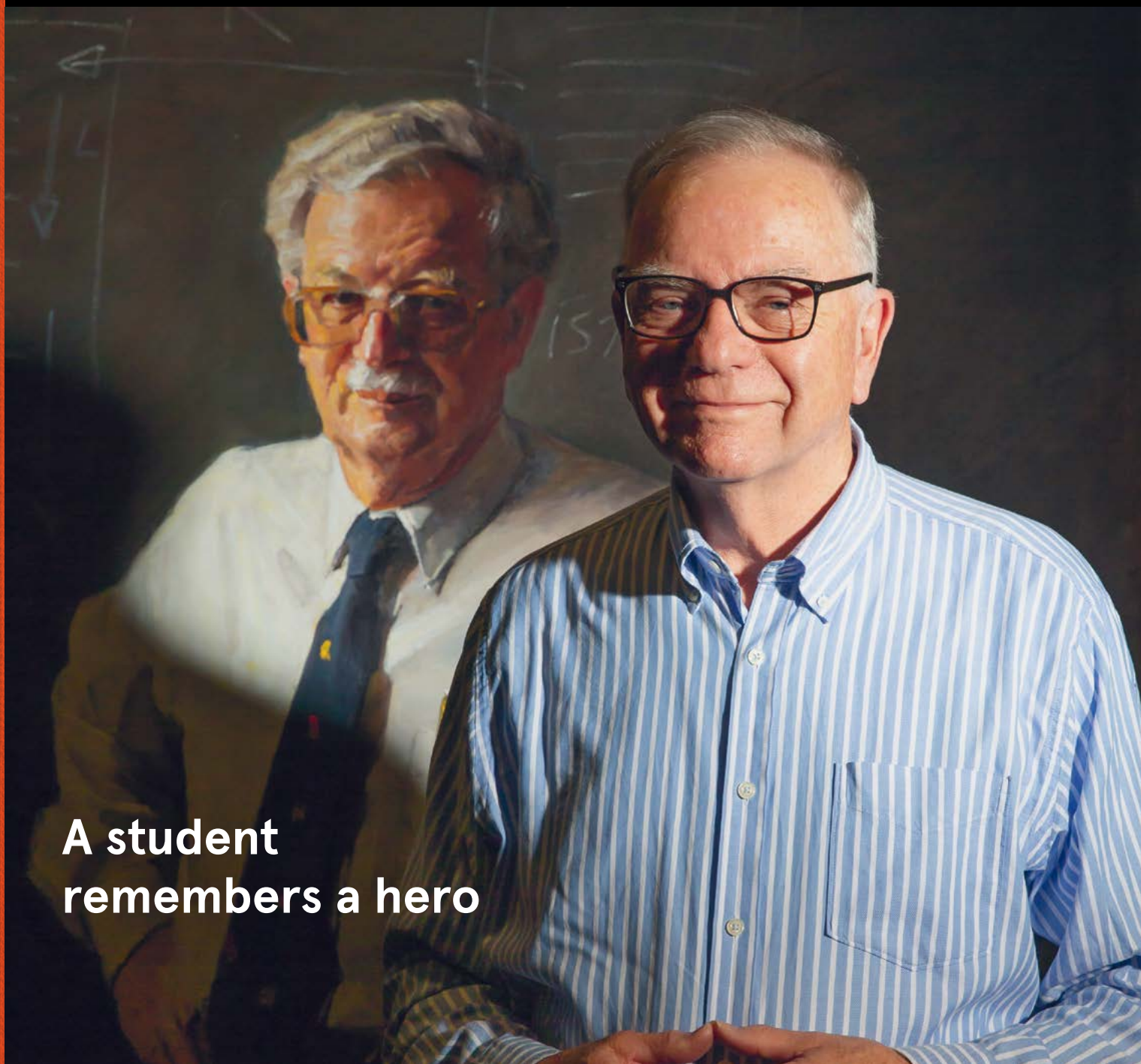
AN ANCIENT CITY  
UNCOVERED

THE MAKING OF  
AN ORCHESTRA

THE UNIVERSITY  
UNFORGETTABLES

A NEW WINDOW  
TO THE SKIES

**A student  
remembers a hero**





Top left: The art room of the Sydney Teachers College, 1956 (Archives G3\_224\_2195\_2)

Top right: Deborah Bullock receiving the 100,000th degree conferred by the University, 1980 (Archives G77\_1\_0855)

Middle left: Students dancing in a college gymnasium, 1960 (Archives G3\_224\_2346)

Middle right: Professor Julius Summer Miller, a celebrity and a serious scientist, 1987 (Archives G77\_2\_0542)

Bottom left: Winsome Evans (2nd from right) with her Renaissance Players, 1981 (Archives G77\_1\_1007)

Bottom right: A Sydney University Dramatic Society (SUDS) performance, 1989 (Archives G77\_1\_0152)



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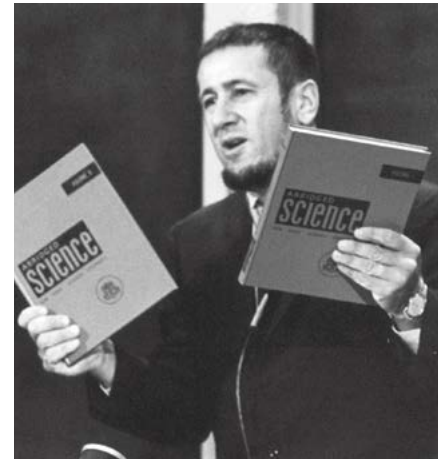
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## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

*SAM Heritage* celebrates alumni speaking their minds. We would love to hear your feedback about this publication and your ideas for future editions via [sam@sydney.edu.au](mailto:sam@sydney.edu.au)

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Cover: Don Heussler with a  
portrait of Professor Rolf Prince  
Photo: Louise Cooper

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## CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



It's always wonderful for us to know that our longstanding graduates are still in touch with the University, and it's particularly exciting when they can visit, too.

For some graduates, the connection runs even deeper, as their children and grandchildren follow them in becoming students at the University. I know from my own experience what tremendous joy and pride there is in seeing your daughter or son blossoming through their University education and becoming part of the same community that helped shape you and your future. I am now looking forward to my grandchildren doing the same!

There are many families whose connection with the University goes back generations, and you'll read about one of those in this issue of *SAM Heritage*. Five generations of women from Anne Bollen's family have studied at the University, with three of her granddaughters currently studying here and one just graduated, in May.

We are a university with a long history of important traditions like this familial continuity which serve as a great foundation stone for the University. It helps us to keep in focus our long-held values of supporting the highest quality education for all and developing leaders who contribute to making lives better. This is especially important as we make fundamental changes to the way we teach and the way our students learn.

Our new undergraduate curriculum is designed to continue to develop deep disciplinary skills in our students and to give them hands-on,

real-world experiences so they are ready to take their place in a rapidly changing workplace.

We want our graduates to have the leadership capabilities to succeed in an increasingly interconnected global environment where the new constant of rapid change presents both challenges and opportunities.

As the future demands change, so does the city we serve. For some time now, as the centre of gravity of Sydney's population moves west, we have been thinking about and planning what we can do beyond our city campus.

Over the past 40 years, the University has made substantial progress at Westmead Hospital, as part of our wider goal to serve the growing and aspirational population of Western Sydney. We now have around 1200 staff and 2200 students at Westmead. During the past two years we have been engaging in wide-ranging consultation and planning for the creation of a second major multidisciplinary campus at Parramatta/Westmead. We'll tell you more as this project progresses.

We have enormous pride in the past and present of our University and are excited for its future.

**Belinda Hutchinson AM**  
Chancellor  
BEc Sydney, FCA

# Symphony in the sea of blue

The Samoan Government created a national orchestra of local musicians who learned their instruments as they grew their ambitions. The University has proudly played a part.

Written by Rebekah Hayden



▲ Beatrice Carey (second from right) came to the National Orchestra of Samoa to teach strings, and found herself swept up in the joy of their music making. Photo: Mattias Baenziger





▲ Blending the classical with the traditional, Orchestra Director Fonoti PJ Ieriko (right).

◀ Connecting the orchestra with the Conservatorium of Music, Goetz Richter (third from left).

National orchestras around the world are right at home in formal concert halls. But the National Orchestra of Samoa is open to all possibilities, playing wherever there are people to listen. The energy and imagination of the orchestra was one of the things that Sydney Conservatorium of Music graduate Beatrice Carey (BMus(Perf) '11) loved about working with them.

“My strongest memories were these guerrilla-style concerts where we would pile everything into the back of a ute and drive to wherever we were to play,” Carey says. “I had to just let go of so much I had learned and come to understand that the job would always get done – and done well.”

Established in 2012, the orchestra was a government initiative suggested after a visit to China by Samoan Prime Minister the Hon.

Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi. Seeing Chinese orchestras perform at government events, he wanted the same resource for Samoa. He saw it as a way to expand music education in the region and re-energise Samoa’s own musical culture. Today, the musicians

**“He sent me on my way with a bucket full of instruments that I managed to take over on the plane, including a very awkwardly shaped trombone.”**

– Beatrice Carey

play not just familiar classics but orchestrated versions of traditional Samoan songs.

The orchestra has also presented an opportunity to engage a generation of young people. Most of the players are aged 18 to 30; some of them come from disadvantaged backgrounds and didn’t finish school.

Learning to play and perform introduced a sense of pride and purpose and gave them a new passion for their own music.

Not surprisingly, the orchestra had to face some early challenges. There were not nearly enough instruments or qualified tutors, and when the humid climate damaged the instruments, they couldn’t be fixed locally and had to be sent to New Zealand for repairs. However, players have since learned to improvise: if a violin bridge falls over, they now use YouTube to learn how to correct it.

That the orchestra has overcome so many obstacles is largely due to support from the Samoan government’s Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, plus the steady hand and creative drive of Orchestra Director Fonoti PJ Ieriko.

A skilled composer and arranger, he studied music in New Zealand and is now working to incorporate Samoa's rich musical heritage into traditional classical music.

"I was lucky enough to work alongside PJ while I was there," Carey says. "He is a guiding light for many young people in the orchestra, through his passion and strong leadership."

Before she went to Samoa, Carey had primarily taught in well-resourced private schools focusing on music and education. In helping to establish the fledgling orchestra, her role grew to include everything from teaching to organising sponsorship and marketing, mentoring young members and even being their driver.

During a break in Australia at the end of 2015, she saw a chance to do more. Carey emailed the Chair of Strings at the Conservatorium of Music, Goetz Richter (BA '97 PhD '07), telling him about the orchestra and asking if there was anything he or the Conservatorium could do to help.

Richter was instantly impressed by the initiative and eager to meet with Carey.

"After the meeting, we went to the instrument storeroom," recalls Carey. "He sent me on my way with a bucket full of instruments that I managed to take over on the plane, including a very awkwardly shaped trombone."

Not long after, another set of musical instruments arrived in Samoa, also donated by the Conservatorium and delivered by Richter and his wife, musician Jeanell Carrigan. Together, they have played several concerts with the National Orchestra of Samoa, including for Prime Minister Tuilaepa. Since then, the relationship between the orchestra and the Conservatorium has continued to strengthen.

In 2017, and thanks to an Australian government New Colombo Plan grant, Richter was able to take a group of eight Conservatorium students to Samoa to run workshops and perform with the orchestra. For the aspiring Australian musicians, it was a revelation.

"Our students found it incredibly inspiring to see the sheer will of these young musicians to play," Richter says. "There's so many obstacles for them to get to where they want to go, and yet they have such energy and enthusiasm and love for music."

Today, the hope is that funding can be found to support regular musical exchanges and to develop a Skype-based program so tuition can happen online and in real time between Samoa and Australia. The goal of the Samoan players is to become a fully fledged symphony orchestra.

Carey reluctantly left Samoa in 2017 to pursue other career opportunities. She is now the Education Manager of the Glyndebourne opera house in the United Kingdom, but is still an adviser to the National Orchestra of Samoa. She looks back warmly on her time there and is grateful for the strong belief it gave her that the arts should be accessible to everyone.

"I am so incredibly invested in their mission," Carey says. "The orchestra is so far from what we know an orchestra to be, in places like Australia. That's what makes it so special. It's an opportunity to do something unique and different within Samoa." ●

▼ Her time with the orchestra changed how Beatrice Carey thought about the arts.



► Being a member of the orchestra is a full-time commitment, with longer-term players often teaching new arrivals.

As a respected and transformative staff member, it was only natural that there would be a portrait of Professor Rolf Prince. Don Heussler helped make it happen.

Written by alumnus Don Heussler (BE (Chem) (Hons I) '64)

# In the frame

When my student cohort joined the Department of Chemical Engineering in 1961, the mainstay of Professor Tom Hunter's department was the senior lecturer, Professor Rudolf (Rolf) Prince (PhD '57).

We were 17-year-old kids and he was 32 and already a world authority on distillation. Little did I know that 38 years later it would be my job, on his retirement in 1998, to arrange a portrait to permanently record Rolf's presence and achievements at our University.

I was proud to be given this task. I was also given the objective of seeing this artwork win the Archibald Prize for portraiture. (As 1980s management guru Stephen Covey said, "Begin, with the end in mind"!)

I am a scientist, and this was not my field, but I conducted appropriate research and selected the noted realist painter Robert Hannaford. He had never had a painting lesson in his life, and though he had often been an Archibald finalist, he had never won this coveted prize. In my research, I noted a trend to larger portraits winning the Archibald, so we commissioned a portrait 1.2 metres square, which was much larger than Hannaford's usual work.

The incoming professor (Brian Haynes) was delighted to dispatch Rolf to Adelaide for more

than a week, knowing he would be required to sit for several hours each day in the same clothes to maintain their folds and creases.

Not known to us at the time, that same year Hannaford was commissioned by the Parliament of Australia to paint the official portrait of former Prime Minister Paul Keating, to hang in the new Parliament House. Keating is a noted connoisseur of the arts and chose Hannaford personally for this work.

The Hannaford method of painting is unusual and possibly unique. He positions the 'sitter' and the canvas next to one another in the light he wishes to use. He then retreats four metres to a clearly marked line, the expected viewing position, mixes his oils on the palette, loads the brush, and then runs the four metres to the canvas and applies one brushstroke.

This process is repeated for seven days. Rolf calculated (as any engineer would) that Hannaford runs about 50 kilometres to produce each portrait.

Two months after the sitting began, the finished painting arrived at the University. Professor Haynes and I unwrapped it together. Taking two steps back to a suitable viewing position, there was silence for about four seconds, then an almost simultaneous "Wow"!





▲ Professor Rolf Prince with his portrait at the Archibald. As Head of Department, Prince made changes that increased the number of women who studied engineering. Photo: News Ltd/Newspix



▲ Don Heussler, once a student of Rolf Prince, still a great admirer. Photo: Louise Cooper

In 1998, 404 paintings were submitted for the Archibald Prize, including those of Keating and Prince. Uniquely, both of Hannaford's paintings were hung among the 28 works selected by the trustees of the Art Gallery of NSW.

The 1998 Archibald winner was not Robert Hannaford. That honour went to Lewis Miller for his portrait of fellow artist Allan Mitelman. However, in the public vote, 25,000 Sydneysiders selected the Rolf Prince portrait for the People's Choice award.

A large crowd was present for the announcement, and Rolf was in his element! Hannaford collected a cash award. When the paintings went on display in Melbourne, the Prince painting was again a crowd favourite in the public vote.

So victory was Rolf's by any democratic or statistical measure. He dined out on the painting story for years and incorporated the work into his Christmas cards. The painting was also the cover for his memorial service in the Great Hall in August 2017.

Robert Hannaford subsequently achieved another accolade in 1999, as our University celebrated its 150-year anniversary. The Standing Committee of Convocation, now called the University of Sydney Alumni Council, produced a handsome book entitled *From Vision to Sesquicentenary: the University Through its Art Collection*.

The University has hundreds of oil-on-canvas paintings of academics, but only two were chosen for this book. One is the famous painting of controversial philosophy professor John Anderson, by Sir William Dobell, who won the Archibald Prize three times.

The second portrait in the book is Professor Rolf Prince by Robert Hannaford.

Select company indeed. ●

## ABOUT THE WRITER

Graduating with first-class honours in chemical engineering, Don Heussler built a career in human medicines and agricultural products, happily working in London during the swinging '60s. He is proud that his work still benefits people and the environment. He is fascinated by colonial history and Captain James Cook in particular. [donheussler.com](http://donheussler.com)

## TO HONOUR A VISIONARY

Ahead of his time, Rolf Prince championed women in engineering and pioneered putting students into industry so university skills could tackle industry challenges. Help us honour his great legacy by contributing to the Rolf Prince Scholarship in Chemical Engineering.

[crowdfunding.sydney.edu.au/project/8715](http://crowdfunding.sydney.edu.au/project/8715)

The next two stories are part of our  
Then and Now feature, showing how our alumni  
have taken their disciplines to the world.

# Then: Down to business

Written by Jocelyn Prasad

She has a knack for making successful  
businesses, but Mary Henderson knows  
opportunity doesn't come to everyone.

Talking to Mary Henderson (BEc '85), the first thing you notice is her great personal warmth, then an active and wide-ranging intellect. There is also the clarity of a woman who started a successful business at a time when there were real obstacles to women having careers at all.

Henderson's career journey started in post-Second World War Perth, working at what was then the city's one decent hotel, the Adelphi. She counted artists and classical musicians among her friends, people who piqued her interest in the wider world so much that she set sail for Sydney in 1948, just shy of her 19th birthday.



▲ Mary Henderson used her business skills to advance causes important to her.  
Photo: Stefanie Zingsheim

"Six months of this working holiday set the template for my future," she says. She worked as a receptionist in a hotel at the foot of the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, meeting the maître d', Bernie Gerstle, who would become her husband and the father of her three children.

Later work at the Audit Bureau of Circulations, which collected sales figures for newspapers and magazines, saw her entrepreneurial streak emerge.

"An outside service typed and duplicated documents," she remembers. "I decided I could do that, so I hired equipment and did them at night."

With the help of flyers, Henderson, just 19 years old, built a client base for her office services business, All Purpose Duplicators.

She rented a real estate agent's office under the famed Coca-Cola sign in King's Cross where she worked most nights, grabbing a few hours' sleep before heading to her day job. Her sister came from Perth and worked for her until the business grew enough for Henderson to give up paid employment. Before long, the business expanded into printing and publishing technical publications.

Over the same period, her husband Bernie went from an entry-level role at an international pharmaceutical company to becoming its managing director. But misfortune loomed as he began having heart attacks. Henderson let her business run down so she could support him. A few years after his early death, she closed the business she'd spent 33 years building.

"I think I was depressed," she says. "I'd totally lost interest in everything."

Still, her determination and energy shone through, even during these trying times. At 50 she sat the mature students' exam at the University of Sydney and, despite only having completed three years of high school, gained entry. "I think going to university after being in the workforce and living a life made me more able to focus on why I came to study," she says. "It also gave me the answers to many questions." Certainly she was well remembered by lecturers as one of the feistier, more engaged students in their classes.



▲ When Mary Henderson ran this ad for her business in 1949 (left), she couldn't have imagined that in 1985 she would graduate from the University (right).



Henderson's degree in political economy and economic history reinforced home truths she had learned in early childhood. She'd watched her father struggle to feed four children in Depression-struck Western Australia. When he had to leave his role managing a farm in the state's wheat belt, he turned his hand to rabbiting, labouring and anything else available. "My father was doing all he was able to do and yet things were desolate," she says.

"I realised that poverty causes considerable suffering, as most people are unable to change their circumstances, and I determined that it would not happen to me."

After graduating, Henderson established another business, Responsible Investment Advising, to help people overcome adversity. For more than 21 years she advised disadvantaged people how to best use what they had, and wealthier people to see their money as a resource that could improve lives.

Henderson herself donates to human rights and conservation causes and has established four University scholarships: three in Political Economy and another in Economic History. She has also established bequests for several more, all intended for those who might otherwise have difficulty affording university study.

"I want my scholarships to help people think critically about social issues, especially the inequalities that impact lives," she says. "I want them to make Australia a fairer place for all." ●

#### **HELP MORE STUDENTS GO TO UNIVERSITY**

To enquire about establishing a scholarship or bursary, please phone +61 2 8627 8818 or email [development.fund@sydney.edu.au](mailto:development.fund@sydney.edu.au)



For generations, Kennards Hire has been part of the business landscape. The company found success by staying true to its founding principles and keeping it all in the family.

Written by Jocelyn Prasad  
Photography by Stefanie Zingsheim

# Now: Moving into higher gear

There are upsides and downsides to being part of a family business. Angus Kennard (EMBA '16) knows them well. Kennard is the CEO of the iconic Australian business Kennards Hire. Family owned, it began in Bathurst, regional NSW, in 1948 when grandfather Walter rented out a concrete mixer to a customer who asked to borrow it from his equipment retail business.

Riding the post-war building boom, the company found success and now operates more than 170 branches in Australia and New Zealand, with a property holding to support the business. There is also Kennards Storage, which is a separate business, owned by cousins.

Since the start, Kennard family members have been the backbone of the company, though being a Kennard doesn't come with the assurance of a job. Angus and his siblings had to spend five years working elsewhere before being employed by Kennards Hire. For Angus, that meant selling products ranging from magazine advertising to photocopiers, before joining the Brookvale branch of Kennards Hire in Sydney.

Fast-forward to 2016 when the CEO job came up.

Angus had been raising a family, developing a love of rally driving (he's just finished his 13th tarmac rally event) and helping to run the business. He wasn't a shoo-in for the role; an interview panel grilled him on how he would lead a family-run business before he was offered the job.

Now working with a brother who is on staff managing the property side, and a sister who is on the company's board, Kennard acknowledges this means that some decisions come with an "emotional layer". "It works though, because I love and respect them all dearly."

Valuing family could also be why Kennards gives top priority to its staff, and in the most practical ways. Last month Kennards Hire unexpectedly gave its 1530 staff a share in a total \$7 million bonus. Full-time employees who had been with the company for two years or more each received around \$6300.

"Technology is increasingly important, but people come first," says Kennard. "A lot of our people are like family."



Kennard himself is not a hard-nosed corporate type. Photographs in the many business publications that have noticed him capture his easy smile, but in person there is a reserve and humility that belies his quick success at the head of a large and ambitious company.

Starting the job one month after completing an Executive MBA at the University of Sydney, Kennard says the degree has been instrumental to that success, helping him grasp that the current business environment of disruption and the shared economy means Kennards Hire has to adapt.

"The business had done really well over a couple of decades, which came with some hubris," he admits. "The Executive MBA opened my eyes."

He also appreciated the international components of the program, which sent him to India, Silicon Valley, London and France: "I didn't want to just have my head in the books. I wanted to expose myself to experiential learning elements."

With one eye firmly on the future, Kennard and his staff are always looking out for new equipment to add to their offering. He is also complementing Kennards' "mile wide, inch deep" business model, where stores offer lots of products that are easy to use, with an "inch wide, mile deep" strategy.

"It's about providing solutions rather than just renting equipment," he says. "For example, we can now hire out equipment for lifting bridges, and provide the specialist engineers needed to operate it."

As the organisation evolves it helps that Kennards isn't driven by dividend-hungry shareholders looking for instant returns. "I think we can make decisions that can hit us in the short term but are better for the long term," says Kennard.

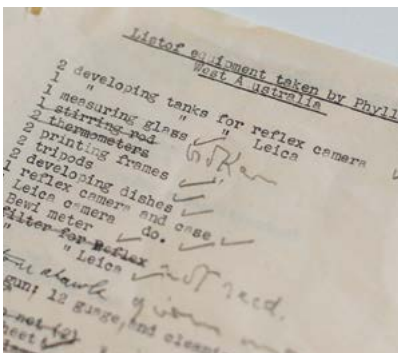
An insight into what makes Kennards Hire different from other large businesses can be found at their busy Artarmon branch in Sydney, very near where Kennard himself has an office. Beyond the large rental display area are two orderly rooms full of old but well-cared-for equipment, together with Kennard family photos and fully restored 1950s work vehicles, painted Kennard corporate red and polished to perfection.

There are no obvious signs identifying it, but it's called 'the museum' and it's where the business history is kept. When asked about what the collection represents, Kennard says simply, "Respect for legacy." ●

With not much more than a camera, Phyllis Kaberry (BA '33 MA '35) headed into central Australia in 1936 to carry out fieldwork in Aboriginal communities. She was the first woman in Australia recognised as a fully trained and qualified anthropologist, travelling the world from Papua New Guinea to Cameroon and the United Kingdom. Her words and images captured unfamiliar worlds.



▶ A clipping from the *Sydney Morning Herald* dated 17 May 1934, talking about Kaberry's Western Australian expedition. Kaberry was born in 1910 in the United States to English parents, coming to Australia when she was four. Image: University of Sydney Archives



◀ Remote Australia in the 1930s was a 'bring your own everything' location. This list shows guns, cooking materials and what is effectively the elements of a photographic studio, including chemicals for developing the images in those pre-digital days. Image: University of Sydney Archives



▲ Kaberry was only 29 when she left to work in New Guinea. The war in the Pacific forced her to return to Sydney, where she worked for the University's Department of Anthropology. Her later career was spent at University College, London. She died in England in 1977. Photo: P. Kaberry estate, the London School of Economics



Mathematics was never a problem for Kathy Chiha at school, and it's given her a globetrotting career. Here she totals up the experiences of a life lived with numbers.

## KEEPING YOUR OPTIONS OPEN

Written by Jocelyn Prasad  
Photography by Louise Cooper

Kathy Chiha (BSc '83) had no idea where pure maths and chemistry would take her when she enrolled at the University of Sydney. "I did it because I could, and I liked it," she says. The job would come later.

She never imagined her degree would propel her to the trading floor of the New York Mercantile Exchange.

After graduating in 1983, Chiha gave teaching a shot but soon decided it wasn't for her. She found her feet in the financial markets, when Elders Finance Group employed her for the maths-heavy job of calculating options on futures.

At that time, Australian options – the right to buy or sell futures contracts at an agreed price within an agreed timeframe – were in their infancy. When her boss landed the job heading the company's trading operation in New York, he asked Chiha to come with him.

With that, she was off to London to learn the ropes and then on to the Big Apple, where she spent three years as a trader. Working in a fast-paced industry in the world's largest financial centre, Chiha's life shifted up a gear.

"I had to grow up very fast," she says. "Suddenly I was responsible for myself and there wasn't anyone around that I had a history with."

The floor of the New York Mercantile Exchange was often frantic, and crowded with highly competitive



traders. Of the approximately one thousand traders on her floor, Chiha estimates 50 were women. The disparity never bothered her.

"It was absolutely male dominated and I never felt intimidated," she says. "If you proved your worth, you earned respect. It didn't matter who you were."

Returning to Australia, she continued specialising in options, eventually leaving the hectic trading floor for a back office. "I had a family and everyone else was out drinking and partying, so I thought I'd move into an office role to run operations."

An MBA saw Chiha become a chartered accountant, taking on various university-based roles including running an electron microscopy department. This makes her laugh because she barely knew what electron microscopy was, but it worked because she ran only the business side of things.

Now a financial controller at Salesforce, which provides cloud-based customer management software, Chiha is part of a team working with the NSW Department of Family and Community Services to create technologies that will help improve child protection programs.

Her advice to young mathematicians? "Be open to a range of possibilities. You never know what opportunities will come your way. Seize them with both hands!" ●

# Going the distance

For almost as long as it's been possible for women to study at the University of Sydney, women from Anne Bollen's family have been here. A recent graduation added another generation to that long and proud history.

Written by George Dodd



▲ A beaming Anne Thomson, now Bollen (centre) at her 1959 graduation, with fellow alumni, her mother Marjorie James (left), and grandmother Amy Hodgkins.

▶ Starting a family tradition, Bollen's grandmother Amy Hodgkins graduated in 1895.



When Anne Bollen (BA '59 DipEd '60) started at the University, she was Anne Thomson. She remembers being introduced to a tall and charming young man on the steps of the Nicholson Museum. At the time, she couldn't have known that David Bollen (BA '59 PhD '66) would become her husband, and that one day they would return to the same spot to watch their granddaughter Monica (BA(Hons) '18) graduate from the University of Sydney.

"David and I joined the opening procession of the ceremony, which was quite an experience," says Anne. "It was a little nerve wracking because I haven't worn a gown or mortarboard for a long time."

The graduation happened on a cool and perfect Sydney day. Many of the wider family were there, with Anne and David coming up from their home in Goulburn in regional NSW. Among the family group were cousins Clare and Helena Bollen and Isobel Francis, all current students at the University, and Anne's daughter Jennifer (BA '89 GradDip(Second) '92), who is also a Sydney graduate.

Anne's mother and grandmother were Sydney graduates as well, meaning five generations of women in Anne's family line have earned their degrees at the University, stretching back to a time when women had only recently been allowed to attend university at all.

When the University of Sydney was founded in 1850, it was a men-only affair, with a stated objective of training the future leaders of Australia on Australian soil rather than sending them to study in England. It took more than 30 years for the doors to be opened to women, after a unanimous vote by the University Senate in 1881. Significantly, the Senate gave women the same status as men. The women of Oxford and Cambridge were allowed to study but were not granted degrees, whereas at the University of Sydney, women graduated with full qualifications.



▲ Anne's daughter Catherine (centre) graduated in 1987, accompanied by father David (2nd left), Anne (far right) and her grandparents John Thomson (far left) and Marjorie (2nd right).  
◀ Marjorie James, Anne's mother, graduating in 1933.



Anne's grandmother, Amy Alice Hodgkins, was 13 years old when she came out to Australia by ship in 1885, the same year the first two women graduated from the University of Sydney. Amy herself

graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1895.

"I don't know how she came to be studying," Anne says. "I think she was a bit of a feminist for her time. She put off getting married for three years so as to continue teaching. At that time a married woman wasn't expected to keep working."

Amy's final position before marrying was as principal of Tamworth Girls' School. The theme of teaching runs strongly through all five generations of Anne's family, with most of the women University graduates going on to be teachers.

To bring all the numbers together, 21 members of the family, including 14 women, have studied at the University of Sydney.

When Anne was studying, MacLaurin Hall was the Fisher Library and full of bookshelves, tables and study spaces. MacLaurin Hall became the grand and open space it is now when the current Fisher Library opened in 1963.





▲ It's in the family. Left to right: Isobel Francis, Anne Bollen, Jennifer Bollen, Helena Bollen, newly graduated Monica Bollen, and Clare Bollen. Photo: Stefanie Zingsheim

Anne also remembers good times with friends at Manning House and buying ice cream with strawberry topping, though she now admits it was a bit awful.

"In those days, not so many people went to university," she remembers. "I used to sit on the train going home, proudly reading *Honi Soit* to show that I was a university student!"

After studying geology and geography, Anne's mother Marjorie James (BSc '33) became a science teacher until she married in 1938. Anne's daughter Jennifer began in 1985, studying English, French and German. By then, Anne and David had moved their family to Goulburn, so Jennifer was house-sharing in Sydney with sister Catherine (BA '87), then in her 3rd year of an arts degree. Brother Jonathan (BA '94) and sisters Rosemary (BA '92), Elizabeth (BA '97 BA '99 PhD '05) and Rebecca (BA '01) followed in due course.

"Being a student from a regional area was unusual then," Jennifer says. "There were only a couple of other girls from my school who came here."

Now Jennifer's newly graduated daughter Monica is part of the Bollen family's university tradition, having studied psychology with a view to being a school counsellor.

"I like the sense of history," Anne says. "I'm really thrilled that our granddaughters have chosen to be part of this continuing, proud attachment to the University of Sydney." ●

## FAMILY MATTERS

If your family has history with the University, we'd love to hear about it. Send your story to [sam@sydney.edu.au](mailto:sam@sydney.edu.au)

With the recent historic detection of gravitational waves, the science of radio astronomy found itself in the headlines. Yet 80 years ago, the term 'radio astronomy' didn't exist outside a small group of scientists.

## RUBY PAYNE-SCOTT: A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THE SKY

One woman was instrumental in making radio astronomy part of modern science: Ruby Payne-Scott (BSc (Hons I) '33 MSc '36 Dip Ed '38). She conducted groundbreaking research, first at the University and later at the CSIRO. But Payne-Scott's story didn't just unfold in the laboratory. She was also a member of the Communist Party, and part of a team whose work helped fight the war in the Pacific.

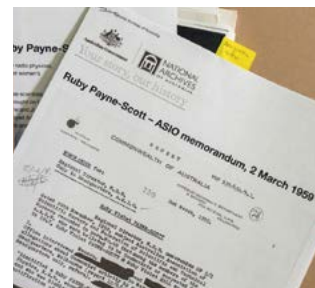
ASIO memo: National Archives of Australia, NAA: A6119, 1679. All other photos on this page from the University of Sydney Archives.



◀ Starting study at just 16, Ruby Payne-Scott graduated from the University in 1933 with First-Class Honours in physics and mathematics. Described by one work manager as 'a bit loud', she advanced science while championing women's rights.



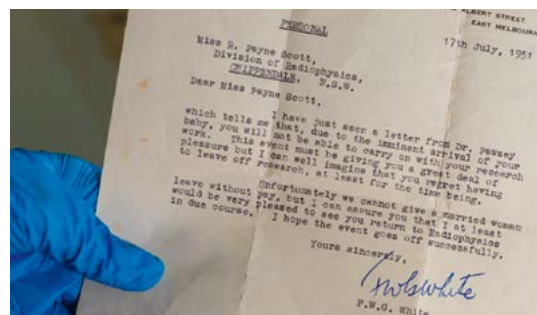
◀ Many photos of Payne-Scott picture her out in nature. She was an avid bushwalker, and her passion for science and nature often overlapped. Her work with the CSIRO took her out into the field, as the radio telescopes she worked with required plenty of space.



▲ A memo from ASIO about Payne-Scott shows that her political and union activity, not to mention her Communist Party affiliations, meant she was under surveillance and watched closely by intelligence officials.



◀ Conducting top-secret radar research, Payne-Scott (left) and her colleagues from the radiophysics laboratory helped the fight in the Pacific during the Second World War. Here, the team is in front of one of the trailers containing instrumentation for the radio telescopes at Potts Hill, a south-western suburb of Sydney.



▲ Payne-Scott had to hide her marriage to find work after the war, lost her superannuation when it was discovered, and was unable to continue work when she became pregnant, as this CSIRO letter shows. Forced from her research job, she raised her two children, later doing some school teaching. She passed away in 1981 in Sydney, just before turning 69.

# Digging the scene

Written by Jocelyn Prasad

Archaeologists don't see much Indiana Jones-style action, but at a long-running University dig in Cyprus, archaeology professionals and volunteers share a great sense of adventure.

Archaeology has fascinated Danny Blackman (BA '73) since she was 12 and first heard of the work of German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, who famously excavated Troy in the 19th century. Blackman went on to take a few archaeology subjects while majoring in English and history at the University of Sydney.

This was in the 1960s, when there was little interest in fieldwork in Australia and archaeological study relied on visual material such as slides. After graduation, Blackman put her interest to one side to pursue a more 'sensible' public sector career in librarianship, research and policy, and industrial relations.



▲ In archaeological terms this is a sherd: a fragment of historic pottery.



▲ Gold coin dating to the time of Constantine V in the 7th century.

"Going to the Mediterranean to do a dig was far beyond my wildest dreams," she says. "It wasn't something I thought I would ever do."

Almost 40 years later, a friend looking for an offbeat holiday asked Blackman to join her as a volunteer at the University's Paphos Theatre Archaeological Project. Blackman didn't take much convincing.

The University has been excavating the site of the ancient Hellenistic-Roman theatre at Paphos, the ancient capital of Cyprus, since 1995. Initiated by Professor of Classical Archaeology Richard Green (MA '07), the self-funded project relies on students, professional archaeologists and volunteers like Blackman, who spend three to six weeks at the site during its annual excavation season.





▲ The Paphos Theatre rises above trench 11B (foreground) which revealed part of the medieval structure and evidence of Roman landscaping.

Dr Craig Barker (BA '96 PhD '05) participated in the first dig at Paphos as an archaeology student and has been part of the project ever since. In 2007 he became its director, a role he dovetails with his job as Manager of Education and Public Programs at Sydney University Museums.

The site was largely covered in soil when the project began. Years of strategic digging has uncovered paved Roman roads, an ancient nymphaeum (water fountain) and Paphos' famous semi-circular theatre.

"If you stand in front of it now, it looks like a theatre," says Barker of the 2000-year-old ruins. "You can see the orchestra (stage) where the chorus would have performed, and the seats. We've also revealed the foundations of the old stage building, where the actors performed."

Barker says the 250 or so volunteers who have participated in the Paphos project across its 23-year history have been instrumental in uncovering this architecture. "They've found everything from small ceramic sherds, as they're called, to larger marble sculptural pieces."

Not everyone spends their days shovelling dirt with a spade; volunteers are encouraged to work within their physical limits, doing everything from digging to pot washing, sorting and recording finds. Nonetheless, it's hard slog. "People aren't coming just to brush away some dirt and find a gold coin," says Barker.

It's enough to keep Blackman going back for more. "In my first season, I helped excavate the tunnel under the orchestra floor," she says. "There's fewer than a dozen tunnels in the hundreds of ancient theatres. From that point, I was hooked!" Now seven seasons in, Blackman is the project's archivist, registering finds and coordinating their processing by field photographers and illustrators.

"Seeing artefacts as they're discovered is a far cry from the slide shows of undergraduate days," she says. "Most of us are older and many, like me, saw no possibility of working in archaeology after graduation. We're not necessarily looking for a second career, but we learn how to appreciate the skills of those working at Paphos."

The backgrounds of the Paphos volunteers are varied, and not all have dabbled in archaeology before. Some, like Blackman, have an ongoing role, while others go from one dig to another.

"It's a fantastic way to see the country," Blackman says. "From Agatha Christie's writings on archaeology, you'd think archaeological digs were a long way from anywhere. One of the charms of this dig is you're actually working within a provincial city."

Blackman counts coffee shops, bars and restaurants among her regular haunts whenever she visits Ktima Paphos, and she loves the local markets. She's formed friendships she wouldn't have made as a tourist and visited many other historical sites in Cyprus.

The Paphos project has made great strides in understanding the ancient Nea Paphos Theatre. Barker and colleagues have used discovered remains to map the ancient theatre with photogrammetric technology and develop a virtual reality app depicting the theatre during its heyday, around 150 AD.

"The discovery of Roman roads has opened the way for the project to better understand Roman urbanisation. Aside from revealing more about the Roman Empire, ongoing excavations would likely offer some lessons to modern urban planners," says Barker.

"The theatre was part of a complex urban structure. There's likely to be a Roman bathhouse nearby, and certainly Roman city gates."

With the ongoing support of volunteers – who pay their own travel and accommodation costs – and donations, there is scope for the project to continue for years to come.

Blackman certainly hopes so: "As long as they don't mind having me there, I'll keep putting my hand up to go." ●



▲ Danny Blackman in a rarely found orchestra floor tunnel.



▲ Left to right: Dr Craig Barker, artist in residence Emeritus Professor Diana Wood Conroy (BA '66), and Paphos local and cultural events coordinator Yiannis Sakellis.



▲ Surveyor Guy Hazell geo-maps the location of granite columns that were part of the colonnade of the Roman road.



▲ Student and volunteer team members sort through and begin processing ceramic finds from the Hellenistic to Medieval eras.

## YOU CAN GIVE THE PAST A FUTURE

The Cyprus dig invites you to get your hands dirty by volunteering for next year's season in September–October 2019. For details, email [craig.barker@sydney.edu.au](mailto:craig.barker@sydney.edu.au)

If you'd rather dig deep the other way, your financial support would also be very welcome. [give.sydney.edu.au/paphostheatre](http://give.sydney.edu.au/paphostheatre)



## THE UNFORGETTABLES

For every generation of students, there is at least one charismatic University staff member with rockstar status. Usually loved, sometimes feared but never forgotten, three have been gathered here, while we acknowledge there are many more.



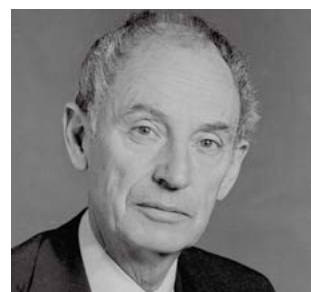
### Harry Messel: Head of the School of Physics (1952–1987)

Long before he came into the room, you knew Professor Messel (MSc '87 DSc '92 DSc (*honoris causa*) '92), was on his way. The larger-than-life, cigar-smoking Canadian made an impression wherever he went, including on funding bodies, which he won over with both his ideas and his not inconsiderable charm, resulting in a golden age of physics at the University. Not surprisingly, he was loved by students as a man of bracing energy and charisma. All the key qualities that made Messel a great head of school when he was just 30 endured until he passed away in 2015, aged 90. A true leader and great visionary.



### Betty Archdale: Principal of the Women's College (1946) and member of the University Senate (1959)

Not many people would say that visiting their mother in prison was inspirational, but Helen Elizabeth (Betty) Archdale (DLitt '85) had a singular world view. It may have helped that her mother was incarcerated for her courageous actions as a suffragette. Growing up in the UK, Archdale studied law then took her studies to Canada and the Soviet Union. Described as a radical thinker, she shook up, but ultimately won over, the staid Australia of the 1950s, assisted by the fact that she was, at one time, the captain of the English women's cricket team on its first and victorious tour of Australia.



### Charles Ruthven Bickerton Blackburn: Head of the Department of Medicine (1957)

"He seemed like a god, yet understood and forgave the folly of youth," said one student. "He instructed me on how to catch mosquitoes and feral dogs in Papua New Guinea, without being bitten by either," said another. Professor Blackburn (MBBS '37 MD '39 BA '90 MD (*honoris causa*) '91) was many things to the students he guided in the 1960s and 70s. Known for his warmth, dedication and outstanding research, he certainly did not live in the shadow of his father, that other University luminary Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn (MS 1899 MB 1899 MD 1903 DLitt (*honoris causa*) 1965).

## WHO WAS YOUR UNFORGETTABLE?

If you have indelible memories of a lecturer or other University staff member, we'd love to hear the story. Email us with their name and a short description of how you encountered them and why they were unforgettable. [sam@sydney.edu.au](mailto:sam@sydney.edu.au)

Photos: Messel from the School of Physics, Archdale (G77\_2\_0070) and Blackburn (G77\_2\_0581) from the University Archives.



## WHAT'S ON

There's a great deal going on at the University – and some of it is free or discounted for alumni.

### MUSIC

#### Sydney Conservatorium of Music

During semester, the Con holds free lunchtime concerts on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12.30pm. There are also free concerts in the Great Hall twice a semester. [music.sydney.edu.au/event-listings](http://music.sydney.edu.au/event-listings)

Rising Stars free concerts are held on Saturdays at the Conservatorium during semester at 11am and 2pm. [openacademy.sydney.edu.au/rsdates](http://openacademy.sydney.edu.au/rsdates)

The Conservatorium has a busy live music program. If something catches your eye, it's worth contacting us as there may be discounted prices for alumni. Phone (02) 9351 1222 or email [con.boxoffice@sydney.edu.au](mailto:con.boxoffice@sydney.edu.au)

#### The bells

Carillon recitals in the Quadrangle are given every Sunday from 2pm to 2.45pm, and every Tuesday from 1pm to 1.45pm. A free tour to see the instrument follows each recital. [sydney.edu.au/carillon](http://sydney.edu.au/carillon)

### KNOWLEDGE

#### Science

The Faculty of Science holds many free events and talks over the year. [sydney.edu.au/science/outreach/whats-on](http://sydney.edu.au/science/outreach/whats-on)

#### Sydney Ideas

Throughout the year, we host free talks by University and international academics on a range of subjects. [sydney.edu.au/sydney-ideas](http://sydney.edu.au/sydney-ideas)

You can also listen to past events: [soundcloud.com/sydney-ideas](https://soundcloud.com/sydney-ideas)

#### Learning

The Centre for Continuing Education offers alumni a 10 percent discount (up to a maximum of \$500 per course) on enrolments. There are hundreds of courses available. [cce.sydney.edu.au](http://cce.sydney.edu.au)

#### Antiquities

Admission to the Nicholson Museum is free. It's open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4.30pm, and on the first Saturday of each month from 12 to 4pm. At 2pm on that Saturday there is a free public lecture on history, archaeology or culture, in the General Lecture Theatre. Every Monday at 3.30pm there is a free tour of the Nicholson by curatorial and education staff. [sydney.edu.au/museums/collections/nicholson](http://sydney.edu.au/museums/collections/nicholson)

#### Art

Exhibitions at the Tin Sheds Gallery, 148 City Rd, Darlingtown, are free and open to everyone. [sydney.edu.au/tin-sheds](http://sydney.edu.au/tin-sheds)

#### Southeast Asia

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre hosts free events about the region. [sydney.edu.au/sydney-southeast-asia-centre/events](http://sydney.edu.au/sydney-southeast-asia-centre/events)

#### Modern media

The Department of Media and Communications runs a free research seminar series. [mediaatsydney.org/category/upcoming-events](http://mediaatsydney.org/category/upcoming-events)

#### Health policy

Subscribe to the email newsletter of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy to hear about free monthly seminars on health policy at the Charles Perkins Centre. [sydney.edu.au/medicine/mchp-news-subscribe](http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/mchp-news-subscribe)

### EXPLORATION

#### Art and heritage tours

Guided group tours of our museums and galleries can be organised for a senior's price of \$8.50 per person (this price is not available to individuals). Look at 'Plan your visit' on our website for details. [sydney.edu.au/museums](http://sydney.edu.au/museums)

#### Fitness

Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness offers a Seniors Wellness Program for paid members aged 55 or over. To learn more, phone (02) 9351 4960 or visit [susf.com.au/shop/item/seniors-wellness-program](http://susf.com.au/shop/item/seniors-wellness-program)

## CLASSNOTES FEATURE

Here are more stories of our alumni. Tell us your story when you update your details at: [alumni.sydney.edu.au/updatedetails](http://alumni.sydney.edu.au/updatedetails)

### David Branagan OAM

David Branagan OAM (BSc '51 MSc '59 PhD '63 DSc (*honoris causa*) '07) has had an almost unbroken 71-year history as part of the University. In that time he has become one of Australia's foremost geologists, with a singular international reputation.

Branagan was awarded a master's degree in geology after also having a stellar athletics career at the University. Gaining a PhD in 1963, he went on to be a popular lecturer for three decades. As a prolific researcher at the Department of Geology and Geophysics, he has written more than 250 publications, including 20 books (both textbooks and biographies), 13 book chapters and scores of technical papers, journal articles, reviews and films, on topics as diverse as Aboriginal star maps and the geological backgrounds of famous artworks.

For all this, Branagan has still made room for his great passion – sacred music. Having a fine baritone voice and an extensive knowledge of the repertoire, he was unhappy to find no 'early music' revival in Sydney when he returned from working in London in the 1950s. To remedy the situation, he formed the St Gregory Chorale and was its director for 30 years, overseeing many performances, including for the ABC and major events at Sydney's St Mary's Cathedral. His wife, Gillian, is a fellow singer; they met in the Sydney University Musical Society, and married in 1956.

Branagan's influence on geology has been equally profound. He led or helped guide numerous organisations and received many awards and fellowships throughout his career. Remaining Associate Professor until his retirement in 1989, he continues at the University as an Honorary Research Associate. Today, one of his most important projects is encouraging a love of fine music in his five grandchildren.



▲ David Branagan has had a long and influential connection with the University.

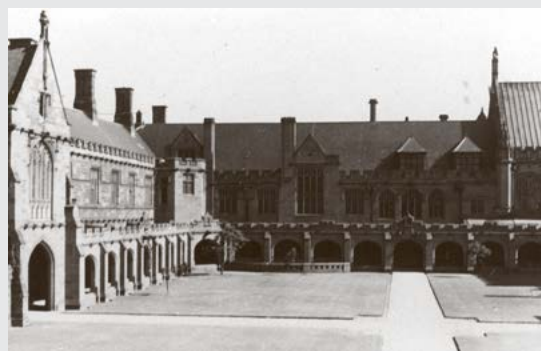
## CLASSNOTES

### Ag grads reunion group: Class of 1958

It's been 60 years since these one-time agricultural science students graduated. They celebrated at this reunion in Brisbane in 2017, one of many they've had over the years and around the country. Collectively, the group represents a wide range of distinguished careers in teaching, research and administration at colleges, universities, the CSIRO and departments of agriculture, as well as in primary production and private enterprise. Their next reunion is already planned for 2019 in Melbourne.



▲ Left to right: Back row: Rod McLeod (BScAgr '58 MAgr '67), Ian Anderson (BScAgr '58) and Angus Munro (BScAgr '58). Middle row: Alan Seberry (BScAgr '59), Dr Tom Biegler (BScAgr '58 MAgr '60 PhD (Agr) '62), Dr Peter Goodwin (BScAgr '58 MAgr '60), Lance Woods (BScAgr '58 MAgr '61), Professor David Lindsay AO (BScAgr '58 PhD (Agr) '64) and Professor Cliff Blake AO (BScAgr '58 DEdAdmin (*honoris causa*) '01). Front row: Dr John Wilson (BScAgr '58 MAgr '60 DAgr '95), Dr Vyrna Beilharz (BScAgr '58), Una Wettenhall (BScAgr '58) and Terry King (BScAgr '58)



◀ The Quadrangle as it was when Rodney Knock started study. Photo: University of Sydney Archives G3\_224\_1193

### Rodney Knock

Rodney Knock (BA '54) has clear memories of his University days: arriving in a wet year with the Quadrangle swirling in floodwater; the "fierce professor of French", Professor Henning, who imbued his students with admirable fluency; and playing violin in the orchestra of Foundation Professor of Music Donald Peart. A keen member of the Australian Student Christian Movement, Knock added its enquiring liberalism to his Anglo-Catholicism. His studies in Latin, French, English and history led to a teaching position at Sydney Grammar from 1954 to 1988. He now lives with his wife in Newcastle, and is part of the Newcastle Aboriginal Support Group.



### Clem Gorman

A pioneer of experimental theatre in Australia, Brian 'Clem' Gorman (BA '68) directed avant-garde theatre for the Sydney University Drama Society while also publishing short stories and articles in prominent literary magazines.

In 1967 he helped form the experimental and influential Australian Free Theatre Troupe, before heading to London in the 1970s to be a performance artist and arts administrator. His most successful play, *Manual of Trench Warfare*, was researched at Australia House.

Returning home in the 1980s, Gorman worked as a freelance playwright and author, with eight of his plays staged professionally and eight non-fiction books published. He taught creative writing at 14 Australian universities, and Australian studies in the United States. With his wife, Therese, he wrote the book *Intrepide*, about Australian women artists who lived and worked in France. He is now developing his skills as a singer/songwriter.



### Diana Bayley

A career teaching English as a second language started for Diana Bayley (MA '94) with mature-age study at Guild Teachers College. At the time, she was also working in the Department of Education and Adult Migrant English Service. Sometimes teaching people not literate in their first language, Bayley assessed other teachers, later becoming an assistant school principal.

While travelling in the United Kingdom she took up teaching in various institutions, including at Kings College London and the University of Cambridge. A return to Sydney in 2005 was short lived, as she accepted an offer to teach at Zhejiang University in China, where she helped students hone their existing English skills for use in an academic environment, a career experience she describes as "the icing on the cake".



### Helen Langridge

When her first child was born in 1970, Helen Langridge (BA '66 DipEd '67) made the move from teaching high school English and history to being a full-time parent. Soon after, and for three years, she began editing her church's monthly newsletter, then started teaching scripture in 1983, which she did for 11 years.

A return to casual teaching in 1987 was cut short by ill health, but she continued with some English HSC tutoring. Prompted by her husband, Helen returned to studying French, this time at the University of Wollongong, graduating in 1995 and speaking French fluently. She is now part of a team converting shipping containers into fully functioning libraries for schools in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. The project is called Angaza Beyond, *angaza* being the Swahili word for enlightenment.



### Jacqueline Dwyer (née Playoust)

As the daughter of a French wool-buyer who fought in the First World War in the French and Australian armies, Jacqueline Playoust (BA '46 DipSocStud '47) grew up bilingual with regular childhood trips to France. After the Second World War she spent a year in France, fascinated by the stories of family members who had lived under Nazi occupation. Returning to Australia, she worked in human resources and married Dr Brian Dwyer (MBBS '48), a pioneering anaesthetist, raising a large family.

She was made a chevalier in the National Order of Merit by the French Government in 2014, then completed a Master of Philosophy at ANU using her father's wartime diaries and letters as primary sources. In 2017 she published a revised version of her book *Flanders in Australia: A Personal History of Wool and War*, presenting a copy to French President Emmanuel Macron in May 2018 (pictured).



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