

An update from the Katrina Dawson Foundation



thekatrinedawsonfoundation.org

It is difficult to believe that it is December again. Strange that the worst year of your life can go so quickly.

One thing that has given our family strength and purpose in the last twelve months is how far we have been able to come with The Katrina Dawson Foundation. What has been achieved just could not have occurred without the extraordinary support of the legal profession. In the midst of the raw shock and devastation we all suffered when my extraordinary sister died, an immediate determination developed to honour her in a meaningful way. We were able to establish the foundation in a very short space of time, and have been overwhelmed by the desire to help so widely shared. We have been sustained

wonderful opportunities, she constantly strived to improve the lives of those less fortunate.

We are very pleased that the foundation is already in a position to have established two important programmes. We recently announced a scholarship programme for undergraduates to attend The Women's College within the University of Sydney. In 2016 there will be three scholarships – a four year Katrina Dawson Foundation Macquarie Group Scholarship and two further scholarships funded by the foundation. We are in the process of identifying the recipients of these scholarships, which will give three young women access to an extraordinary experience in an environment of excellence, one which Katrina cherished.

their potential in education and beyond. Three inspiring women have already received fellowships, one of whom recently returned from a study tour to investigate further study at Columbia or Cambridge, with a view to working in human rights and policy with a focus on Indigenous people and minorities.

These are exciting and meaningful programmes.

And the bar has played a significant role in making them possible. Many have given their time to help us deal with regulatory issues and to ensure compliance, many have made extraordinarily generous donations, and there was of course the teams who ran in the *Sydney Morning Herald* Half Marathon and then the City2Surf, raising over \$60,000 for the foundation. We have also received countless offers of assistance, from all corners of the bar. This has been a great and fitting tribute to a woman held in great respect and with great affection, who was already one of our finest barristers.

So may I offer you our sincere gratitude, on behalf of the Dawson and Smith families and the foundation. Together we can make the world a little more like the place Katrina would have wanted it to be. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

Sandy Dawson

The foundation is all about delivering educational opportunities otherwise out of reach to inspiring young women.

by the thought that Katrina has inspired so many people at the bar and in the legal community generally to be part of creating something so positive from something so heartbreakingly tragic.

The foundation is all about delivering educational opportunities otherwise out of reach to inspiring young women. This is a true reflection of Katrina's values: she believed passionately in women's education and, always conscious of her own good fortune in having had

In addition, we have also announced our fellowship programme which funds a woman who has already chosen and achieved in her field, but needs support to further her education in some way. We have recently announced that the foundation's partner for the 2016 fellowships is the Aurora Education Foundation and the Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation. Aurora is a non-profit organisation that supports Indigenous students to achieve