

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# The Melbourne Newsroom

STUDY | RESEARCH | ENGAGE | ABOUT US

MEDIA RELEASES | UP CLOSE | VISIONS | VOICE | STUDIO

Education Art, Culture and Society International

## Passion for history fires generous gift

23 November 2015

 Like 3.3k
 Tweet
  Share 132

 3



*Ms Jane Hansen and Paul Little, AO launch the Little Foundation*

A significant gift of \$10 million for the Arts and Humanities from Jane Hansen and Paul Little, AO, was announced today with the launch of The Little Foundation.

The gift is being made to the University of Melbourne to establish The Hansen Trust, an ambitious project to foster an innovative and vibrant approach to the teaching of history and encourage deeper student engagement with the subject.

The Trust will receive \$8 million from The Little Foundation, believed to be the largest ever donation to the study of history in Australia. The gift is the largest donation to the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne in its history.

The remaining funds will be used to support other projects within the University of Melbourne.

Ms Hansen, herself a lover and student of history, wants to raise the public visibility and value of history education.

### More Information

Anne Rahilly

+61 3 9035 5380

+61 432 758 734

arahilly@unimelb.edu.au @uommedia **Department:** Media

“I want to encourage awareness of the significance of an education in history and nurture a passion and appreciation for its relevance in the wider community,” she said.

“It is my intention that The Hansen Trust will change the conversation about history. As a key discipline in the humanities, history teaches us to think innovatively, critically, imaginatively and morally; it helps us to enter into the lives of those who went before us and shows us that the skills required to respond to the challenges of our society won’t just come from laboratories, datasets and spread sheets.

“I hope this gift will also develop the well-rounded, engaged and creative students we need to navigate Australia’s future,” Ms Hansen said.

Dean of the Faculty of Arts Professor Mark Considine said that although Melbourne has a strong reputation in History, The Hansen Trust will help the program to become world-class.

“In 2016 the Faculty is opening a new building that provides cutting edge teaching and learning spaces for students, so this tremendous investment in our activities couldn’t come at a better time. The Trust will fund The Hansen Chair in History in perpetuity, three Hansen Lectureships for a period of five years, an annual Hansen PhD Scholarship and, in conjunction with the Faculty of Arts, a Senior Lectureship in History, ” he said.

“Together, these initiatives promise a really bright future for History at Melbourne, and I’m looking forward to working with colleagues to extend Jane Hansen’s inspiring vision.”

Vice-Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis, said the establishment of the Trust is reflective of the University’s overarching strategy ‘Growing Esteem’, where under which the university has committed to innovation in teaching, learning and engagement with the community.

“In the long-term, the comprehensive nature of this gift - supporting teaching and learning at multiple levels - can transform history at Melbourne, and through this, the wider community,” he said.

The gift from Ms Hansen, Mr Little and The Little Foundation is part of Believe – the Campaign for the University of Melbourne.

## Tags

research (380) history (9) advancement (2) Arts (12) teaching (8) philanthropy (8) humanities (1)  
The Little Foundation (1) The Hansen Trust (1) engagement. (1)

[More media releases »](#)

## Related content in Education + Art, Culture and Society + International



### 'Pathways to Politics Program for Women' launched at Parliament House

25 November 2015

The first Australian university program to address the continued under-representation of women in parliament has been launched today by the Hon Julie Bishop MP, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Ms Carol Schwartz AM and the University of Melbourne at Parliament House, Canberra.

[Law](#) [Business and Economics](#) [University Activities](#) [Art, Culture and Society](#)  
[History and Politics](#)

### Sunday the day of rest for fires, study suggests

20 November 2015

Fires are more prevalent on a Tuesday and less likely on a Sunday, according to a new University of Melbourne study, which highlights the dramatic effect humans, religion and culture have on the



global climate.

Science and the Environments    International

---



### Melbourne School of Design collects multiple awards

19 November 2015

The Institute Of Structural Engineers, based in London, recently announced that the Melbourne School of Design won best education project at the Structural Awards 2015. This is a significant award as it covers several categories, and is awarded "for excellence in the structural design of buildings... which either facilitate learning or support healthcare..."

Architecture, Design and Construction    International

---



### How to do 3000 years of research in one year

17 November 2015

Aircraft engine expert and mechanical engineer Professor Richard Sandberg, in collaboration with General Electric, will use some of the world's fastest computers to complete 3000 years of research in a single year.

Engineering and IT    International

---



### Alcoholism drug breakthrough in waking up dormant HIV

17 November 2015

Disulfiram, a drug used to treat alcoholism, could be a 'game changer' in the pursuit of a non-toxic drug capable of activating hidden HIV in the body, a key strategy on the path to finding a cure for HIV.

Medicine and Health Science    International

---

## MEDIA OFFICE

### General media enquiries:

+61 3 8344 4123

news@media.unimelb.edu.au 

@uommedia 

The Media Office is staffed from  
8am - 5pm Monday to Friday.

For urgent after hours media queries +61 4 3058 8055



**The local time is:**

5:08 pm, Nov 26 2015 AEST

**About us**

[About us »](#)

**Browse by Topic**

[Law \(88\)](#)

[Science and the Environments \(94\)](#)

[Business and Economics \(166\)](#)

[Architecture, Design and Construction \(88\)](#)

[Engineering and IT \(145\)](#)

[Sport \(29\)](#)

[University Activities \(330\)](#)

[Education \(147\)](#)

[Science and the Environments \(278\)](#)

[Medicine and Health Science \(541\)](#)

[Music and Performing Arts \(79\)](#)

[Art, Culture and Society \(305\)](#)

[History and Politics \(183\)](#)

[International \(292\)](#)

Subscribe to the latest news from the university

**FOR UoM STAFF**

- [Media Reports](#)
- [Media Monitors](#)
- [Media Training](#)

**FEATURED EXPERT**

Dr Suelette Dreyfus is an expert on whistleblowing and technology, data retention, privacy and national security.



## MELBOURNE IN THE NEWS

[墨尔本富商向墨大捐1千万 造就历史系最大规模捐赠 - 25 Nov 2015](#)  
澳洲日报 周一 备受关注的墨尔本夫妇保罗·里特尔 Paul Little ...

[Jane Hansen, Paul Little in \\$10m grant to Melbourne University - 25 Nov 2015](#)  
History is a passion for philanthropist and ex-investment banker Jane Hansen and she despairs of always being asked why it matters....

[Arts funding: Education is more than science subjects - 24 Nov 2015](#)  
Amid the welcome push to get more school students take science, technology, engineering and maths subjects, the \$10 million donated by BRW rich lister...

[Learning history - 24 Nov 2015](#)  
This caught my eye in the AFR this morning: Paul Little and his wife Jane Hansen have donated \$10 million to Melbourne University to promote the teach...

[Ex-Toll chief donates \\$10 million to Melbourne University - 24 Nov 2015](#)  
Paul Little, ex-CEO of logistics company Toll, has made the biggest-ever individual donation for history studies for an Australian...

[Go8 sniffs the wind - 24 Nov 2015](#)  
Sniffing the wind: What's that sound of a mad scramble and chairs being moved around?...

[Ten million dollar donation to University of Melbourne makes history as largest ever contribution - 23 Nov 2015](#)  
High profile Melbourne couple Paul Little and Jane Hansen have made history of their own today, with a \$10 million donation to the University of Melbo...

### ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

 Maps  About us

### FOLLOW NEWSROOM

 Youtube  @uommedia  Facebook  Google+  RSS Feeds

## The Melbourne Newsroom

Level 1, 187 Grattan Street  
The University of Melbourne  
Parkville 3010 VIC Australia

**Phone:** +61 3 8344 4123

**Email:** [news@media.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:news@media.unimelb.edu.au)

**Authoriser:** Director, University Communications

**Maintainer:** Media Team

**Date created:** 23 November 2015

**Last modified:** 24 November 2015

[Back to top](#)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

 [Twitter](#)

 [Facebook](#)

 [LinkedIn](#)

Phone: 13 MELB (13 6352) | International: +(61 3) 9035 5511

The University of Melbourne ABN: 84 002 705 224

CRICOS Provider Code: 00116K (visa information)

Web brand guidelines created by Marketing

[Disclaimer & copyright](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Privacy](#)