



Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Cheers to 27 years!

Burgmann bids farewell to Vicki Guyer as she embarks on the next exciting chapter

Residents and staff joined together to acknowledge the dedicated service of our Manager of Residential Services, Vicki Guyer, who retired on 30 May after 27 years at Burgmann.

"Vicki Guyer has been an integral part of our Burgmann family and it is with a mix of joy, gratitude, and sadness that we celebrate her retirement. Vicki has been a mentor, a confidant, and a friend to so many of us. Her willingness to lend an ear, offer guidance, and provide unwavering support, both in professional and personal matters, has left an everlasting impact on our lives.

On behalf of the entire Burgmann family, I extend our heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes for a happy and

fulfilling retirement. May this be just the beginning of a new chapter filled with endless happiness, good health, and wonderful adventures."

[Read more >](#)

[Read Vicki's touching farewell speech here >](#)

Acknowledgement of Country

Burgmann College acknowledges the Ngambri and Ngunnawal people as the traditional custodians of the land on which the College is situated. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

▼ Oliver Byrne and Vicki Guyer



“

Burgmann College has a bright future ahead of it. Even though I won't be a contributing member to that future, I take solace in knowing that I had a hand in making it the family it is today – just as you all had a hand in making me the person I am today. I'm forever grateful for my career.

”

“

What you do matters. Who you are matters. You may not change the world, but you bring your special uniqueness to the table and you're the only one who can do that. I'll miss seeing you all every day, and I'll miss the intellectual challenges you provided. Thank you for twenty-seven years of fun, camaraderie, and life-changing moments.

”



Message from the Principal

During her speech at the 2023 Commencement Dinner, Principal Sally Renouf reflected on the theme of **new beginnings**:

“After two-and-a-bit years of hibernating and protecting ourselves, it feels like 2023 is the year we finally get to emerge and share ourselves with the world again.

The founders of the College had a vision of a community where young people

could live and study together, in a spirit of diversity, individual growth and mutual respect. In 2023 we still hold true to this vision and celebrate this.”

Read more >

Sally Renouf

Sally Renouf

Principal

Burgmann Resident 2010-present

◀ **Chair of Council Greg Mills and Principal Sally Renouf at the 2023 Commencement Dinner**



▲ **Matthew Lobb (1989–1991), Geoff Martin (1986–1989), Chris Faddy (1988–1991) and Edwina Ekins (1989–1990) at the 2023 Sydney Alumni Get-Together**

Message from the Burgmann College Alumni Association President

Over the last few years, Burgmann alumni have given us consistent feedback: they like that the College is providing more updates via emails, newsletters and online, and they like to know that Burgmann is continuing to be a successful and happy place to live. However, most importantly, Team Burgmann wants new opportunities to catch up with their Burgmann mates!

In 2023, we’ve already had successful events in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney. The pinnacle alumni event, the annual Back-to-Burg Weekend, is coming up in August. Back-to-Burg is an excellent

opportunity to chat with a few friends and have a great weekend. For Canberra residents, we encourage you to drop by on Saturday afternoon or at Luigi’s Sunday morning just to say hi. We’d love to see you!

Read more >

Matthew Lobb

Matthew Lobb

President,
Burgmann College Alumni Association
Burgmann Resident 1989-1991
Former BRA President 1991

Online BRA Merch Sale

Want a piece of merch to remind you of the good old days at Burg, or simply want a piece of the action? The Burgmann Residents’ Association (BRA) are offering a mail order of some Burgmann classics to kit you and your family out! If you’re interested, **please fill out this form.**

**While stocks last, prices don’t include mailing cost.*



Key Updates

Getting the Band Back Together: Burg Alumni Events

We had an amazing time reconnecting with Burgies from Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney at our Alumni & Friends events. Thanks to everyone who came, and we cannot wait to catch up with the Burg community at our Back-to-Burg weekend in August!

See Facebook albums:

[Sydney photos](#)>

[Melbourne photos](#)>



▲ [Attendees at the 2023 Melbourne Alumni Get-Together](#)



BURGMANN COLLEGE
Affiliated with The Australian National University

Back to Burg
Alumni Weekend
REGISTER NOW!
18-20 AUGUST 2023

Back-to-Burg Alumni Weekend 18-20 August 2023

Register now and tell your friends!

Our Back-to-Burg Weekend is a three-day program of events all about reconnecting with old friends and colleagues, sharing stories and memories, and celebrating our cherished Burgmann spirit. Join us for much-loved traditions, such as the Monster Brain Challenge and Luigi's at the Lodge, as well as our annual Alumni & Friends Dinner, which includes the announcement of the 2023 Burgmann College Alumni Awards.

St Beryl and the Leaping Nuns of Norwich put on a surprise performance at the 2022 Back-to-Burg Alumni Dinner, to rave reviews!

[Check out the video here](#)>

Quicklinks:

[Register online](#)>

[View full program](#)>

[Download Registration Form](#)>

Update Your Details

It is always a joy to reconnect with our alumni. We would love to hear your news and stay in touch. Please **update your details** via our online form and encourage your Burgmann friends to do so too!

Lost Alumni Campaign

We are missing alumni from every College decade. Please review the **'Lost Lists'** on our website and help connect us with more Burgies!

Alumni Awards 2023: Nominate a Worthy Candidate

There is still time to nominate a worthy alumni, volunteer or staff member for our 2023 Alumni Awards. Nominations close 30 June and winners will be announced at our Back-to-Burg dinner on 19 August.

[Past recipients](#)>

[How to nominate](#)>

◀ **Top left: Alumnus Robin Brown accepting the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award on behalf of John Dauth AO, LVO, OBE**

Top right: Alumna Sai Campbell accepting the 2022 Outstanding Alumni Award on behalf of alumna Yasmin Poole

Bottom left: Professor Asmi Wood accepting his 2022 Burgmann Volunteer Award

Bottom right: Manager of Residential Services Vicki Guyer accepting her 2022 Staff Recognition Award



Matched Funding for our Bursary Appeal!

We have wonderful news! Some of our treasured supporters have generously pledged to match all donations, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000 during our Bursary Appeal this month. This means every dollar you donate to our Bursary Program will be doubled. If you have been considering making a gift to the Bursary Fund, now is the time. Every \$1 raised becomes \$2 worth of support for a resident in need.

We are so thankful for our wonderful community of supporters. If you have

already donated, thank you so much. If you haven't yet, we would be grateful to have your help in supporting this matching opportunity.

Donates **NOW**

Every contribution, no matter the size, will help us support bright Burgmann futures.

[Read more >](#)



A needs-based scholarship never goes to waste and has such an immense impact on young people – it is an affirmation of our value as a person and tells us that someone believes in us and our potential to contribute to the university and beyond.

Sai Campbell

Alumna, 2023 Rhodes Scholar Bursary & Scholarship Recipient (2019–2022)



▲ *Alex McKenzie, Robynne Furini, Priscilla Brooking, Tanya Socorro and Kaylia Payne*

Welcoming New Staff

We are excited to welcome Robynne, Priscilla, Tanya and Kaylia to the Burgmann family, and are overjoyed to have Alex rejoin us in his new role as College Dean.



▲ *Attendees at the 2023 Melbourne Alumni Get-Together*

upcoming Alumni Events:

Save-the-date: Peter Garrett & Alex Sloan: In Conversation
9 August

Back-to-Burg Alumni Weekend
18-20 August

See our [2023 Events Calendar](#) and save-the-date for an event near you!



See photos from Semester 1 Events!

Commencement

Family Weekend



▲ *Family Weekend attendees at the BRA Cocktail Party in the National Museum of Australia*



◀ *Residents and guests enjoying Commencement at the National Arboretum, Canberra*



▲ *The Leaping Nuns of Norwich getting ready for their gravity-defying performance at Commencement*

Alumni Profiles



▲ Martijn Wilder AM (1990–1992)

The Most Important Thing is Kindness: Martijn Wilder's Story

Alumnus Martijn Wilder AM has spent his career standing up for what he believes in. He recently visited Burgmann College and spoke to us about his startup firm, Pollination, which is working towards a net zero future.

"We work to design legal frameworks for governments to implement the Paris agreement and help companies move towards net zero. At the same time, we are also advising on and developing nature solutions. We are partners in the world's largest mangrove restoration project in Pakistan. It's all very challenging, but it's all critically important."

A lot of people who have joined the business have left big organisations where that ability to be really nimble and pivot and do interesting things was limited. We don't want people to become cogs in the machine, we want people to really be a part of something special and to have real lasting impact."

[Read more >](#)

Getting to Know BRA President, Oliver Byrne

"I was inspired to run for BRA President because I wanted to give back to the community. After seeing the great job that Bas and Isobel did during my first two years, I believed I could continue their work by facilitating fun events, promoting positive cultural change, and improving the residential experience. I care a lot about helping people, and President seemed a natural fit to achieve this while representing the residents at the highest level at College on Council and the Board."

My favourite thing about Burgmann is the convenience of seeing so many of my friends every day. While it can become overwhelming living with so many people, I love going down to the dining hall and having conversations with everyone about a whole range of topics. College is a melting pot of people from different experiences and learning from those experiences is insightful and beneficial."

[Read more >](#)



▲ Oliver Byrne (2020–2023)



▲ Dr Debbie Argue (1971)

There and Back Again: Author and Archeologist Debbie Argue on Life After Burgmann

Dr Debbie Argue recently gifted Burgmann a copy of her book, *Little Species, Big Mystery: The Story of Homo Floresiensis* (the 1-metre-tall hominin species nicknamed the 'hobbit').

Debbie is an archaeologist, a specialist in human evolution, and an honorary lecturer in the School of Archaeology and Anthropology at the ANU. She says that living at Burgmann was a wonderful and defining time in her life, prompting her to follow her dreams after graduation.

"I did secondary school teaching until I had saved up enough to follow my childhood dream—travel. I backpacked across Europe, the Middle East and Asia for about a year, and, en route, met the wonderful young man who would become my husband."

[Read more >](#)

Alumni & Friends in the News



▲ **Poppy Thomson**

Burgmann alumna Poppy Thomson (2020-2022) is the curator of the Metamorphosis exhibition at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra, featuring work by artists Janet Jeffs and Oliver Owens. The exhibition is running from Friday 9 June – Saturday 8 July, 2023

[Read more >](#)



Treasured friend of Burgmann College Aunty Dr Matilda House-Williams has been nominated for a National NAIDOC Female Elder Award.

Winners will be announced at the 2023 National NAIDOC Week Awards Ceremony in Meanjin/ Brisbane on Saturday 1 July.

[Read more >](#)

▲ **Aunty Dr Matilda House-Williams**
Photo: Blacklock Media



▲ **Vicki Brady**
Photo: Eamon Gallagher

Chief Executive Officer at Telstra and Burgmann alumna Vicki Brady (1990–1992) was one of the notable public figures who gave staff the option of working on Australia Day and taking an alternative day off.

[Read more >](#)



▲ **Hon Dr Kevin Rudd AC**

On 19 April 2023, Burgmann alumnus Hon Dr Kevin Rudd AC (1976–1977) presented his credentials to President Joe Biden and officially began his term as Australia's 23rd ambassador to the US.

[Read more >](#)

Burgmann alumnus Dhiiren Moganaraju (2019–2021) was one of five ANU students to receive a 2023 Westpac Scholarship.

[Read more >](#)

Dhirren Moganaraju ▶



Alumna Yasmin Poole (2019–2021) was one of fourteen people chosen to represent Australia at the coronation of King Charles.

[Read more >](#)

◀ **Yasmin Poole**



◀ **Annabel Baldwinson**

Current resident Annabel Baldwinson received the Dostoyevsky scholarship to participate in the Russian language 2023 summer school ASPIRANTUM in Armenia.

[Read more >](#)

Campus News



▲ **BRA President Oliver Byrne delivering his Move-In Day Speech**

Welcome Home: The BRA President's Move-In Day Speech

BRA President Oliver Byrne delivered his Move-In Day Speech on a chilly February day in Canberra, encouraging residents to participate in events and make the most of College life.

"College is daunting. It's hectic, it's fun, and it's eye-opening. It is home. And that's where we come in. BRA exists to help and support you and, most importantly, we're here to make sure that this year is one like no other. Through the highs and the lows, we and the whole community will be there to hold your hand."

So, why should you be excited about sitting here on this brisk, windy February afternoon? Well, the answer's actually all around you. The people at Burg make it special."

[Read more >](#)

The Voice Referendum: A Panel Discussion

On 28 April 2023 in the Common Room at Burgmann, the Tjabal Centre and ANUSA Indigenous Department held an informative panel discussion and Q&A on the upcoming Voice Referendum. It was an engaging talk that broke down misconceptions about the Voice. [You can watch the full video here >](#)

▼ **Aunty Dr Matilda House-Williams**



Le Chat Noir and Coffee are a Brew-tiful Combination:

Cate Barr, current resident and Manager of Le Chat Noir, shares our excitement about Burgmann's new coffee machine:

"Le Chat Noir has very recently invested in a brand-new San Remo Zoe Competition coffee machine from Italy. The Le Chat team opened for the first time on Wednesday morning with subsidised coffees for students and staff, with terrific reviews about the coffee!"

The team is hoping that the addition of coffee mornings will broaden our opportunities to connect with the community and create coffee and other cafe style drinks that everyone will love."



▲ **Pictured: (Right to left behind the bar) Katie Sheridan taking payment for a coffee on the first day of sales from the new Le Chat Noir coffee machine, with Manager Cate Barr**

Sports and Arts Updates



Arts

We've loved working with students to provide engaging arts opportunities which allow everyone at Burg to have a go, including Paint &

Sips and Speakeasies in collaboration with Le Chat Noir, and Big Night In, headlined by the college BNO band. The highlight would one hundred percent be BNO, IAC's biggest event this semester. Speaking to many of our friends, it wasn't only a good chance to support the Burg Band, but also a great opportunity to listen to live music in an engaging setting.

[Read more >](#)



Sports

Sport at Burgmann this year has got off to a strong start, with great participation and our many athletes displaying their superb skills in a range of sports. So far in the ISO competition, Burgmann has

competed in disc, touch football, badminton, road relay, lawn bowls, basketball, hockey, rugby 7s and AFL 9s. Some notable results from these competitions have been a second-place finish in lawn bowls, a nail-biting womens* basketball semi-final and our first grand final of the year in mens* hockey.

[Read more >](#)



▲ (From left to right): Charley Ellwood, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Hannah Benhassine and Finn Boylen

Photo credit: Tom Roschi Photography

Three Hawker Scholars for 2023

We are proud to announce that Hannah Benhassine, Finn Boylen and Charley Ellwood are the recipients of the 2023 Burgmann C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship.

They were presented with their framed scholarship certificates by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, at a reception at Government House in Adelaide on 3 May. The C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship commemorates the memory and achievements of Charles Allan Seymour Hawker—scholar, soldier, pastoralist and statesman. Established by Mrs Lilius Needham in memory of her brother, the scholarships are offered to capable students of principle and character who are committed to Australia's future.

[Read more >](#)

[See photos from the event >](#)



▲ Residents at the Paint & Plant organised by the Green Committee

It's Easy Being Green (At Burg)

Tom Worsteling, Patrick Gleeson, Rachel Arthur

University students have a lot going on, meaning that sustainability is not always at the front of our minds. For this reason, the Burgmann Green Committee works hard to spread awareness and organise initiatives to improve the sustainability profile of our shared home. Through a combination of educational and social events, the committee meets regularly to promote sustainability through methods that are relevant to the university setting.

Over the past few years, the Committee has made strides in its efforts to improve sustainability at Burgmann by continuing to collaborate with both students and staff. Such channels for collaboration have continued well into 2023, with progress made in efforts to restore proper recycling practices at the college, promote vegetarian options at meals, and ongoing improvement of Burgmann's 3-, 5- and 10-year plans.

[Read more >](#)

Memories of Burgmann

On 19 June 2023, we celebrated the twenty-year anniversary of the commemorative tree-planting by Alumni Kevin Rudd, Peter Garrett and Nick Minchin. This tree was planted on Burgmann College grounds to launch the start of Project Burgmann, an 8.5-million-dollar expansion project to build the Postgraduate Village.

[See photos from the event >](#)

(Right) Hon Dr Peter Garrett AM (1971–1973), Hon Dr Kevin Rudd AC (1976–1977) and Hon Nick Minchin AO (1973–1974) launching the Project Burgmann extension of Burgmann College

Photo credit: Stuart Hay. Courtesy of ANU Archives



That's College Life



Giving to Burgmann



Thank you
to our donors

We're Almost There! Bursary Appeal Update

We are so grateful to each and every donor who has supported our 2023 Bursary Appeal. With thanks to your support, and our incredible matched funding donors, **we have raised \$70,000.**

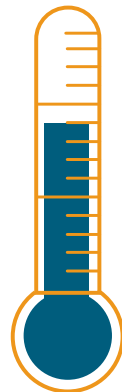
Burgmann Bursaries provide financial assistance to residents who might not otherwise be able to take up their offer of a place at the ANU and live at Burgmann.

Every little bit helps. Together we can support bright Burgmann futures.

[Read more >](#)

[Donate here >](#)

\$100,000



Raised
\$70,000

Donor Honour Roll

To all our donors and supporters in 2023, thank you!

Everything Burgmann College does is enhanced by the incredible generosity of our staff, alumni, parents, friends and volunteers who invest in Burgmann every year.

[See our 2023 Donor Honour Roll >](#)

2022 Impact of Giving Report

Throughout 2022, our valued donors supported a great range of important programs and initiatives. We are sincerely grateful for every contribution, large or small. Not only does this support make a practical and meaningful impact to the College, it also exemplifies the sense of care and collective endeavour that we know and love in our community: Burgmann Spirit! We are truly grateful to all our supporters. **Thank you!**

[Read more >](#)



▲ Lence Rasmuska

They're Like My Children: Lence Rasmuska on Giving to Burgmann

Lence Rasmuska has been working at Burgmann College since 2015 as member of the Housekeeping Staff, and is a dearly loved member of the community. Lence often goes above and beyond for residents, teaching them how to use the laundry facilities correctly or iron their shirts. Lence also shares freshly brewed Turkish coffee and homemade treats with colleagues, which is a wonderful example of the culture of giving that exists amongst staff at Burgmann College. When the College reintroduced its Workplace Giving Program in 2021, Lence decided to join the program as an ongoing donor.

"I donate because I want to help as much as I can. I love Burgmann – as soon as I came here, I walked in and said 'wow'. On my first day, we had morning tea and then lunch, and I thought 'my god, this is a good place.' I never feel like I don't want to come into work. Since I started I was so happy.

I love everything about Burgmann. I like the community, from the Principal to the other office people, management, housekeeping and the students. Every day is different. I have three kids, but the students here are also like my children.

I remember five or six years ago, one student came mid-year from another residence and he said he was finally home. He said at his last place, when you leave your room you don't know anyone. At Burgmann, if you leave your room you've got friends everywhere. If I didn't live in Canberra, I would send my kids here. Burgmann becomes their family."

We are fortunate to have Lence as part of the Burgmann family.

Thank you for your generosity, Lence!

Join the St Beryl Society!

As you may be aware, during the 50th Anniversary celebrations last year and in honour of the Order of St Beryl, we created the St Beryl Society as a special means of recognising those who choose to make a gift in their Will to Burgmann College.

Our beloved patron saint, St Beryl, evokes the creative and visionary spirit of every generation of our Burgmann community beautifully. A gift in your Will would help ensure Burgmann continues as the place to be for future generations of students.

[Read more >](#)



If you would like more information about joining the St Beryl Society, please contact **Director of Advancement Ms Amelia Zرافtis** for a confidential, no obligation conversation (**ph: +61 2 6125 6890, email: giving@burgmann.anu.edu.au**) or simply request a copy of our more detailed Gifts in Wills brochure.

Get Involved

Volunteer with the BCAA Committee

The Burgmann College Alumni Association Committee (BCAA) meets regularly throughout the year. Please email alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au if you would like to join a meeting on any of the following dates:

BCAA Meeting dates for 2023

- AGM 19 August (5:30pm, Burgmann College)
- 6 September, 6.30pm (Zoom)
- 8 November, 6.30pm (Zoom)



▲ 2023 BCAA Members Kate Pereira, Fiona Nixon and Amelia Zرافtis

Mentor a Current Resident

Have you thought about sharing your career knowledge and experience as a mentor? The highly successful Burgmann Alumni & Friends Mentoring (BAM) Program puts current residents in contact with professionals working in fields of interest, allowing them to ask questions about career pathways and gain greater clarity on the sometimes daunting transition from university to the workplace. For our mentors, it can also be a deeply rewarding experience.

[Find out more and register your interest >](#)

Class Notes

Where are they now?

Latest news from alumni around the globe

After living four houses apart in Roseville, NSW, then living at Burgmann College at the same time and studying the same Japanese course, alumni Geoff Martin (1986–1989) and Simone Cottom (1987) recently ended up running into each other in Japan before flying back on the same plane. [Read more >](#)



These 'Class Notes' are shared for publication through the [Update Your Details](#) form. Share your own update for the next issue of this newsletter!