



At the Association's Conference Dinner in Sydney on the 12<sup>th</sup> March, the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) graciously agreed to present the 2015 Foundation Scholarships to two new Awardees. The Scholarships are funded by generous donations and comprise an amount of \$40,000 and an introduction to a volunteer mentor. The Scholarships were offered in conjunction with the University of Western Sydney and The University of Melbourne. The donors, respectively, were The Hon. Nick Greiner AC and Mr Paul Wheelton OAM and Mrs Angela Wheelton. Some 350 delegates were in attendance for the occasion as the Foundation Chair, Mr Hugh Morgan AC presented the two recipients to His Excellency, assisted by Adj. Professor Brian O'Keeffe AO, Foundation Secretary. The Awardees received a fine bound Certificate and letter to mark the occasion. They then briefly addressed the gathering.

The vote of thanks to the Governor was delivered by one of the 2007 Foundation Awardees, Ms Amelia Parker, who has just submitted her PhD. thesis to The University of New South Wales. Summaries of the two 2015 Foundation Awardees' achievements follow, together with the career developments of Ms Parker.

## MATTHEW CONNOLLY

Twenty-two-year-old Matthew Connolly of Wynnum, Queensland, has just begun studying for a Master of Economics at The University of Melbourne. After completing a Bachelor of Arts, with First Class Honours, at the same university last year. He also completed a Diploma of Languages with a specialisation in Indonesian. He achieved the highest possible interstate equivalent ATAR score of 99.95 for University entrance.

His community involvement is quite diverse. Matthew devised enthusiastic fundraising initiatives resulting in more than \$30,000 for the Movember Foundation, the Cancer Council, Mary Ward International Australia, the Street Swags and Street Library programs, and the Salvation Army. He also volunteered with OzHarvest Australia, Red Cross blood collections, and conducting VCE tutoring for disadvantaged students through the Engage Education Foundation. Fun-running, rowing, triathlons, musicals, and playing saxophone and bassoon all fit into a web of enjoyable, enriching activities. (As a Queenslander he has steadfastly grappled with the fundamentals of AFL football!) He has immersed himself in exchange activities in other cultures too with the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation; the Australia-India Institute; and by living and studying in Indonesia in 2015.

Matthew's professional experiences so far are relatively more focussed on policy and the economy. They include: developing a national environmental NFP's strategy; research into skills-based technical change and forward prospects for the drivers of structural change in the Australian economy; examination of pollution and quality of life in relation to environmental regulations in developing countries; the establishment of an international affairs magazine to help develop students' journalistic abilities; and completing a policy development fellowship on agricultural sustainability in Australia.

## SARAH STARNOVSKY

Twenty-one-year-old Sarah Starnovsky of Glen Alpine, NSW, is enrolled in the Bachelor of Business and Commerce/Bachelor of Laws at Western Sydney University. She has excelled in all subjects in both Business and Law and is in the top 5% of students in both courses. As a result she was invited to become a member of the International Golden Key Honours Society. Her ATAR score of 98.4 was achieved in spite of an extremely serious injury received during the year which resulted in a shoulder reconstruction. Sarah has been the recipient of many academic achievements with High Distinctions for all her Business subjects and in 2014 made the Law Dean's Merit List. She received Academic Excellence Scholarships to attend High School and University.

Sarah's community involvement is extensive and comprehensive. Recently, she participated in the International Democracy and Citizenship Program in South Africa. This required her to work with local South African High School students to help them identify their goals and motivate them to make positive changes for the future. She regularly participates in the 24-Hour Walk for Cancer; the YMCA



*Matthew Connolly and the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)*

To all endeavours Matthew brings clarity of vision. Of community affairs he says "there have always been two dimensions to my community involvement: initiative and leadership". In commenting on career goals and how our Scholarship would assist him to achieve them, Matthew cited financial support, mentoring and an "increased breadth and depth of perspective to my future in public affairs as three means of maximising the contribution I can make as an economist in the future". Throughout his life Matthew has been recognised for his leadership and initiative, which sets him apart as a future leader in his many faceted fields of endeavour.

The funding for Matthew's Scholarship was generously donated by **Mr Paul Wheelton OAM and Mrs Angela Wheelton.**



*Sarah Starnovsky and the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)*

24-Hour Swim-a-thon to raise funds for Multiple Sclerosis; the Neon Run to raise money for Depression; the Rice Day Challenge to provide food and water for individuals in developing countries; has volunteered to tutor 11 HSC students; volunteers for Surf Lifesaving NSW; is Club Captain for Macarthur Indoor Swimming Club; participates in ANZAC Day marches and wreath laying; and recently facilitated at the First Year Law Degree Bootcamp. She donates blood to Red Cross every six months.

Fun Runs, Walk-a-thons and Swimming are passions for Sarah as she enjoys the exercise and can combine fund-raising to assist her favourite charities. She works part-time at Mount Annan Leisure Centre. Her shoulder injury and the attendant pain has

had a profound effect on her physical condition. This has placed considerable stress on her ability to work to support her studies and to afford textbooks and study aids.

Sarah is looking forward to completing an Executive Masters of Business Administration when she completes her current Bachelor Degrees, "in order to become a Solicitor specialising in Corporate Law or a Partner or Manager of a major domestic or international business". To have overcome so many obstacles, with such outstanding results, this dream seems imminently attainable!

The funding for Sarah's Scholarship was generously donated by

**The Hon. Nick Greiner AC**

## 2007 FOUNDATION AWARDEE AMELIA PARKER



*Associate Professor Jim Patrick AO (Cochlear Foundation) and 2007 Foundation Awardee, Amelia Parker*

In 2007, Amelia received a Scholarship from The Order of Australia Association Foundation, generously donated by The Cochlear Foundation Ltd. Her initial undergraduate studies were in the combined Degree of Bachelor of Biomedical Engineering and Bachelor of Advanced Science (Major in Biochemistry), at The University of Sydney. Within two years Amelia had achieved outstanding results and was invited to join advanced programs in both Degrees. In 2010 when she graduated, she was awarded the prestigious University Medal as well as the Sydney Orthopaedic Research Institute (SORI) Award for the best honours thesis in the School of Biomedical Engineering. Amelia joined the graduate program at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) in 2011, working in the Life Sciences Division, where she was involved in radiation biology and membrane biophysics research.

In 2012 Amelia enrolled in the PhD program at the University of New South Wales, in cancer development and chemotherapy resistance. Here she worked with researchers from the Children's Cancer Institute, supported by a UNSW Research Excellence Award, the Children's Cancer Institute PhD Excellence Award and an Australian Postgraduate Award. The Dean's List for that year included

*Amelia Parker as a young researcher with the potential to become a career scientist!*

She has since presented her PhD research at numerous national and international conferences, and was recently awarded the best student oral presentation at the Australian Cancer and Metabolism Meeting in 2015. Last year she was one of five speakers invited to present her research at the Cancer Research Master Class as part of the prestigious 65<sup>th</sup> Lindau Nobel Laureates' Meeting in Germany. Amelia has now completed and submitted her PhD thesis entitled "The role of BetaIII tubulin in Non-small Cell Lung Cancer" and looks forward to continuing her career in biomedical research.

There is no doubt that Amelia Parker is destined to become a person of note in the ever challenging frontline of biomedical research in this country, and thus the world. Her accomplishments are outstanding, her talents wide-reaching, her generosity towards others boundless, yet she still remains humble and acknowledges her good fortune to have been chosen for our most worthy Scholarship.

Her mentor, Professor David Burke AO, undertook his supportive role with very insightful and helpful career advice.