



## **ONU Centennial Trust Recipient in 2012**

### **PAUL BONNITCHA (ON '00)**

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From early on in life Paul has been involved in numerous aid and volunteer organisations, promoting health both nationally and internationally. This included fundraising for the Hermann Gmeiner School and CanTeen while at Newington College, involvement from a young age with activities such as "Clean up Australia" days and working bees with local community organisations, and years of academic tutoring and sports coaching, which he has undertaken pro bono in numerous different capacities over the years.

After finishing Year 12 at Newington College, university studies provided Paul with the opportunity to combine his love of science and medicine with his desire to perform socially constructive work. He is currently in his twelfth consecutive year of tertiary study. This has included a Bachelor of Advance Science, Honours year, Master of Science, PhD and his current medical program for which he is in the penultimate year. Additionally, Paul has worked throughout his time at medical school as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Sydney and has co-authored eleven publications. His ultimate career goal is to work as a world leading researcher and clinician either in the area of oncology or epidemiology.

Medical students are frequently allowed to perform a three month elective overseas during the course of their studies and recently Paul was offered a prestigious opportunity by a collaboration of The University of Sydney Medical School, the Boden Institute, the Office of Global Health and the Pohnpei National Department State Hospital (in the Federated States of Micronesia) to complete this elective period at the host hospital in FSM.

This is the first time this opportunity has been offered to any medical student, and it was only awarded to two people within the medical school following an application and interview process. In addition, this posting will allow Paul to become involved in developing solutions to Asia-Pacific problems in a manner beyond what is usually permitted for medical students.

The involvement of so many different organisations presents a rare collaborative elective which combines both research and clinical work. The Boden Institute in particular has a strong research background in epidemiology and disease prevention research, behaviour change and health promotion, and clinical trials on chronic disease prevention and management. They have collaborations with a number of Pacific Island organisations and communities, including one with the Pohnpei National Department. This provides Paul with the unique opportunity to perform volunteer public health work and research as well as provide clinical based assistance to the people of the region.

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Hence David's initial conversations with Dr. Mark, the head dentist at Northern Provincial Hospital in Vanuatu. Dr Mark casually mentioned that their record number of extractions in a single day at the hospital was 180 teeth. David figured that if he were able to work with Dr. Mark in his hospital surgery, he would be able to remove at least twenty teeth per day in addition to other restorative dental work, such as fillings and root canal therapies. The experience of not only the extractions, but the administration of local anaesthesia, wound management and patient care in a single week at Northern Provincial Hospital, would exceed what he can currently accomplish during his Sydney dental program.

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### ONU Centennial Trust Endowment Recipient 2013

#### Alan Truong (ON 2005)



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Alan Truong (ON 2005) imbued the objectives of the Trust as he has made substantial achievements in his chosen field and will greatly benefit from the Trust endowment to undertake further relevant studies. Alan demonstrated his commitment to the pursuit of excellence whilst at Newington where he excelled academically. While at the College, Alan developed leadership skills by completing a Football refereeing program, captaining sporting teams, enthusiastically volunteering for the buddy system in Year 11 and later at University he was an active member of the Sydney University

Pharmacy Association. His dedication to learning continued throughout his undergraduate University studies in Pharmacy and then Dentistry, where he again shone academically, completing his final years in the Honours stream.

Alan's chosen calling will make a real difference to the lives of his patients and to the broader community. He has been described as a considerate, dedicated and well informed Dentistry student who has the ability to develop excellent rapport with his patients, fellow staff and students. The ONU Centennial Trust will allow Alan to undertake an internationally recognised clinical program at the National Taiwan University Hospital in the field of Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontic and Dentofacial Orthopedics.



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### ONU Centennial Trust Endowment Recipient 2013

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**Jonathan Lay (ON 2013)**

Jonathan Lay (ON 2013) started his schooling at Newington in Kindergarten at Wyvern but completed his remaining HSC subjects as a student at Cambridge University.

It is an understatement to say that Jonathan was an outstanding student of rare ability. At the age of 13 he completed his HSC examinations in Extension 1 Mathematics and in Chemistry. At just 15 years of age he won a Silver Medal as part of the Australian team that participated in the 43rd International Chemistry Olympiad in Ankara, Turkey. Jonathan was one

of only four students to be selected across Australia for this honour. In 2012 he replicated this amazing accomplishment when he participated in the 43rd International Physics Olympiad in Estonia. This time he received a Bronze medal. During 2012 Jonathan also completed his Higher Mathematics course at Sydney University.

In 2013, Jonathan applied for and was accepted at Cambridge University and he commenced those studies mid-year. The ONU Centennial Trust endowment will assist this remarkable Old Boy to further his studies at Cambridge.



## ONU Centennial Trust Endowment

***The objective of the ONU Centennial Trust is to identify and recognise Old Newingtonians who have made substantial achievements in their chosen field and who, with the assistance of the Trust, could avail themselves of relevant education or other opportunities which would lead to major career developments.***

### ONU Centennial Trust Endowment Recipient 2014

#### Edmond Cheng (ON 2013)



**L-R: Karl Watson (ON 1986),  
Edmond Cheng (ON 2014),  
Headmaster, Rod Bosman (ON 1978)**

Edmond Cheng's personal and academic trajectory epitomises the objectives of the ONU Centennial Trust. Edmond is a remarkable young man. He has worked exceptionally hard using his extraordinary talents leading to a distinguished list of academic achievements and a place at St John's College, Cambridge University reading Economics. Edmond was Dux of his year for his last four years at Newington. He was awarded High Distinctions in several prestigious external competitions such as the Westpac Australian Mathematics Competition and most notably First prize in the 2011 University of NSW Mathematics Competition. Edmond sat the NSW Higher School Certificate when he was in Year 10 and was ranked First in State. His commitment to community service, sport and extracurricular activities such as debating has been outstanding.

Edmond was drawn to pursue Economics at the highest level for its "life-changing power – the ability to shape human progress" a goal which embodies the objectives of the Trust. Edmond's commitment to excellence in all spheres of his life as well as his educational aspirations to make a social impact by improving the lives of others indeed make Edmond a most worthy ONU Centennial Trust Endowment recipient.



## ONU Centennial Trust Endowment

***The objective of the ONU Centennial Trust is to identify and recognise Old Newingtonians who have made substantial achievements in their chosen field and who, with the assistance of the Trust, could avail themselves of relevant education or other opportunities which would lead to major career developments.***

### ONU Centennial Trust Endowment Recipient 2015

#### James Henderson (ON 2008)



***L-R: Dr Rod Thomas (ON 1960) Chair of the ONU Centennial Trust with the 2015 winner James Henderson (ON 2008)***

The 2015 ONU Centennial Trust endowment recipient of \$10,000, James Henderson, attributes his fascination with cell biology and cancer, in particular, to his Year 12 Biology teacher, Mr Graham Potter. James' captivation with Science at school became a realisation that he could genuinely make a difference if he pursued biomedical research.

After excelling during his Bachelor of Science majoring in Biochemistry and Pharmacology and completing his Honours (Research) year in cellular pathology at the Storr Liver Unit at the Millenium Institute, Westmead, James went on to continue his passion for research in his PhD studies. He is currently half way through a PhD at the Centenary Institute (RPA Hospital) at the University of Sydney

investigating hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer) and researching possible preventatives and treatments. James will present his data at the International Proteolysis Conference in Penang, Malaysia later this year.

James is looking forward to sharing his enthusiasm with current students at the ONU Careers evenings to cultivate their interests and identify future study and research possibilities in Science.



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### Thomas Patterson (ON 2009)

When he commenced his medical studies at the University of Western Sydney, Dr Thomas Patterson always knew he wanted to pursue a career in surgery. Currently in his first year as a junior doctor at Liverpool Hospital in western Sydney, Thomas will use his ONU Centenary Trust endowment to complete a Graduate Diploma in essential surgical skills to help him establish his progression into at MD or PhD program in trauma surgery.

At Newington, Thomas was an engaged and motivated student attending on a Halse Rogers scholarship from Year 7 to Year 12. Thomas attributes his enjoyment of co-curricular activities such as cadets and rowing as well as leadership roles in senior years with providing him with the confidence to make the most of his university experience and equipping him in the fullest way possible to become a motivated and responsible adult.

Whilst at University, Thomas developed a profound understanding of how disadvantage works in a modern Australian context, initially through university placements then of his own accord with disabled people and homeless youth in the Macarthur region of Sydney. In recognition of his community work, he was awarded the Macarthur Disability Service Medical Student of the Year Award and the Wollondilly Shire Prize for Medicine in Context. Thomas also took every opportunity to focus on surgery, orienting himself towards a leadership role on the Surgical Society Executive Committee and undertaking surgically oriented research.

Thomas' CV is filled with evidence of giving back to his community, whether it be his substantial mentoring roles or his varied community work. It is testimony to his generous and committed character that during his final year of Medicine, he volunteered to help senior Newington students interested in applying for medicine with their UMAT applications.

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### John Keene (ON 2014)

John Keene was the youngest ever participant of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Fellowship program in 2014 and followed this extraordinary achievement by being awarded the Fellowship again the following year as well his selection as the Australian Chamber Orchestra Double Bass Emerging Artist for 2017. It will come as no surprise to anyone of his interest to pursue a career in Music outside of school but John has revealed he will use the ONU Centennial Trust to develop his career as an orchestral conductor.

John entered Newington in Year 10 on a full music scholarship and engaged with almost every musical activity possible – orchestra, chamber strings, wind symphony, choir, jazz combo, stage band, chapel band, rock band. He was also elected as Johnstone House Captain and was a full College Prefect.

John has kept very busy since leaving Newington. He commenced at the University of Sydney Conservatorium of Music and is a casual musician of the Sydney, Tasmanian, Queensland and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras and was appointed as String Director at Cherrybrook Technical High School.

His passion for conducting developed in 2014 when he was one of seven Australians selected to participate in the Symphony Service Scholars Conducting course. His selection to the Symphony Service Core Conductor program saw him conducting seven different orchestras including the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra and the West Australian Symphony orchestra. He hopes to become a leading figure in the international and Australian conducting scene.

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### ONU CENTENNIAL TRUST – 2017 Awardee

#### CHRISTOPHER BALDWIN (ON 2006)

It was in the art rooms at Newington College that Christopher was given creative freedom to express himself in whatever visual manner he saw fit and where he learnt the beginnings of a visual language and style that he still uses today.

Since leaving Newington, Christopher went on to complete an Advanced Diploma of Fashion Design. It was during his second year of study that he began a placement illustrating and designing for a boutique Sydney women's wear label, 'Fernando Frisconi'. During his time there he put his studies on hold and went on to design seven collections, two of which were shown as part of the Mercedes Benz Fashion Week Australia (Spring Summer 2010, 2011). Upon completing his studies in 2012, Christopher was invited to present his Graduate collection as part of the "The Innovators" graduate showcase at Mercedes Benz Fashion Week.

Christopher's talent led him to be employed by Apparel Group to create, brand and design a new youth menswear for MYER. The brand that he co-created "Knights Never Die" was stocked in over 25 stores nationally and sold over \$500,000 worth of merchandise. Since this time some of Christopher's career highlights include: sharing his knowledge of sewing and screen printing in Alice Springs working with the local indigenous community from the town camp of Karnte, in the role of Arts Project Coordinator at the Surry Hills Festival and being selected as a finalist in the "World of Wearable Art" awards that are held in Wellington, New Zealand annually. In 2015, he collaborated with electronic hip-hop duo 'Hermitude' as a set designer for their performances in Melbourne, Sydney and the 2015 ARIA Awards.

Christopher over time moved away from fashion and has built on his love of set and costume design. To further his career in this field, he commenced a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Design for Performance) at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA). During his time at NIDA, Christopher has participated in many creative and collaborative events. The stand out was working with six other designers to co design a charity art auction for Indigenous dance school NAISDA's 40-year foundation celebrations. Christopher has been offered a position to continue his studies at NIDA in their Master's program. The Centennial Trust Award allows Christopher to further his education.

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### ONU CENTENNIAL TRUST – 2017 Awardee

#### DANIEL CROCKFORD (ON 2009)

During his time studying Pharmacology at University College London (UCL), Daniel developed his passion in the research of degenerative dementias and movement disorders. It was at UCL that he volunteered as a carer at St. Richard's Hospice and shadowed a paediatric neurosurgeon at the John Radcliffe Hospital, UK that further cemented his appreciation of the impact that the medical field has on the community.

Since graduation from UCL and returning to Australia, Daniel is currently undertaking a Doctor of Medicine and Masters of Philosophy (MPhil) degrees at the University of Sydney. He has been awarded the John Flood Memorial Scholarship for Research in Neuropathology. In addition to his study, Daniel supports himself as a tutor at St John's College University of Sydney; a rowing coach at The Cranbrook School and has an ongoing part time position in the bicycle industry. The ability to combine successfully study and work, Daniel attributes to his time at Newington.

Whilst at Newington, Daniel completed his International Baccalaureate Diploma with a score of 37, he rowed, participated in Cross Country, was an Officer in the Newington College Cadet Unit and was an active volunteer. Daniel states "Newington developed my passion for community involvement. Through IB and prior to Year 11, I was actively involved in charity fundraising and community outreach. While at Newington I was involved in fundraising for the Red Shield Appeal; I represented the NCCU at ANZAC Day ceremonies and I volunteered at a soup kitchen Just Enough Faith."

It is the all-round education that Daniel says he attained at Newington that has helped shape his interest in community, research, and further education. Daniel has just been granted a student placement for 2019 at the National Institute of Neurology in the United Kingdom. It is the award of the ONU Centennial Trust that will help assist Daniel financially to complete his current undertakings at The University of Sydney.

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### ONU CENTENNIAL TRUST – 2018 Awardee

#### MATTHEW HAN (ON 2014)

Upon leaving Newington in 2014, Matthew was accepted at the University of Cambridge to study Human, Social and Political Sciences. Matthew achieved a triple First and has accepted an offer from the London School of Economics to study for a MSc in Public Policy. Matthew is one of the few students to reach a First in every year of his study at Cambridge.

It is Matthew's passion in policy research and design which has led him to undertake his Master's. Matthew has spent the last four years not only focussed on the academic but has also put his efforts behind the practical efforts of his study. Matthew managed a project in rural Kenya which was an infrastructure project that saw the installation of water and gas into laboratories and the expansion of library spaces. This gave Matthew first hand experience of how the leadership of developmental projects such as this can have an ongoing effect on the greater community and a deep appreciation of the carefulness and dynamism that policy creating and implanting requires.

In August 2016 Matthew was chosen to undertake a four-week internship at the Queensland Government's Trade and Investment Office in Seoul, Republic of Korea. During this internship Matthew was asked to prepare a report on Korea's bio and health sectors and inter alia identify potential opportunities for Queensland's bio and health businesses either in Korea and/or to collaborate with Korea. At the end of the four weeks, Matthew had produced an 81 page report and his findings and recommendations now underpin the Queensland Government's bio and health strategy for Korea.

Matthew credits his time at Newington with providing him with the initial curiosity spark and foundations to build his life. In Matthew's words *"Unparalleled teaching, facilities and the College ethos inspired me to be thinking beyond my immediate and personal sphere and compelled me into questioning how my actions can contribute to a greater society."* Whilst at Newington Matthew completed the International Baccalaureate with a perfect score of 45. He credits the IB with uncovering his passion to understand the dynamics of human society and the causes and consequences of human action.

The ONU Centennial Trust will aid Matthew in completing his Master's at London School of Economics. Once he completes his Master's, Matthew hopes to return to Australia to begin work in the Office of Prime Minister and Cabinet, or the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as part of their graduate scheme. The ONU Centennial Trust Panel viewed Matthew as an outstanding candidate for the 2018 award. The ONU congratulates Matthew and wishes him much success.

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### ONU CENTENNIAL TRUST – 2019 Awardee

#### CIARAN FRAME (ON 2012)

Ciaran commenced at Newington in Kindergarten in 2000 and completed his International Baccalaureate at the College in 2012. Ciaran credits his education and co-curricular opportunities, such as music ensembles and community service, as giving him a well-rounded outlook towards his career and the confidence to pursue the arts and music at a young age. His time at Newington led him to view his career through an educational and cultural management outlook.

Following Ciaran's time at Newington, he completed a Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition with First Class Honours at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 2016 under the Board of Governor's Scholarship. Much of Ciaran's work following graduation has been in a professional musical practice, of which notable achievements include:

- Presentation at TENOR 2018 Fourth International Conference on Technologies for Music Notation and Representation (Montreal, Canada 2018)
- Ars Bioarctica artist residency in the Arctic Circle (Kilpisjärvi, Finland 2017)
- *Treehugger* installation in Vivid Light Walk, commissioned by Destination NSW (Sydney, Australia 2016)

More recently Ciaran's work has turned to capacity building and education in music. Last year, Ciaran returned to Wyvern House to undertake a pilot program of a new educational tool called the 'Midge Synthesiser'. This is a small electronic instrument he designed to build young students' interest in music technology and STEAM Learning. In September 2019, the Australian Music Centre released Ciaran's first music education kit *On The Verge*, to be used in music classrooms across Australia. These accomplishments mark a notable shift in his career towards advocating for and supporting the development of young people's creative voices in music and the arts.

To further develop his career he has been accepted into the Master's program in Arts and Cultural Management at the University of Melbourne's Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Ciaran believes that the skills he gains from the Master's program will provide real-world foundations for navigating the arts community from a governance and management perspective. The ONU Centennial Trust will aid Ciaran in completing his Master's and in turn he hopes to create new pathways in the arts on a local, national and international level that will have a direct impact on young people's lives, much in the way that Newington impacted on him.

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### ONU CENTENNIAL TRUST – 2019 Awardee

#### NICHOLAS BLEFARI (ON 2008)

Dr. Nicholas Blefari graduated from Newington College in 2008, ranking 1<sup>st</sup> in German, German extension and 2-unit mathematics in year 12. He was accepted into Western Sydney University to study medicine, which he completed in 2013. During his junior doctor years, Nicholas worked at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney, before moving to Newcastle for surgical training. He is currently training in general surgery at John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, and hopes to specialise in endocrine surgery.

Throughout his medical training, Nicholas has been actively involved in teaching and surgical research, for which he has a keen passion. Nicholas is a clinical teaching fellow at the University of Newcastle School of Medicine and Public Health, where he is involved in the teaching and examination of medical students across varying stages of their training. Nicholas is a member of the Hunter Surgical Clinical Research Unit and the Hunter Medical Research Institute – dedicated research units which aim to foster and promote clinical research to doctors at all levels of their career. With his supervisor Dr. Christine O'Neill, Nicholas has presented internationally and published work in the area of quality of life in survivors of thyroid cancer. Together, they are in the process of establishing a large multi-centre study to identify factors which impact on patients' quality of life, with the hope to be able to change practice to improve the patient experience.

As part of his dedication to research and further studies, Nicholas also completed a Masters of Surgery through the University of Sydney in 2018. He hopes one day to complete a PhD in the field of outcomes in the treatment and management of thyroid cancer.

Nicholas is also passionate about rural and remote medicine, and how to best deliver care to these areas. He has trained in a variety of rural towns across NSW such as Taree and Dubbo, and his wife is currently a GP in Walgett, NSW. Nicholas is looking forward to training in other rural towns across NSW as part of his surgical training.

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### ONU CENTENNIAL TRUST – 2020 Awardee

#### JOHN TSAOUSIDIS (ON 2010)

John attended Newington from 2005 to 2010. While at the College, he was deeply involved in Debating and was the 2010 Captain of Debating. This inspired a love of advocacy. After Newington, John attended The University of Sydney where he completed a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and a Bachelor of Laws (Hons).

John graduated with first class honours both in Government and International Relations, as well as in Law. While at university, John participated in mooting competitions, including the Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot team, with which he represented The University of Sydney in Vienna. After finishing university, John practised law as a solicitor with Herbert Smith Freehills.

He is now pursuing a Master of Law at the University of Cambridge and hopes to become a barrister.

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### ONU CENTENNIAL TRUST – 2020 Awardee

#### MATTHEW ANTHIS (ON 2010)

Matthew commenced at Newington College in Year 7 and completed his HSC studies in 2010. Whilst at the College he was involved in a range of co-curricular activities including sporting, music and service to both the school and community, which ultimately led to the reward of Honour Colours.

Matthew is currently the Head Physiotherapist at Newington College after being involved with medical services to the school since 2013, working with the School 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XV in various capacities, as well as treating and managing injuries across all sports.

Matthew is the Director of The Rowing Physio, his own practice, focused on treating rowers.

He also previously worked with the Sydney Roosters Junior Representative teams and their First Grade feeder team at the time, the Wyong Roos, as well as the Balmain Tigers.

Matthew is currently completing his Masters in Sports Medicine at the University of Melbourne, where he will achieve the title of 'Sports and Exercise Physiotherapist', allowing him to work with athletes at the Olympic Games.

His current project involves a domestic injury prevention program for basketball players of all levels, which he hopes he can deliver internationally once travel begins again.

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