



FORTY YEARS OF RHODES WOMEN: AUSTRALIAN REFLECTIONS



RHODES
SCHOLARSHIP

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The story of the very first Rhodes women begins well before 1977.

The 1960s and 1970s were a time of powerful and shifting social forces and much internal debate amongst Rhodes Scholars and Trustees. The pressure to include women in the Rhodes Scholarships was steadily mounting. In 1968, the Trust established Rhodes Visiting Fellowships. These new Fellowships enabled female postdoctoral students to study at Oxford. However, once the United Kingdom passed The Sex Discrimination Act in 1975 – an Act which protected men and women from discrimination on the grounds of sex or marital status – the push for the full inclusion of women became overpowering. The breakthrough was imminent. The Trust sought an amendment to Cecil Rhodes' Will, which extended the selection criteria for the Scholarships to include women and the alteration was ratified by a British Act of Parliament. By 1977, women were eligible to apply. In that same year a full third of newly-elected Rhodes Scholars were female, including three from Australia. In the 40 years since then, 1314 women have been elected.



These stories are part of the larger and ever-evolving Rhodes experience we all share.

The purpose of this publication is to celebrate the growing community of Australian Rhodes women on this 40th anniversary. And what a delightful collection of memories and reflections it is. I invite you to leaf through its pages. From Pauline Nestor's (Australia-at-Large & St Catherine's, 1978) amusing and touching memory of her grandparents' pride, to Carolyn Evans' (Victoria & Exeter, 1995) account of sitting up all night with her unsettled baby on the eve of her DPhil viva at All Souls, to Gemma Figtree's (Australia-at-Large & New College 1999) description of "revel[ing] in the inspiring research and clinical environment" at Oxford, this collection reminds us of the huge diversity of Scholar experiences. It is equally revealing to read about current Scholars – including Emilie McDonnell's (Tasmania & University, 2016) account of her first months in Oxford. I would also like to highlight the contribution from American Scholar Lissa Muscatine (California & Wadham, 1977), the guest speaker at the RSA's 2017 National Dinner and 40th Anniversary of Rhodes Women, and one of the very first women to arrive in Oxford forty years ago. It's wonderful to have her as part of this commemorative project.

A singular theme weaves through these stories. It is friendship. The sense of camaraderie with other women Scholars is a notable refrain. It had long been desired that Scholars "shall not be merely bookworms" but students who exhibit "kindliness, unselfishness and fellowship". It is plain from their submissions that these women reflect the Scholarship's timeless ideals.

I am sure you will enjoy reading this collection as much as I did. I hope it further binds together the special Rhodes community you have in Australia. These stories are part of the larger and ever-evolving Rhodes experience we all share.

CHARLES CONN, Warden
(Massachusetts & Balliol, 1983)



“

Having a Rhodes Scholarship entitles you – almost obligates you – to take chances and break convention because... you can. This happened automatically for our first class of Rhodes women. We were breaking convention because we were invited to. I hope that subsequent generations of Scholars, women and men, will be inspired to challenge convention and break barriers too, whether by invitation or not.



LISSA MUSCATINE
(California & Wadham, 1977)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS IN AUSTRALIA'S
2017 NATIONAL DINNER

Thanks to the serendipitous timing of my birth, and an Act of Parliament, I was in the lucky group of women first afforded the opportunity to apply for Rhodes Scholarships. I arrived at Oxford in the fall of 1977 – one of 13 women among 32 Americans who boarded the Queen Elizabeth 2 in New York and made the passage across the Atlantic to Southampton (and yes, there was much snickering that year about having men and women together for days – and nights – on a ship). It had already become clear from the intensive press attention we received that we were regarded as something akin to exotic zoo animals. Just who were these women? And what exactly did they aspire to? Were they simply female versions of the quintessential Rhodes man? I'm not sure we had answers to these questions ourselves. Despite efforts by others to categorise and compartmentalise us – it was always easier if women fit neatly into a predictable box or label – we were on the leading edge of intense social transformation. Gender roles were being re-defined and we were Exhibit A of generational change.

Often overlooked in all of the hubbub was that, as women, we actually were very different from one another. The 13 of us, and the other women Rhodes Scholars from the Commonwealth countries, had varied interests, experiences, ambitions, and personalities. We were not a

monolithic group, and yet there was great speculation as to how we, as women, would collectively define "fighting the world's fight"; how we would integrate families and children into our career plans, or whether we would even try; and how we would chart our own paths – ones reflecting our own choices – as we navigated this changing social landscape. Against this backdrop, each of us had to manage, in our own ways, the traditions and expectations of the Rhodes Scholarship along with what we expected and wanted for ourselves.

One of the most important lessons I learned from this experience was always to remember that the Rhodes Scholarship is both an opportunity and a responsibility. A responsibility to give back to the world in hopes of improving the lives and conditions of others. But also an opportunity to assert one's individuality, uniqueness, and voice without having to conform or avoid risks. Having a Rhodes Scholarship entitles you – almost obligates you – to take chances and break convention because...you can. This happened automatically for our first class of Rhodes women. We were breaking convention because we were invited to. I hope that subsequent generations of Scholars, women and men, will be inspired to challenge convention and break barriers too, whether by invitation or not.



JAYNIE ANDERSON

(Rhodes Visiting Fellow & St Hugh's, 1970)

In 1970 it was so stimulating and totally unexpected to be appointed a Rhodes Fellow before Rhodes Scholarships became available to women. After graduating from the University of Melbourne, I was awarded a scholarship in art history at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania. From there I went to Venice for my dissertation on Giorgione, where I was invited for interview at St Hugh's College, Oxford. I had submitted a few articles – indeed the first serious ones I had ever published – and was invited to meet Professor Edgar Wind, the legendary Renaissance art historian, in his flat at Belyre Court on the Woodstock Road to discuss ideas about iconography. Wind had a magnificent private library, decorated with original prints by Raphael and Michelangelo. He discussed what I had written and, as we conversed, took down sixteenth-century books by Vincenzo Cartari and Cesare Ripa, and speculated about how artists had used them. It was an intoxicating experience to argue from original material. His wife Margaret provided a formal elegant afternoon tea, exquisite hospitality being always part of any Oxford experience. This was not my official interview, but just an invitation that came from a consultation process that St Hugh's conducted by sending my application to scholars. Wind had asked to meet me.

For the fellowship I was examined by two eminent art historians, Professor Giles Robertson from Edinburgh, an expert on Giovanni

Bellini, and Professor Francis Haskell from Oxford, who was ever skeptical about the possibility of a thesis on Giorgione. Both asked inspiring questions of the kind that made me want to interrogate the sources for Venetian art history further. What Oxford gave me was an extraordinary introduction to quality in research and an understanding of how the leading scholars in the field worked. Oxford collections and libraries were rich and seemingly inexhaustible, whereas in Australia sixteenth-century books were a rarity and Renaissance painting only represented in a few museums. There were infinite opportunities to hear lectures, both within the field and beyond it, given by distinguished scholars. I remember attending the packed lectures of the young Umberto Eco on structuralism, the anthropologist Edward Leech on Levi Strauss, and Francis Haskell on art historiography, to name but a few.

For art historians some of the most important skills are to make comparative judgments about works of art, to locate new source material in archives and libraries, to learn languages and to study the results of restoration in conservators' laboratories. All these skills were initially developed and refined in Oxford and have always remained with me.



ELIZABETH WOODS

(Queensland & Wadham, 1977)

As one of the first female Rhodes Scholars selected, much was new – not just to me but to everyone else as well. There were no Queensland based mentors to advise on the choice of College, no stories of previous exploits of female Scholars in sport or other activities, and a much more relaxed attitude to studies than exists today!

Once I arrived at Oxford I visited a number of departments and institutes before settling on a DPhil in the Institute of Agricultural Economics. Everyone had interesting study topics to offer but the Institute offered a welcome afternoon tea with staff and students – and a clear sense of community which meant I learnt much more widely than just in my chosen area of study. My supervisor was also new to Oxford, and surprised me at the end of our first meeting when she said, “Well, that sounds interesting. Go away and look into it and come back this time next year to tell me how you are going!”

Social encounters were equally surprising; one Canadian Rhodes (male) raced over to intercept me at a road crossing with the comment, “I’m so pleased to meet an Australian girl. I’ve heard they’re the best.” I was pretty sure he didn’t mean at study but I wasn’t game to enquire what he had in mind with the traffic honking at us! Similarly, at an early ARSES (Antipodean Rhodes Scholars in

England Society) lunch Carole Devitt from WA and I sat across from three Australian male Scholars who were discussing what a bad idea it was to have let women into the Scholarship. At least one of them had the good grace to look very embarrassed when we were introduced – to that point he had assumed we were each someone’s latest girlfriend! Sir Edgar Williams (the Warden) greeted me with the comment, “I would never have picked Queensland as the first region to pick a female Scholar”.

But once we all settled in, I remember a wonderful melting pot of talented and interesting people, challenging but rewarding study, and enjoyable sporting activities where the female Rhodes Scholars were quickly very visible. And did I mention a network of lifelong friends and professional contacts ...



PAULINE NESTOR

(Australia-at-Large & St Catherine's, 1978)

Looking back on my 23-year-old, 1978-self, I see a working-class girl, the first in her family to attend university, educated in Catholic parochial schools in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, assertively feminist and pugnaciously determined not to acquiesce to the merest whiff of imperial condescension. It's hard to say what would have offended Cecil Rhodes most.

Although I still long for a right of reply, I concede that there is more than a little justice in the first of the Warden's annual reports: "There is quite a lot going on below a forbidding exterior". Whether I relaxed, or whether Sir Edgar was swayed by my proving my stripes as Captain of the Oxford netball team, he subsequently observed that I was "less aggressive, save intellectually than she was". Presumably my netball nickname, "Animal", – and I swear to this day it was a fair bump – never filtered through to the hallowed halls of Rhodes House. In any case, I was subsequently adjudged to have suitably improved, though it was still clearly a matter of degree: "She seems less like a bas relief of the pioneer woman than she did. She is a very able young woman of great energy".

It's fair to say that Oxford and I were never an easy fit. Having accepted the (bad) advice to choose a modern, co-residential, undergraduate college ("less stress and better plumbing"), I never learnt to joy in young men abseiling in the staircase at 2am or in the ritual hyperemesis of the Friday

night quad. It was a welcome relief, then, after completing my MPhil, to transfer on a JRF to Wolfson College for my DPhil. Throughout, it must be said, the teaching and supervision I received ranged from the eccentric to the derelict.

And yet, I am deeply grateful to Oxford and to the Rhodes Trust for 4 ½ years that changed my life. Perhaps, above all, I learnt self-reliance. And while arguably I could have done that anywhere, "anywhere" would never have offered a most beautiful city, one of the world's great libraries, a dazzlingly bright, international cohort of peers, a cornucopia of distinguished visitors and music, and exposure to a community of scholars whose intellectual generosity and passion came as a revelation.

Curiously, perhaps, the thing for which I am most grateful is the pleasure the Rhodes gave my family. While my academic life has always remained largely a closed book to them, the vernacular ensures that "you don't have to be a Rhodes Scholar" to glimpse the significance of the award. Accordingly, when my grandparents were interviewed by the local paper on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, they identified the two proudest moments of their life as being when their son's horse won the Caulfield Cup and when their granddaughter won the Rhodes. The order of priority was not accidental – and nor do I begrudge it.



WENDY CARLIN

(Western Australia & Wadham, 1979)

I was catapulted from being a foundation student at Murdoch University in WA, where I participated in an extraordinary experiment in undergraduate teaching, to Oxford where I embarked on a conventional and very challenging MPhil in Economics. At Murdoch, I was one of 500 students who began in the first year of the university's existence. Tutors, professors and students mixed easily in the exciting atmosphere of an attempt at multidisciplinary undergraduate education. Many students were older and the teaching faculty were drawn from all over the world. The contrast with Murdoch was extreme. The link from Murdoch to Oxford was provided by two tutors of mine at Murdoch, Geoff Gallop (Western Australia & St John's, 1972) and Kim Beazley (Western Australia & Balliol, 1973).

Once in Oxford, Rhodes House and other Scholars provided me with respite from the overwhelmingly male-dominated world of graduate students in economics. It was an important element in my survival in that very competitive environment.

I've spent my life since the years of the Scholarship living in Oxford. It's my kids' home. I taught for some years in Oxford, am an associate fellow of Nuffield, affiliated with the Martin School, and work closely with colleagues in the Economics Department. But I have chosen my academic home to

be the Economics Department at University College London. Being so close (geographically) to Rhodes House still, is bound to produce a very different experience of the Scholarship years than for others.

Without the Scholarship, I would not be doing what I do now. I would not have formed the global networks of contacts in economics and economic policy-making that have made it possible to get an international collaborative project underway which aims to transform the way economics is taught around the world. This is the CORE project – www.core-econ.org – an example of how a deep curriculum reform can be achieved by engaging research-active academics in a conservative discipline.

A group of more than 20 academics as authors and several hundred more as reviewers and contributors have produced an open-access interactive e-text used to teach a first course in economics. From scratch three years ago, it's now replaced the standard course at UCL, Sciences Po, Toulouse School of Economics, Humboldt University and many other places around the world. The ingredients have been networks, digital communication and publishing, and a commitment to empowering students, wherever they live, with a way to understand the economy.



FIONA PIXLEY

(Western Australia & Corpus Christi, 1980)

I can still hear my mum saying that a fellow first year medical student was “very good at footy and cricket, and clever as well. He could be a Rhodes Scholar!” At the time I thought that if he could be one, then why couldn’t I? However, this was 1975, when the Scholarship was the exclusive domain of men, and when women were heavily impacted by the “soft bigotry of low expectations”. Yet, two short years later the Scholarship was opened up to women and in 1979 I was thrilled to be added to the list of Western Australian Scholars. As Rhodes House allowed me to complete my medical studies, I left Perth on a 40 degree January day and arrived in Oxford with 18 inches of snow about to fall. As you all know, heavy snow is rare in Oxford but picture those ancient buildings covered in snow under a clear blue sky. Despite the cold, I was immediately hooked and subsequently spent many hours exploring the nooks and crannies of that beguiling city, even though the skies were rarely either clear or blue for the next eight years! To meet people, I rowed, swam, played water polo and volleyball inside and out of the university. So much so that it surprised some that I completed my DPhil. Then hospital rotations, new research directions and life in general delayed my return home for 25 years, although Australia always beckoned.

Looking back through the years since my time in Oxford, while much has changed, much has not for women

in the work place and the public space. Studies show that women – even highly successful women – undervalue themselves and undersell their talents. Add to that, lack of confidence, and for many of us, the demands of family life and children, it’s not surprising that some female Scholars feel that their contribution to “fighting the world’s fight” might fall just a little short. I have become involved with advising and selecting today’s aspiring Scholars and I see that same uncertainty – albeit mixed with a fierce determination – in many female applicants still. Hence, perhaps my most important ‘Rhodes role’ is to mentor young girls and women, to instil a sense of confidence and self-belief in the girls I coach, the young women I teach and the older women I am fortunate to call my friends and colleagues.



VESNA DRAPAC

(Australia-at-Large & New College, 1981)

I loved Oxford so much and stayed so long that my family began to wonder whether I would ever come home. Studying at Oxford was the most energising and immersive intellectual experience I could have hoped for. It was also a lot of fun. I forged strong and enduring friendships with a range of remarkable students from different disciplines and backgrounds. They made me think hard and laugh loudly.

I wrote my DPhil thesis under the supervision of the acclaimed historian of France, Richard Cobb, and was one of his last students. Early in my candidature I was told that he had a reputation as an 'old school' don who could be a bit cranky, missed appointments, drank too much and wrote withering critiques of books of which he did not approve. He was in fact quite different from the man others had described to me. He was humble, expansive, funny, curious, and an engaging story teller. His work reflected those qualities. He believed that the phone was only for emergencies and, when I wanted to see him, or he me, we wrote to each other. It is true that I was in awe of Professor Cobb. I never called him by his first name and for some time he addressed me as 'Miss Drapac'. We enjoyed many long lunches at Balliol. I also often made lunch for him, which he seemed to enjoy even though I was never much of a cook. But his supervisory style could not be

described as 'nurturing'. At that time there was widespread attachment among academics everywhere to the sink-or-swim pedagogy of supervision. Accordingly, Professor Cobb's first piece of advice was: "Of course you will have to go to France." Yet I learnt more from him about history than from anyone.

I did "of course" go to France, where I discovered a huge repository of archival materials that I believe helped to make my work original. When writing my thesis, I tried to model my approach on that of the 'astonishing Cobb', as he was called in France. In one of his last letters to me, Professor Cobb wrote that I had done well (high praise) and reminded me always to be bold. He was an extraordinary man and teacher. I have tried to honour his memory and his example in my professional life at the University of Adelaide, where I lecture in history. In the course of my career, over almost thirty years, my goal has been to share a little bit of the Oxford that formed me with all my students.



WENDY ERBER

(Australia-at-Large & St John's, 1982)

In this 35th year since I arrived at Oxford, I reflect on what the Scholarship has given me. My DPhil studies gave me the opportunity to work with one of the brightest minds of the time in a particular field of medical research, whilst being active in College and sporting life and meeting inspiring people from all over the world. Sport was certainly on my weekly calendar: hockey, cricket and ice hockey (very badly!) for the University. So much sport that my supervisor questioned whether I was in Oxford for sport or for study! Fortunately I was able to achieve both and completed my DPhil to his and the University's satisfaction. The Scholarship was a rare and wonderful opportunity which enriched and gave direction to my life. Upon returning to Australia I continued the research whilst training as a haematologist. Alas, the sport was over and my joints now suffer the consequences. My subsequent 30-year career has been in diagnostic haematology and applied leukaemia research. I moved from my 'home town' of Sydney to Perth (Western Australia) where I met and married Gary Hoffman (Commonwealth Medical Scholar – Magdalen). After working as a laboratory haematologist for some years, we spent seven years living and working in Cambridge and seeing how the 'other place' worked. It was a delight to be able to have a Cambridge-Oxford 'rematch' through a research collaboration with my former DPhil

supervisor. Gary and I returned to Perth in 2011. I have moved from 'pure' medical practice to academia and am now Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences at the University of Western Australia. I continue to practice, teach and do some research, and was thrilled to be awarded a Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences. I maintain links with St John's and with fellow Rhodes Scholars, and have developed a link with a residential college in Perth.



BEE CHEN GOH

(Malaysia & Lincoln, 1984)

Phew! It's now been slightly over three decades since my going down. To say time has really flown is indeed an understatement. Well, since that time, I've made this inter-continental move to Australia and have called the Gold Coast home for the most part of my life now.

Having been in legal practice for a while in Malaysia, a career change in academia in Australia presented itself rather unexpectedly. In no time my husband and I packed our bags and headed southwards for this grand adventure. I commenced my academic life at the Bond Law School – it was an exciting time not just institutionally at Bond, but nationally in Australia, as Bond started as the first private university in Australia and was barely in its second year running when we arrived. Indeed, an experiment in higher education in Australia, which more than two decades later, has paid off. But, the early times were tumultuous and uncertain. However, the place was infused with an energy that spurred staff and students on. It was very much like the Rhodes spirit – forever indefatigable.

More than a decade afterwards, I was fortunate enough to become the first female Law Head of School at the School of Law and Justice, Southern Cross University. Considered rural-remote-regional and with a pioneering role in distance education and what I'd consider a forerunner to our

modern-day digital education, SCU is a gem in its own right. I quickly adapted to a vastly different educational environment – not just online, but cross-campus with inter-state footprints. I am now proudly an inter-stater, with one foot in Queensland and the other in New South Wales. Literally.

Life at home has been quietly satisfying. My husband, Chamkaur, has been an academic at Bond ever since our arrival and our daughter, Mindy, born and bred in Queensland, is an aspiring poet.

I am grateful for and proud of the Rhodes legacy. In celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Rhodes Women, I am reminded that I am the first female Malaysian Rhodes Scholar. More have since followed. Together, hopefully, we have made our individual contributions in activating the Rhodes vision – a community of global peace-builders through scholarship, fellowship and leadership.



SUSAN SCOTT

(Rhodes Visiting Fellow & Somerville, 1985)

I am Australian and held a Rhodes Visiting Fellowship in Oxford for three years from January 1986 to December 1988. This provided an extraordinary opportunity to combine postdoctoral research with the research group at The Mathematical Institute (then located at the northern end of St Giles') led by Prof Sir Roger Penrose had a wonderful affiliation with Somerville College, across the road, which was a women's college at that time.

The Mathematical Institute was a truly exciting place to work with a constant stream of visiting international mathematicians, ranging from aspiring postdocs (like myself at the time) and students through to respected luminaries such as Fields Medallists. This made for lively discussions at morning and afternoon teas and provided a unique opportunity to attend a wide range of seminars and visiting lecture series.

As an undergraduate at Monash University in Melbourne I had dreamed of working with the Penrose group at Oxford. His group was the mathematical physics gravitation group and working with them for four years not only exceeded my earlier expectations but also provided the foundation for my future career in mathematical physics at The Australian National University. Every Friday we had the 'Friday meeting' in Roger's office around lunchtime and this was when we talked as a group about our ideas, our research and

what was happening in the world of mathematical physics.

The group at that time was filled with interesting characters, a number of whom, including Roger, are still close colleagues and friends. I recall that shortly after I arrived I met a group member, Andrew Hodges, who had recently written the book "Alan Turing: The Enigma" which went on to become a bestseller. The group attended the play "Breaking the Code" derived from the book in London's West End. Prof Penrose himself is an inspirational scientist, the most ingenious person I have ever met, as well as one of the nicest.

As a member of the Senior Common Room at Somerville College, it was wonderful to be able to balance my research life with an enclave of fabulous female academics in the SCR at Somerville. At a time when there were thick glass ceilings in place for women in Australia, I was in awe of the Somerville women who had gone before such as Mary Somerville, Indira Gandhi, Dorothy Hodgkin and Margaret Thatcher to name but a few. I had the good fortune to meet some of them at college dinners. One of these was our intriguing and colourful Principal, Daphne Park, British super spy, although her incredible background was not publicly known then. After Oxford, I was ready to attack the glass ceilings back home!



BRONTE ADAMS

(Western Australia & Balliol, 1986)

Recently, I completed the final year of an extremely rewarding four-year stint selecting new Rhodes Scholars in Australia. The experience provoked renewed reflection on what we seek from our Scholars and the nature of our commitment as Rhodes Scholars.

The final test when making hard selection decisions comes down to an assessment of whom I think is most likely to change the world for the better. All candidates perform to high academic standards and demonstrate high levels of competence in many areas. Beyond that, the heart of the Rhodes ethos for me is a powerful desire to contribute to a better world - combined with a capacity to do so.

A wonderful effect of living and studying in Oxford is exposure to an international community of extraordinary people. For many of us, this immersion simultaneously cut some limiting cords of earlier selves, and lifted the ambitions of emergent selves.

Without the Rhodes Scholarship, I very much doubt I would have transitioned from teaching medieval literature to founding a business. It's a public policy consultancy firm. Our work might involve designing better services for the most disadvantaged on a financially sustainable basis. Or growing an ecosystem that catalyses entrepreneurs and startups without defaulting to 'business welfare' as the lever to do so. It

might be designing the conditions for cultural and creative output that is diverse and appeals across ages, backgrounds, dispositions and aspirations.

My recent - humbling and inspiring - experience on the selection panel for new Scholars reminded me of the need to relentlessly renew and refresh the diversity of our community through the Scholars we select. Diverse views arise from diverse experiences. Differences of background, privilege, culture, gender, ethnicity, discipline can be barriers to renewal and change.

The luxury of the Rhodes ethos to me is that it envisages self-development as a collective or social good. It's a gift that keeps on giving.



VICKI SPENCER

(South Australia & Nuffield, 1986)

My most vivid recollection is the day I received the award. I have no idea what it feels like to win a million dollars but I suspect the elation is quite similar; I knew my life had changed forever. Being one of the few South Australian women to have been awarded it, was of course special, but the fact that I was the first person from Flinders University to have applied successfully, and I was also a woman, made it especially so. I had only ever met one person who had attended Oxford University. When he suggested I should consider going, I almost choked on the beer I was drinking. I had never met a Rhodes Scholar. Indeed, until the dinner invitation to Government House arrived in the post, I had no real sense of the significance of the award over other scholarships. I just dreamt of studying at Oxford.

The special character of the Rhodes was poignantly brought home to me when my father almost died while I was studying. I remain extremely grateful for the extraordinary kindness and support Rhodes House showed me with the provision of copious tissues and a flight home.

My Oxford dream was, however, quickly dented due to the unabashed sexism I encountered. Feminism might have been entering its third wave, but Nuffield College still needed a good dose

of second-wave feminism. In 1986, there were four women (all students) at the Politics dinner. The Fellow who delivered the after-dinner speech indicated that there might not be many women at the college but one's girlfriend could be invited to dinner on guest night which, on reflection, was really rather a good thing so the rest of the time one could get on with one's work unimpeded. Three years later another Fellow noted the positive occurrence that there were no new female students in politics.

I could recount many similar tales but fortunately there were some positive moments: the JCR complained about the first instance and, despite my gender, I became JCR President. When our women's group asked the JCR to fund a seminar series to bring top female academics to the college, some male students exerted pressure on us to withdraw the request. But when it came to the vote they didn't attend and I'm extremely pleased the series remains part of the college calendar today; small steps do after all make a difference!



KATHRYN BROWN

(South Australia & Balliol, 1988)

When I left Australia in 1988 to take up a Rhodes Scholarship, I had little idea of the multi-faceted, international career that I would ultimately pursue. I was fortunate to join a vibrant research community in the Faculty of Modern Languages at Oxford where I completed a DPhil in French Literature. Many of the colleagues and faculty members I met there have sustained my passion for the humanities and have had a major impact on my thinking. Keen to explore new possibilities, I embarked on a career in law after my DPhil and spent 14 years working as a corporate lawyer in the City of London. It was undoubtedly my experience as a Rhodes Scholar that gave me the courage to embark on this new trajectory and to seek out challenges in a field that was unfamiliar to me. In the duel between the world of corporate finance and the world of the arts, the latter has, however, been victorious in my personal history. It was with recollection of the joy that my doctoral studies brought me that I decided, in 2007, to leave the City and to become an art historian. Armed with a second PhD (this time from Birkbeck College, London), I am now a lecturer in modern and contemporary art at Loughborough University in the United Kingdom where I have the pleasure of enthusing new generations of students about the practical, imaginative, and expressive possibilities of visual cultures from

around the world. Opportunities multiply as they are taken, and it was, without doubt, the award of a Rhodes Scholarship that has given me the vision and confidence to pursue my aspirations.



KATE VINOT

(Australia-at-Large & Balliol, 1989)

No-one was more surprised than me to find out that I had been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. I had been working for a year as a geotechnical engineer but had always been passionate about the environment and wondered why anyone would ever knowingly choose to damage it. What on earth was driving their decision-making?

I shared my interest with the Rhodes selection committee but, not ever expecting to be selected, I mainly focussed on the fun of being part of the process (lunch at Victoria's Government House, a trip to Canberra and dinner at Yarralumla, amazing people on the short list, some of which are still my friends today). Still, it was my name that was called out in the end and, as Robert Frost once wrote about a choice of paths: "that has made all the difference".

At Oxford, I initially started a DPhil in geotechnical engineering but, "knowing how way leads onto way", I ended up studying a MSC in Economic for Development. I added economics to my environment interest, then majored in how you could use socio-economics to understand behaviour. My interest in decision-making meant that I unwittingly trained myself in a form of 'triple bottom line' well before the term was coined by John Elkington in 1999 in his seminal book, 'Cannibals with Forks'.

I plunged into Oxford life. I spent time at Rhodes House, was secretary of the Australian Club, played University

basketball and college squash, attended various college balls and of course, enjoyed in-room dinner parties where we drank rather a lot and debated everything from the intricacies of Beowulf to who was seeing who in Holywell Manor. I also explored the lesser known delights of Oxford as a permit-holder for Wytham Woods, which we accessed by bike across Port Meadow, stopping at The Perch or The Trout on the way back.

I went from Oxford to Paris, then from Paris to Prague, and worked in environment and socio-economic development issues across Europe and francophone Africa. At one stage, as way continued to lead onto way, "I doubted if I should ever come back". Eventually, though, the Rhodes road converged. Armed with eight years of wonderful experiences, a French husband and four very young children, I came home. For the past 18 years, I have been living and working in Melbourne where I enjoy the company of several Rhodes Scholars, both professionally and personally, as part of a vibrant local Rhodes community. I have continued to pursue my passion for the environment and good, evidence-based decision-making through an increasingly wider lens. I have held a range of senior management and board roles in the waste, water, energy, land management and community sectors, and hope that as a result of the great Rhodes opportunity, I too, have made a difference.



SUSAN COLES

(South Australia & St Catherine's, 1989)

For me, winning the Rhodes Scholarship was particularly special as I was following in the footsteps of my older sister, Jennifer Coles (South Australia & Balliol, 1979). I believe I was the first sister of another woman Scholar, which felt like an important moment for Women Rhodes Scholars - truly a Rhodes sisterhood!

Law at Oxford for me opened up the whole world of International law, human rights law and EU law, leading me to the UN, international diplomacy and ultimately, a position as an Ambassador representing Australia in the Indian Ocean. One never knows how the other aspects of life at Oxford - European travel and language study during the holidays, internships at the international and UN bodies located in the region - will add to career possibilities. Pursuing the study of French enabled me to nominate as Australia's High Commissioner and Ambassador to the four francophone islands of the Indian Ocean: Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comores.

Obviously being an Ambassador is a broad role and by no means gender specific. But there is no doubt that it has traditionally been a male-dominated field, so as the number of women ambassadors (along with Foreign and Prime Ministers!) grows globally, there are opportunities to be a role model for young diplomats, students of international relations and schoolgirls. During my time in Mauritius, as an Australian

Ambassador with a personal passion for gender empowerment issues, I have

- Led our Embassy team and mobilised resources in support of the Mauritius Minister for Gender to secure passage of stronger Domestic Violence legislation in Mauritius, through workshops, advocacy and lobbying;
- Designed and delivered, in partnership with Mauritian and Australian women entrepreneurs, a coaching and mentoring project in my four countries. This project has helped octopus fisherwomen in Mauritius; rice-growers and dressmakers in Madagascar; and vanilla growers in the Comores to grow their businesses and mentor others;
- Supported establishment of a "women in uniform" networks in Mauritius and Seychelles as a mechanism to empower women in the police, fire, prison, nursing and customs services;
- Hosted an International Women's Day panel on promoting Women and Girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), with the President - Mauritius' first Woman President and herself a scientist and entrepreneur, as guest of honour. In the same year I was delighted to welcome a fellow Australian Rhodes Scholar and Professor Ann Nicholson of Monash University, for a school Science Competition.



MARINA HUGHES

(Western Australia & Magdalen, 1990)

The Scholarship was advertised on the Medical School noticeboard, four weeks before applications closed. In the hot, dry, eucalyptus shade, Oxford seemed far away. But this was opportunity, and I had nothing to lose.

I arrived in grey January, after completing a medical internship. Only on the cold stone staircase towards my College room, did the adventure's enormity and the Scholarship's responsibility sink in. Those ancient, centrally hollowed steps; smoothly worn by centuries of students. How incredible to learn here, in the company of generations before me.

My clinical DPhil project involved bacterial and epidemiological research, exploring the "herd immunity" effect of a vaccine against bacteria called *haemophilus influenzae* type b. I contributed a small piece of evidence within a huge international operation to implement this vaccine.

Oxford's lasting influence on me, however, is humbling; the inspiration provided by the wit, imagination and achievement of my Rhodes and other colleagues. In comparison, what have I achieved?

After my DPhil, I remained in Oxford for paediatric clinical training. Working arduous clinical hours, I met my partner, Tom, then an Emergency medicine trainee. We moved to Melbourne and while our three children were young, I trained full-time in neonatal medicine, intensive care, then paediatric cardiology. The aim was to rapidly

achieve a more senior clinical role, then adopt life with simpler logistics.

For extended family reasons, we later uprooted from Melbourne, but the Scholarship record helped me achieve a consultant post in paediatric cardiology in London. I am part of a team establishing cardiac MRI for congenital heart disease. However, this work is full-time within the UK national health system - a demanding clinical workload with limited resources. I look after individual patients, I contribute to team decisions, and I teach and support colleagues. At the same time, Tom and I try to manage all the needs of our children.

I have made a difference to people under my care, locally, at the coalface of clinical medicine. I have written a few academic publications, but haven't influenced a public health movement, managed a large organisation nor led laboratory innovation. I have not earned a fortune to donate to public causes. I haven't even made time for Facebook or LinkedIn.

Every day, I am conscious that the Scholarship's honour and gift gives me the duty to have a greater influence. I feel guilty for not yet achieving this.

However, I am now reaching a situation with fewer home responsibilities. I am seeking ways to make a bigger difference with my skills. The Scholarship had given me proof and promise: There is still great opportunity.



PRUDENCE SCOTT

(New Zealand & Lincoln, 1990)

My time in Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar was very special – a unique opportunity to broaden horizons and be enriched from both an academic and personal perspective. All against the stunning backdrop of the Dreaming Spires. My undergraduate medical degree had necessarily been very much evidence-based, science-driven and largely based on a reductionist approach. The Master of Philosophy in Management Studies catapulted me into a world of long reading lists filled with literature written from an experiential perspective, richly described and with no right or wrong answer. Temporarily dazed, I armed myself with a dictionary (my first Blackwells purchase) and adjusted to the challenge of reading widely, understanding the breadth of the views, and distilling my own reasoned response to the question or issue. This has been an incredibly important lesson when faced with a number of totally new and challenging situations since – from the molecular biology DPhil I subsequently undertook (with minimal prior laboratory experience), starting back on the wards after almost six years away from clinical medicine, and the ultimate deep-end experience of first-time parenthood. Twenty-five years on, I am still drawing from those lessons learnt to deal with challenging issues.

But the highlight of the Oxford experience was undoubtedly the people: the tutors and supervisors

with whom I had one-on-one discussions of texts, essays and thesis plans. There is nowhere to hide when there is just one of you! And the long discussions and debates over dinners at Lincoln College, my flat, or an ale at The Turf or The Bear, with fellow students who were passionate, intellectual and fun. One of my favourite memories was being part of the 1992 Rhodes Reading Party organised by Sir Anthony Kenny, then Warden of Rhodes House. High amongst the French Alps near Chamonix we walked, played, debated, laughed, ate and drank and established firm and lasting friendships. I have yet to decide if the fact that 11 out of 14 of us were Scorpio was just a chance finding. I was delighted to see Sir Anthony again in London outside St James's Palace in the Mall three years ago where he explained to my three children, that he was responsible for paying for my Oxford education! I am enormously grateful for his support throughout my time as a Rhodes Scholar, and that of the Rhodes Trust in providing me with this incredible opportunity.



DOROTHY STEANE

(Tasmania & University, 1991)

I had a thirst for travel. I had grown up with 'world-class wilderness' on my back doorstep and world-class beaches out my front door. But I wanted more. I wanted to understand where I, a white Australian, came from. The Rhodes Scholarship gave me that opportunity. In Europe I saw evidence of great, old civilisations, of terrible wars, the spoils of exploration and conquests, and I experienced for the first time in my life, racial, cultural and class prejudice. In 1988, Australia commemorated its 200th year of white colonization. In 1991, the English still thought of us as being 'from the colonies', the underclasses that were sent away for petty crimes to exploit new found territories for the pleasure and comfort of mother England. Many Europeans (and Americans) were a bit confused that I was white (*'Tasmania is part of Africa, right?'*) and many complimented me on my excellent English.

My DPhil in Plant Science gave me plenty of scope for travel. I would spend long days at Kew Gardens, wandering through the green houses or ensconced in the herbarium, pouring over specimens annotated by the great botanists themselves (Linnaeus, Brown, Bentham, Hooker). My field work took me to Tanzania (*'... so you are going home to do your field work?'*) where I met some truly wonderful people. I loved living close to nature – even bigger, higher, hotter, colder and more dangerous

than Australia. Three months of driving around in a clapped out HiLux, dealing with local officials, staying in remote villages, eating local food, dancing to local music, contracting local diseases, visiting local hospitals ... it was a once in a life time experience. But the most difficult aspects were human – corrupt officials, opportunistic villains, misogynistic men, racist lads and violent retribution. We experienced them all and were glad to return to England. I didn't belong in Tanzania.

Third stop in my Rhodes travel agenda was six months of lab work in Boulder, Colorado, USA. It was fabulous! Mountain biking, skiing, coffee and good food. The locals were so friendly that they would chat to me at the traffic lights ... even so, it took me a long time to make friends. But those friends are still friends now.

My Rhodes adventure taught me that it is the people that make a place what it is. Home is where you feel like you belong to a community. The happiest places have a sense of community that comes from shared values and shared experiences. I have many homes and I am grateful.



MARNIE HUGHES-WARRINGTON

(Tasmania & Merton, 1992)

I do not think I will ever forget the surprise and the delight I felt when I learned that I was awarded the Tasmanian Rhodes Scholarship for 1992. Nor should I. I have always viewed the selection committee's decision as being based upon them seeing more potential in me than I saw in myself at the time. I think I am only really beginning to realise that potential now.

That's the crux of a transformative educational experience, and helping others to experience that same opportunity is what my 21-year old self wanted most to do with a Rhodes Scholarship. This is because I believed—and still believe—that education is the best investment you can make to create a better world. Education leads to better health, to economic growth, and to social and cultural strength and inclusion.

Educational access and attainment is not a remote problem. It's not hard to see why so few students are eligible to apply for a Tasmanian Rhodes Scholarship, for example, when you know that a smaller proportion of high school students there are completing school and going on to university than when I was a student. This has to change, and I am proud that a Rhodes Scholar, Peter Rathjen (South Australia & New College, 1985), is working on this in his role as the Vice Chancellor at the University of Tasmania. Working to bring the \$106 million Tuckwell Scholarships gift to

ANU to find talented high-school students around Australia has been wonderful, as has been helping the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation to support promising students with its inspirational gift of \$100 million. But I have much more to do.

I appreciate the global expansion of the Rhodes Scholarships; the passion for education in developing economies is inspiring, and it played a key role in my decision to join the university advisory board of edX, an online consortium which is currently offering courses to seven million students around the world. I want the world to derive the best from technology – inspired innovation, and to make sure that it is synonymous with educational opportunity, social inclusion and care.

There was quite a while when I doubted that I would be able to live up to the promise of the Scholarship. It was a revelation to discover that a lot of Scholars feel that way. It is an honour to serve as the fifth – and first woman – national secretary, and to encourage and inspire both Scholars and applicants to see more in themselves than they would credit. I love working with Scholars, whether they are new or part of our wonderful, wise senior Scholar group. They encourage me daily to reach that little bit higher, and to think that national and global change in education for the better is possible.



JENNIFER MARTIN

(New Zealand & Lady Margaret Hall, 1993)

A poignant memory is of arriving in Oxford – of wondering what opportunities and career trajectory in medicine I had left behind as my colleagues commenced on specialist training, yet a belief that the Rhodes Scholarship would enable leadership skills and qualities to be developed to inspire me to live out Cecil Rhodes' vision. At that time I had no fixed beliefs about this but wanted to do projects that would improve access to healthcare resources. Definitely a life changing opportunity.

Coming from a six-year medical degree and resident year in a very busy peripheral hospital, arriving in Oxford in 1994 was surreal, perhaps contributed to by a 30-hour flight and arriving jetlagged early in the morning into Heathrow. Lining up in the 'Aliens' Customs queue, whilst people from close by places with no historical connection to the UK, passed straight through was also odd – as I came from a country where England was considered the mother country and the Queen still 'our' Queen. Memories are of dark and cold skies and an extreme sense of isolation despite being in a busy city. In fact I did not know a soul in the entire country. My College had seemingly not been expecting me and advised that I could not have my room until the end of the week. I figured that the porter had no idea that flying back to New Zealand for a few days was not really possible.

It would have seemed incomprehensible at that time to think that in 24 months I would be

planning to apply for consideration for a third year of Rhodes funding; I was engaged to be married, was a double Blue, with significant other leadership roles, had a wealth of very good friends and colleagues and was even getting used to the weather. Those friends and colleagues have remained at least in touch – many close.

The Rhodes Scholarship and those early experiences of incredible isolation yet comradeship, shared Rhodes vision and shared ambitious personality traits to do "something that mattered" enabled me on several occasions to find the leadership within, and to get on with the job. Not waiting for an opportunity to offer itself, but rather looking for the leadership opportunities that are needed, regardless of the support, financial or human. Need was global, based on fairness, equity, suffering; not location or history. I learnt the importance of working with people who shared a passion for humanity, a vision for justice and fairness, a strong sense of belonging, supporting the human race, regardless of titles, money and background, and a vision to improve the world. Even though I now work in a small University and teaching Hospital, those leadership values and a vision to improve suffering has guided me into roles where I can be an effective contributor to improved health outcomes in both health policy and patient care; exponentially more than I could have done without the Rhodes opportunity.



KAREN LOCKETT-YEUNG

(Australia-at-Large & Magdalen, 1993)

I arrived in Oxford as an overwhelmed Rhodes Scholar over 20 years ago, having completed a Law/Commerce degree at Melbourne Law School and survived six months as an articulated clerk in a major commercial law firm. There was little time to digest the reality of my new home - Magdalen College (an old, traditional and breathtakingly beautiful college) for the pace was fast and furious. Despite completing the Bachelor of Civil Law degree very successfully, I had struggled on occasion to digest the discussion that swirled around me in class. The extraordinary calibre and diversity of my fellow students from around the globe was perhaps more stimulating than the formal, academic side of Oxford life. Within this cosmopolitan community it was particularly liberating to call myself 'an Australian', without being met with the response, "no, but where are you really from?" which I had encountered growing up in Australia as the daughter of ethnically Chinese parents.

I went on to become an Oxford Don myself, aged 25, completed a DPhil and worked hard to forge my academic identity before taking up a Chair in Law at King's College London in 2006 where I am now also Director of the Centre for Technology, Ethics, Law and Society. Now married with two young daughters (who bring extraordinary love, joy and richness to my life), I also serve in a number of fascinating

public policy roles, including Chair of the Nuffield Council of Bioethics Working Party on Genome Editing and Human Reproduction, member of the British Academy's Working Group on Data Governance, and a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Futures Council on Biotechnologies. Being a Rhodes Scholar utterly transformed my life, in countless ways that I can barely begin to articulate. It was a rare, precious gift and an extraordinary privilege, for which I am, and will always be, unutterably grateful.



NATASHA HENDRICK

(Australia-at-Large & University, 1993)

I had spent 24 hours on a bus before – travelling north to the remote desert mining town of Mt Isa, and south to the bustling art-filled streets of Melbourne; but 24 hours on a plane took me to a whole new world in Oxford.

Having grown up on a small family farm, I remember the early days in Oxford as a struggle to learn how to live in my city surrounds – so many people crammed into such a tiny space! What had me enthralled however, were the languages around me. Never before had I heard so many different accents and words – such a rich cultural tapestry. And so began my transformation into a citizen of the world.

My most special memories of life in Oxford are of the friends who shared the trials and tribulations of a postgraduate life. Together we made our way through early adulthood – learning and exploring, making mistakes and picking ourselves back up, growing and celebrating. Our travel adventures over weekends and term breaks further opened my eyes to the delight of international discovery. I haven't stopped travelling since – to all corners of the globe; for work and pleasure.

So the indelible footprint left by my Rhodes Scholar experience? Certainly I became a more skilled scientist. But most significantly – I learnt to work and play with people from all over the world. This has

been more important than I could have ever imagined for both my professional and volunteer careers.

Three years ago our 'Oxford gang' reunited... 20 years after it all started. From all continents we travelled to reconnect and share. Our professional fields of expertise and our personal experiences are as diverse as the countries we come from – how incredible that we could talk and laugh so comfortably as friends! Of course we're counting down to the next reunion ...



CAROLYN EVANS

(Victoria & Exeter, 1995)

As the current Honorary Secretary of the Victorian Selection Committee for the Rhodes Scholarship, I have the privilege of being present when new Scholars are informed that they have been elected. The moment is emotional for everyone and brings back stark memories for me of my own election, and the combination of stunned disbelief and joy.

While any of us who have lived at Oxford know that the years spent there can be mixed ones, in all sorts of ways, my memories are overwhelmingly happy ones. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to take up a two-year lectureship at Exeter College and that capacity to experience Oxford from both the student and don sides of the fence was very valuable to me. It also brought home to me what a great education system we have in Australia. I went to Oxford assuming that I might well be found to be inadequate but found that, like most Australians, I had been well-prepared by the education that I was fortunate enough to have here.

My daughter was born in Oxford and my husband and I took great pleasure in bringing her back to her first home last year. Perhaps my strongest memory of my Oxford years is sitting up all night with a baby who wouldn't settle then pulling on sub fusc and rushing off to undertake the viva for my DPhil at All Souls. There was a strange

sense of living in two different worlds for much of my Oxford time.

Being a Rhodes Scholar has undoubtedly been of help in my career ever since. I was appointed Dean of Melbourne Law School at a comparatively young age and was the first woman to lead the institution in its 150-year history. In those situations, it helps to have the 'respectability' of the Rhodes behind you – people who might otherwise be critical of a young woman being put into a position of responsibility are reassured by the credentialing that Rhodes brings.

The Rhodes has given me the courage to stretch myself and put myself forward for opportunities when I might have otherwise been unwilling to. For that, I will be grateful for a long time and every time I see the next eager, bright Scholar elected, I am delighted for them and all the possibilities that stretch before them.



TANYA APLIN

(Western Australia & Magdalen, 1995)

The Rhodes Scholarship was, without doubt, a life defining opportunity for me. With the generous financial support that it provided, it enabled me to study at one of the world's leading universities and gain incredible intellectual and cultural experiences – ones that seemed unreachable for someone growing up in Perth, Western Australia. The richness and diversity of Rhodes Scholars at Oxford and their outstanding ability in a range of spheres was wonderfully exciting but also – initially at least - slightly overwhelming, until I embraced this crucible of talent as one from which I could learn. I took risks, engaged, had adventures, struggled, laughed, cried and, most importantly, learned a lot and formed some very strong friendships, which remain until this day (some two decades later). I graduated with confidence in my ability to participate successfully in a challenging environment and a sense of possibility about the future, for which I remain very grateful.

My Rhodes sponsored Oxford education undoubtedly helped me to obtain an academic post in Cambridge and, subsequently, in London where I have remained ever since. It taught me how to navigate vastly different institutions,

personalities and cultural spheres. And it ultimately led to me permanently relocating to the UK, where I live happily with my partner.



KATHERINE MICHELMORE

(Bermuda & Magdalen, 1995)

1 May, 1997. It is still dark as my husband and I clamber onto our bicycles. A picnic hamper is placed in a basket, and we cycle towards Magdalen College, accessing the Fellow's Garden using my 'late-gate' key to enter the College grounds. The bicycles are discarded and we proceed on foot, crunching along the graveled path towards Addison's Walk and the Water Meadows. The sky has lightened now and any lingering mists are dispelled as the dawn breaks in earnest. The view across the meadow feels timeless with the college buildings and the spires of Magdalen Tower silhouetted against the brightening sky. It is now six o'clock and the May Day bells begin to sound and the voices of the boys' choir carry across the meadow. Faint cheers and sounds of revelry remind us that at Magdalen Bridge the crowds will have gathered to celebrate. The moment feels magical. Later, we ride home and visit the polling station as it opens to cast our votes in the general election. As we head off to work, the spirit of May Day morning remains with us and we are excited, we anticipate change.

As I reflect on this memory of my time in Oxford, it captures some of the key features of my experience. The Rhodes Scholarship provided the opportunity to enjoy Oxford as an 'insider', to gain access to incredible opportunities for learning and research, and to meet individuals of inspiring intellect.

The beauty and history of the surroundings added to the sense of privilege, and the honor of the Scholarship galvanized my hard work and academic achievements. Yet in the cloistered environment of the university there was still a connection to the 'real world' and a sense that everything that was achieved 'in Oxford' needed to be translated into something meaningful for the future and for society. Being part of the international and diverse Rhodes community engendered a belief that we could, and should engage in the process of change for our world.

Those idealistic expectations have undoubtedly influenced my life's path. I am a doctor who has also been involved in environmental activism, politics, and held office as a Senator in Bermuda. My current career in Australia continues in general practice, health policy development and continuing medical education. I feel passionately that the continuation of the Rhodes Scholarships will equip future generations with the drive, skills, and sense of global community our changing world needs.



GEMMA FIGTREE

(Australia-at-Large & New College, 1999)

The Rhodes Scholarship has been one of the most important opportunities in my life, and has really framed the path that I have taken. This is not just because it led to my discovery of my husband, Stu Grieve (New South Wales & Merton, 1996), and many amazing friends who are now distributed across the globe!

The Rhodes supported my Doctorate in Cardiovascular Medicine, allowing me to pursue my interests in identifying new mechanisms of cardiovascular disease that could be translated to new biomarkers and therapies that impact on what remains the greatest cause of mortality in the western world. This was a life-changing experience in itself, and set me up for my development as a cardiovascular researcher. I now enjoy leading a cross-disciplinary team at the University of Sydney and Royal North Shore Hospital, whilst balancing my clinical commitments as an interventional cardiologist on a busy 'heart attack' roster.

I revelled in the inspiring research and clinical environment at Oxford, but also the opportunity to meet a diverse group of intelligent and profoundly committed young adults through Rhodes, New College, hockey and the wider Oxford community. I was particularly thrilled to be adopted as an honorary member of the Geography Department – based on the amount

of time I spent hanging around with amazing friends there. For a medic, this was a great chance to broaden my mind!

We were an unusual group of Australian Rhodes, selected in 1998 - with eight of the nine in our year being women. This suited Craig Wood (Western Australia & St Edmund Hall, 1998) rather well. Unfortunately, he was a little large to be our cox for what would have been rather a unique eight! But he did go on to win the NSW Scholar's heart, Chloe Flutter (New South Wales & Hertford, 1999), whom he went on to marry.

One of the most important things that I have had reinforced through the Rhodes, is the value of persistence and striving for excellence. Regular catch-ups with my Oxford friends, as well as reading Rhodes communications, is always inspiring, hearing about the major impacts they are having in their fields and communities.



JESS MELBOURNE-THOMAS

(Tasmania & Linacre, 2003)

What has the Rhodes Scholarship enabled me to do? Amongst other things ... Homeward Bound – the largest ever all-female expedition to Antarctica.

I am the cofounder of a project called Homeward Bound – a global program for women in science and leadership, and the largest ever all-female expedition to Antarctica. In December 2016 the inaugural Homeward Bound voyage took 84 women from around the world, all with a background in science, to the Antarctic Peninsula. The 20-day journey was designed as a transformational experience in leadership development, science and strategy. Over 10 years Homeward Bound plans to take 1000 women to the frozen continent and to generate a global network of women who can support each other and effect change.

So how does Homeward Bound relate to my experience as a Rhodes Scholar? My Rhodes experience was a mixed one. Many doors opened for me both during my time in Oxford, and later as a direct result of the Scholarship. I was a member of the Expeditions Club, and I spent a significant portion of my two years as a Rhodes Scholar working in Indonesia conducting coral reef research. But when I was in Oxford I felt very out of place; like I just didn't 'fit'. I think I would have really benefited from having a mentor and some female role models in what was, in 2003, still a male-dominated environment at senior levels.

In 2017, we also see a dearth of women in senior leadership globally – particularly in science but more generally too. Attrition rates for women in science from entry-level positions to senior positions in Australia are in excess of 60% (and are just as high or higher in many other countries). I'm very conscious that I could have quite easily dropped out of the 'leaky pipeline' early in my career when I felt isolated and confused about what direction to take.

The complex and intertwined problems of population growth, overconsumption, pollution, ecosystem destruction, disease, extinction and of course climate change that our world currently faces require more than novel scientific solutions. They require collaborative leadership, diverse thinking, and creative approaches. Homeward Bound is part of a wave of emerging initiatives to help level the playing field for women and to facilitate increased diversity in leadership. Against the backdrop of Antarctica, the study of which provides critical insights into global-scale change and its drivers, Homeward Bound is intended to elevate a broader societal conversation about the role of women in leadership for a more sustainable future.



HARRIET GEE

(Australia-at-Large & Magdalen, 2006)

Pastoral care was done with a deft touch at Rhodes House. After a relationship breakup in gloomy Hilary term, the then Warden's partner Mary-Louise took me to hear Alfred Brendel at the Sheldonian for one of his last ever performances. An unforgettable memory! The Warden, Sir Colin Lucas, told us that we "would know when we were called to serve", a quiet moment when we would know how to make a difference in our communities. Inspiration for the stressful and sometimes thankless work of a radiation oncology trainee in the Australian public health system – comforting patients, teaching students, and undertaking research to improve the lives of future generations. Although Rhodes Scholars by no means have a monopoly on leadership, the label gave me the confidence to push for key arrangements in my professional life, such as being the first woman to job-share across my training network in radiation oncology, and among the first handful to job-share to final specialisation exams across Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. Training I received at Oxford aimed at decreasing the gender imbalances at the higher levels of academic tenure taught me practical skills to assist with the challenges that I face as a woman in an academic medical career. Meeting my husband, Eric Knight, (Australia-at-Large & Magdalen, 2007) a fellow Rhodes Scholar, was

the most life-changing aspect of the Scholarship, and together with our 'village' of supporters we are bringing up our daughter Margaret (now two). The Rhodes Scholarship, and the years at Oxford, provided space to think and dream about what an intentional life might look like, before getting caught up in the messy, imperfect business of living it.



AMY KING

(Australia-at-Large & Trinity, 2007)

In Michaelmas 2009, Jessica Hanzlik (Ohio & St John's, 2008), Akosua Matthews (Manitoba & Green Templeton, 2008) and I began emailing each other about a peculiar feature of our Rhodes cohort. We had realized that while many of our male Rhodes colleagues were quick to assert their political ambitions, our female colleagues seemed far more hesitant to do so. Did Rhodes women have political aspirations? Why might they not be talking about those aspirations publicly? And what resources could we put in place now to help make those aspirations a reality later? These initial emails and questions became the inspiration for a series of forums and training sessions, held at Rhodes House between 2009 and 2011, around the theme of Women and Politics, broadly defined. One of the most stimulating aspects of these forums was drawing on the insights of other Rhodes women doing research and work in this area, including Nanjala Nyabola (Kenya & Harris Manchester, 2009) and Nina Hall (New Zealand & St Antony's, 2009) who spoke on conflict and gender equality in developing countries; Ishanaa Rambachan (Minnesota & St Antony's, 2008) and Amy King (Australia-at-Large & Trinity, 2007) who discussed how gender had affected election outcomes in Australia and the United States; Anna Kloeden (Queensland & Magdalen, 2008) and Joanna Howe (New South Wales & St John's, 2008) who

addressed the intersection between gender, religion and politics; and Angela Cummine (Australia-at-Large & New College, 2007) who spoke on the thorny subject of political spouses, sexual infidelity and feminism. We were also thrilled to host Anne-Marie Slaughter, Director of Policy Planning in the US State Department, when she presented the first iteration of her now famous Atlantic article, "Why Women Still Can't Have It All." And, motivated by the goal of putting practical skills in place, we ran a series of training sessions on public speaking, op-ed writing, financial literacy, and networking. When I look back at my time in Oxford, it is this experience of working alongside such an intelligent, motivated and feisty group of Rhodes women (and men!) that stands out as a real highlight. We shared an intense commitment to breaking down the gender gap in political and public life – a challenge that, in 2017, seems more relevant than ever.



ANGELA CUMMINE

(Australia-at-Large & New College, 2007)

I came up to Oxford in 2007, 30 years after the Rhodes Scholarship welcomed its first 24 female scholars. While delighted that my election year coincided with a gender equality milestone for Oxford and the Scholarship, the infancy of this anniversary sat awkwardly within the centuries old university. So too did the overlapping celebrations in 2009 of New College, my Oxford home, of its 600-year foundation alongside its 30-year anniversary since first admitting women students.

These facts were motivating. My presence in these communities now, was unremarkable; only 30 years earlier, it would have been impossible.

The Rhodes community offered an antidote to this harsh realization. An energetic group of Scholars used the 30-year milestone to organize a celebratory event and commemorative publication, which gathered the insights of current and former women Scholars on gender equality obstacles, progress and priorities. It was a fantastic early exposure to how rapidly and effectively the energy of Scholars could be deployed to build a network of passionate, collaborative reformers.

Inspired, I arranged a similar event at New College for its 30-year anniversary of women students. Three insights recurred across the Rhodes and New College events.

First, progressive reforms are the result of perseverance and opportunism. You will find surprising opponents and allies. Securing and preserving

any type of equality requires constant coalition-building and vigilance.

Second, young women today are too worried about how they will 'do it all'. They end up prematurely removing themselves from fields of study or industries where this dilemma appears acute, capping their professional and financial potential unnecessarily. Senior women at both events implored my generation to maintain their ambition and not blunt their potential because of perceived obstacles that may disappear over time or be surmountable once confronted.

Finally, constant reflection and network-building, such as this publication and the 40-year anniversary celebrations, are essential. Without awareness of the battles past in our own communities, we cannot properly identify the priorities for action tomorrow.

These insights still resonate. The 40-year anniversary of women Scholars comes at a time of new threats to and opportunities for gender equality. The world just witnessed the millions-strong global Women's March, the largest public manifestation of feminist activism since the 1960s. The US, whose rights-oriented culture helped force changes in the UK that led to the inclusion of women Rhodes Scholars in the 1970s, now risks becoming a source of regressive attacks on women's rights. Our global network must be leveraged to help safeguard hard-won liberties and equalities increasingly under threat in many Rhodes constituencies.



KATE BRENNAN

(New South Wales & Magdalen, 2007)

While in Oxford, about to start the second year of my MPhil in Development Studies, and before I began my DPhil in Politics, I remember reading another's reflection on their time in Oxford. They spoke of their deep appreciation for the 'sacrosanct' privacy in Oxford afforded by the 'perpetual fog and rain.' It struck a chord with me.

Oxford provided the place, the intensity of community, and the sense of shared time and purpose to learn how to explore life that lay ahead, and the things that transcend.

Having lived subsequently in New York, Canberra, and now back home in Sydney, I've often reflected on the conditions that made that possible. Like, what effect does it have on young people to simply have everyday life reduced down to the area of a circle in which you can cycle a shoddy third-hand bike on cobblestones, in the rain? And many other possible ways to account for it.

For all the mystery that lies in what makes the place and scholarly experience special, those experiences of sharing food and conversation, long after daylight had gone, gave me opportunities to hear, time after time, women voice their opinion and own them wholeheartedly. At the time, I didn't quite know how special that was – I had been so used to even very smart female friends in Australia holding back their views, and definitely not asking one another

intellectually challenging questions. The result was that, in the privacy of Oxford, when we women voiced our views and expected this of each other it was so new, and so different, that I didn't even recognise it as foreign. I just relished it as good.

It has only been since leaving Oxford, where I find it rare, no matter which circles I'm in, for women to share their opinions, discuss abstract ideas, and ask other women their views on important contemporary issues, that I can see what we were privileged to experience as possible in Oxford.

I drew on that experience when I had the opportunity to serve Australia's first female Prime Minister as an Advisor. And I draw upon it now as CEO of a 125-year old Christian women's foundation, tackling the diminishment of women.



KATE ROBSON

(Australia-at-Large & Christ Church, 2008)

It's 10pm in Radcliffe Square. A bicycle swishes past, and Christmas tree lights twinkle behind the wrought iron gates of Old Schools quad. Six years on from my time as a Rhodes Scholar, I've boomeranged back here from Melbourne. Now a nephrologist, I'm working in the Oxford Kidney and Transplant Unit. My toes are still tingling after the cold downhill walk from the Churchill Hospital. I rub them over the familiar contour of the oversized cobbles, thinking about the people in the hospital. The young dad with kidney failure who's had a transplant today, the room already decorated with his toddler's drawings. The retired publican with one leg, who regularly saluted me from his wheelchair on the way to dialysis, and decided last week the burden of his illness and treatment had become too great. He's dying tonight in room 7, his big family spilling out into the corridor with music and memories and questions. And the junior doctor doing his first nephrology shift tonight, double-checking prescriptions with me as we walk among the beeping dialysis machines listening to people's stories. 'How did you know that lady's got a parrot at home?' he asks, and then, grinning, 'Yeah, this job's going to be something else'. We make tea, talking about where to find the people amid the pills and the paperwork. And then we get on with the paperwork.

Glancing up at the Bodleian's high windows, I recall the gritty feel of incising uncut pages of eighteenth-

century physicians' papers. Searching for threads that we might take up as we navigate monoclonal antibodies and funding cuts. That might reach our two newly assigned medical students, who tell us, in the noisy humid NHS cafeteria, they're contemplating internships in banking. Because who'd do this? Here?

Becoming a Rhodes Scholar granted me invaluable time and space to reflect on which words and actions might fortify these moments, before a pager bleep takes us elsewhere, reactive and distracted. Sometimes I find them in time. Sometimes, much later, during string quartet practice, or in conversation with one of the great friends I've met in this remarkable place. For now, I'm letting the quiet determination of the books ten feet beneath my toes drown out the beeping pager, making way for what needs to be said tonight in room 7, or tomorrow in the cafeteria, or next year in a Melbourne dialysis unit.



ANTHEA LINDQUIST

(Victoria & Green Templeton, 2009)

Shortly after I was awarded the Rhodes Scholarship I was at Monash Medical awards evening and one of the older Professors came up to speak to me about the Rhodes, I couldn't really say he came up to congratulate me. He was intrigued that I was in fact eligible for the Rhodes Scholarship as a woman, and he was keen to know in what sport I had received 'University Blues'. As he walked away, I wondered if I had applied to enter the right 'club'? Would I enjoy Oxford and more importantly, would I find my place within the Rhodes community?

I did indeed find my place, and I am thrilled to now be able to say that my Oxford and Rhodes experience was truly extraordinary – progressive, inclusive, inspiring and life-changing. I met exceptional young and not-so-young people who were doing incredible things with their lives and who cared so much about their impact on the world and on humanity. From the moment I walked into Rhodes House I felt a sense of belonging, not least because of the warm and witty welcome bestowed upon all visitors by the Rhodes House staff. At Rhodes House I found myself amongst a peer group that was diverse, enthusiastic, kind, quirky, bright and so full of potential – that in itself was a life-changing experience, and watching what these peers are doing now continues to bring me much excitement and inspiration.

I felt a real sense of camaraderie amongst Rhodes women especially,

and found friendships like I'd never experienced before. Happily, I am still in close contact with many of these women and am constantly inspired by their work, their writing and their passionate advocacy for a range of causes. During my time in Oxford, I was one of six Rhodes women, from different parts of the world, study disciplines and year groups who swam the English Channel as a relay team for charity. We trained in the Iffley pool, acclimatised to freezing cold water with weekend lake swims in the Cotswolds and raised funds together for the Acid Survivors Foundation in Pakistan, with whom one of our other Aussie members, Natasha Simonsen, had worked some years before. Ultimately we raised over 15,000GBP and successfully swam the Channel in freezing conditions – what a way to solidify friendships! This experience seemed the perfect embodiment of Rhodes women – tenacious, motivated, united and able to have a laugh!

The people I met and the experiences I have had as a Rhodes Scholar – both in Oxford and closer to home in Australia – have influenced my career and my life in myriad ways. Amidst busy days at work I frequently find myself thinking back to my time in Oxford and sometimes I can hardly believe it really happened. What an exceptional privilege it was and is being part of this special community.



BRITTANY MORREALE

(California & St Antony's, 2010)

Each day the crisp air of the Rocky Mountains cuts through the ranks of Air Force cadets spread across the marble terrazzo and organized by height, from tallest to shortest, in tapered blue rows. The steady beat of drums sets everyone into motion, a display of youth and fervour that only a military academy can muster. As the squadrons round the corner, the first women come into view at the back of the formation. Despite our slight frames, our shoulders are defiant, our fists clenched, hair pulled back, and expressions stony and determined.

Our expressions mirrored the pioneering women of 1976, the first class of women admitted to the Air Force Academy. As a female cadet, that date was burned in my memory alongside aircraft weapon payloads and pithy leadership quotes. It was easy to overlook the small signs of struggle that still continued. As cadets, we strived to be 'one of the boys,' carefully hiding any signs of weakness that might be attributed to our womanhood. In a world of standards and uniformity, diversity signified non-conformity. We cautiously cheered the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and voiced our discontent for unequal gender roles in military professions.

The Rhodes mission of "fighting the world's fight" spoke to my airman spirit, but upon arriving in Oxford in 2010, I felt tentative about this new world. The hard lines, strict rules, and bold idealism of the Academy

had become a convenient shield against personal reflection. But here, the mystical libraries and sprawling meadows painted the city in a brush of fantasy. The dreaming spires stirred both awe and fright. And somewhere in a poorly heated row house, we huddled around fresh baked breads and cheap wine and prophesized about life and love to whimsical mismatched chords. The short winter days finally yielded to summer, when hours of study fell away in favour of adventures across Europe and Africa.

The strict rigour of military life slowly yielded to a celebration of youth, womanhood and humanity. The ideals of integrity, service, and excellence transcended the military mantra and became personal aspirations. Most importantly, the scrutiny of standards was replaced by the scrutiny of a purposeful life. The Rhodes community gave me the freedom to chart a unique path in the military built around bridging the gaps between diverse nations and people through collaboration in science, development, and sustainability.

It seems like fate that in 1976, the same year the first women marched through the gates of the Air Force Academy, the first women were elected as Rhodes Scholars. I am proud to be among the ranks of those who boldly carry on.



JESSICA PANEGYRES

(Australia-at-Large & Keble, 2010)

41 years ago, a person was not eligible for a Rhodes Scholarship if they were a woman. I owe the privilege of being a female Rhodes Scholar to the generations of brave women, sung and unsung, who fought for equality. With this privilege comes a responsibility to fight for the equal rights of others. This includes future generations who, if we don't change our current trajectory, will inherit a vastly degraded planet. It includes those who today bear the brunt of environmental pollution and degradation.

My Oxford research on intergenerational rights in natural resources was notable for what I did not find. I found no justification in the Western philosophical tradition for the few destroying the common inheritance of the many. The Rhodes imperative to "fight the world's fight" led to me joining the movement for a safe climate and environment.

After Oxford, I worked for Greenpeace, then led by South African Rhodes Scholar Kumi Naidoo (South Africa-at-Large & Magdalen, 1987). I worked globally as a campaigner for a safe climate and sustainable environment. From town hall meetings to addressing the United Nations, it is a real privilege, every day, to be part of the inspiring movement of people around the world striving to create a fair and healthy planet.

In my current role at the Wilderness Society, I am focusing on how Australia can restore and protect

our degraded bushland and forests while doing our fair share to tackle climate change. The odd academic publication and guest lecture keeps me in touch with the academic community, as the Rhodes left me with an enduring commitment to building bridges between intellectual theory and practice.

I am grateful for the deep friendships that grew from the Rhodes. For example, six years after first meeting at Rhodes House, I've just spent a few weeks with Canadian Rhodes Scholar Rosanna Nicol (Maritimes & Wolfson, 2010) writing and recording new music for our band, Nicol & Wells. I'm constantly inspired by the incredible people I've met through the Rhodes who are taking on the world's fight, from standing up for the rights of refugees, to developing new forms of renewable energy. Being part of this community is an ongoing privilege. In 41 years I hope to look back on our cohort as part of the generation that turned the tide and secured peoples' rights to a healthy planet.



RACHEL PATERSON

(Western Australia & St Edmund Hall, 2012)

As we celebrate 40 years of female Rhodes Scholars, it is timely to reflect on how the Scholarship, and the opportunities that come along with it, have changed since the first Rhodes Scholars came up. Not only was the Scholarship originally exclusively open to men, but those with "fondness of and success in manly outdoor sports".

My sport of choice, Australian Rules Football, has been widely regarded as a 'manly' sport since it became popular in the late 19th century. I disagree with this perception. Unbeknownst to most, women actually started playing Aussie Rules in the early 20th century, with the first recorded women's game being played in WA in 1915. Since then, female footy has slowly but surely developed across the country, and as of 2017, all young girls and boys can aspire to be professional footy players, regardless of their sex.

My love for our great game began from the moment I started playing in high school and was strengthened throughout my undergraduate degree. So, naturally, when I came up in 2012, one of my greatest desires was to start an Oxford women's footy team. I'm delighted that this team now exists, in no small part because of the immense enthusiasm of many of my fellow female Rhodes Scholars.

The team has already included 13 Rhodes Scholars and partners, including our current co-captain,

Alexis Brown (Wisconsin & New College, 2012), as well as Liz Murray (Tasmania & New College, 2011), Eleanor Bath (New South Wales & St John's, 2012), Brianna Doherty (California & New College, 2012), Rachel Paterson (Western Australia & St Edmund Hall, 2012), Mandy Rojek (Queensland & University, 2012), Nina Weaver (partner of Cory Rodgers (Pennsylvania & Keble, 2012)), Katharine Noonan (Australia-at-Large & St John's, 2013), Katie Stone (partner of Benn Hunn (Tasmania & St Peter's, 2013)), Helen Baxendale (Australia-at-Large & Hertford, 2014), Freya Shearer (Western Australia & St John's, 2014), Sarah Burns (Maritimes & Oriel, 2016), and Emilie McDonnell (Tasmania & University, 2016).

We have played several games against Birmingham Uni and various London teams, who launched a London women's league in 2015. In Hillary 2017 we will fly to Cork for the Fitzpatrick Cup, named after former AFL Chairman Mike Fitzpatrick (Western Australia & St John's, 1975). Unfortunately, Cambridge are yet to provide an opposition, but until they do, we will be preparing ourselves for the day that we lace up our boots to play for the first ever women's varsity cup.

Photo credit: *UWA*



ALYSSA FITZPATRICK

(South Australia & Magdalen, 2013)

Since my return from the Rhodes journey just four months ago, I have been frequently met with the question 'How was it?'. Other than simply replying positively, I have struggled to adequately convey how meaningful, how challenging, and how inspiring the experience was for me. Perhaps in many ways, the memories are still distilling into a succinct summation of events. It is clear, however, that the times I felt most inspired were in the company of other Scholars, notably the Rhodes women. It is therefore fitting that the first reflection I write following my return is for the celebration of 40 years of Rhodes women.

Among the Rhodes women, I was challenged to consider questions from different frameworks and perspectives, and to contextualise my own experiences within a much broader backdrop. I was given language to articulate societal problems about which I had felt vaguely uneasy, but did not have the words to capture. Among the Rhodes women, I found the support to be unapologetically and authentically myself, and the means to support others to be themselves.

Undoubtedly, it was such conversations which defined my experience within the Rhodes community. I valued the many conversations in which my instincts and assumptions were questioned, when I was forced to think deeply about issues which I did not routinely

confront in my day-to-day job in the hospital. It was a precious two years in which I was asked to think purposely and deeply about the people and the world around me. It was a period in which I had the freedom to explore myself, and develop new interests and new ways of thinking. It was an experience in which previously abstract ideas became tangible pathways and opportunities.

Perhaps it is difficult for me to synthesise my Rhodes experience because the conversations were more than a dialogue to be related. In many ways, I became a part of them, and they became a part of me. I am unable to divorce myself from conversations that have shaped who I am today, and therefore must simply be grateful to all of the people who made them possible.



KATHARINE NOONAN

(Australia-at-Large & St John's, 2013)

During particularly self-reflective days in Oxford, conversations with fellow Rhodes Scholars would occasionally shift to more existential topics: what are we doing with our lives, have we made the right choices, do we deserve to be here (a classic), am I making the most of this opportunity? The list goes painfully on. We generally agreed that most of us would live our lives several times over if we could, just to see where that early passion might have led, or to take a risk that seemed too dangerous at the time. In some ways, the Rhodes Scholarship has allowed me to do this - I've been able to slow down enough to look at the paths available to me, and to press pause on what could have easily been a trajectory on autopilot. I feel lucky to have been afforded such an opportunity, knowing that my experience in Oxford, and particularly with the Rhodes community, has very much shaped who I am and what I want to achieve. To be fair, the process wasn't always the easiest. After being certain of what I was 'all about' when I arrived, Oxford messed with my head and dismantled the perfectly formed constructs. Spending so much time among talented, inspiring individuals from a range of backgrounds, moreover being fortunate enough to call these people my friends, has guided both my professional aspirations and my personal outlook. In Oxford, I tried things I never imagined I would, as well as going

back to activities I had neglected during years of work and medical school. The Rhodes experience forced me to really reflect on my passions and assess my priorities, with the additional luxury of time and the absence of many 'real life' pressures. I recently decided to pursue a somewhat less certain career in public health, for the time being at least. (Having said that, a recent mentoring session at Rhodes House revealed that I am not the first Australian female doctor to do this - I'm not remotely original!)

I don't know if any of this means I have made the absolute most out of the Scholarship, and I certainly wouldn't presume that I will bring about great change in the world. However, I can confidently say that the Rhodes has changed me - hopefully for the better - and it has definitely shaken things up a little.



FREYA SHEARER

(Western Australia & St John's, 2014)

For me, the Rhodes Scholarship has meant the opportunity to live and study overseas alongside an incredible group of people whom I now call friends and mentors.

Completing a DPhil was never on my radar until I came across a project in disease modelling that piqued my interest in the midst of applying for the MSc in Global Health Science. I am so grateful that I was encouraged to change my plans and dive into an area of science in which I had no training. I have loved the technical elements of my DPhil project that I expected to find most difficult and frustrating – and I will finish the degree with a host of skills I never imagined I would pursue or master. The process so far has been incredibly rewarding and worthwhile, but not without challenges and setbacks, including my supervisor relocating to the US during my first year and, of course, adjusting to the sun setting at 3:30pm in the winter!

Lately, as I approach the end of my third and final year, I have been considering where in the world I would like to focus my life's work. Travelling and living away from Australia has allowed me to reflect on home, family and belonging. I have been able to view Australia with new perspective, and realised that it is where I most want to return to pursue my career.

Whilst my research group and Rhodes House have enabled me to connect with peers and leaders in

global and public health generally, I have also greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn from those based in a range of other fields. The Rhodes community, including the other Scholars and their partners, have enriched my life, with their different experiences of Oxford and lives prior to Oxford. Their perspectives have powerfully challenged me to think about important issues in new ways, especially gender, race and privilege. In particular, female friends, colleagues and mentors whom I have met along the way – right from the beginning of the selection process to the final year of my studies at Oxford – have inspired me to trust that my knowledge and abilities are ample for the roles and opportunities awarded to me.

Nearing the conclusion of my time at Oxford, I appreciate that the Rhodes experience will not end with graduation. I know that I will draw on the connections I have built with people throughout the Rhodes experience for the rest of my life.



EMILIE MCDONNELL

(Tasmania & University, 2016)

It is safe to say that being awarded the Rhodes Scholarship has changed my life trajectory. I never envisioned that after finishing school or my undergraduate degrees in Hobart, Tasmania that I would be studying at the University of Oxford, surrounded by like-minded women and men and having countless opportunities presented to me to take advantage of.

I moved to Oxford in September 2016 to start the Bachelor of Civil Law. While the start of my time at Oxford and my first day at the Law Faculty was of course daunting, not feeling quite sure if I belonged at such a prestigious university, the transition was not as difficult as I imagined. The support, best wishes and words of advice I received leading up to my move and in my first few weeks after arrival was invaluable. This included Rhodes House, current and former Oxford students and Scholars, those who ran an orientation day for us in Australia, key members of the University of Tasmania and past Tasmanian Scholars who attended my farewell dinner in Hobart. I will never forget the enthusiasm that saw so many people take an interest in seeing the new group of Rhodes Scholars succeed.

The opportunities at Oxford to develop as a person and learn about new and exciting areas from inspiring people, young and old, are limitless. You could spend

your days and nights attending events, talking to people with very different experiences from yourself, expanding your knowledge, and challenging the way you think about the world. For me this has occurred in relation to the issues facing women. Never before have I been in an environment where I have the chance to hear the perspectives of women from all over the world and share our stories of what issues we face as a group, and issues that other women face that some of us don't. Exploring how women can fulfil their full potential in Oxford, academia, classroom discussions and many different spaces has been a highlight of my time at Oxford so far.



ILONA QUAHE

(Australia-at-Large & Green Templeton, 2016)

Arriving in Oxford four months ago felt surreal. For so long, starting here had been something very far in the future, and then suddenly it arrived. Walking into Rhodes House for the first time, I saw a part of the world with so much privilege and history. The grand rotunda, elegant dining hall and beautiful gardens were very different from the places where I was used to spending my time. It was strange to be told, "this is your home while you're at Oxford".

I was surprised by how quickly the charm of Oxford became part of my everyday. Oxford has been delightful, exciting, overwhelming, surprising, eye-opening, challenging and inspiring. The sports, volunteer roles, societies, talks and events on offer are more endless than I had anticipated. Never before have I had to so consciously choose what I spend my time on. Being forced to choose has prompted me to reflect on what is most important to me right now, something I hope to continue to do throughout my life.

It is interesting that so many Scholars, including me, use this experience as a chance to explore or reset in some way. When I applied for the Scholarship, I thought I had quite a clear idea of what I wanted to get out of Oxford. I've since discovered that perhaps the most valuable thing about Oxford is the chance to do things you haven't previously done or considered. It's a great privilege to be able to stop and adjust the path down

which you're currently travelling, even if you know it will take more time to decide on your ultimate destination.

The bigger picture can be easy to forget, but is highlighted whenever I speak to people outside the Oxford bubble. Such conversations remind me that so many people aspire to study here, or wish that they could. That I'm exceptionally lucky to be in an environment where I am learning so much, and having experiences I may well look back on as life-changing. Ultimately, I am very grateful for this opportunity and determined to do something useful with it. I continue to be inspired by my fellow Scholars and their commitment to do the same.



SOUTH AFRICA

G. L. C. BEATTIE
SOUTH AFRICAN
COLLEGE SCHOOL 1923

H. D. FREAKES NATAL 1936
D. L. HADDON
DIOCESAN COLLEGE RONDEBOSCH
(SCHOLAR-ELECT)
1920

D. W. LARDNER-
STANDREWS COLLEGE GRA
1941 (SCHOLAR-ELE
A. W. LITTLE STANDREWS C
GRAHAMSTOWN 1939 (SCHOLAR

LURIE SOUTH AFRICAN
COLLEGE SCHOOL 1920
J. D. PITMAN
DIOCESAN COLLEGE RONDEBOSCH
1939 (SCHOLAR-ELECT)

AUSTRALIA

R. CLAY
1935

V. LATHAM
1931

J. G. MANN
VICTORIA 1935
D. C. MENZIES
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 193

L. PARKER
ISLAND 1938
TUMM
ND 1935
AMS
ALIA 1915

CANADA

CARTWRIGHT
MACALISTER
EL ROGERS NOVA

FORTY YEARS
OF RHODES WOMEN:
AUSTRALIAN REFLECTIONS



