

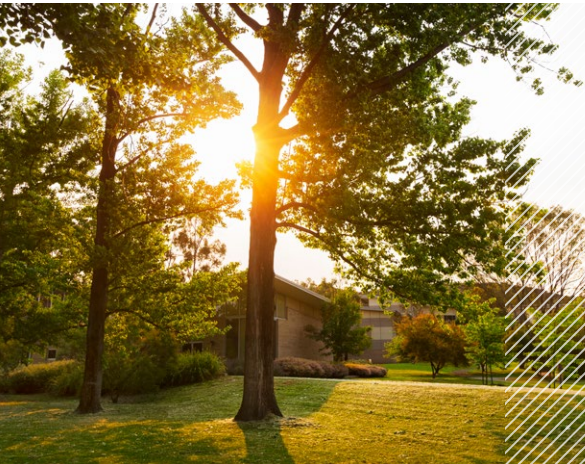


BURGMANN COLLEGE

Affiliated with The Australian National University

DECEMBER 2020

Alumni Newsletter



Message from the Burgmann College Alumni Association Chair

The Burgmann spirit, built through five decades of convo room conversations, BRA meetings and bar nights, triumphed in 2020. Residents and staff worked together to sustain the College community through the pandemic—initially online and then returning to real College life in Semester 2. And, as this newsletter shows, the year ended with academic, artistic and athletic triumphs.

2021 needs to be a year of celebrations, and we'd love you to include Burgmann 50th birthday events on your social calendar. We received a fantastic response to our request for feedback on how we should celebrate, and have worked hard to reflect this, with a diverse program of activities culminating in the Back to Burg Alumni Weekend in August. We very much look forward to welcoming you!

Matthew Lobb

*Burgmann Resident 1989-91;
Former BRA President 1991*

Join in our 50th Anniversary celebrations!

2021 marks the 50th birthday of Burgmann College and we have a whole year of celebrations planned. From the Welcome to Country on 13 February, our calendar will be filled with special event enhancements and new occasions to mark the golden anniversary of our community—for residents, alumni, staff, volunteers, supporters and all friends of Burgmann College.

This includes the highlight of the year, **Back to Burg Alumni Weekend (20-22 August)**: three days of festivities, with ample opportunity to reconnect with friends. With thanks to the many alumni who contributed suggestions, a preliminary outline of the Program is now available online. Further details will be publicised in the New Year and registrations will open in February.

Alumni are also invited to participate in many other activities throughout the year and to visit the College at any time by arrangement for coffee, a meal, campus tour, Luigi's—or even to stay over! **Read more >**



CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
1971 – 2021

Can you help us find our 'Lost Alumni'?

We're working hard to ensure we reach as many alumni as possible to let them know about the 50th Anniversary celebrations, and especially our Back to Burg Alumni Weekend, however, we have a long way to go! The 'Lost Alumni' lists are on our website. If you can help reconnect us with your fellow residents, we would be very grateful. [See Lost Alumni >](#)

If you know people on these lists, please forward them this Newsletter and encourage them to **update their details**.

Note: some individuals on these lists may be receiving our communications via the ANU Advancement Office but not directly from Burgmann College.

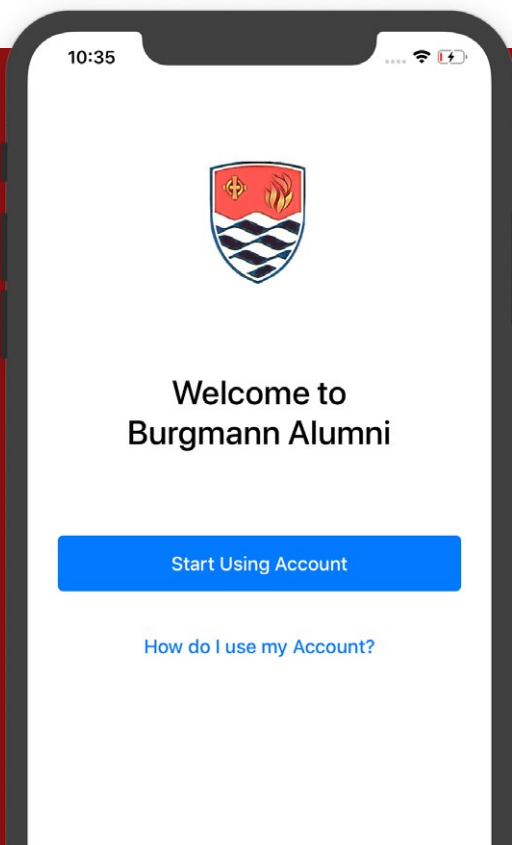


Launch of Burgmann Alumni App

In December last year we announced the creation of the **Burgmann Alumni App** by fellow Burgie and Advanced Computing student Christopher Seidl, which provides a wonderful platform for Burgmann alumni to connect, share memories, and network socially and professionally. This is now up and running, and currently includes curated stories and experiences from the Burgmann community, an AI-powered address book to form new connections, and an open discussion forum. The app community is steadily growing, and we would love you to get involved.

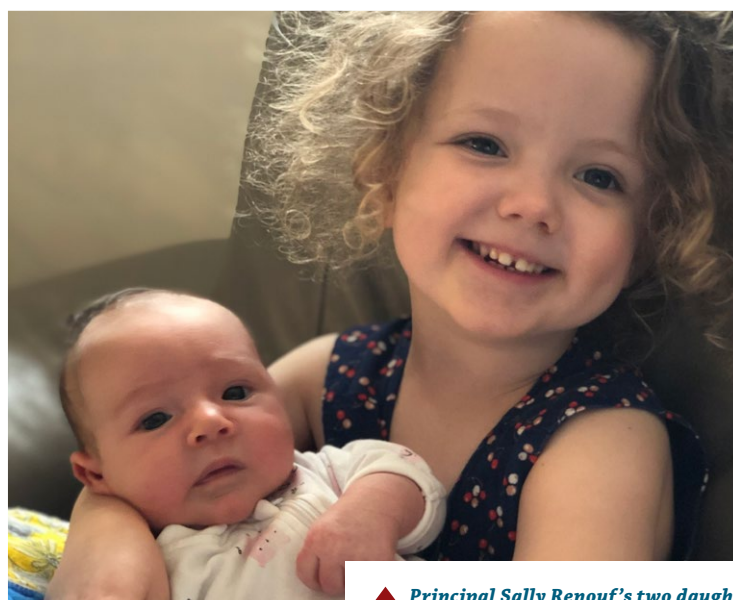
To create your own Burgmann Alumni account, simply search for 'Burg Alumni' in the App Store or visit **Burgmann Alumni Network** for the web-based version. Chris has created these handy guidelines to assist first-time users — [download Burgmann Alumni App Guidelines >](#)

If you have any questions or would like further assistance, please email alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au



Welcome, Ava!

We know you will join us in warmly congratulating Principal Sally Renouf and her husband, Brodie Buckland, who were delighted to welcome Ava Christie Renouf Buckland to the world on 25 August 2020 as the newest Burgmann baby. Having a young family on campus has been a special experience for both Sally and our residents—read more on Sally's perspective of what it means to live on site with your family [here](#).



▲ **Principal Sally Renouf's two daughters, Margot (3 years) and Ava (3 months)**



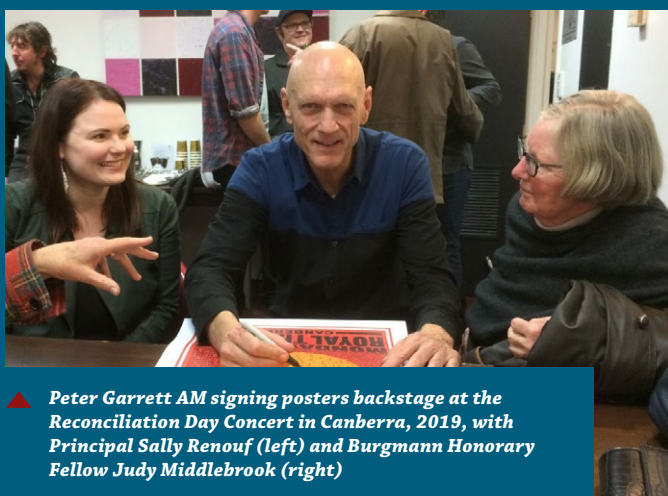
Pursuing new developments: Callum Read (BCom, Finance & International Business, 2019; Burgmann Resident 2016-18)

A mentorship with a senior manager at **Geocon** has translated into an exciting role with Canberra's powerhouse property development company for **Callum Read**. Amongst other projects, the recent graduate is now working on Republic—the largest mixed-use residential precinct ever undertaken

in ACT, including 1200 apartments, Canberra's first Woolworths Metro, a 152-room hotel, restaurants and retail outlets. Callum credits the Burgmann Alumni and Friends Mentoring (BAM) Program for bringing him this valuable opportunity. [Read more >](#)

▲ **Callum Read (front row centre) with the Residential Advisor team of 2018**

Photo Credit: Amelia Zarafitis



▲ **Peter Garrett AM signing posters backstage at the Reconciliation Day Concert in Canberra, 2019, with Principal Sally Renouf (left) and Burgmann Honorary Fellow Judy Middlebrook (right)**

Alumni in the News

Congratulations to Burgmann alumnus **Peter Garrett AM** and Australian band **Midnight Oil** on receiving the Sydney Peace Foundation's gold medal for human rights in October. Chair of the Sydney Peace Foundation, Archie Law, said the band was "an Australian human rights trailblazer". "This medal is in recognition of that relentless focus, and in particular for their environmental activism, their humanity and their drive to promote justice through both their music and their actions." [Read more >](#)

If you have other Alumni in the News updates to share, please send to alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au

Campus News

Burg Day fun

Current resident Celeste Zhong captured some special moments from this year's Burg Day on 17 October:

The newly blessed brick, held by St Beryl (current resident Charlotte Clare) with (L-R) Principal Sally Renouf, BRA President Ben Jefferson, and Acting Principal Amelia Zeraftis



New Burgmann baby Ava arrived in time for the action, pictured here with father Brodie Buckland, Residential Fellow Professor Asmi Wood, and sister Margot



St Beryl cracking an egg on Principal Sally Renouf's head, with BRA President Ben Jefferson watching on

Do you have great photos you would like to share from Burg Days past? Scan your images and send with captions to alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au





▲ **Poppy Thomson and Residential Fellow Lara Nicholls**
Photo Credit: Sally Renouf

E M Cumming Essay Prize

First-year Burgmann resident Poppy Thomson was the winner of this year's E M Cumming Essay Prize, with a highly evocative piece titled *Summer of Flies*. The story follows the first few waking hours of a young boy in rural Wahratta in the summer of 2019—the hottest summer on record—where townspeople are turning to religion and prayer with the imminent threat of bushfire. Adjudicator, Residential Fellow Lara Nicholls, praised Poppy's "eyedropper" precision with language, "letting [words] fall on the page in an elegant rift that cajoles the reader ever forward through young Benjamin's morning of internal tempest". [Read more >](#)

Historic double victory in Sports & Arts shields

For the first time since 1995 (25 years!) Burgmann was reunited with the Interhall Sports Shield, with outstanding performances in the girls' Volleyball Premiership and boys' AFL Premiership, and consistent top three finishes from each girls' sporting team. The nail-biting clincher came with a top three finish in badminton. [Read more >](#)



▲ **Captain Olivia Ferrer takes a shot in the girls' hockey**
Photo Credit: Celeste Zhong

Meanwhile, wins in the Poetry Slam and Spelling Bee, combined with Bas Braham's compelling discussion of "the quintessential Aussie" in the public speaking competition and a third place in film, ensured Burgmann also romped home with the Arts Shield. The pandemic also inspired some serious new creativity with the launch of Burg FM—keeping locked down Burgies connected through the airwaves—and an Archiburg Prize to recognise and celebrate lockdown art. [Read more >](#)



▲ **Cast of the 2020 Burgmann production of Cosi, directed by Maeve Ireland-Jones and Ellie Shafir**
Photo Credit: Celeste Zhong



▲ **Justin Ji receives his Valette certificate from Burgmann Board Chair Greg Mills, with Acting Principal Amelia Zraftis watching**

Valette 2020

What a grand celebration was had at the National Arboretum in October to farewell our 2020 valedictorians. Special mention to Katchmirr Russell for delivering a moving Acknowledgment of Country, to Khalil Kamali for his poignant Grace, and to BRA President Ben Jefferson for his rendition of Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" as his leaving song—it absolutely brought the house down!

[See more photos from this special evening >](#)

Memories Of Burgmann

The HMS WOBCO

Earlier this semester, Honorary Fellow Judy Middlebrook visited the College and loaned us this exquisite piece of College memorabilia: *HMS WOBCO*. According to the inscription, *HMS WOBCO* was presented to Captain Neil Bessell on 11 October 1983, "For dedication to the ship and keeping it afloat over the years". [Read more >](#)

The story of *HMS WOBCO* will form part of a photography and memorabilia exhibition at our 50th Anniversary Back to Burg Alumni Weekend in August 2021. If you have photographs or memorabilia to loan the College for this exhibition, please email alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au



▲ Photo Credit: Amelia Zaraftis



◀ (L-R) Alumna Jess Barallon, Lola & Jocelyn Abbott

That's College Life

Walking Lola

The 'Burgmann Dog' is a fine tradition, going back to the College's founding. Today's residents are spoiled for choice between Acting Principal Zaraftis's dogs, Lola and Mathilda, and Principal Renouf's dogs, Juno and Eve. Current resident Jocelyn Abbott shares her special ramblings with Lola:



"It's a Sunday afternoon in late September, and I'm exhausted. Exams are looming closer, and College events are picking up. I've been away from home just long enough to be missing my family, and while living with 250 other people is often a blessing, sometimes I crave company of a different kind. Luckily there is a solution. My four-pawed factory reset button is Lola, the Acting Principal's Border Collie cross..." [Read more >](#)



Introducing Ernestina Burgmann

In May, when our undergraduate wings were closed, and a home improvement and baking frenzy gripped the nation, as Australians sought to entertain themselves during lockdown, Deputy Principal Amelia Zaraftis brought Burgmann up-to-the-minute with a flock of backyard chickens.

And suddenly 'Ernestina Burgmann' was born. The new Instagram star, @ernestinaburgmann, not only became one of the many delightful means to connect with residents while they studied from home, but the chickens have become staple contributors to important Burgmann moments:

Acknowledging Country during National Reconciliation Week, welcoming back residents for Semester 2, celebrating Wear It Purple Day, and providing LOTS and lots of delicious eggs for many a resident bake-off.

Follow Ernestina's eggcellent adventures >

Giving to Burgmann

In 2020, we have been deeply grateful for the philanthropic support of our community and want to say **a big warm thank you** to parents and residents who donated to support the College when it became necessary for us to refund residential fees. Thank you also to the donors who supported the Bursary Fund and New Beginnings Flexible Bursary, which provided vital financial assistance for residents impacted by COVID-19, and to the Price family, who have been so generous in assisting to refurbish the Grenfell Price Room and Le Chat Noir, both of which are highly valued and important amenities for our residents.

We are extremely grateful for all assistance to grow the following:

- Bursary Fund
- Hardship Fund
- New Beginnings Flexible Bursary for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents
- Principal's Priorities Fund (to meet priority needs, at the discretion of the Burgmann College Board)

If you would like to make a gift, please **donate here**. Note: we will contact you once the gift is made to confirm how you would like it to be designated.

Every gift of \$2 or more is tax deductible within Australia, and 100% goes to the cause you choose.



This Alumni Newsletter is published by the Burgmann College Advancement Office. For all feedback and enquiries, please contact us at tel: +61 2 6125 6100, email: alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au