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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose traditional lands we meet, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this publication may contain the images, voices and/or names of people who have passed away.
Thank you for making an extraordinary difference to The Australian National University in these challenging times.

For 75 years, ANU has helped address some of the most intractable challenges faced by society and fulfilled its unique role as Australia’s first and only national university.

2021 was an unprecedented year, but the support of our donors, alumni and volunteers made an extraordinary difference.

The Support Australia’s Students campaign concluded in December and exceeded its goals. We thanked over 3,000 donors whose generosity is removing barriers and ensuring students from all backgrounds have the means to fulfil their potential at ANU and beyond.

2021 Giving Day ran for 75 hours to celebrate the University’s 75th anniversary, exceeding the $75,000 target to raise more than $125,000.

We received several significant gifts to the Kambri Scholars Program, ensuring Indigenous students can attend ANU, study towards a degree of their choice and build successful careers.

This report is a collection of stories you have helped us write over the last year. Philanthropy enables us to do things we would not otherwise be able to do.

Thanks to you, our students continue to have a world-class education and experience, and we continue to conduct transformative research towards an equitable future for all.

The positive impact our ANU community makes in the wider world is made possible thanks to your generosity.

The Hon Julie Bishop
Chancellor

Professor Brian P. Schmidt AC FAA FRS
Vice-Chancellor and President
Talent is everywhere. Opportunity is not.

At ANU, we believe that every talented Australian student should be able to attend university no matter their financial means. A university education does more than just improve the lives of students, it can help lift their families and communities out of hardship, and be a driver of personal, social and national change.

The past few years have been tough on Australia’s students, but – through the challenges of the COVID pandemic and numerous natural disasters – the ANU donor community rallied around them by giving generously to the Support Australia’s Students campaign.

From 2018 to 2021, we had 3,245 donors give $21,825,624 to support students, exceeding the campaign target by almost $7 million.

“I can’t explain how grateful I am for the scholarship because being at ANU, studying what I love, living on campus and meeting so many people has been the most influential part of my development.”

— OLIVE IVANOFF, 2019 ANU RURAL AND REGIONAL EQUITY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
Support Australia’s Students

The ANU Foundation: stewarding your philanthropy

The ANU Foundation is the governance framework for all gifts made to the University. It ensures that ANU maintains the highest standards in relation to its fundraising activities and that gifts made to the University are managed in the most ethical and transparent manner.

The ANU Foundation Board is the key oversight body for the ANU Foundation, advising the ANU Council and the Vice-Chancellor on the governance, management and performance of the University’s fundraising activities. The Board holds the University accountable for the financial and risk management of all gift funds within the ANU Foundation, ensuring that monies are disbursed and activities supported in line with donor wishes for the life of each gift.

Further details about the ANU Foundation and the University’s Gifts and Fundraising policy can be found online at anu.edu.au/giving.
Philanthropy is part of the ANU story

From donations to establish infrastructure to gifts helping students purchase books, philanthropy advances the ANU community.

Philanthropy is key to the University’s story, even before the Bill establishing ANU is passed by Federal Parliament in 1946. In fact, it is four years prior to the establishment of ANU when the Association of Universities in Canberra gives the Tillyard Prize to the Canberra University College.

When Canberra University College and ANU amalgamate in 1960, the Tillyard Prize is endowed to ANU. To this day, the Tillyard Prize remains the oldest and most prestigious award available to bachelor degree students at ANU, helping shape a culture of academic excellence at the University.

Philanthropy continues to help shape ANU culturally, and later, physically. On 1 March 1975, Miss Joy London bequeaths a 348-hectare property to ANU, the Kioloa Coastal Campus. The Campus is the University’s outdoor classroom and continues to provide a natural surrounding for learning.

With these founding gifts and a developing culture of giving, in 1996 the University establishes the ANU Endowment for Excellence for better governance of philanthropic gifts. That same year, the ANU Alumni Association launches to foster a sustained connection with its alumni, coinciding with the University’s 50th anniversary.
Remarkable gifts lay the foundations of philanthropy

By the 2000s, the University has an engaged philanthropic community, backed by a proven ability to positively impact change in society. A number of individuals donate gifts that remain significant to ANU staff and students and continue to shape the University’s culture.

In 2013, ANU alumni Graham and Louise Tuckwell establish the prestigious Tuckwell Scholarship program. At the time, the gift is the largest donation made by individuals to an Australian university. The first cohort of 25 scholars commences a year later. In 2016, a further contribution to the University expands the scholarship program and provides more students a chance to live on campus.

In 2014, Emeritus Professor John Love establishes the flagship Love Scholarship Program at ANU, to help students whose circumstances would have prevented them from studying at university. The Love Scholarship is committed to supporting equity, excellence and diversity at ANU, and creating opportunities for students to reach their full potential. Professor Love’s generous bequest endows the program, ensuring the scholarships continue in perpetuity.
Our donor community grows and diversifies

To add to these generous gifts, ANU creates annual initiatives that allow more people to become involved in philanthropy.

In 2014-2015, our donor community grows as more individuals than ever before give to ANU during the University’s inaugural telephone and mid-year appeals. This outreach fosters deep, personal connections between ANU donors, alumni and students, and builds strong philanthropic support.

The Springbank Circle also launches in 2015, to publicly recognise individuals who have confirmed their wishes to leave a gift to ANU, as stipulated in their Will.

By 2018 the University’s donor community is growing in visibility, and more alumni are becoming interested in how they can give back to ANU. In addition to eight geographically based alumni networks, four new interest-based networks enhance alumni affiliations. The ANU LGBTQI Alumni Network, Young Alumni Network, Women’s Alumni Network, and Indigenous Alumni Network allow students and alumni to remain connected with each other and ANU.

That same year, Alumnus Craig Edwards gifts his personal Indigenous art collection to ANU. Valued at over $9 million, the collection includes works by many influential Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and is the largest collection of Indigenous artwork ever given to an Australian university. In 2020, Craig donates further paintings from his collection by leading Western Desert artist Naara Nungarrayi, in addition to a donation supporting the University’s arts collection and Drill Hall Gallery. These gifts have a total value of $10,730,000.

In 2019, the University receives a $10 million bequest from Jenny and Bruce Pryor, to boost research for dermatomyositis – a rare autoimmune disease. The donation is the largest bequest ANU has ever received and establishes the Jenny and Bruce Pryor Research Fellowship at the ANU Centre for Personalised Immunology.
Giving is as important today as 75 years ago

On 1 January 2019, the University establishes the ANU Foundation. The ANU Foundation is the governance framework for all gifts made to the University. It ensures that gifts are used for their intended purpose, and that the highest standards in fundraising activities are maintained. The new ANU Foundation replaces the ANU Endowment for Excellence.

In early 2020, the COVID pandemic hits Australia’s shores. The ANU community comes together to support each other in challenging times throughout 2020 and 2021. Alumni and donors give generously to provide urgent support to students and staff during the global pandemic, ensuring scholarships and research grants remain available when needed most.

Additionally in 2020, the ANU Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre and Indigenous Elders in the University’s community co-create the Kambri Scholars Program. The scholarships ensure that talented Indigenous students at ANU have everything they need to succeed, and ANU commits to providing $25 million in matched funds to create a $50 million endowment that will fund the scholarships in perpetuity.

The University’s alumni and donor community continue to give generously, donating more than $21 million through the Support Australia’s Students campaign from 2018-21. These, along with the many other valued contributions highlighted in this report, create opportunities for students with immense potential, regardless of their background.

Thank you to the ANU donor community for your longstanding support. Your commitment and generosity have been integral to ANU since before its inception. Your giving – whether through philanthropy, volunteering, networking or advice – is fundamental to the University, to our staff and students, to their research and education.

Image: Dhani Gilbert, 2021 Kambri Scholar. Photo by Megan Steele-Ferguson/ANU.
2021 Giving by numbers

- Total number of gifts: 2,342
- Total given by donors: $28,819,922
- Total given to support students: $3,871,229

$1,228,440 given to support research on South Asian economies and continue the legacy of Tonia and Dr Richard Shand (full story on page 37).

A glimpse of our donor community

- 1,907 donors gave to ANU
- 1,067 donors who are also ANU Alumni
- 755 made their first-ever gift and joined the inspiring community of donors
- 174 donors located around the world
- 1,733 donors located in Australia
- 123 organisational donors
- 1,784 individual donors
- 1,152 donors continued their philanthropic support
- 230 donors made regular gifts

*All figures in this report refer to activity in the ANU Foundation in 2021 unless otherwise specified.

Image: Mount Stromlo Observatory has ongoing support for renovation and rebuilding due to the generous bequest of Joan Duffield. Photo by ANU.
Total given to ANU through bequests $2,366,559

Given to ANU by staff through the workplace giving program in 2021 $169,959

Loong Wang and Taiyang Zhang gave $2,521,000 to support talented students and researchers to work on cutting-edge computational biology (full story on page 28).
Thank you for your support, year after year

Each year, the ANU donor community comes together to support students, staff, and new research, with our annual outreach activities and appeals.

These opportunities to give back to ANU are key to fostering positive and ongoing connections between current students, alumni and the ANU community.

During the 2021 outreach program, 1005 donors gave a total of $372,853. In another momentous first, ANU alumnus Grant Wilson generously gave the largest donation ever made to an ANU appeal.

The 2021 outreach program saw alumni and donors support a range of causes. Giving Day ran for 75 hours, to celebrate 75 years of ANU, and student callers closed the year by connecting with the ANU community during the End of Year Appeal.

The generous contributions of our donors help to strengthen and enrich our University community, now and for generations to come.

Image: 2021 Kambri Scholar, Hunter Culborg, was the face of the 2021 Mid-Year Appeal. Photo by Megan Steele-Ferguson/ANU.
Connecting with the University community

Each year, the ANU Call Room bursts to life with students from all over the University connecting with alumni and donors. Through these calls, stories are shared and genuine relationships formed. These students help unite alumni and donors with what they are most passionate about at the University; helping progress important research, creating scholarships, and supporting students.

Georgie Quinn and Joanna Lin are student callers who have stayed with the program throughout their studies, because they find it so rewarding.

“I thought it would be a nice way to get some extra money and get experience working at ANU but, after talking to donors and alumni, my love for the University has grown too,” says Joanna, who worked as a student caller from 2018-21.

“When someone’s telling you about how they got married in University House, or why they’ve been supporting a certain fund for years because they believe so strongly in it – it really gives a new perspective.”

Student callers work in teams and receive training throughout the year. The training is designed to equip them to make calls, but also to ensure they can use their experience after they graduate.

“I think a lot of people who sign up for a job like this do so because they’re good talkers, but at the end of the day, it is really about being a good listener,” says Georgie, who worked as a student caller from 2016-21.

“When I go into a job interview, this is often the job I end up talking about the most because there are so many skills I learnt through this that are invaluable.”

In 2021, student callers connected with our alumni and donors, helping to raise $372,853. Calling will commence again in May 2022 and continue throughout the year.

Image: former ANU student callers Joanna Lin (left) and Georgie Quinn (right). Photo by Megan Steele-Ferguson/ANU.
Championing the next generation of First Nations leaders

All First Nations students should have the opportunity to attend university, whether they live in a big city or remote community. That is why the Kambri Scholars Program is supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to access the education and opportunities they deserve, but were denied to them just a generation ago. The Program has a lasting impact not only on the lives of individual students, but their families and communities.

Education opens doors. For many First Nations students, the Kambri Scholars Program is the key to unlocking that door. Donations to the Program support the entire learning lifecycle of First Nations students at ANU. From undergraduate to postgraduate study, to employment opportunities, donor support means students receive the most appropriate services tailored to their needs to set them up for future success.

“Being given a Kambri Scholarship, and the opportunity to get an education, is a gift that I will always treasure,” says Aleisha Knack, a proud Gungarri woman in her second year of a Bachelor of Environment and Sustainability at ANU.

“My great nan, Ivy Saunders, always said that education is a gift. This message is important to me because my mum, aunties, uncles and elders did not get the same educational opportunities as me due to the mistreatment of Aboriginal people in educational institutions throughout Australia’s history.

“It has also inspired me to give back to my people and my community, and to become a leader. I want to use the platform that the Kambri Scholarship has given me, to pass the gift of education to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

“Without kind donors such as yourself, none of this would be possible and from the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank you for helping to foster the next generation of Indigenous leaders in this country,” says Aleisha.

In 2021, donors supported 13 new students to commence study, thanks in part to several significant gifts made to the Kambri Scholars Program during 2021 Giving Day. Excitingly, the very first graduate of the Program, Hunter Culbong, is returning to study Honours at ANU in 2022.

Dr Robin Hughes AO, donor to the Kambri Scholars Program, says that for her the decision to give was an easy one.

“I know the power of education to transform a person’s ability to contribute to their community and to the world at large,” says Robin.

“The Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre at ANU is a wonderful place that gives students a sense of belonging, and the confidence and skills they need to meet the high academic standards expected of all ANU students, without compromise.
“I can envisage a day when the students who receive a Kambri Scholarship graduate and make a real difference in the world. That’s why my husband and I are very happy to have contributed to the Kambri Scholars Program.”

Kambri Scholars Program

$354,140 given to the Kambri Scholars Program in 2021

13 Number of Kambri Scholarships offered in 2021

Endowment opening balance
1 January 2021 $6,293,816

Total number of scholars supported since the program started in 2020
39

Endowment closing balance 31 December 2021 $8,019,982

Image: Dr Anne Martin, Director of the ANU Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre with 2020 Kambri Scholar, Izayah Davis. Photo by ANU.
Supporting Indigenous scholars

When ANU launched the Kambri Scholars Program in 2020, it called on the community for support. John Henderson met the call, giving generously to establish momentum in the program’s initial stages.

Since then, John’s commitment to improving educational opportunities for Indigenous Australia has been instrumental to the success of the scholarship program.

“I have had the pleasure of seeing the Kambri Scholars Program grow,” says John. “It is great to hear that this year we have almost doubled the number of scholars.”

With 16 new scholars enrolled for 2022, the total number of scholars supported since the program started in 2020 has grown to 39.

In 2021, John gave a $100,000 gift to the Kambri Scholars Program. With the University matching every donation, dollar for dollar, the impact of John’s donation was doubled. This allowed ANU to increase the number of undergraduate scholarships available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at the University, enabling even more scholars to achieve their dreams.

Amelia Gordon, 2021 Kambri Scholarship recipient studying International Securities and Law, says, “I always dreamed about going to a university that gave me the right opportunities and let me network with different people that would help me become a better person.”

“The connection with the students is what is most important to me”

— JOHN HENDERSON

For John Henderson, supporting students is what drives him to donate—making Kambri the ideal focus for his philanthropy.

“The connection with the students is what is most important to me,” says John, noting that he can see the mentoring provided by the Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre is of particular importance to the Scholars’ success.

The power of education to transform a person’s ability to contribute to their community, and to the world at large, cannot be understated. Through the Kambri Scholars Program, donors like John are supporting the next generation of influential Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars.
Advocating for better justice outcomes for Indigenous Australia

Chris and Kerryn Marks are helping to create transformative opportunities for students at the ANU College of Law, to equip future legal professionals as allies and advocates for Indigenous justice.

Thanks to Chris and Kerryn’s support, students can participate in two groundbreaking partnerships between the College and remote community legal services – Kimberley Community Legal Services (KCLS) and the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA).

Working with KCLS as interns, students gain valuable paralegal experience, remotely and onsite in Broome and Kununurra. They carry out research and prepare submissions and case materials, supporting the delivery of vital legal services to a client base which is 90 per cent Indigenous.

In partnership with NAAJA and Winkiku Rumbangi NT Indigenous Lawyers, ANU College of Law developed an intensive course, ‘Legal Education for True Justice: Deep Listening on Country’. The course allows students to travel on Arrente and Anangu Country in the Northern Territory, to participate in an immersive learning experience of how the legal profession can truly listen to First Nations voices and honour their aspirations for justice.

Chris and Kerryn Marks’ own experiences of travelling in the Kimberley illuminated some of the challenges faced by First Nations Peoples, as well as the incredible richness and resilience of their continuing cultures.

“I’ve always felt frustrated by the lack of knowledge and acknowledgement of Indigenous people’s history and contribution to our country,” says Chris.

“Community legal services are such an important initiative because they help address the discrimination that continues to affect Indigenous health, wellbeing and opportunity,” says Chris.

By providing law students with transformative experiences serving organisations who work to improve justice outcomes for Indigenous Australia, Chris and Kerryn hope the impact of their giving will extend many years into the future.

ANU student Abigail Widijanto says, “Being in the Kimberley and working at KCLS has been an invaluable legal experience. [It has] taught me that what matters most is finding a sense of purpose in serving others. It has truly been a life changing experience.”

Image: Chris and Kerryn Marks. Photo supplied by the family.
Changing the face of STEM

Inspired by her experience studying engineering, alumna Kim Jackson wanted to support promising female-identifying engineering students at ANU who, like her, hail from a regional area.

“When you look at female representation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), the numbers paint a fairly bleak picture,” says Kim Jackson, founder of Skip Capital.

“When I was at ANU, we had less than 10 per cent women in our engineering class, and even now I think it is just between 20 and 30 per cent. And if engineering at university was heavily male dominated, the same was true of my time in investment banking and funds management.

“I want to support the dreams of female students who have the smarts, but not necessarily the means. Their challenges are the same ones that I faced. And I hope to give them the opportunities afforded to me by studying engineering at ANU.

“The University has a multidisciplinary systems approach to engineering, which I believe is so important today,” says Kim.

Ella Lord, the inaugural recipient of the Kim Jackson Scholarship, had wanted to study at ANU ever since she visited the campus with a STEM camp more than five years ago. The scholarship enabled Ella to move from her hometown of Cambridge, Tasmania, to study a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) and Science double degree at ANU.

“Starting a male-dominated degree at a university where you don’t know many people is scary,” Ella says. “It helps a lot to know that I am at the university that best suits me, which I wouldn’t have been able to do without the scholarship.”
After receiving so many worthy applications for the Kim Jackson Scholarship, the ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science was inspired to award three additional scholarships. These scholarships run alongside an established diversity and inclusion portfolio, and grassroots initiatives to foster inclusion, such as the Fifty50 mentoring program and the Gender Equity in Engineering and Computer Science program.

The Engineering Advantage Scholarship, created to support women who were also considered worthy candidates for the Kim Jackson Scholarship, was awarded to Kayleigh Sleath, Dechen Clarke and Josie Bates.

“These young women really remind me of the start of my journey—how exciting and scary it was to arrive in Canberra from a small town,” says Kim Jackson.

“I want to support the dreams of female students who have the smarts, but not necessarily the means. Their challenges are the same ones that I faced. And I hope to give them the opportunities afforded to me by studying engineering at ANU.”

— KIM JACKSON

“Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, full of enthusiasm, ready to take on the world! I cannot wait to see what they achieve in the years ahead.

“Australia needs more female leaders, entrepreneurs, and visionaries. To do this, we need more female students studying technology, and creating and managing the technology of the future.”

Thanks to the Kim Jackson Scholarship, more women are being supported to follow their passion for engineering and achieving success in their studies and careers.

Alumni like Kim Jackson epitomise the high calibre of ANU engineering and STEM graduates, with donations to the Kim Jackson Scholarship key to supporting equal opportunity in the field of engineering.
Critical support for urgent climate change solutions

The devastating bushfires of 2019 and 2020 prompted a community of like-minded people to come together and help develop urgent solutions to address climate change. Forming the Game Change Enablers in 2020, the group aligned with the ANU Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions to establish the Game Change Supplementary Scholarship and provide a philanthropic vehicle to drive meaningful change.

Inaugural 2021 recipient Rebecca Blackburn received a $10,000 scholarship. Rebecca, who is undertaking a Doctor of Philosophy degree related to climate change, was selected for her ground-breaking research on driving behavioural change to reduce consumption and its associated impacts. In particular, her research examines whether living a minimalist life leads to the climate and environmental outcomes that are essential to meeting climate change targets.

“The impacts of minimalism are often self-reported, with little focus on measurement. So that’s what I want to do—actually measure the ecological footprint of a minimalist lifestyle,” says Rebecca.

“My aim is for the information I gather throughout my studies to be translated into policy, and in this way be used to influence positive societal changes.”

Contributing to the Game Change Supplementary Scholarship provides transformational support for students who can truly change the game on climate research. The fund also helps today’s climate leaders to explore new and innovative solutions to tackle climate change and its impacts.

The 2022 scholarship round aims to award a second recipient soon, boosting the program and research capabilities.
Providing a lifeline for Australia’s most ‘difficult’ birds

Difficult Bird Research Group donors are helping stop Australia’s most endangered birds going the way of the dodo.

In 2021, the Difficult Birds Research Group published nine research papers—each seeking to identify interventions to prevent the extinction of Australia’s most endangered and ‘difficult’ birds. This included ground-breaking research that discovered Australia’s regent honeyeater is headed for rapid extinction, unless conservation efforts are urgently boosted.

“We were able to isolate the three key conservation priorities necessary to secure the birds’ future,” said lead research author, Professor Rob Heinsohn.

“First, we need to better protect the nests of regent honeyeaters from predation. Second, we need to increase the number of zoo-bred birds released into the wild. And third, the natural habitat of the regent honeyeater must urgently be protected and restored.”

This flagship research progressed over six years of intensive fieldwork surrounding the challenges facing Australia’s few remaining wild regent honeyeaters.

Thanks to the help of loyal ANU donors, the Difficult Birds Research Group has grown to be a leader in the field of wildlife research and conservation.

Difficult Birds Research Group

$27,779 given to support difficult birds research

101 donors
A message from the family of Eun Ju

Eun Ju was born in South Korea and came to Australia as a three-year-old. They then lived in WA, NT and ACT, spent time in Zambia as a youngster and later, a year as a 19-year-old volunteer. They experienced diversity.

Their commitment to supporting diversity is, like Eun Ju themself, legendary. With many life experiences that allowed them to see humanity in differing contexts, Eun Ju brought their own humanity to loving people as they are, rather than seeing them as ‘other’. They clearly understood the need for complexity of thought when embracing difference.

“Let our choice be to connect, not disconnect. To unify, not fragment. To work together, not apart.”

— EUN JU KIM BAKER
WOMEN’S MARCH, CANBERRA.

Eun Ju packed their 27 years with living, thinking, sharing, reasoning, giving and loving. They communicated with people from all walks of life with compassion and sincerity. If Eun Ju were here today, they would celebrate any endeavour or initiative you might wish to pursue that allows or supports people to be true to who they are.

The Baker Family

Extending a helping hand to students in need

The Eun Ju Bursary is open to any ANU undergraduate students who may require urgent financial assistance.

Honouring the beliefs Eun Ju Kim-Baker held during their life – that all people deserve freedom from prejudice – the Bursary is particularly useful to marginalised communities, who may not otherwise have access to support.

Dana Throssell and David Connah are part of the ANU LGBTIQA+ Alumni Network and run the Pride@KPMG network. In 2021, their Pride@KPMG workplace giving activities focused on raising money for the Eun Ju Bursary.

“Our community can be at risk from so many different factors, there’s so many different co-morbidities and societal pressures, and biases, that mean trans and gender diverse people can be very vulnerable, and have different needs for emergency support,” says Dana. “Fundraising for the Eun Ju Bursary makes it really clear that we prioritise that support.”

Connah elaborates that, from the financial point of view, the Eun Ju Bursary is helping people directly.

“Being a part of the queer community in Canberra, there are people in my personal life who might need to access this kind of emergency financial support,” says Connah.

“The Bursary holds a real connection to our community, meaning there is so much more of a reason for people to get involved and rally around it.”

“The Bursary holds a real connection to our community, meaning there is so much more of a reason for people to get involved and rally around it.”

— DAVID CONNAH

Image: Dana Throssell (left) and David Connah (right). Photo by Megan Steele-Ferguson/ANU.
“The Foundation seeks to support and work with outstanding people. We have been impressed by the extent to which ANU connects with communities to benefit Australians; either through discovery, people-facing collaborations, or through policy influence and developments that improve the frameworks designed to support thriving communities.”

— CRAIG CONNELLY, CEO OF THE IAN POTTER FOUNDATION.
Partnering for a fair, healthy and sustainable Australia

Driving community change is the goal of the philanthropic partnership between ANU and The Ian Potter Foundation.

“The Foundation seeks to support and work with outstanding people. We have been impressed by the extent to which ANU connects with communities to benefit Australians; either through discovery, people-facing collaborations, or through policy influence and developments that improve the frameworks designed to support thriving communities,” says Craig Connelly, CEO of The Ian Potter Foundation.

In the last four years, The Foundation awarded four grants – two public health grants (2020 and 2021), an Environment and Conservation Grant (2017), and a Medical Research Equipment Grant for the John Curtin School of Medical Research (2020).

The Mayi Kuwayu Study (2020) received the first of the two public health grants. Mayi Kuwaya is delivering the first ever large-scale longitudinal study exploring the impact of culture as a powerful determinant on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing. The study aims to influence policy and empower Indigenous communities with knowledge and data to improve their own health and wellbeing.

“We lack good data in Australia to back up what we know to be true—that strong culture makes us feel happier, healthier and stronger,” says Makayla Brinckley, Mayi Kuwayu Study community researcher.

“That’s why the Mayi Kuwayu Study is important, because we’re telling our stories on our own terms and empowering our communities to be strong in culture and in health.”

The second public health grant (2021) was awarded to a research project aiming to save lives every day. This research will be used to help create new predictive models for cardiovascular disease, and identify the best strategies to protect Australians at risk of cardiovascular disease—a one-in-four killer in Australia.

“Data we collect will help guide government decision-making, and has the potential to save lives,” says Professor Emily Banks, Cardiovascular Disease Modelling lead.

The $2 million Environment and Conservation Grant (2017) is helping farmers better manage the balance between production and sustainability, by developing new farming practices through one of the largest, long-term studies of its kind in the world.

“It’s an exciting and critically important opportunity to improve the lives and finances of farmers, and at the same time make a huge contribution to the conservation of wildlife on farms,” says Professor David Lindenmayer AO, ANU Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions.

Not only have farmers who are better environmental stewards reaped the benefits of their work financially; many farmers attest that the change has improved their mental health, sense of wellbeing and pride in what they do.

Finally, the Medical Research Equipment grant for the John Curtin School of Medical Research (2020) is revolutionising personalised cancer therapy. The grant supports the establishment of Australia’s first cancer drug repurposing and discovery facility for the treatment of rare and currently incurable cancers, including pancreatic, liver and brain cancer.

Through partnering with ANU, The Ian Potter Foundation is driving real change on multiple fronts, and contributing to a fair, healthy, sustainable and vibrant Australia.

Image: John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU. Photo by ANU.
Strengthening health outcomes in the community

Boosting medical research and training the next generation of Indigenous health professionals is the goal of the partnership between ANU and the Canberra-based John James Foundation. The Foundation supports talented ANU students and researchers through a Medical Research Scholarship, a Medical School Scholarship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and the Tony Ayers Prize.

“The Foundation’s mission is to strengthen health outcomes in the community by improving the doctor and patient experience. Education provides the upstream basis that enables us to achieve this goal now and into the future. The sharing of knowledge and experience that leads to better medical interventions and outcomes is the raison d’être of the Foundation,” says Professor Paul Smith, Chair of the John James Foundation.

By building Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students into highly capable health professionals, the partnership is improving the face of healthcare in Indigenous communities.

Lucas Bachmann, 2021 John James Foundation Medical School Scholarship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students recipient, is one of the next generation of Indigenous health professionals.

“Being awarded this scholarship has helped me begin to realise my medicine dream,” says Lucas, “I want to help other Indigenous Australians improve their health, and their family’s health, through being a doctor that brings culturally appropriate, good healthcare to the Indigenous members of the communities.

“Ultimately, this goal would not be possible for me to pursue without the scholarship provided by the John James Foundation, and as such I owe my future medical career to the generous support I am being provided.”

In 2021, the Foundation’s support became integral in the fight against Covid-19. Professor
Philip Batterham won the Foundation’s 2021 Tony Ayers Prize for Excellence in Research and Translational Medicine, in recognition of his research into online mental health tools. Philip’s research provides crucial insights into treating depression and anxiety – a vital contribution to the pandemic healthcare response.

“There are definite advantages to online interventions. They are available 24/7, you can dip in and out of them to get what you need, and you can access them in between sessions with a psychologist or where there is limited access to services. There is also evidence to suggest a preventative effect as well,” says Professor Batterman.

The Foundation’s Medical Research Scholarship aided in producing critical research during the Covid-19 crisis. Scholarship recipients explored the efficacy of vaccines in cancer patients and investigated the risk of developing blood clots for people immunised with the AstraZeneca vaccine.

“The knowledge gained from this study will be an important part of protecting vulnerable populations during the pandemic,” says Dr Yada Kanjanapan, ANU Clinical Senior Lecturer and Medical Oncologist at The Canberra Hospital. “It could help inform future vaccination programs, including the design of booster vaccine programs for immunocompromised patients.”

Through their committed partnership of 20 years, the John James Foundation and ANU continue to work together to improve the face of healthcare by facilitating research and educational opportunities that change lives.

“The Foundation’s mission is to strengthen health outcomes in the community by improving the doctor and patient experience. Education provides the upstream basis that enables us to achieve this goal now and into the future. The sharing of knowledge and experience that leads to better medical interventions and outcomes is the raison d’être of the Foundation.”

— PROFESSOR PAUL SMITH, CHAIR OF THE JOHN JAMES FOUNDATION.
Support at the frontiers of science and medicine

There is a revolution taking place in the field of computational biology – and The Australian National University is leading the charge, thanks to a generous donation of more than $2.5 million, made by two former students.

Humanity’s ability to develop cutting-edge technologies for genomics, imaging, and computational analysis is rapidly changing the face of biomedical research and healthcare forever. Unfortunately, a shortage of skilled researchers with expertise in both biomedical and computational sciences is inhibiting progress.

Loong Wang and Taiyang Zhang, co-founders of the biotech start up Talo, decided to remedy this shortage, with a substantial donation to establish the Talo Computational Biology Talent Accelerator at the John Curtin School of Medical Research.

The Accelerator aims to change how the world thinks about and provides healthcare, by developing the skills and experience needed to bridge the gap between biomedical and computational sciences, through a range of PhD scholarships, research internships, travel grants and innovator grants.

“The volume of biological data that humans are generating has exploded exponentially over the last decade. From individual molecules to entire genomes, we are collecting more data than ever, faster than ever,” says Loong.

“But actually making sense of all of this data, using it to diagnose and treat diseases that are currently beyond our reach, is another challenge entirely. I believe it is absolutely necessary for bright people to bring high-performance computing and artificial intelligence to bear on this problem.
“By bridging the gap between computer science and life science, we will forever change millions of lives for the better, and I believe ANU can be a global leader in this space.

“Computational and biomedical science are in the midst of a paradigm shift. Already, computational biology is making major breakthroughs on the spread and development of disease and gene-disease associations, with the potential to save millions of lives worldwide,” says Taiyang.

“The Accelerator is supporting the next generation of computational biology professionals to completely change how the world thinks about and provides healthcare.”

Professor Eduardo Eyras, Accelerator program lead, and other researchers involved in the Talo Computational Biology Accelerator recognise this as one of the newest and fastest growing fields in science, yet with few training options available.

“With most people coming to the discipline from diverse backgrounds, this program will provide essential interdisciplinary training to advance biomedical research and prepare a new generation of computational biologists,” says Professor Eyras.

By directly supporting students and early-career researchers with this ground-breaking program, the Talo Computational Biology Talent Accelerator is investing in people and ideas to completely change the ways in which the world thinks about and provides healthcare.
Scholarships give a sporting chance

Built on the back of crowdfunding and a supportive cricketing community, The Australian National University Cricket Club (ANUCC) supports talented cricketers from regional areas to study at ANU. The scholarships allow ANU students, like Sarah Turner and Hanno Jacobs, to continue to pursue cricket at the highest levels without compromising their commitment to study.

“I would just like to say a really big thank you to the donors, because this scholarship means a lot to me and I am incredibly grateful to be a recipient,” says Sarah Turner, 2021 ANUCC Scholarship recipient studying engineering and design at ANU.

“One of the really satisfying things about getting the scholarship was knowing I’m good enough to pursue a career in cricket. It’s opened a lot of doors and hopefully I can keep crashing down barriers. This is just the start,” says Sarah.

2020 ANUCC Scholarship recipient and actuarial studies student, Hanno Jacobs, says the scholarship has helped him find his community and inspired him to explore a potential professional cricketing career.

“I’m being selected in higher-level teams now, so the scholarship has really propelled me into a professional pathway. Hopefully, in a few years I’ll be playing on TV in the Big Bash,” says Hanno.

ANU alumnus Murray Radcliffe, a long-time donor and member of ANUCC, sees first-hand the positive impact of the scholarship.

“These young people are going to be significant leaders in our nation, whether it be through cricket or through their academic pursuits,” says Murray. “Having a sporting scholarship at a university is, in my opinion, a really important way of allowing students to have a second part of their life, a more rounded life, and be able to be a much better part of society.”
Balancing sport and study

Maintaining balance between academic and personal goals can be challenging at the best of times, let alone if you are an elite athlete. The ANU Sport and Recreation Association Scholarship provides financial assistance to emerging athletes and talented sportspeople, supporting them to achieve both their academic and athletic goals.

Caleb Antil, 2021 Scholarship recipient and Olympic bronze medallist rower, knows that maintaining the delicate balance between elite sport performance and academic studies is an investment in his future. Caleb is currently studying a double degree in commerce and science at ANU, majoring in management and psychology; and minoring in business and economics essentials, and social psychology.

“University is essential for your future. It is important for me to be working towards a career after sport and exploring my abilities in other areas outside of the boat,” says Caleb. “This scholarship allowed me to continue balancing my studies whilst pursuing Olympic qualification.

“Juggling both sport and study requires athletes to use their time effectively and, most importantly, they require support.

“The support I have received in the form of the Scholarship is a key component of the broad support network that has allowed me to compete at an Olympic level, while also graduating with two Bachelor degrees from Australia’s most prestigious university.”

Caleb hopes to use his broad range of knowledge developed at ANU to pursue a career in consulting on leadership, team dynamics and high performance.

“My time at ANU has set me up for a career outside of sport,” says Caleb. “It has given me core knowledge and critical thinking skills that are applicable to many aspects of my life.”

Image: ANU students rowing on Lake Burley Griffin. Photo by ANU.
Helping students and fostering a diverse, inclusive community

The Bill Packard Scholarship aims to help ease the financial burden of study by covering accommodation expenses at Bruce Hall, an ANU residence situated on the beautiful Acton campus in Canberra.

Established in memory of the founding warden, William (Bill) Packard AM, as part of the Bruce Hall 50th anniversary celebrations in 2011, the scholarship supports an undergraduate student’s accommodation expenses at the iconic residence for three consecutive years.

“The Bill Packard Scholarship helps students experience on-campus residence, who otherwise would not—that is my focus, that is why I donate,” says John Haasz, donor to the Bill Packard Scholarship and former Bruce Hall resident.

The Rotary Club of Belconnen is another dedicated donor, providing financial bursaries to Bruce Hall students for almost four decades.

“This has been a fulfilling experience for Club members and we are delighted at the calibre of students selected to receive the bursaries, and of their appreciation, interest and work,” says the spokesperson for the Rotary Club of Belconnen.

A true hub for scholars, where individualism is respected and excellence in all things is encouraged, the experience of living at Bruce Hall lays strong leadership foundations. Many Bruce Hall alumni enjoy successful careers in the judiciary, Parliament, leading universities and the corporate world.

“Bruce Hall was full of amazing people whom I could turn to for both emotional and academic support, as well as for fun and laughter,” says Bill Packard Scholarship recipient, Elisa Donato. “Six years on, my closest friends are all students who also lived at Bruce Hall. I continue to make very fond memories with the Bruce Hall community.

“I want to express my sincere thanks to donors. Your kindness and generosity have enriched my university experience.”

Image: Bill Packard supporting a student in Bruce Hall, ANU. Photo supplied.
Facilitating a glimpse into ancient worlds

To anyone fascinated by the ancient world, the ANU Classics Museum is a treasure trove. From modest beginnings, the museum collection has grown steadily thanks to the immense generosity of alumni and donors, particularly The Friends of ANU Classics Museum.

Founded in 1962, the ANU Classics Museum is open to the public and used as a teaching resource to help students learn about the ancient worlds. ANU students enrolled in ancient history, archaeology, and art history subjects each have the opportunity to handle the 650 items in its collection.

Donors play a vital role in acquiring artefacts for the museum and in making the collection accessible, both online and through a digital app. In 2021, support from the University donor community, led by The Friends, enabled the ANU Classics Museum to run a program of free public lectures on the history, archaeology, culture and art of the ancient world.

Thanks also to the support of donors in 2021, a search is underway for the first ever Friends’ Fellow, who will oversee the collection, undertake outreach activities associated with the Museum and contribute to teaching undergraduate courses.

It is thanks to support from the University donor community and The Friends of ANU Classics Museum that this important collection can continue to grow.

Image: The Classics Museum at the Australian National University. Photo by Lannon Harley/ANU.
Image: Valmae Freilich by Tim Bauer as part of the We Bleed the Same exhibition. Photo supplied.
In an increasingly polarised world, Valmae Freilich is a visionary in the fight against bigotry.

Having long understood bigotry as a universal problem that had many forms, Valmae believes this complex societal issue is best combatted through a diverse range of research and education initiatives – making ANU the ideal partner in her philanthropic mission.

“With bigotry an even bigger public issue than two decades ago, it is imperative that the vision of people learning to live together remains undimmed,” says Valmae Freilich, Co-Founder of the Herbert and Valmae Freilich Project for the Study of Bigotry.

Thanks to the generous support of Valmae and her family, the Herbert and Valmae Freilich Project for the Study of Bigotry has run continuously at ANU for over twenty years, developing a distinctly interdisciplinary and public-facing character.

**With bigotry an even bigger public issue than two decades ago, it is imperative that the vision of people learning to live together remains undimmed.”**

— VALMAE FREILICH, CO-FOUNDER OF THE HERBERT AND VALMAE FREILICH PROJECT FOR THE STUDY OF BIGOTRY.

Responding dynamically to the unfolding events of the world, the 2021 Freilich Lecture in Bigotry and Tolerance, delivered by esteemed Professor Sharon Nepstad from the University of New Mexico, explored how to break cycles of historical hatred and reduce conflict.

Through this and the annual Alice Tay lecture exploring human rights and their intersection with bigotry, Valmae’s generous donations to ANU are increasing understanding and helping to reduce intolerance in the community.

Valmae sees the tertiary education of First Nations youth as critical to a future of greater equality and understanding. She considers her contribution to the Kambri Scholars Program her own part in reconciliation as an Australian citizen.

Valmae also supports First Nations students through the Freilich Indigenous Student Scholarship in Law. By supporting students like Max Farinazzo, the 2021 recipient of the Freilich Indigenous Student Scholarship in Law, Valmae is hoping to help create a more just society for all.

“As a proud Australian and Kamilaroi man, I feel honoured to have been awarded the Freilich Indigenous Law Scholarship. It has always been my dream to study at ANU and I feel so excited and privileged to be here,” says Max.

Generous funding from Valmae in 2021 also enabled ANU to support multiple original research projects through its Fellowship and Small Grants schemes. These funds engaged researchers, educators, and policymakers to advance mutual tolerance and understanding throughout society.

Dr Andonis Piperoglou is one of the 2021 Freilich Project ECR Small Grant recipients, and says the support provided by the Freilich Project is like no other.

“When compared to other philanthropic funding in the humanities, the Freilich Project offers an incomparable space for researchers to explore the loaded topic of bigotry,” says Dr Piperoglou.

Valmae’s philanthropic impact continues in 2022 with a special photography exhibition, *We Bleed the Same*, by acclaimed photographer Tim Bauer and journalist/filmmaker Liz Deep-Jones. The exhibition provides an account of racism in Australia today, as experienced through the eyes of First Nations people, immigrants and refugees.

With the world in a period of great uncertainty, the research and public engagement Valmae has enabled through her philanthropy are more important now than ever before.
Thank you for giving your time and talent to ANU

The commitment and support of volunteers is fundamental to The Australian National University, and the importance of their efforts cannot be overstated.

It is in great part due to our dedicated volunteers that ANU is able to make so many important opportunities available to students, academics, and the community. These opportunities range from events, scholarships and prizes, to groundbreaking research programs.

ANU holds a very unique place in the higher education and research landscape, in Australia and globally. It has been extraordinary to be part of the evolution of the University’s philanthropic structure since I first joined the Board of Governors (the forerunner to the ANU Foundation Board) in 2008. Back then, ANU was just starting to bring all the elements together. Today, philanthropy at ANU is a well-structured, highly active and global function, with strong governance. Volunteers have been key to this growth and success.

Not only do volunteers give their time, they bring a unique range of skills and perspectives to support a truly wonderful institution and the extraordinary work that is being done at ANU every day.

ANU volunteers help progress the University’s work in delivering world-class education and research, and enable individual students to realise their dreams. These are achievements volunteers can be proud of every day for the rest of their lives.

Volunteers also report that their work has helped them create their own opportunities. Not only can they use volunteering at ANU on their résumé, they make great connections and gain valuable practical experience.

To all those who have volunteered at ANU – thank you. To anyone thinking of volunteering, we would love to welcome you into this thriving community.

Robyn Watts
ANU volunteer and Chair of the ANU Foundation Board
“In my various roles as a volunteer at ANU, I have gained far more than I have given. Through its work, the University gives me hope that we can meet the considerable challenges we face, making it worthy of whatever contribution any volunteer can make. I am also a graduate of ANU and am grateful for the education and life experience I received there. So it is satisfying to remain engaged and give something back to the University.”

Kim Chapman, President of The Friends of the Drill Hall Gallery

“It is rewarding to give back to ANU. The University played a big role in shaping who we are today and now we have an opportunity to play a small part in shaping its future. From fundraising to assisting with programming for regional events, there are many ways to get involved and give back. Best of all, it is fun to stay connected.”

Sarah Backhouse, Board Member, ANU (UK) Foundation

“One of the best things about going to ANU is the people you meet and the network you can build, both during and after your time studying there. Volunteering is a great way to stay engaged with the University and meet great people.”

Angus Isles, Chair of the New York City Alumni Network

“Volunteering has provided me with great meaning and purpose. By volunteering you’re connected with a community who cares about the same issues as you do, provides support and encouragement, and empowers you to make the greatest impact possible. I strongly encourage those contemplating volunteering at ANU to take the leap. You will find yourself making strong connections, both locally and globally, and discovering new opportunities. I have met so many wonderful people during my volunteer role at ANU and have had the opportunity to learn from some incredible women I probably wouldn’t have otherwise met.”

Josephine Janssen, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of ANU Women’s Alumni Network
Providing a platform for students to engage with policy

The East Asia Forum (EAF) helps ANU students to gain the confidence and skills needed to effectively engage with policymakers and develop their own high-quality analysis and ideas for publication.

A respected online platform, EAF publishes analysis and research on politics, economics, business, law, security, international relations and society—with a particular focus on public policy and the Asia Pacific region.

“Some of my proudest achievements as a student include publishing the work of pro-democracy thinkers in hiding during the recent coup in Myanmar, facilitating face-to-face discussions between top regional decision-makers to foster international cooperation, and delivering economic policy advice to senior officials in the region,” says Jake Read, East Asia Forum Student Fellow from 2019-21.

Donations to EAF make it possible for the platform’s editors to mentor students and develop their skills; creating exceptional policy analysis and espousing a deep-seated commitment to transparency and truth in sharing knowledge.

Students who receive EAF training often go on to work in Australian government departments, international agencies, top universities and think tanks around the world, and continue to collaborate with EAF on articles and research.

East Asia Forum

98 donors

$17,406 given to support the East Asia Forum

Image: Jake Read. Photo supplied.
The late Kent Keith and his wife Marion formed a deep connection with ANU, through the many friends and colleagues Kent met during his time as a researcher. Today, Kent’s bequest supports critical medical research in haematology, and Marion has chosen to continue his legacy.

Kent’s support of medical research began when his first wife, Noel, passed away from leukaemia in 2001. To honour Noel’s wishes, Kent established the Keith Family Research Endowment in Clinical Haematology at the ANU College of Health and Medicine.

Marion and Kent joined the ANU Springbank Circle in 2014, when Kent decided to leave a testamentary gift to the University. Kent bequeathed his property to ensure future support for the Keith Family Research Endowment. Marion, who has also chosen to bequeath to the Endowment, fondly recalls attending past Springbank Circle events with Kent.

“We really enjoyed catching up with donors and listening to the guest speakers,” says Marion. “It’s a special group of people with a common goal of supporting the University and making a lasting impact.”

Kent’s bequest to support the Keith Family Research Endowment in Clinical Haematology was fulfilled in 2021.

Professor Mark Polizzotto, Head of the Clinical Hub for Interventional Research at the ANU College of Health and Medicine, explains that Kent and Marion’s support will improve the quality of clinical research and trials in haematology. It is also raising new hope in the treatment and care of patients with blood disorders.

“Clinical trials are the bridge from scientific discoveries to advances in human health,” says Professor Polizzotto. “The great generosity of the Keith family will enable us to strengthen clinical trials in the Canberra region, providing crucial dedicated support to develop a local workforce of specialists in cancer and haematology clinical trials.”

Image: the late Kent Keith and Marion Keith at the ANU Celebration of Giving in 2015. Photo by ANU.
A generous bequest allows a life’s work to continue

The late Tonia Shand AM was propelled by an interest in international relations and public service, and a feeling that these were areas where she could perhaps contribute in some small way.

Tonia and her late husband Dr Richard (Ric) Shand had a deep connection to South Asia throughout their lives and impressive careers. Tonia served as Australia’s first female high commissioner to Sri Lanka, amongst other high-profile diplomatic roles. Ric was a distinguished economist with expertise in applied economics in South Asia, and the founder of the ANU Australia South Asia Research Centre (ASARC).

To honour their individual achievements and shared connection with South Asia and ANU, in 2021 Tonia and Ric bequeathed more than $1,200,000 to ASARC. The ANU College of Asia and the Pacific has chosen to endow the bequest to ensure support for critical research into South Asian economies will continue far into the future.

Professor Paul Burke, Head of the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics says the endowment opens new opportunities to boost the research and study of South Asian economies at ANU. “The region’s economies are fascinating and rapidly evolving, and a deep understanding of how these economies function is of fundamental importance to Australia. This bequest will enable us to do more to understand the economies of one of the most important regions of the world.”

ASARC is honouring the Shand legacy by directing their bequest to support research, workshops, and scholarships that advance knowledge and understanding of the economies of South Asian countries.

Image: Richard and Tonia Shand. Photo supplied
The Kambri Ground Map

The Kambri Ground Map teaches visitors to ANU about the Country on which the beautiful bush campus sits – the traditional lands of Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples.

The materials used to create the sites on the map include stones from Mt Ainslie, Black Mountain and Red Hill, along with artefacts from Ngunnawal and Ngambri Elders’ own collections.

The map enables visitors to connect with the history of the land they are on, and places ANU in context with these important Aboriginal sites from the surrounding region.

The map was a gift from Ngunnawal and Ngambri Elders to ANU and was designed in collaboration with Wellspring Environmental Arts and Design.

Image: detail of the Kambri Ground Map. Photo by Megan Steele-Ferguson, ANU.

Have you considered a gift in your will to ANU?

A gift in your will provides enduring support for learning, education and research beyond your lifetime. If you have included the University in your will, or you are thinking about doing so, please let us know. We would be delighted to learn more about your areas of interest and show you the type of impact your future gift will have. It will also give us the opportunity to thank you for your gift during your lifetime.

Please contact the Gift and Estate Planning team for further information, or to arrange a confidential discussion.

ANU Springbank Circle

The Springbank Circle recognises and celebrates benefactors who leave a lasting impact through a gift to ANU in their will. Donors receive news about upcoming events and activities taking place across the University, opportunities to connect with the talented students, researchers and academics their bequests support, and learn more about what’s happening at ANU.

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Cover image: detail of the Kambri Ground Map. Photo by Megan Steele-Ferguson, ANU.

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