



CONVOCATION

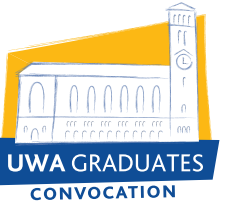
SPRING GENERAL MEETING FOR 2026

Thursday 10 September 2026

The University Club of WA, University of Western Australia



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA



The University of Western Australia

2026 SPRING GENERAL MEETING OF CONVOCATION: UWA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Thursday, 10 September 2026 at 6:30pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Autumn General Meeting held on Thursday, 26 March 2026
4. Presentations of Highlights from Reports
 - 4.1 Guild President's Report
 - 4.2 Warden's Report
 - 4.3 Vice-Chancellor's Report
5. Other Business
6. Panel on "Advancing Academic Leadership: How visionary research leaders are shaping a healthier and more sustainable future"
7. Q&A
8. Close of meeting followed by drinks and canapes

Cover Photo:

Official Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between Convocation: UWA Alumni Association and UWA Student Guild held on 11 August 2026.

(Left to right): **Dr Diane Smith-Gander AO**, Chancellor, **Mr Oliver Barrett**, Guild President, **Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM**, Warden of Convocation, **Professor Amit Chakma**, Vice-Chancellor.

Photo by Manny Tamayo Photography

Livestreaming

This event will be livestreamed at 6.30pm on Thursday, 10 September 2026.
View the livestream go to <https://vimeo.com/event/6016751/facb848b77>



CONVOCATION OF UWA GRADUATES

AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

26 March 2026

The Autumn General Meeting of Convocation was held on Thursday 26 March 2026 commencing at 6:30pm in person and online.

The meeting was attended by the following graduates and guests:

Michael Acquarola, Fiona M. Allan, Rini Anggrainingsih, Mohammed Shadab Anwar, Hannah Archer, Patrick H. Armstrong, Oliver Barrett, Gabor F. Bedo, Ann V. Bell, Licia Benedict, Andrew W. Berryman, Justin L. Brockett, Matthew C. Budge, Mehmet Cakir, Maria Calabro, Kok-Foo Chang, Peter Y. B. Ching, Vivian C. V. Choy, Malcolm J. Collier, Jack Cross, Devon J. Cuneo, Laura S. Curelic, Yash Dalvi, Brett K. Davies, Kayt Davies, Simon L. Dawkins, Chris G. Denby, Ema Denby de Braganza, Brian Devine, Michael Devine, Michelle L. Downie, Wendy P. Doyle, Brian H. Duffield, Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis, Jocelyn A. Everett, Peter P. W. Farr, Arthur Ferres, Rho Ford, Krishna Gami, Rosalind A. Garside, Geoff Garside, Chantelle R. Gaskell, Tim W. Gibbney, Helen Gibson, Billie Giles-Corti, Trevor G. Glover, Graham J. Goerke, Douglas Gorry, Stephen M. Grainger, Jenny A. Gregory, Ross F. Gregory, David C. Griffiths, John D. Henstridge, Bev G. Hewitt, Susan Hoddinott, Walter A. Horeb, Norman M. Jacka, Faiz Mohammed M. Kassim, Ken Q. T. Khoo, Marit Kragt, Rosalind H. Kruger, Louisa M. Lawrance, Phoebe Long, Paul Maginn, Siyun Mai, Jackline I. Malongo, Marco Marinelli, Simon A. Marshall, Dave J. Martin, Graeme B. Martin, Helen E. Mather, Christine Joy Matuto, Kate F. McGee, Tarquam J. McKenna, Jai Mistry, Tim Morald, Susan L. Morris, Dianne F. Moxham, Patricia A. Mwiragua, Benjamin Neville, Hanh T. T. Ngo, Jennifer L. Nicolao, Wanyi Ning, Brian Njamba, Jaxon C. O’Dea, Nee Nee Ong, Rs Pacifico, Ramfel S. L. Pacifico-Huggins, Neta P. Parker, Julie S. H. Patullo, Juanita Perez, Fran P. Pesich, Gojko Pesich, Joan P. Pietersen, Deidre Powell, Cheryl E. Praeger, Dan Alain Quirante, Manijeh M. Reyhani, Adel Reyhani, Rachel C. Sambell, Eros Scagnetti, Anna Sellings, Hilary A. Silbert, Aviv D. Silman, Harshit Sinha, Diane L. Smith-Gander, Robyn M. Stewart, Bob Sullivan, Ernie T. G. Tan, Shengsheng Tan, Stark Tan, Marc Tennant, Michelle Teo H. M. Teo, Roger L. Thompson, Julia K. Thurloe, Ray L. Thurloe, Fiona M. Tremlett, Pauline M. Tremlett, Peter M. Twiby, Pierre-Louis Villaume, Dina L. Volaric, Emma K. Wignell, Jay Williams, Anne L. Willox, John R. Willox, Thomas M. Wilson, Hugh Wolgamot, Jing Zhi Z. Wong, Roneva L.

Wood, Paulina Wroblewski, Ray B. Wyatt, Caitlin S. Wyrwoll, Tami Xiang, Haoqian Xu, Dickson A. Yeboah, John N. Yiannakis, Mark Zhang, and Yuyi Zhang



The following members of Convocation asked that their apologies be recorded:

Juliyana Abdul Gani, Thankam Abraham, Christopher Adams, Tony Ahmat, Fatima M. H. Al Dhefairi, Sheikh Muhammad Hassan Ali, Ravi Anand, John Anderton, Michael Andrews, Dwi Esti Andriani, Bernard Ang, Ted Anthony, Max Aravena-Roman, Karen Armin-Grimm, Mark Armstrong, Geoffrey Arnold, Liz Bailey, Vipin Balachandran, Rachima C. R. Bannerman, Susan Bant, Margaret Barbetti, Pablo Barriga Campino, Maureen Barton, Anika Barua, Bruce Baskerville, Stephanie Beard, Brian Bell, Rose Benson, Brian Betts, Anu Bhowmick, Bill Biggs, Ro Birrell, Peter Blake, John F. Bloemen, Sheree Bootes, Angharad Booth, Jason Boron, Brenda Bosworth, Roger Bourke, Deborah Bowen-Smith, Sue Boyd, Linda Bradley, Robert H. Bredemeyer, Ross Brennan, Barry Broomfield, Andrew Broomhall, Margaret Broomhall, Melita I. Brown, Zinnia A. Browne, Dory Buckeridge, John Buddee, Jessica M. Bunning, Brigitte Burg, Tony Buti, Ian Carr, Craig Carter, Peter Carter, Florence Cawley, Amit Chakma, Cherry Chan, Felicity Chan, Joshua Chan, Victor Chan, Cherry Chang, Hugh Chaplin, Mun Cheang, Yinchu Chen, Marina Chenaux, Nikhil Chhabra Chhabra, Fah Chong, Tat Meng Chow, Virginia Christie, Trina Chua, Robert Kong Loong Chung, Matthew Clarke, Michael Cleaver, Douglas Clyde, Don Cockle, Dolores Coffey RSM, Simone Collins, Arthur Conacher, Joseph Conway, David Cook, Harsh Coosna,

Vida Corbett, Callum J. Corkill, Phyllis Costello, George Costopoulos, Geoffrey Court, Lauren Coyle, Peter Crayden, Mark Crook, Peter Cuffley, Ian Dadour, Shirley M. Daffen, Christine Davy, David de Hoog, Steve Denovan, Harsimran Singh Dhaliwal Dhaliwal, Vincent Di Lollo, Anthony DiLollo, Serena Dipierro, Glenys Dixon, Zac Donovan, Helen Dowzall, Sheldrin D’Rozario, Carolyn Dryley, Krish Dubey, Paula Dunne, Anne Dunne, Peter Eastlake, Vivien Edwards, Maren Eilenberger-Czwalinna, Celia Elissegaray, Jessie Ellis, Jane Emberson, Kate Esslemont, Frieda Evans, Frederick Exon, Wayne Fairhead, Xiaoqin Fan, Felicity W. E. Farrelly, Peter Feddema, Kian Feng, Gavin Fielding, Michael Firth, Noelle Fischer, Monica Flattery, Sean Fletcher, Vivian Forbes, Alan Forsyth, Diana M. Forsyth, Rosalie P. Foss, Paul H. Foss, Pamela Foulkes, Darren Frittsch, Shih Ching Fu, Roy Fuller, Dougal T. Fulton, Jose Furtado, Lynn Gattorna, Kathy Gecan, Rohan Gengatharen, Ananya Gera, Nick Gerrard, Marina Gerzic, Lynton Giles, Anshul Gill, Tanya Goel, Kevin Goh, Sharon Goodchild, Ian Gordon, Stephen Graves, Stephanie Grehl, Bob Groves, Tony Gummer, Joyce Hadley, Simon Hadlow, Mark Hainsworth, Nathan Hamilton, John Hammond, Alec Hand, Michele Hannibaldsen, Michael Happ, Dennis Haskell, Richard Haynes, Cecelia He, John Hearne, Judy Heath, Aparna Hegde, Trevor Height, Mona Hemsley, Kelly Hick, Murray Hill, Isabella Ho, Harold Hochstadt, Nick Hodgskin, Gary Hoffman, Jennifer Hole, Prudence Holland, Alan Holloway, Dianne Holloway, Janet Holmes à Court, Jensine Hough, David M. Hurley, Alan Imerito, Brigid Insall, Anne Ismail, Phillip Jacobsen, Gregory Jarosch, Basil Jayatilaka, Neil Jensen, Rob Jewkes, Harun Johari, Doris Johnson, David Jones, Janice Jones, Margaret Jones, Patricia Jones, Ashley Joyce, Anastasia Kailis, Kaori Kamada, Wisam Kamil, Michaela Kappeler, Jansje Karajas, John Karajas, Shreya Kataria, Harjit Kaur, Norman Kee, Bob G. Kelliher, Ross Kelly, Michael J. P. Kelly, Christine Kelly, Kevin F. Kenneally, John Kermond, Norhaiza Khairudin, Billie-Cherie Kickett, Tony Kierath, Desmond D. Kile, Nalda Kingston, William Kininmonth, Hedley Kitchen, Christina Klisc, Elaine Koh, Jeremy Koh, Hwee Ping Koh, Kee Fatt Kok, Joseph Kong, Aria Kong, Genevieve Konig, Junghoe Koo, Jim Krajancich, Estie Kruger, Vijay Kumar, Khin Lay Kyu, Yufeng Lan, Solene Lao, Justine Leavy, Hock Lee, See Cheng Leong, Joan Liew, Lilie Lilie, Helen Lilly, Bee Na Lim, Kin Chew Lim, Rick Lim, David T. W. Lim, Alton Lin, Bobby Liow, Erlene Lobo, Adriaan Loosjes, Gary Low, Nicola Lucano, Verona Lucas,

Dorothy Lucks, Steve Lukan, Tara Lukan, Lin Lyu, Roger Ma, Stephen MacCarthy, Angus MacDonald, Maureen MacDuff, Clive Macknay, Alex Maftei, Jack Magee, Ross Magno, Peter Maguire, Judith Mahony, Mohan Malhotra, John Malone, Odette Margot, David Marshall, Greg Martin, Glenda Martinick, John Masarei, Trevor Mazzucchelli, Narelle McAuliffe, Josh McDermott, Bruce C. L. McGeorge, Mike McGrath, Paul McGurgan, Rosamond McKitterick, Edward Mele, Robert Merrells, Milena Milan, Edward Mildern, Marilyn Millar, Hans Min, Melanie E. Mistilis, Nur Atifah Mohamed, Michele Moore, Monique Moore, Barry Muir, Henk Mulder, Denise Murray, Malcolm Murray, Jenni Nagel, Lillian Nawell, Carolyn Neil, Chris Neretlis, Herbert Newland, Aik Chern Ng, Damian Ng, Suzanne Ng, John Nguyen, Jocelyn Nicholson, Peter Nicholson, Austin U. Odo, Nidia M. Oliveira, Hannipoula Olsen, Trevor G. O’Sullivan, Dilip Pallapothu, Mitch S. Palmer, Peter Pang, Sneha Priya P. Pappula Reddy, Seoyoung Park, Robin Pascoe, John Paton, Mary-Anne Paton, Drusilla Pearson, Tom Perrigo, Elizabeth Perron, Gabriela Pestell, Anthony F. Phillips, Bernadette Pilkington, Margaret Pinchback, Jacinta Pitos, Mary Pollard, Dick Porter, Robert Powell, Daryl Pranata, Agyeya Pratap, Anna Presser, Geoff Prince, Neville Pringle, Dr Alan Pritchard, Arthur Psaltis, Don T. Punch, Janet Pyke, Hassanain Qambari, Pin Hou Quek, Ridzuan Rahim, Peter Randell, Lee Ranford, Shaik Sayed Md Rashidul Hossain, Pranav Reddy, Qais Abdur Rehman, Phil Reid, Lance Risbey, Anna Ritzema, Della Robinson, Ian Rockett, Francesco Rodino, Graham Rodriguez, Heather Rogers, Mary Rose, Peter Ruhen, Tony Ruse, Marion Russell, William Russell, Robin Ryan, Ankita Sahoo, Jenny Sales, Lawson Savery, Michael Schaper, Sarah Scott, Margaret Seares, Apala Sen, Susan Sharpe, Ruth Shean, Elaine Shergis, Shruti Shetty, Helen Shilkin-Reinhold, Uddeepika Shyamalee, Golda Signal, Mervyn Sims, Rishabh Singh, Angad Singh, Marian Skwarnecki, Luke Slawomirski, Merle Smith, Michael Smith, Stuart Smith, Mengzhu Song, Steph Staer, Jenni Stallwood, Myra Stanbury, Pamela Statham-Drew, Michelle Stephenson, Sandra Stevenson, Kevin Stewart, Trevor Still, Kaye Stott, Steven Su, Yusron Sugiarto, Denise L. Sullivan, Rekha Suresh, Sharifah Musairah Syed Abdul Mutalib, Mozhdeh Tahghighi, Manuel G. Tamayo, Tony Tate, Tracy Taylor, Michael Teare-Williams, Andrew Teo, Diana Teplyj, Adrian Thomas, Michael Thomas, Varatharajan Thuraippah, Bernard Tobin, Geoff Totterdell, Timothy Tucak, Phil Twycross, John Vann, Richard Vaughan, Vyom Vithani, Viknash Vm,

Duc H. Vo, Freddie von Schmidt, Van-Van Vu, Petar Vujovic, Sushama Wagh, Dennis Watkins, David Watson, Peter Wearne, Chiu Chi Wen, Mei Wen, Peter Weygers, Ryan Whiddett, Kevin White, Sue Wicks, Georgina E. Wigley, Gregory Williams, Janet Williams, Jenny Williamson, Michael Wishart, Jenni Woodroffe, Peter Wreford, Feifan Wu, Xueying Xu, Jumpei Yamamoto, Alison Yang, Jinchao Yang, Tat Yeen Yap, Allen Yeow, Season Yeung, Noor Zerkan, Jade Zhang, Ziyu Zhao, Kai Zheng, and BJ Zhuang

Ms Juanita Perez, Convocation Officer as Secretary

After welcoming those present, both in person and online, the Warden provided an introduction to the meaning of Convocation to those in the audience who were not members. She explained that what we at this university know as Convocation, is known as an Alumni Association at many universities. The Convocation of Graduates is one of the four pillars of The University of Western Australia, along with the Guild of Undergraduates, the staff and the Senate. All graduates of UWA automatically become members of Convocation on graduation and, as graduates, they play a role in the governance of the University.

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered by the Warden of Convocation.

The Warden declared the meeting open at 6.34pm.

1. WELCOME

In opening the Autumn General Meeting for 2026, the Warden of Convocation, Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM, welcomed the following guests:

- Chancellor, Dr Diane Smith-Gander AO
- Guest speakers:
 - Associate Professor Paul J. Maginn
 - Professor Marit Kragt
 - Emeritus Professor Graham Martin
 - Dr Hugh Walgamot
 - Professor Caitlin Wyrwoll
- Members of Senate
- Chief Advancement Officer, Ms Fiona Allan
- Members of the Alumni Council of Convocation; and
- all members of Convocation, their guests and friends joining the meeting in-person and online from interstate and overseas.

2. APOLOGIES

The Warden noted apologies from:

- Vice-Chancellor – Professor Amit Chakma
- and more than 400 graduates

The Warden asked that if anyone wished to convey any additional apologies, they should provide these to the Convocation Officer, Ms Juanita Perez, who would record the details.



VALE

Cathy Tang – November 2025

Cathy has long been part of UWA’s story. Since her student days in the 1980s, she became known for her warmth and generosity at University House, Currie Hall, and St George’s College. She contributed thoughtfully to the Council of Convocation and served with distinction on both Council and the UWA Senate from 1996 to 2010.

Her passion for the arts and education continued through the Friends of UWA Music, the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, and most notably as a founding member of the Centenary Trust for Women. Thanks to her vision, hundreds of women received scholarships to study at UWA. The Graduates’ Walk at Oak Lawn stands as a lasting tribute to Cathy and all who supported this cause. Her Chancellor’s Medal was presented on 14 March 2012.

Emeritus Professor John Melville-Jones AM – January 2026

Emeritus Professor John Melville-Jones (AM) was a long-serving member of the UWA Academic community. He joined UWA in 1957 as a Lecturer in Classics and Ancient History. At the time of his retirement in 2012, he had achieved the title of Winthrop Professor in Classics and Ancient History.

Until late last year, at age 92, John still continued to make contributions to the discipline of Classics and Ancient History and to the School of Humanities.

Until infirmity overcame him, John was a constant attendee and contributor to UWA Convocation attending every General Meetings and proofreading our meeting booklets.

Professor Bryant Stokes AO – February 2026

In addition to his outstanding contribution to the healthcare system as a neurosurgeon, researcher, policy leader and health administrator, Bryant was also a major supporter for many years of UWA’s alumni community through his sponsorship of Convocation’s annual Matilda Award.

The Matilda Award recognises excellence and outstanding achievement in cultural pursuits such as music, literature & creative writing, public speaking, dance, visual arts & design, theatre and television. Bryant was always most interested in the activities of those nominated for this Award and always arranged to find time in his busy schedule to attend the presentations and to meet the Award winners.

As a member of the first graduating class of medical students at the University of Western Australia in 1959, he forged lifelong friendships with many of his colleagues and continued a lifelong association with the University and its graduates not only in medicine but more widely with its alumni community.

HONOURS

Past Warden Clinical Professor Lesley Cala OAM was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2026 Australia Day Honours. Alongside her work as a neuroradiologist, she made a major contribution to advancing the cause of women through her work with the Australian Federation of University Women, the National and International Councils of Women and as a Patron of the UWA Centenary Trust for Women.



3. MINUTES OF THE SPRING GENERAL MEETING 2025

A copy of the minutes of the Spring General Meeting 2025, held on Thursday, 18 September 2025 appeared as Attachment A of the Autumn General Meeting 2026 booklet.

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES

No requests to amend the minutes had been received.

A motion to accept the minutes of the Spring General Meeting 2025 held on Thursday, 18 September 2025 was proposed by Dr David Griffiths and seconded by Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis. The motion was accepted by show of hands.

5. RESULTS OF CONVOCATION ELECTIONS FOR WARDEN, DEPUTY WARDEN, AND THREE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF CONVOCATION

In accordance with The University of Western Australia Act 1911 and University of Western Australia Statutes, Chapter 4, the annual Convocation Elections were held this year to fill the following positions:

- Warden of Convocation
- Three Ordinary Members of the Council of Convocation

To ensure the utmost probity in the conduct of these elections, Convocation Council took the decision to outsource the conduct of these elections.

This year Convocation Council appointed CorpVote Pty Ltd to undertake the election process.

At the close of polling on Tuesday, 10 March 2026, the following were successfully elected:

Warden of Convocation – Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM (1-year term)

Convocation Ordinary Councillors for a term of 3 years (in alphabetical order):

- Mr Matthew Budge.....three-year term**
- Ms Devon Cuneothree-year term**
- Dr Eros Scagnettithree-year term**

The Warden congratulated those re-elected, and then, on behalf of the Alumni Council of Convocation, expressed thanks to the retiring Convocation Councillors for their contributions over the time they had been on Council:

Ms Harriet Calverley, who has been of great assistance in the on-going development of Graduation Ceremonies.

Dr David Griffiths who has retired as Deputy Warden, a role in which his support and advice had been invaluable. Dr David Griffiths will continue on the Alumni Council as ex-officio in his role as Convocation-elected Senator.

Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis, who has led the Events Committee for many years. She has considerable leadership ability and organisational skills and, with her team, can take great credit for the organisation of the Council’s many successful events.

Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM for his outstanding contribution and service to the University as Convocation-elected Senator for 9 years. Warren who is a past Warden of Convocation, was also an elected member of Convocation Council, and has now retired from the Alumni Council. His contribution to Convocation has been immense.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Convocation Creator-in-Residence Appeal

The Convocation Creator-in-Residence appeal was launched on Convocation Day on 9 March 2025. The recent refurbishment of the 1st floor of the Reid Library now includes a ‘Reading Wall’ which will exhibit a selection of treasures from the Library’s Special Collections. The Warden invited members to join the appeal to fund a Creator-in-Residence program. The Creator will bring the Reading Wall to life for new audiences by curating dynamic displays inspired by the Library’s Special Collections. The appeal aims to raise \$100,000 to establish and fund this initiative for generations to come. A donation of \$1000 will enable a donor to have their name, or the name of a family member inscribed on one of the shelves of the Reading Wall for all time. The number of shelves is limited to 100.

PANEL DISCUSSION

In 2023, Convocation Council made the decision to refresh the format of its General Meetings and to hold a panel discussion or debate at the Autumn General Meetings.

The expert Panel on ‘Innovating for a Resilient Future: UWA Leadership in Climate, Health and Renewable Energy’ was then convened.

Moderator:
Associate Professor Paul Maginn

Panellists:
Professor Marit Kragt, agricultural economist
Emeritus Professor Graeme Martin, agricultural scientist
Dr Hugh Wolgamot, researcher in offshore hydrodynamics
Professor Caitlin Wyrwoll, human biologist

7. CONCLUSION

The Warden thanked everyone who had assisted her in the preparation of this event.

The Warden thanked Associate Professor Paul Maginn for his engaging and empathetic approach in providing a guiding hand for our panel and audience, and to the panellists, Professor Marit Kragt, Emeritus Professor Graeme Martin, Dr Hugh Wolgamot and Professor Caitlin Wyrwoll for their insights and achievements in addressing the impact of climate change.

A special thank you to Ms Juanita Perez, Convocation Officer; Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis, Ms Devon Cuneo who have all played a significant role coordinating the arrangements for the meeting.

The Warden also thanked:

- Manny Tamayo Photography. Photos taken by Manny Tamayo of Convocation events were used in the meeting booklet and slides for this meeting.
- The University Club of WA who provided the catering for this meeting.
- Brightside Live who had recorded this meeting so that it could be made available online.

The Warden declared the Autumn General Meeting of Convocation for 2026 closed at 8:00 pm.



GUILD PRESIDENT REPORT

The Guild started off the year with our hallmark event, an amazing O’Day on James Oval with over 140 clubs in attendance. Here, we provided Platinum Tickets which gave all commencing students \$10 worth to join a club or attend a club event. From the first week setting foot on campus, we wanted students to feel a part of the social life of our university, from clubs celebrating their 90th anniversary like Uni Camp for Kids to newly affiliated clubs within months of starting. O’Day finished off with O’Day Afters, packing out the Tavern with students to see South Summit, and Semester 1 had begun!

It was a busy semester for students looking for something to do - we had theme weeks from Guild departments, the UDub Snow Machine end of semester party (helped tremendously by the newly installed air conditioning in the Tavern!), events from over 165 different clubs, and our first ever Lunar New Year to

fill their time. In week 4, we had our biggest PROSH in recent memory, with over 1000 students storming the Perth streets to raise \$30,000 for Perth Homeless Support Group and On My Feet, two fantastic charities.

We’ve rolled out the new Guild app, improving services for our students and also providing a free coffee on download for Guild members. Our Guild services helped provide 4000 free exam dinners, free nappies in parent rooms and pregnancy tests at the pharmacy, free donuts, sausage sizzles, free chips and pizza at the Tavern, and Chupa-Chups of course.

The major focus for the Guild this year has been supporting students through the current cost-of-living crisis. We’ve seen volatile fuel prices and cost of everyday essentials leave many students, full time and part time both, struggling to balance work, budgets,

and university life. This year, we've worked with UWA and the Financial Wellbeing Collective to provide a range of workshops for students to learn holistic financial strategies for their life. Outside of this, we've released two new grants, both means-tested to have the highest impact on the students who need it the most.

Firstly, the Unpaid Placement Grant offers \$300 to students experiencing financial difficulties as a result of a mandatory unpaid placement. The financial barrier of placements presents a massive equity problem within many fields, so a small bit of help that the Guild could offer UWA students was welcome. On a positive note, the Guild was excited to see the expansion of the Commonwealth Prac Payment scheme to many more allied health areas this year. This follows consistent advocacy from universities across WA and Australia, but stills leaves many fields out, including Optometry, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, and Medicine.

Secondly, in partnership with the Development and Alumni Relations team, we released the Smartrider Grant, allowing for a \$50 top up on a public transport card. When fuel prices increased, many students reported genuine troubles with the costs associated with attending university. The public transport grant encouraged students to travel sustainably to university, and helped students manage a difficult and costly period. A special thank you to our Fiona Allan and her team who helped set this up, and of course to our alumni whose generosity makes initiatives like this possible.

Of course, we continued to give out free, no-questions-asked, easy access food items through the Guild Food Pantry, now relocated in the Guild Student Centre. The Pantry is one of the most popular Guild services, supplied through donations (which are open all year round!! Simply bring non-perishables to the Guild Student Centre). It's a direct way for those who can to give back to students, and for two months out of the year, it also helps to reduce the cost of parking fines! With the Food for Fines program expanded to March and August in 2026, students can donate food items instead of paying the fine, saving them \$10 and assisting an essential service.

As we've come into Semester 2, we've completed a 3-year long review and update of our Guild Regulations and Election Regulations, strengthening our governance for the Guild.

Another multi-year guild project was also closed off with the launch of the lengthily-worded 'Request to Resolve a Minor Academic Issue' form. This provides students with a simpler way to elevate issues to UWA that traditionally have gone unfixed, like assessment marks not being returned within the specified deadlines or scheduled classes clashing with PROSH and Common Lunch Hour.

As a proactive measure to create a culture of safety for our students, we've launched free drink spike testing kits in the UWA Tavern. Our bar staff are trained on their usage, meaning that a student who suspects they've been spiked can check for evidence quickly and receive treatment if needed.

The final, most exciting new development, is the approval of funds and beginning of planning for the next stage in the Guild Masterplan: the North Wing redevelopment, which will see a new lift for increased accessibility, additional club rooms, and a more cohesive and connected Guild precinct. It's still in the early stages, so it will be something to pass on to next year's team, but it will mark some major improvements to the student spaces of our UWA campus.

This has been a non-stop and thoroughly enjoyable journey thus far, with all too little left to get all the things I wanted to done! And of course, to all of our different student leaders on the 113th Guild Council, thank you for the amazing job that you've done and the work that's yet to be done. Seeing our students gladly volunteer their time and effort to make the Guild run is a pleasure and a privilege.



Ollie Barrett
113th Guild President

WARDEN'S REPORT

Spring General Meeting, 10 September 2026

I am pleased to present a report of the Alumni Council's activities and initiatives over the past twelve months since our Spring General Meeting in 2025.

I acknowledge the support of the Chancellor Dr Diane Smith-Gander AO and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Amit Chakma, and the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Tim Colmer with whom the Deputy Warden, Ms Nee Nee Ong, and I meet regularly. To best serve the University and our members, it is essential that the Alumni Council has strong relationships within the University and to this end we have also met with other members of the University Executive to discuss various projects. All have welcomed our engagement and provided valuable advice.

Elections

Retiring from **Alumni Council** were Ms Harriet Calverley and Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM. We thank them for their service. Having held the positions of Warden 2013 - 2016, Convocation Senator 2015-2025 and Councillor 2020-25, Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr's twelve-year contribution to Council is truly outstanding.

Results of the 2026 Convocation elections were announced at the Autumn General Meeting.

I was elected unopposed for fourth one-year term as Warden. Re-elected to Alumni Council for three years were Mr Matthew Budge, Ms Devon Cuneo and Dr Eros Scagnetti.

They join Councillors Ms Simone Collins, Mr David Davidson, Mr Graham Goerke, Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis, Professor Estie Kruger, Dr Raj Kurup, Dr Moira Maley, Professor Marc Tennant AM, Ms Nee Nee Ong, Ms Fiona Tremlett and Mr Viknash VM, as well as Convocation Senators Dr David Griffiths and Emeritus Professor Cheryl Praeger AC, and Chief Advancement Officer Ms Fiona Allan, who under the 2024 Statute changes now hold ex officio positions on Alumni Council.

As required under the 2024 Statute, the position of Deputy Warden is now elected by the Alumni Council rather than Convocation as a whole.



Ms Nee Nee Ong was elected Deputy Warden for a twelve-month period at a Special Council Meeting on 6 May 2026.

With the resignation of Professor Emerita Billie Giles-Corti in April, Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis was elected to a one-year casual vacancy on 6 May 2026.

We have been delighted to welcome our new and re-elected Councillors and appreciate the expertise that all our Councillors bring to the Alumni Council.

The annual election of three Alumni Council members to the **Joint Committee of Alumni Council and Development and Alumni Relations (DAR)** was held on 15 April 2026. The Warden is an ex-officio position. Emeritus Professor Cheryl Praeger AC, Ms Simone Collins and Winthrop Professor Marc Tennant AM were elected.

With the reduction of Council numbers under the new Statute, Council agreed to replace the existing committees with **Portfolio Leads** as follows; Awards – Ms Nee Nee Ong, Communications – Ms Simone Collins, Events – Ms Devon Cuneo, Finance – Mr Matt Budge, Governance – Mr Graham Goerke, Information Technology and Membership – Winthrop Professor Marc Tennant AM.

Council decided to expand its Honours Committee to include two members each from Alumni Council, Academic Board and DAR. It remains a standing committee of Alumni Council but will now be known as the UWA Community Recognition and Awards Committee.

Events

Each year the Alumni Council organises two General Meetings, Convocation Day, our Awards Ceremony, and the Convocation Senate Dinner. A number are held at the University Club.

Spring General Meeting 2025

Last year’s Spring meeting included a presentation from Ms Haylee Felton, UWA’s Chief Marketing Officer, who explained how the University regularly reviewed how it was perceived by the broader community (UWA’s brand) to ensure education and research remained relevant to the needs and expectations of future students and contributed to WA’s evolving workforce and future economic, environmental and social success.

The meeting also included a stimulating fireside chat with the Vice Chancellor. Professor Chakma gave frank answers to a very wide range of questions – the proposed ferry location, how UWA stands amongst many universities with financial troubles, the opening of UWA’s campus in India, the fallout from the impact of the Trump Administration on US universities, how UWA can ensure the experience of alumni does not end at graduation, the state of university merger discussions in WA, UWA’s response to investment in companies complicit in genocide, and initiating a UWA community music centre.

Autumn General Meeting 2026

At each Autumn General Meeting the results of the Alumni Council elections are announced and a speaker or panel of speakers present on a topical issue relevant to Higher Education.



Fireside Chat with the Vice Chancellor 2025 Spring General Meeting

We were particularly pleased to host an expert panel on ‘Innovating for a Resilient Future: UWA Leadership in Climate, Health and Renewable Energy’.

More than two hundred alumni present at the UWA Club, and others watching from across Australia and the globe, heard



L-R Associate Professor Paul Maginn, Professor Marit Kragt, Emeritus Professor Graeme Martin, Dr Hugh Wolgamot and Professor Caitlin Wyroll

from a fascinating panel that well demonstrated UWA’s Leadership in Climate, Health and Renewable Energy. Ably moderated by urban planner and geographer, Director of the UWA Public Policy Institute, Associate Professor Paul Maginn, it included agricultural economist Professor Marit Kragt, agricultural scientist Emeritus Professor Graeme Martin, researcher in offshore hydrodynamics Dr Hugh Wolgamot, and biologist Professor Caitlin Wyrwoll.

Convocation Day 2026

We were delighted that the Chancellor Dr Diane Smith-Gander AC and the Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Tim Colmer again joined us at Convocation Day on Sunday 8 March.



Warden of Convocation and Guild President after the tree-planting ceremony

Following a tradition that commemorates the first meeting of Convocation in 1913 and celebrates the close relationship between UWA’s Guild of Undergraduates and UWA’s Alumni, the Warden and Guild President planted another tree in the row of Cherry Plum Blossom trees – *Prunus blireana* – on the west side of Riley Oval opposite the Arts Building. Guests then made their way to the Tropical Grove where Professor Steve Hopper AC, Foundation Professor of Plant Conservation Biology, gave an engaging talk on the ancient history, biology and cultural significance of eucalyptus.



Guests in the Tropical Grove

Graduation Ceremonies

Since UWA’s first graduation ceremony, part of the Warden’s role has been to welcome graduates as new members of Convocation. As the number of ceremonies has greatly increased over the past one hundred years, this has become a responsibility which I share with Alumni Councillors. Consequently, in December 2025 and August 2026, I and a group of Councillors were privileged to deliver the Warden’s speech at the Graduation Ceremonies.

Convocation Senate Dinner

Each year Senate and Alumni Council alternately host a combined dinner in October. In 2025 this was held at Bilya Marlee and was hosted by Ms Jill Benn, Associate Pro Chancellor (Indigenous). Unfortunately, the Chancellor was not available because of an unexpected clash of events, and it was a stormy night, so attendance was lower than usual. Nevertheless, as always, it was a convivial event providing the opportunity for Senators and Councillors to catch up and exchange ideas, and it is always a pleasure to visit such a beautiful venue.



Guests at the Senate Convocation Dinner 2025

Senate Advancement Committee

The Senate Advancement Committee (SAC) was established in 2025 to recommend the strategic development of the University’s relationship with its alumni to Senate. The Warden and Deputy Warden are ex-officio members. The committee meets four times a year. A planning day was held on 4 July 2025 and a workshop focussing on key issues held on 27 July 2026. These included Student-Alumni Transition Journey, Mentoring, Career Support for Students and Alumni, Lifetime Emails.

Joint Committee of Alumni Council and Development and Alumni Relations (DAR)

The Joint Committee continues to be an invaluable asset. This year, Convocation Senator Dr David Griffiths, continued in the role of Chair. The Joint Committee meets six times per year and is increasingly taking on an operational role for the Senate Advancement Committee.

Communications

Our main means of external communication are *UniView* and *Convocation Connecting*. The Warden’s Page continues to be published in the summer and winter editions of *Uniview*. The *Convocation Connecting* e-bulletin is published three times a year.

We are grateful to DAR staff, Milos Vaskovic, Head of Advancement Operations, Jayden Worts, Senior Manager, Communications and Events and staff, for their support in the publication of our various communications to members. I also thank Ms Simone Collins for her expertise in linking *Convocation Connecting* to our website and posting it on the Convocation: UWA Alumni Association LinkedIn group site.

Awards

The Convocation Awards Ceremony, convened by our Awards Lead, Ms Nee Nee Ong, was held in the private dining room at the University Club on 19 August 2026. As well as our award winners and the donors of our named awards or their representatives who we are always delighted to welcome, we were also very pleased to welcome Mr Jay Williams, President of the Postgraduate Students’ Association who gave a heartfelt speech focussing the importance of postgraduate research and congratulating award winners on their achievements.

A great deal of expertise is required for award judging, and we thank the judges of the Postgraduate Research Travel Awards; Professor Hélène de Burgh-Woodman (Pro Vice Chancellor (Research Training)), Mr Jay Williams (President Postgraduate Students' Association), and Alumni Councillors Professor Estie Kruger, Dr Moira Maley, Mr Viknash VM. We also thank Ms Devon Cuneo for reviewing the eligibility of the applicants, Dr Raj Kurup for consolidating scores and ranking and Ms Juanita Perez for overseeing the process.

We also thank the judges of the Matilda Award for Cultural Excellence, Professor Alexandra Ludewig, Dr Helen Curtis, Ms Simone Collins, Dr Eros Scagnetti and UWA Student Guild President Mr Oliver Barrett.



(L-R) Guild President Oliver Barrett, Siena Favazzo and Postgraduate Students’ Association President Jay Williams

The 2026 awards, presenters, awardees and their research topics were as follows;

Named Awards

Geoffrey Kennedy Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award presented by Ms Anna and Gabrielle Kennedy, granddaughters of former Chancellor the late Hon Justice Geoffrey Kennedy AO.

Shuyan Li — Shuyan’s research is on enhancing phosphorus-use efficiency in wheat by reducing seed phosphorus and phytate concentrations. She plans to travel to the University of Freiburg, Germany, to conduct advanced analytical work. Her research will contribute to improving phosphorus-use efficiency (PUE) in cereal crops, improving the quality for food and feed.

Alexander Cohen Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award, presented by Ms Anne Masel, daughter of former Chancellor the late Clinical Professor Alexander Cohen AO.

Hera Nguyen — Hera’s PhD project is on elucidating dynamic enzyme interactions and organisation in fungal secondary metabolism using advanced live-cell optical microscopy and opto-bioanalysis technologies. She plans to travel Tokyo, Japan, and work under the supervision of Professor Takeaki Ozawa at The University of Tokyo.

Ken and Julie Michael Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award, presented by Dr Nikolaos Millios, representing the Hon Dr Ken Michael AC CitWA.

Matthaus Zering — Matthaus’ research focuses on understanding the hydrodynamic forces acting on offshore renewable energy devices to support improved design and operational performance. The award will fund a research collaboration with the Technical University of Denmark,



2026 Convocation Award winners

centred on the development of a new wave generation module.

Sue Baker Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award, presented by Dr Nikolaos Millios, representing the former Warden of Convocation, the late Dr Sue Baker.

Xiao-xiao Jiang — Jiang’s research adopts a two-party perspective to examine workplace empathy, investigating its effects on both empathy givers and empathy receivers. This award has supported her participation in the Academy of Management Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, USA, from 30 July to 5 August 2026, where she presented her second dissertation paper.

Barry Marshall and Robin Warren Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award, presented by Emeritus Professor Barry Marshall AC, Noble Laureate.

Amanda Hewa Maithreege — Amanda’s research investigates the function of genes associated with blackleg resistance in canola, the world’s leading edible oil crop. She plans to undertake a three-month research internship at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

Michael Chaney Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award, presented by Emeritus Professor Barry Marshall AC, Noble Laureate.

Darcy Pirotta — Darcy’s research aims to advance patient-specific skeletal muscle models, helping to accelerate the development of novel therapies for paediatric neuromuscular diseases. Through this award, he was able to attend the Muscle Stem Cells and Regeneration meeting in Canada, providing a valuable opportunity to connect with international experts and position his research within the latest developments in the field.

Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Awards, presented by Mr Jay Williams Postgraduate Students' Association President.

Yang Chen — Yang's research uses advanced satellite and field observations to investigate how dryland ecosystems respond to extreme wet and dry years, and how these responses influence the global carbon cycle. Her work aims to improve understanding of carbon-climate feedback and enhance predictions of future climate change impacts.

Joao Cotrim Fontana — Joao's research aims to improve the durability of blackleg resistance in canola by identifying and characterizing the genetic mechanisms underlying quantitative resistance and its interaction with major resistance genes. He plans to travel to the University of Catania to attend the 17th International Rapeseed Congress in 2027, which represents a significant extension of his PhD research, enabling activities that are not possible within Australia. At this Congress, he will present his research and engage with leading experts in Brassica genetics, plant pathology, and breeding.

Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Awards presented by Dr Raj Kurup, Alumni Councillor.

Kendall Messer — Kendall's research investigates the Pacific Ocean Meridional Overturning Circulation, focusing on the movement and mixing of deep waters through the Samoan Passage. Through this travel award, she will participate in the international GO-SHIP P15S voyage, contributing to a major oceanographic survey of the Pacific Ocean and gaining valuable experience in large-scale marine research.

Thomas Hockley — Thomas' research seeks to better understand the susceptibility of Cannabis sativa to powdery mildew, a major fungal disease affecting medicinal cannabis and industrial hemp production. This award will support a research visit to AgriBio at La Trobe University, where he will train with Professor Doblin's research group in advanced cannabis tissue culture and regeneration techniques, bringing valuable skills and capability back to UWA.

Kristina Magoutas — Kristina's research aims to document the interplay between the menstrual cycle, lifestyle factors and the vaginal microbiome. She has submitted an abstract to present preliminary data from the MICYCLE Study as an oral presentation. She will also attend the Microbes in Women's Health Congress.

The Convocation Matilda Award for Cultural Excellence presented by Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory, AM, Warden, and Mr Oliver Barrett, Guild President, was shared this year.

Ms Lidya Ayuningtyas and Ms Yujie Wei — Creative Writing

Lidya has an impressive creative career as a poet, novelist, translator and public speaker, with publications, festival appearances and literary recognition. Her bilingual and multilingual practice makes a meaningful contribution to multicultural literature, with notable achievements including UWA adopting her Indonesian-language novel as course material, her selection as a Centre for Stories Hot Desk Fellow, and her poetry performances and public displays in Perth.

Yujie has demonstrated sustained leadership and cultural impact through founding and leading a Chinese Poetry Group, co-organising an international symposium, and co-editing its forthcoming scholarly special issue. Her contributions extend beyond creative practice to cultural service, teaching, student support, research, and intercultural engagement at institutional, community, and international levels.



Past Warden Dr Joan Pope OAM, who was responsible for the establishment of the Matilda Award, with Events Lead Ms Nee Nee Ong, and the Matilda Trophy.

Convocation Undergraduate Prizes for academic achievement in 2026 were awarded to the following students.

- Convocation Undergraduate Prize in Bachelor of Commerce — Miss Louise Eckert
- Convocation Undergraduate Prize in Bachelor of Biomedical Science — Miss Sophie Brooks
- Convocation Undergraduate Prize in Bachelor of Science — Mr Ethan Kealley
- Convocation Undergraduate Prize in Bachelor of Arts — Mr Johannes Retief
- Convocation Indigenous Undergraduate Prize — Miss Kierley Richmond

UWA Sport Convocation Bursaries were presented by Ms Devon Cuneo on behalf of the Warden at the November 2025 UWA Sports Awards Ceremony.

Toby Fountain — Convocation Male Bursary Winner (AMMNA 2025: Emerging International Athlete of the Year; All-Star 7 Goal Shooter; MVP, U20 National Championships).

Iona Anderson — Convocation Female Bursary Winner (4th place, Women's 100m Backstroke, World Short Course Swimming Championships and Silver & bronze relay medals, 5th place, Women's 100m Backstroke final, 2024 Paris Olympics).

Convocation Outstanding Student Volunteer Award was presented by Ms Nee Nee Ong, Chair of the Awards Committee, at the November 2025 Guild Awards.

Nadya Shahrin. As Co-Chair role for the Relay for Life UWA team, the only student-led Relay in Western Australia, she successfully brought together over 500 participants for an 18-hour event to honour cancer survivors, support those currently undergoing treatment, and remember loved ones lost, raising \$65,000 to support cancer research, prevention, and support services through the Cancer Council Western Australia.



Ms Devon Cuneo, Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM, Nadya Shahrin, Dr Eros Scagnetti and Ms Nee Nee Ong

Honours

The Alumni Council’s Honours Committee led by Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM, facilitates the recognition of members of Convocation and the University community by submitting nominations for Australian Honours and for other awards both within and external to the University.

In the 2026 Australia Day Honours and Kings Birthday Lists the following members of Convocation were recognised for their contribution to the Australian community:

Australia Day Honours

Companion of the Order of Australia (AC)

- Emeritus Professor Bruce Konrad Armstrong, BMedSc '67, MBBS '69, DM '17

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)

- Dr Kenneth Arthur Elliott, MBBS '64
- Mrs Jocelyn Kathleen Edna Elliott, BSc '64, GradDipEd '65

Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

- Dr Ronald Frederick Edwards, BEc '66, EdD '06
- Ms Yvonne Daphne Henderson, BA '69, GradDipEd '70, LLB '98, LLM '03
- Dr Ravinder Raj Anand, PhD '85
- Ms Toni Anne Dwyer, BJuris '85, LLB '86
- Ms Melanie Victoria Rose Willis, BEc '86
- Ms Deidre Ellen Willmott, BJuris '84, LLB '86
- Dr Anita Geraldine Bourke, Grad Cert Mod Lang '09, BA '16
- Mr Graham Spencer-Laitt, BJuris '75, LLB '76
- The late Mr Gene Thomas Tilbrook, BSc '71, DipComp '72, MBA '79
- Professor Minghao Zheng, PhD '94, MD '00

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

- Mr Robert Malcolm Lewis, BPEd '78
- Dr Kevin John Cameron, MMus '96
- Dr Andrew Michael Brostek, BDSc '78
- Clinical Professor Lesley Ann Cala, MBBS '64, MD '84
- Mr Michael Ryan, LLB '69

King’s Birthday Honours

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)

- Emeritus Professor David Blair, BSc '68
- The Honourable Benjamin Wyatt, LLB '97
- Professor Timothy Davis, BMedSc '76, MBBS '78
- Professor Bill Morgan, MBBS '84, PhD '00

Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

- Professor Terence Jeyaretnam, BE '94
- Mr Anthony Beech, BEc '74, LLB '99
- The Honourable Christopher Ellison, BJuris '77, LLB '78
- WA’s Deputy Chief Magistrate Elizabeth Woods, BJuris '82, LLB '83
- Professor John Olynyk, BMedSc '82, MBBS '85
- Professor Ryan Lister, BSc '01, PhD '05
- Emerita Professor Carolyn Oldham, BSc '85, PhD '94
- Professor Mariapia Degli-Esposti, BSc '87, PhD '92
- Mr Mark Irwin, BSc '94
- Mr Tim Ungar, 2023 Chancellor’s Medal Recipient
- Emeritus Professor Trevor Redgrave, MBBS '63, PhD '67, MD '86
- Dr David Joske, MBBS '83
- Mr Ian Hill, MIR '84
- Mr Ian Hannah, MIR '84
- Emerita Professor Lynette Abbott
- Emeritus Professor Mark Bush
- Emeritus Professor Colin MacLeod
- Emeritus Professor Stephen Zubrick
- The Honourable Rene Le Miere KC, BEc '72, BJuris '77, LLB '78

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

- Mrs Margaret Freeman, BA '60
- Mr Saurabh Mishra, BCom, BE '96
- Mrs Karen Field, BEc '71
- Former Deputy State Coroner Ms Evelyn Vicker, BJuris '83, LLB '84
- Dr Constantine Berbatis, BSc '71
- Mr Philip Patterson, BSc '75
- The late Mr Ronald Glencross, BSc Agric '59
- Dr William McAuliffe, MBBS '86
- Dr Sean Stevens, MBBS '94

Public Service Medal (PSM)

- Mr Bradford Archer, BEc '91

New Alumni Council Initiative

Convocation Guild Memorandum of Understanding

On 19 August, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Guild President, Oliver Barrett and the Warden in the presence of the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Guild and Alumni Councillors in the Prescott Room.

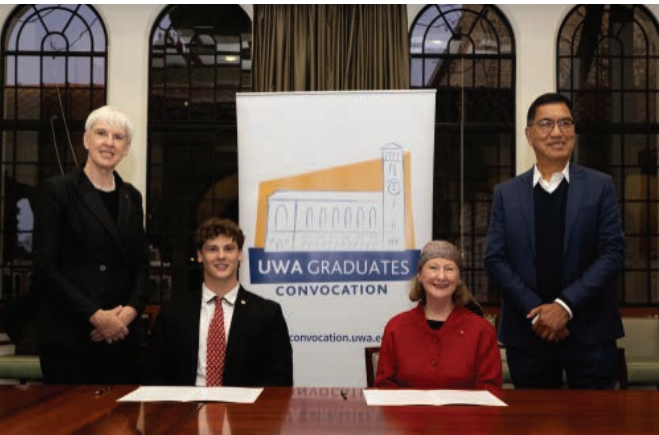
The strength of our relationship is not new; the Guild President and the Postgraduate Students’ Association President have attended each Alumni Council meeting as invitees for many years, and we have worked together on Convocation Day



Guild President Mr Oliver Barrett and Warden Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM signing copies of the Memorandum of Understanding

which has been an annual event since 2014. The Alumni Council has also provided an award for the Convocation Outstanding Student Volunteer of the Year as well as Sports awards and bursaries for students and, more recently, has supported the Guild in their annual Food Drive for donations to the Guild Food Pantry over the last two years.

Now, as part of the MOU, we will have regular quarterly meetings each year attended by the Warden and Guild President and up to three members of each Council. These will support the maintenance of the relationship a UWA student has from orientation at the beginning of their studies through to graduation and their future connection with UWA as alumni. We will also encourage both staff and students to develop activities and initiatives that embed the values and ethos of this collaboration into the academic and social culture of the University.



Chancellor Diane Smith-Gander AO, Guild President, Warden and Vice Chancellor Professor Amit Chatma

On going Initiatives

Opportunities for members to have their name inscribed on a shelf in the Reading Wall, for a donation of \$1,000, to raise funds for the Reid Library Convocation Creator-in-Residence are still available. We are very proud of this new initiative, in which a Creator will unlock the unique treasures of the library’s Special Collections. Member’s support will help fund exhibitions, digital experiences, lectures, art installations, and musical performances — inviting students and the wider community to engage with our hidden gems in new and innovative new ways.

A celebration of the first 30 inscribed Reading Wall shelves was held on 8 September 2026.

This milestone marked the beginning of a lasting tribute to the generosity, vision, and commitment of supporters who are helping to establish the Creator-in-Residence Program.

Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed a guided tour of the newly refurbished Reid Library, and the rare opportunity of viewing a selection of the library’s treasured special collections.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I thank all members of Alumni Council for their commitment, enthusiasm and support over the past year. I am particularly appreciative of the contribution of our 2025/26 Deputy Warden Dr David Griffiths, and our 2026/27 Deputy Warden Ms Nee Nee Ong. Thanks too to Ms Fiona Allan, Chief Advancement Officer and her team in Development and Alumni Relations. Special thanks to our Convocation Officer, Ms Juanita Perez, who is always of great assistance.



With Guild and Alumni Council

The University of Western Australia

Convocation

Treasurer's Report - 31 December 2025

Convocation – Treasurer's Report 31 December 2025

Treasurer's Report

This Treasurer's Report and the Financial Statements for Convocation for the year ended 31 December 2025 are presented by the Convocation Treasurer.

Convocation exists through the University of Western Australia Act 1911 and its amendments.

Principal activities of Convocation in 2025

Activities undertaken by Convocation during 2025 included Convocation Day, the Convocation Awards program, the Awards Ceremony and the two Ordinary General Meeting of members. These events were supported by the Development and Alumni Relations Office and the Convocation Office.

The "Convocation Council Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026" designed to revitalize Convocation and its activities was completed during the 2023 year and made available to members for comment. The Strategic Plan includes a range of changes to the way Council operates and to the management of Convocation's finances.

Members of Convocation considered changes to the UWA Statute at its 2024 Spring General Meeting. These changes were informed by Convocation's Strategic Plan 2023-2026 and the Report of the Senate Convocation Review Working Group. The Spring General Meeting's recommendations were approved by Senate on 28 October 2024.

The Amending Statute No 1 of 2024 was approved by the Governor and published in a special edition of the Government Gazette on 19 December 2024.

The Statute amendments enabled Council to transfer funds in the General Reserve from the Short Term Pool to the Long Term Pool. As a result of a resolution of Council, the General Reserve Funds were transferred to the Long Term Pool on 10 June 2025.

As in previous years, the University covered the costs of what it defines as Convocation's statutory activities. These include Ordinary Meetings, Elections, Convocation Office facilities and the Convocation Officer.

Review of operations

Convocation operates through three major funds:

- Convocation Long Term Investment Pool fund
- General Reserve fund
- General Purpose fund

Within the Long-Term Investment Pool there are unrestricted funds held in the Development fund and General Reserve fund, and restricted funds which are generally held for awards and scholarships and can only be used for a particular designated purpose. Unrestricted funds can be used for general purposes by Convocation.

Convocations' unrestricted funds are held in 3 accounts:

	2025	2024	Change
	\$	\$	\$
Unrestricted Funds			
General Purpose Fund	103,218	140,853	(37,635)
General Reserve Fund			
- Short term	11,205	448,181	(436,976)
- Long term	459,073	-	459,073
Development Fund	789,152	676,423	112,729
Sub Total	1,362,648	1,265,457	97,191

Convocation
Treasurer’s Report
31 December 2025

Restricted Funds	1,219,830	1,129,312	90,518
Total Funds	2,582,478	2,394,769*	187,709

**rounding up to nearest decimals*

The funds in Convocation's General Purposes Fund are held in the University's Short Term Pool (**STP**). The Development Fund, most Restricted Funds and from 10 June 2025 the General Reserve fund are generally held in the University Long Term Pool (**LTP**). The STP is a lower capital risk investment pool while the LTP is more of a balanced growth fund which carries a higher capital risk but earns a higher return over the longer term. Funds considered to be surplus to day-to-day requirements sitting in the STP General Purpose Fund were transferred to the LTP after a resolution of Council.

In 2025 the LTP returned 9.86% (2024, 14.33%) and the STP 5.76% (2024, 4.19%). The income from these funds this year totalled a positive return of \$111,242 (LTP \$90,172 (including General Reserve Fund return of \$11,205) + STP \$21,070) This represented the main source of income for Convocation. In 2024 this income was \$98,139.

All the earnings on the STP and 5% of the three-year average balance of the LTP are fed into the relevant Convocation Restricted and Unrestricted budgets. The 5% drawdown from the LTP has been calculated to preserve the real value of the LTP pool balance over time. The University has successfully used the same approach to the drawdown of funds from its LTP pool.

Council resolved in 2022 to transfer the General Reserve Fund from the STP to the LTP at an opportune time to reflect the longer-term nature of this fund and to attract a higher rate of return over time. The Strategic Plan allows this change to occur and the resultant 5% distribution to be directed to the General Purpose Account. This transfer occurred on 10 June 2025.

The Amending Statute No 1 of 2024 was approved by the Governor and published in a special edition of the Government Gazette on 19 December 2024.

The Statute amendments enabled Council to transfer funds in the General Reserve from the Short Term Pool.

Overall, Convocation's funds increased by \$187,709 to a closing balance of \$2,582,478. As at 31st December 2025 unrestricted funds increased \$97,191 to \$1,362,648. Details of the operating surplus are set out below.

Convocation
Treasurer’s Report
31 December 2025

Income	2025	2024
Net Income from LTP % distribution	\$32,098	\$32,398
STP Income	\$21,070	\$12,731
General Reserve income	\$11,205	-
Subscriptions	\$1,425	\$5,601
Total Income	\$65,798	\$50,730
Expenses		
General Office	\$241	\$3,628
Convocation Day	\$5,672	\$5,024
Awards Ceremony	\$4,037	-
Additional award payment	\$15,000	-
Total Expenses	\$24,950	\$8,652
Net Surplus	\$40,848	\$42,078

Significant changes in the state of affairs

There were no significant changes.

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year.

There were no matters subsequent to the end of the financial year.

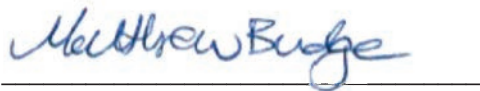
Indemnity and insurance of auditor

Convocation has not, during or since the end of the financial year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify the auditor of Convocation or any related entity against a liability incurred by the auditor.

Thanks are extended to Dry Kirkness for their ongoing responsive and professional work as Convocation's Auditors. Thanks, are also extended to Juanita Perez, Convocation's Convocation Officer and to members of Convocation's Finance Committee.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of Council 03 June 2026.

On behalf of Council



Mr Matthew Budge
Convocation Treasurer
03 June 2026

The University of Western Australia

Convocation

Annual Financial Report - 31 December 2025

Convocation Annual Financial Report 31 December 2025

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General information

The financial statements cover Convocation as an individual unit. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, Convocation's functional and presentation currency.

Convocation is an unincorporated entity formed by the University of Western Australia Act 1911 (and as amended) and operates in accordance with the University Statute. The functions of Convocation were expanded in the new Statute and are now as follows:

- a) to support and promote professional and social interaction and links between its Member(s) and between its Members and the rest of the University Community;
- b) to facilitate communication between its Members and the rest of the University Community and, in particular, the communication -
 - (i) of the interests and opinions of its Members about matters affecting the University to the rest of the University Community; and
 - (ii) by the rest of the University Community to Convocation of matters affecting the University and matters of relevance to Convocation's other functions.
- c) to encourage its Members to contribute to and support the intellectual, cultural and financial prosperity of the University;
- d) to provide scholarships and other financial support to students;
- e) to enable the governance of the University by the Senate by:
 - (i) the election of the Warden under Section 18;
 - (ii) the election of Members of the Senate under Section 8(1)(h); and
 - (iii) considering draft proposed Statute under Section 31(2);
- f) to give formal recognition to Members who make significant contributions to the University Community;
- g) to raise money for the purposes of performing functions mentioned in clause 19(a) to 19(d).

(UWA Statute, Clause 19(1) as at 6th October 2020)

Notes to the financial statements

Note 1. Significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Basis of preparation

In the Council's opinion, Convocation is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.

These are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared for the purposes of complying with University Statute and the University of Western Australia Act. The Statute requires Convocation to prepare and distribute financial statements to the Members of Convocation. The Council have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the Members of Convocation.

These financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

Cash basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the "cash" basis of accounting, except for costs included under "Administration" that relate to employee entitlements.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires Council to exercise its judgement in the process of applying Convocation's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed throughout the notes to the financial statements.

Revenue recognition

Convocation recognises revenue as follows:

Investment income

Income from investments is recognised when Convocation Council is notified of the income via the Office of Convocation by the Treasury of the University of Western Australia. Income earned by the UWA Long Term Investment Pool (LTP) in 2025 was 9.86%. This compares with the 2024 LTP income of 14.33%. Income earned by the UWA Short Term Pool (STP) in 2025 was 5.76%. This compares with the 2024 STP income of 4.19%.

Donations and bequests

Income from donations and bequests is recognised when Convocation obtains control over the funds received and generally have been transferred to the LTP prior to year end. Donations for 2025 were \$9,797 compared to \$7,732 in 2024.

Event ticket sales

No events were held during the year ended 31 December 2025.

Other income

Other revenue is recognised when it is received.

Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and other similar taxes

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, as all GST transactions are managed by the University. In this case GST is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense. As Convocation is not separately registered for GST, all GST is recorded and paid or claimed by the University.

Note 2. Events after the reporting period

There were no events after the reporting period.

Note 3. Awards income and expenditure

Funds expended by Convocation on awards, scholarships and prizes during 2025 totalled \$33,979.

Convocation collaborates with the Graduate Research School, Postgraduate Student Association, and others to fund an array of awards, scholarships, and prizes. Some awards are named to recognise the contributor in that year while other awards, scholarships and prizes, most notably the Postgraduate Research Travel Awards (PGRTAs), are named in honour of both past and present donors.

Note 4. Investment and Other Income & Administration Expenditure

- a) **General Purpose Fund:** Per UWA Statute Chapter 4, Clause 37, the General Purpose Fund is the primary Convocation operating account. For administrative purposes, as well as to aid transparency, a range of expenses incurred throughout the year are allocated against specific internal accounts rather than simply to the General Purpose Account. Funds considered to be surplus to day-to-day requirements sitting in the STP General Purpose Fund were transferred to the LTP after a resolution of Council.
- b) **General Reserve Fund:** Refer to UWA Statute Chapter 4, clauses 37 and 38. This Fund must be kept and be credited with funds in accordance with Statute, as confirmed by a decision of Council. At least half of income earned on the General Purpose fund and General Reserve Fund must be credited to the General Reserve Fund, however at the discretion of Council that funds credited to the General Reserve Fund can be accessed for Convocation activities. This discretion has been exercised.
- c) **Long Term Investment Pool:** Convocation Council has approved the investment of donations toward awards, scholarships and prizes into the University's (LTP) to participate in its returns over long time periods. The LTP is managed in accordance with UWA Policy No. UP09/13.

Convocation continues to apportion the funds held in the LTP in accordance with donations received for each award, scholarship and prize (see Internal Capital Register at Note 6 below).

In December 2016 the University transitioned to its new investment strategy and policy (Ref: UWA Policy No. UP09/13) as approved by Senate. This current investment policy requires the annual LTP capital distribution to be 5% of the rolling 3 year balance.

Convocation
Notes to Financial Statements
31 December 2025

- d) Convocation has opted to comply with this policy to protect the long term value of these, the award fund and the Development Fund. In 2025, the 5% distribution was \$90,172. Each year, Convocation uses this income to fund its annual awards, events, and Council initiatives.
- e) **Other Reserve Funds:** Includes unclaimed awards and previous year adjustments.

Note 5. Investment and Expenditure

1. General Purpose Fund: Investment income is derived by income to this fund of \$53,168 (STP \$21,070 + LTP \$32,098).
2. General Reserve Fund: The balance in the General Reserve fund was transferred from the STP to the LTP on 10 June 2025. In relation to the Investment Income for the General Reserve Fund of \$11,205, Council has exercised its discretion to utilise for Convocation activities.
3. The transfer from the LTP was \$90,172 for 2025.

Convocation
Notes to Financial Statement
31 December 2025

Note 6 Convocation Internal Capital Register

The Convocation Internal Capital Register shows the breakdown of Convocation's funds held in the Long Term Pool (LTP). It has been determined by annual motions of Convocation Council to invest small donations into this fund aligned with the prize, scholarship or award nominated by the donor. In 2014, Council transferred Development Funds held in the General Purpose Fund into this UWA Fund. Convocation follows UWA policy and spend 5% of the 3 year rolling average capital each year under the rules of the LTP (see UWA Policy No. UP09/13).

INTERNAL CAPITAL REGISTER 2025

Items listed on Internal Capital Register by Office of Convocation	2025 Opening Balance	Reserve Fund Moved to LTP	2025 Full Year Donations (Council Meeting 05 Feb 2025 9.2)	Long-term Pool balance post-2025 FY Donations	2025 Convocation EOFY Financial Transfers	2025 Value of Capital adjustment (interest earned) 9.86% allocated to new LTP PGs	Value of Income Distribution (5%) From new 70 PGs	Further Transfer 15PG Interest Earned Reallocation to LTP	2025 CLOSING BALANCE
PGRTA	615,983.19		2,410.00	618,393.19	-	59,808.43	29,168.00	1,040.99	650,074.61
Convocation Prizes	179,885.46		100.00	179,985.46	6,706.41	17,438.27	8,524.00	305.00	195,911.14
Matilda	89,229.37		160.00	89,389.37	19,643.78	8,655.45	4,320.00	151.27	113,519.88
Sports Scholarship	79,330.59		20.00	79,350.59	4,499.24	7,688.01	3,765.00	134.97	87,907.81
Sports Star	40,127.65		-	40,127.65	5,221.82	3,888.40	1,093.00	68.19	48,213.06
Development Fund	676,422.92		1,107.00	677,529.92	76,987.27	65,582.75	32,098.00	1,150.02	789,151.96
Reserve Fund		448,181.79	-	448,181.79	-	22,095.36	11,204.55	-	459,072.60
Adjustments: Correction/Reversal									
Internal Registry	1,680,979.18	448,181.79	3,797.00	2,132,957.97	113,058.52	185,156.67	90,172.55	2,850.45	2,343,851.06
Totals									

Council's declaration

In the Council' opinion:

- Convocation is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.
- These financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).
- These are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the UWA Statute per the University of Western Australia Act. The Statue requires Convocation to prepare and present financial statements to the General Meeting of Convocation. The Council have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the Members of Convocation.
- The attached financial statements and notes present fairly Convocation's financial position as at 31st December 2025 and describe its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- There are reasonable grounds to believe that Convocation will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council dated 03 June 2026

Convocation Treasurer		Date: 03 June 2026
Convocation Officer		Date: 03 June 2026



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONVOCATION OF UWA GRADUATES

Report on the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the attached financial report, being a special purpose financial report of the Convocation of UWA Graduates, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025 and the statement of income and expenditure for the year then ended, and notes to the financial report, including significant accounting policies, and the Council Declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of the Convocation of UWA Graduates presents fairly the Convocation of UWA Graduates financial position as at 31 December 2025 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical requirements in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the fact that this statement has been prepared under the requirements of the University of Western Australia, which describes the cash basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purposes of the University of Western Australia and distribution to the members. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Treasurer's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the financial report and has determined that the cash basis of preparation described in the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Constitution and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The Treasurer's responsibility also includes such internal controls as the council determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

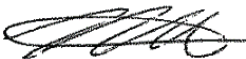
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Convocation’s internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Treasurer.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Treasurer’s use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Convocation’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Convocation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Treasurer regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

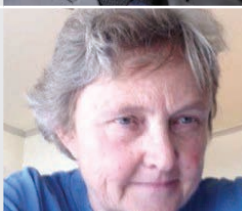
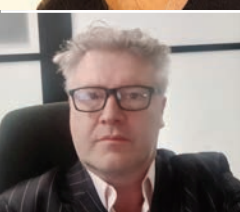
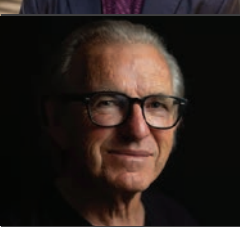
DRY KIRKNESS (AUDIT) PTY LTD



Robert Hall CA
Director

Perth
Date: 3 June 2026

COUNCILLORS

	Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM Warden of Convocation (2022-2026) Council Member (2018-2022)		Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis Council Member (2017-2027)
	Ms Nee Nee Ong Deputy Warden 2026 Council Member (2016-2027)		Mr Graham Goerke Council Member (2022-2028)
	Mr Matthew Budge (Treasurer) Council Member (2023-2029)		Professor Estie Kruger Council Member (2021-2026)
	Ms Simone Collins Council Member (2024-2028)		Dr Raj Kurup Council Member (2017-2027)
	Ms Devon Cuneo Council Member (2011-2029)		Dr Moira Maley Council Member (2020-2027)
	Mr David Davidson Council Member (2023-2027)		Dr Eros Scagnetti Council Member (2025-2029)
	Winthrop Professor Marc Tennant AM Council Member (2019-2028)		Ms Fiona Tremlett Council Member (2024-2027)
	Mr Viknash VM Council Member (2024-2028)		Ex-Officio Member Emeritus Professor Cheryl Praeger AC Elected Member of Senate (2026-2029)
	Ex-Officio Member Dr David Griffiths Elected Member of Senate (2024-2027) Deputy Warden (2022-2025) Council Member (2019-2022)		Ex-Officio Member Ms Fiona Allan Chief Advancement Officer UWA Development and Alumni Relations

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

2026 Spring Ordinary Meeting of Convocation

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to provide my report to the Spring Ordinary Meeting of Convocation 2026 and update you on University and alma mater developments.

It gives me great joy to see our campus come to life through Semester commencements and graduations. Again, I offer my thanks to all of the staff and participants who make our graduation activities so successful, it is a special day for our students and their families, and those who contribute make a real impact on those lifelong memories.

UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE

I am pleased to share that we have strengthened our senior leadership. The Chancellor's Committee has approved the elevation of the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Education, and the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Engagement, roles to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor level, recognising the university-wide scope and strategic priority of these portfolios. In addition, the Chancellor's Committee has approved a new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Planning and Strategic Initiatives) role, which will provide integrated leadership across strategy, planning, performance and major university-wide initiatives. The position will provide strategic and commercial advice to the executive and governing bodies.

Together, these appointments will strengthen our leadership capacity in key priority areas, support a more coordinated and focused approach to delivering the University's strategy and respond to uncertain external circumstances.

UWA INDIA CAMPUS

Following more than two years of planning and development, our campuses in Mumbai and Chennai remain on track to welcome their first students later this year, subject to final approvals from India's University Grants Commission. We are aiming to open the Mumbai campus in September, followed by Chennai in October.



The campuses will initially offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs in Business and Computing, disciplines selected in response to strong student demand and workforce needs. The response from prospective students has been highly encouraging, with almost 7,000 leads received since recruitment activities commenced. Beyond student recruitment, UWA India will strengthen research and industry partnerships, deepen engagement with alumni, create new pathways for collaboration, and support our ambition to play a leading role in education and research across the Indo-Pacific region.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedicated staff whose commitment, expertise and willingness to take on additional responsibilities have enabled this project to progress so rapidly. Their efforts demonstrate the ambition, professionalism and collaboration that underpin UWA's success.

WA HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR UPDATE

As we move through 2026, the higher education sector continues to face significant change and uncertainty. Many of you continue to ask about the State Government's review of Western Australia's university sector, and I recognise that this compounds uncertainty about our future.

While we await the Government's decision regarding the State Government's review of Western Australia's university sector, our focus remains firmly on advancing UWA's mission of education, research and community engagement. Any proposal to merge WA universities would need to be supported by a sound strategic rationale and deliver meaningful benefits for students and the Western Australian community. Whatever the outcome, we will continue pursuing opportunities that strengthen our University and position us for long-term success.

NAIDOC WEEK

In recognition of NAIDOC Week 2026, the Indigenous Portfolio hosted a diverse program of activities that shared and celebrated Indigenous cultures and knowledges. Over 100 staff participated in key events, including Acknowledgement of Country workshops, cultural river walks and Noongar language classes. During NAIDOC week a revised University Acknowledgement of Country was launched, and we shared several stories from UWA Indigenous Alumni.

THE ASIA CENTRE AT UWA

In August, it was a privilege to welcome HE Mr Nagesh Singh, High Commissioner of India to Australia, and colleagues from the High Commission of India in Canberra, together with the Consulate General of India in Perth, to UWA for a number of our events; the Public Policy Dialogue, the Aviation Roundtable, and the Australia India Youth Dialogue. We were grateful for the time, insights and encouragement extended, which will continue to strengthen the growing partnership between UWA and India.

SECTOR POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion

UWA supports the Royal Commission and will provide whatever assistance is required. Several Group of Eight universities appeared before the Royal Commission in July 2026. UWA was not required to do so.

Australian Human Rights Commission "Respect at Uni: Study into antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism and the experience of First Nations people" report.

In response to this report, UWA has established an Anti-Racism Working Group comprising staff and student representatives from communities experiencing racism and antisemitism, as well as institutional representatives. In consultation with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) it was agreed that the Indigenous Portfolio would establish an aligned but independent Indigenous-led process to consider recommendations which pertain to First Nations staff and students.

Universities Accord (Opening the Doors of Opportunity) Bill 2026

The Universities Accord (Opening the Doors of Opportunity) Bill 2026 reshapes Australia's higher education funding framework. It restructures how Commonwealth supported places are funded and allocated, introduces a new Needs-based Funding model, significantly expands the role of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) and establishes a legislative framework that would enable future governments to allocate international student places to individual providers.

The Bill raises important questions about institutional autonomy, legislative certainty, transparency and the appropriate balance between national stewardship and executive decision-making. Universities Australia (UA), the peak body representing the interests of Australia's 38 comprehensive universities, including UWA, has made a targeted submission suggesting amendments that preserve the government's policy objectives while strengthening the legislative framework to better protect

institutional autonomy, provide greater certainty, improve transparency and accountability,

Expansion of the Commonwealth Prac Payment

The Federal Government recently announced a \$158 million expansion of the Commonwealth Prac Payment to a further 10 frontline health disciplines. The expansion will cover clinical psychology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, paramedicine, radiography, pharmacy, rehabilitation therapies, audiology and podiatry. Eligible students currently receive a means-tested payment of \$338.60 a week during clinical and professional placements, benchmarked to the single Austudy rate and indexed annually.

EDUCATION

Pathways Program Successfully Launched

The Pathways Program was successfully launched in late June, with 55 students enrolled across the inaugural intake. Engagement from schools has been strong, with 20 schools confirmed to participate in the pilot program for next semester. This represents full capacity for the pilot phase. The early interest and uptake demonstrate strong sector demand and highlight the program’s potential to significantly expand UWA’s reach and impact in widening participation.

Growth in Lifelong Learning and Micro-credentials

The Australian Department of Education’s Micro-credentials Pilot in Higher Education has concluded, with reporting now underway. This Government pilot resulted in six new UWA+ micro-credentials being developed and delivered, with funding received for 790 eligible enrolments from 2024-2026, bringing a total of almost \$3.3 million to UWA. Micro-credential enrolments for 2026 are on track to surpass the numbers recorded for 2025. Year to date there have been 1,370 enrolments across 74 micro-credentials by 985 learners, including 100 Year 11-12 students in the UWA+ Starter program. At the midyear point, this represents 70% of annual enrolments for 2025.

A collaboration between Enterprise Education, Winjan Aboriginal Corporation and the School of Biological Sciences, has seen the initial cohort of 11 Indigenous students commence at UWA enrolled in the first of a planned series of micro-credentials. The micro-credentials cover all aspects of native seed enterprise incorporating cultural, ecological, biological and business knowledge for environmental, economic and social outcomes.

Veteran Access Pathway Program

The Veteran Access Pathway Program has launched for Semester 2, in partnership with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, establishing a coordinated, cross-campus initiative to support veterans transitioning from military service into higher education and to enhance their access, participation and success. The VAPP combines the recognition of qualifications gained in military service with educational preparation in UWA’s new Pathways programs and targeted wellbeing support for a successful transition.

RESEARCH

Significant research funding, awards, or achievements

UWA secured 7 awards from 12 applications in Round 7 of the National Industry PhD Program, achieving a 58.3% success rate. This represents a relatively high conversion rate compared with peers, with UWA positioned alongside leading Go8 universities in total awards received. The result strengthens UWA’s profile in industry-engaged research training and provides a foundation for continued participation in future rounds.

The Population Health Research Network has been named a finalist in the Research Australia Digital and Data Health Innovation Award, reflecting 17 years of sustained contribution to Australia’s internationally recognised data linkage system. This highlights the significant national impact of PHRN’s infrastructure and expertise. It also provides a platform to strengthen sector awareness of their rebranded name (Data Connect Australia).

Two new Endowed Chairs joined UWA

The University has recently welcomed two new Endowed Chairs who will further strengthen our research excellence and impact. Professor Marie Migaud has joined from the United States as the Brian Metcalf Endowed Chair in Chemical Biology within the School of Biological Sciences, bringing an internationally recognised research profile in her field. Professor Nick Gottardo has commenced as the WA Comprehensive Kids’ Cancer Centre Chair in Children’s Cancer (Clinical Director), based at Perth Children’s Hospital and The Kids Research Institute Australia, where he is a leading paediatric oncologist with an international reputation in brain cancer and clinical trials; he was also previously an adjunct member of UWA staff. These appointments reflect our success in attracting outstanding globally connected leaders through the Endowed Chair program.

External relationships and outreach

The UWA Data Institute’s 2026 conference, Data Matters: Virtuous & the Vicious, was held on campus in June, bringing together leading researchers, government representatives and industry partners. Featuring keynote presentations on AI, data innovation and translational research, alongside postgraduate pitches and research awards, the conference showcased UWA’s research excellence and strengthened engagement with partners including Chevron.

At AusMedtech 2026, Minister Dawson announced a further four years of funding for the UWA-led WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub (WALSIH), providing continued support for collaboration and innovation across the state’s life sciences sector. UWA’s prominent exhibition stand showcased the University’s research, innovation capabilities and industry partnerships, creating opportunities for staff, spinouts and partners to connect with industry and strengthen collaborative relationships.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Senior lecturer Aasta Abbott has been recognised as a high achiever with the UWA School of Psychological Science Graduate Certificate in the Diagnosis and Assessment of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) award.

Dr Lisa Stinson, a Research Fellow from UWA’s School of Molecular Sciences and Centre for Human Lactation Research and Translation, has received the Australian Society for Microbiology’s Jim Pittard Award.

Dr David Gozzard, a UWA graduate (BSc, BE '14, PhD '18) from ICRAR and the International Space Centre, won the intrapreneur category at the Business News WA 40under40 awards.

UWA graduate (MBBS '11) Dr Kyle Hoath won the Small Business/Startup category at Business News WA 40under40 awards.

UWA graduate (LLB, BA '09) Ms Elizabeth McLean won the Professional Services category at Business News WA 40under40 awards.

Six UWA graduates were also listed as 2026 Business News 40under40 winners from the University. Dr Matthew Oldakowski (BE '09) co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of biomedical company Earflo; Mr Simon Grantham

(MBA '19) Chief Financial Officer of engineered-to-order company Xcircle; Mr Alastair Mackenzie (MBA '18) founder and Managing Director of disability services and support organisation Buddiup Group; Mr Damien Wragg (BSc '10, GradDipSportRecMgt '11, GradDipWHS '12, MWHs '18) General Manager of training organisation Trainwest; Mr Eli Barlow (BCom '09) Chief Operations Officer and Marketing Manager of family focused leisure and entertainment business Funday Entertainment Group; and Dr Samantha Johnson (BSc '08) Medical Director of medical centre Sexual Health Quarters.

Professor Girish Dwivedi, from UWA Medical School, has won The South Metropolitan Health Service 2026 Research of the Year award.

Mr Zeeshan Ahem, from the School of Molecular Sciences and Australian Plants Phenomics Network, received the Rod Tallis Youth Award at the 54th Annual Conference of International Plant Propagator Society conference in Hobart, Tasmania.

There have been great successes so far this year, with this report capturing just a few. I encourage our alumni to remain connected to us and keep informed on developments and achievements.

I am proud of our staff, students and alumni in their endeavours and achievements.

Professor Amit Chakma
Vice Chancellor

CONVOCATION MEDAL CITATION FOR DR FRAN PESICH

The Convocation Medal is presented to members of Convocation who have made a significant and sustained contribution to Convocation, the University and the community.

Dr Fran Pesich graduated from UWA in architecture, before going on to acquire further qualifications with an MBA and then a professional doctorate.

Even before being elected to Convocation Council, Fran was an active participant in UWA programs. After initially studying architecture, Fran expanded her design interests to include how organisations function and completed her MBA in 1989 (including being awarded the Austrade Prize in International Marketing).

In 2004, Fran completed her professional doctorate in strategic management. This was followed by many years as a management consultant, mostly working with large WA companies and state government agencies.

Her interest in organisations has also resulted in Fran being appointed to undertake third party management systems audits for a wide variety of organisations across Australia through the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA), Quality Assurance Services (now SAI-Global), and the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA).

In 2010 Fran Pesich was elected as a member of Convocation Council just as the University was preparing for its centennial celebrations. With her background in architecture and business administration, and her experience working with large companies and government agencies, Fran made an invaluable contribution to the workings of Council during this time.

She was elected as the Treasurer of Convocation during her first term on Council, where she applied all the skills learned during her MBA and undertook a diligent examination of Convocation's finances and the Council's monitoring of its accounts.

The result was a detailed guideline on how Convocation's finances are structured and the drafting of procedures and protocols which have continued as a guide for honorary



treasurers. Because of her work in this role, Fran was re-elected as the honorary Treasurer of Convocation in 2020.

In 2019 and 2020, she chaired a Council Review Committee, the findings of which provided much of the groundwork prior to the development of Council's 2023-26 Strategic Plan.

During her early years on Convocation Council, Fran also became interested in the UWA Historical Society (UWAHS). Although not a historian, her evident interest and leadership ability resulted in Fran twice being elected as the UWAHS President during the periods 2012-2014 and 2017-2020.

In addition, Fran took on the roles of membership secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor, project manager, public events and guest speakers' meetings coordinator, as well as ensuring that all the Society's legal and financial requirements were achieved.

During her time as UWAHS President, the centenary of World War One provided a springboard for many excellent initiatives completed by the Society. These included the introduction of the annual UWA Remembrance Day ceremony, the creation of a Pavement Memorial to the Centenary of the Armistice in Whitfeld Court, the update of the University's WWI Honour Board now hanging in the foyer of Winthrop Hall, and an online UWA WWII Nominal Roll. There was also an increase in the Society's publications as well as an expansion of the Society's Oral History Program which has now collected over 250 oral histories, many of which are available online.

In addition to her University roles, Fran has also been active in a variety of professional associations including the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Institute of Community Directors Australia, the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWA) (Education and Training Committee) as well as the Graduate Management Association of UWA.

In 2023, Fran was awarded the Chancellor's Medal.

Dr Fran Pesich's significant contribution to Convocation and the University as a whole over the past 16 years warrants substantial recognition.

ADVANCING ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

How visionary research leaders are shaping a healthier and more sustainable future

Advancing Academic Leadership brings together three of UWA's distinguished Endowed Chairs for an engaging conversation about the ideas, people and partnerships driving research with real-world impact. Hear from Professors Melissa Penny, Steven Swearer and Livia Hool as they explore leadership across child health, ocean sustainability and cardiovascular research - and share how ambitious research can create a healthier, more sustainable future for Western Australia and beyond.

Moderator

Professor Lauren Goldie

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Health and Medical Research)



Professor Lauren Goldie is a fellowship-trained biomedical research scientist and UWA alumna with 20 years' experience spanning the tertiary education, academic healthcare, and biopharmaceutical R&D sectors. After completing degrees in biochemistry and molecular biology at UWA, and postdoctoral training in developmental vascular biology at Baylor College of Medicine in Texas, Dr. Goldie's career has flourished across diverse leadership roles in scientific discovery, clinical research, and strategic development.

Dr. Goldie returned to UWA in early 2026 as Pro-Vice Chancellor (Health and Medical Research), providing academic and strategic leadership of the growing enterprise health and medical research portfolio.

Discussion Panel

Professor Livia Hool

Wesfarmers, UWA-VCCRI Chair in Cardiovascular Research Director, Ben Beale Laboratory in Cardiovascular Research, School of Human Sciences



Professor Livia Hool completed her PhD in cardiovascular electrophysiology at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney. Following postdoctoral studies in the US as an American Heart Association Fellow, she was awarded a Peter Doherty Fellowship from NHMRC and relocated to UWA to establish the Cardiovascular Electrophysiology Laboratory. Her research focuses on the role of the L-type calcium channel in the excitability of the heart and in the regulation of energetics, with an emphasis on designing therapy to prevent the development of inherited cardiomyopathy and sudden cardiac death. In 2024 she was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

Professor Melissa Penny

Professor Fiona Stanley Chair in Child Health Research, The Kids Research Institute Australia



Professor Melissa Penny is the inaugural Fiona Stanley Chair in Child Health Research at UWA and The Kids Research Institute Australia, where she leads the Global Disease Modelling team. Her research focuses on mathematical modelling to support the control and elimination of infectious diseases, particularly malaria, and to inform vaccine development, implementation, and global health policy. Melissa works closely with the World Health Organization and serves on several international advisory groups, including the WHO Malaria Policy Advisory Group. She is a founder and co-Chair of the Malaria Vaccine Alliance. Prior to 2024 she was Head of the Disease Modelling Group at Swiss TPH, University of Basel.

Professor Stephen Swearer

Jock Clough Marine Foundation Oceans Chair, Oceans Institute



Professor Steve Swearer is the Jock Clough Marine Foundation Oceans Chair. He plays a key role in guiding the development of the UWA Oceans Institute by identifying opportunities for Institutional research growth and increased research impact. Professor Swearer's interests span the early life history of fishes to the ecological responses of coastal marine ecosystems to environmental change. His efforts are currently focussed on partnerships with government and industry to provide practical solutions for improving the sustainable management of coastal marine resources.

DONATIONS NEEDED

**UHT Milks &
Alternatives**

**Pasta, Rice
& Noodles**

**Sanitary
Items**

Cereal

**Toiletries &
Hygiene Items**

**Tinned Soups &
Canned Foods**



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**



Convocation

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