



Winter has gracefully descended upon the southern hemisphere. As we switch between the seasons, we reflect, celebrate, and express our heartfelt gratitude to our friends at home, and in Australia, for bringing to life so many new projects, thereby creating hope, and changing our world for good.

One such project was the extremely generous **R198 million donation** from the **Zylstra family** through the Skye Foundation that will pave the way for the creation of a state-of-the-art sports complex, which will serve as a beacon of inspiration for sportspersons of all ages and abilities.

We are also deeply grateful to the anonymous benefactor who contributed an extraordinary sum of **US\$10 million** in honour of a Wits lecturer by whom he was inspired. This exceptional act of generosity serves as a testament of the lecturer's immeasurable influence on countless lives, and the indelible mark that education and mentorship can leave on the human spirit.

On a separate note, we mourn the loss of one of our own – **Professor Barry Dwolatzky**. In this time of sorrow, we stand together, united by the love and support that defines our community, as we celebrate his legacy that will live on for decades to come.

Read the full stories below.

Wits Unveils Plans for Revolutionary R250 Million Sports Complex



The atmosphere at Wits University was electrifying as the institution unveiled the plans for the one-of-a-kind **R250 million Wits Brian and Dorothy Zylstra Sports Complex** at the groundbreaking ceremony in May. The cutting-edge facility is set to revolutionise sports training, research, and clinical practice. With a world-class research centre at its core, the complex will encompass therapeutic facilities, an aquatics centre, and a dedicated residence for elite athletes. Respected donors Philip and John Zylstra, along with Lawrence Jackson, Wits' Australia representative, flew in from Sydney to join the event.



Immerse yourself in the future of sports by watching this captivating multimedia artist's impression of the remarkable sports complex.

Celebrating an Icon: Wits Alumnus Honours **Professor Margo Steele with a \$10m Donation**



Professor Margo Steele, renowned for shaping some of the world's most influential CEOs and captains of industry, has left an indelible mark on the business world. Her lecture theatre echoed with the footsteps of esteemed figures like Stanley Bergman (Henry Schein), Steve Collis (AmerisourceBergen), Stephen Koseff (Investec), Ivan Glasenberg (Glencore), and Jacob Modise (Batsomi Investments). Recognising her legacy, Wits University is thrilled to announce an extraordinary donation of **US\$10 million**, which will be invested in students, staff, and infrastructure. The Wits School of Accountancy will also be renamed to the **Wits Margo Steele School of Accountancy**. This momentous announcement was made during a special 90th birthday celebration held in honour of Professor Steele on 3 May 2023 at the Wits Club.

You are invited to join us on 3 August 2023 at 19:00 AEST for an exclusive online session with Professor Margo Steele herself, as she unveils the secrets behind creating successful CEOs. Zoom registration details to follow.

A Virtue of Wits today

Witsies in Australia



Dr Anthony Holley

From a Working Holiday to an Extraordinary Journey: Dr Anthony Holley's Path

Dr Anthony Holley and his wife Birgit embarked on a working holiday in New Zealand, unaware that it would shape the course of their lives forever. Driven by a passion to make a difference, Dr Holley's journey took him from serving as a military doctor in Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf, and Iraq, to achieving the rank of captain in the Royal Australian Navy, where he dedicated his efforts to training health professionals. In reflecting on his exceptional medical education, Dr Holley credits Wits University for his success. The transformative impact of his experiences at Wits has been instrumental in shaping his remarkable achievements. [Read more](#) about his adventures down under.



Professor David Fine

Launch of the Wits Innovation Centre

The Wits Innovation Centre, dedicated to tackling real-world problems that impact on our planet, was officially launched in May. This multidisciplinary hub is poised to revolutionise how research can be transformed into innovation, and coupled with entrepreneurship, tackle some of the key challenges of the 21st Century. **David Shein**, our esteemed Wits Australian alumnus and the founder of **Australia's first unicorn** (profiled in our previous newsletter), would have been an ideal candidate to have incubated his innovative business through the Centre!

The establishment of the prestigious **Angela and David Fine Chair in Innovation** was made possible through the generous **US\$3 million** contribution of Professor David Fine (BSc Hon 1964). Fine was bestowed with an honorary doctorate during the April graduation season for his many innovations, patents and research across multiple areas. He shared invaluable insights from his own journey in the realm of innovation with students.

[Watch the launch of the Wits Innovation Centre](#)



Professor Barry Dwolatzky

Our very own "Grand Geek" leaves us graciously

In a poignant departure, Witsies bade farewell to a true luminary - an innovator, strategist, humanitarian, and cherished Professor who wholeheartedly devoted over five decades of his life to Wits University. **Professor Barry Dwolatzky** left an indelible mark as an educator, researcher, and trailblazing innovator. He spearheaded the creation of the Tshimologong Digital Innovation Precinct in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, and more recently, the Wits Innovation Centre. Professor Dwolatzky's visionary contributions have forever transformed the landscape of digital innovation in South Africa and beyond.

[Read his obituary.](#)

Launches and Events



Stephen Koseff

Stephen Koseff launches the Wits Melbourne Chapter

Stephen Koseff, the dynamic powerhouse - former Chief Executive Officer and current Director of Investec Limited, BidCorp Limited, Arrowpoint Capital (Melbourne), and Innovation Africa, amongst others, captivated audiences at an exclusive boardroom breakfast in Melbourne on 14 April 2023. With his charismatic presence, Koseff shared valuable Lessons in Leadership: thrilling adventures on the grand stage of global banking, in the realm of community, through the lens of philanthropy. This breakfast event, hosted by our esteemed Chair of the Australian Board of Directors, Philip Mayers AM, along with Wits Australia board member Anthony Chait, was an experience that left the audience fascinated, and yearning for more.



Stanley Bergman

Lessons from the South End to a Fortune 500 company – Stanley Bergman

Stanley Bergman, Chairperson of the Board and CEO of Henry Schein Inc, and Chair of the Wits Fund Inc in the USA, was the guest speaker at a private virtual boardroom event this May. The Australian Board of Directors hosted the online seminar. Participants enjoyed moments of learning from an industry doyen.

[Watch lessons on leadership from Stanley Bergman](#)



Unveiling a Sporting Legacy: *Wits Sport 100, 1922-2022*

Wits Sport 100, 1922-2022 authored by Jonty Winch was launched at the Wits Brian and Dorothy Zylstra Sports Complex groundbreaking ceremony. This captivating publication encapsulates a century of remarkable achievements in Wits Sport. From legendary athletes to trailblazers who have made Australia their home, the book showcases notable Australian Witsies such as Craig Benadie (cricket), Frances Jones (hockey), Wits rugby stalwarts Bobby Grace, Robbie Menter, Russel Brooke, George Carey, Philip Zylstra, Steve McFarland, and the late Dr Norman Helfand and Brian Zylstra. It also includes Philip van Eck (ski club), Howard, Glynne, Trevor and George Amoils (yachting), Maria da Silva Fick (basketball), Gavin Karg (gymnastics), Bruce Falcon (squash), Carmel Goodman (swimming), Rob Hamer and Dr Dale Howes (rowing), the late Professor Priscilla Kincaid Smith (swimming and hockey) and Bob de La Motte (marathon). To secure your own copy of this treasured chronicle, kindly reach out to Lawrence.Jackson@wits.ac.za

[Watch highlights from the Wits Sport 100 book](#)



Empowering Dreams, Transforming Futures, Bridging the Gap

Wits Australian Postgraduate Scholarships totalling **R1,5million**, managed by the **Wits Australian Board of Directors** awarded **ten students** an opportunity to fulfil their postgraduate dreams. These scholarships serve as a catalyst for these aspiring postgraduate scholars, enabling them to make a lasting impact in their chosen fields. Your generosity possesses the remarkable power to transform lives. Every contribution, regardless of its size, sends an important message to these students – that they are not alone, that their dreams hold significance, and that their ambitions are worth pursuing.

By making a **tax-deductible** donation, you could ignite a brighter future, unlock the full potential of these scholars and pave the way for a world of possibilities. Your support will make a difference in shaping tomorrow's leaders and changemakers.

[Donate](#)

Love the newsletter? Have suggestions? Want to tell us your Wits story?

Please write to: Lawrence.Jackson@wits.ac.za

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