BURGMANN COLLEGE

Affiliated with The Australian National University

SEPTEMBER 2023

Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Justice Robert Beech-Jones appointed as a Justice of the High Court

In very exciting news, Burgmann alumnus Justice Robert Beech-Jones (1984–1986) has been appointed as a Justice of the High Court of Australia and will commence on 6 November 2023.

Justice Beech-Jones is not only the first Tasmanian to serve on the High Court, but also the first Burgie. We would like to offer our congratulations on behalf of the Burgmann community to Justice Beech-Jones for this remarkable achievement!

Read more >

Photo credit: Australian Financial Review

Principal Sally Renouf with Aunty Dr Matilda House-Williams at the 2023 Back-to-Burg Alumni & Friends Dinner. *Photo credit: Collections From Him*

Principal Sally Renouf with husband Brodie Buckland, daughters Margot and Ava, and their dog Juno.

Principal Renouf says farewell to Burgmann after 13 years

This year will be my last year as Principal at Burgmann, with my last official day in the office likely to be 31 January 2024.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for a rewarding and transformative professional and personal 13 years at Burgmann College, with eight as Principal. The Burgmann community has shaped my life profoundly: during the time I have been here, I have met my husband, married and had two beautiful children.

It has been an honour to work with the incredible staff and volunteers at Burgmann; their dedication and commitment to our transformative residential experience is unparalleled. It has also been a joy to have met so many alumni of Burgmann College. I have been struck by the fondness with which they remember the College, and how they speak of the role this community played in their lives.

Read more >

Sally Renouf

Sally Renouf

Principal

Burgmann Resident 2010-present

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.

Message from the Burgmann College Alumni Association President

Just as Australia is the greatest country on earth, Burgmann College is the greatest residential college on earth. We have the nicest community, the most charming and quirky traditions, an outstanding democratic, egalitarian culture with a thoroughly modern commitment to diversity, respect, working hard and playing hard.

In short, Burgmann has got it all figured out. Importantly, the Burgmann diaspora is now taking the Burgmann way to the rest of the world. Our eleven thousand strong alumni have spread far and wide to share the Burgmann Spirit with their communities.

The Burgmann Alumni history is a proud one. Pleasingly, it is a history full of an authentic commitment to make the world a better place. Burgmann is a place of privilege, but we have used this privilege to better the lives of our community.

Matthew Lobb

Matthew Lobb

President, Burgmann College Alumni Association

Burgmann Resident 1989-1991

Former BRA President 1991

▲ *Photo credit: Collections From Him*

Key Updates

Hon Dr Peter Garrett AM & Alex Sloan AM In Conversation

On 9 August, Burgmann College hosted an In Conversation event with alumnus Hon Dr Peter Garrett AM (1971–1973) and journalist Alex Sloan AM. This event was made possible through the generosity of the family of Dr Charles Price.

We had a great turnout for this event, which covered topics from the Voice to Parliament referendum through to the best locations for surfing.

Thank you to Peter and Alex for such a wonderful evening!

You can see more photos from the event here>

▲ ***Alumni catching up at the 2023 Trivia Night and Monsterbrain Challenge***

2024 Alumni & Friends Events

Save-the-Date!
2024 Alumni & Friends Events

Please add these dates to your calendar!

Sydney Alumni Get-Together: **13 April**

Trivia Reunion @ Le Chat Noir: **3 May**

The Burgmann Village turns 20!: **6 May**

Back-to-Burg Annual Alumni Awards Dinner: **7 September**

Melbourne Alumni Get-Together: **11 October**

Back to Burg *Alumni Weekend*

18-20 AUGUST 2023

▲ ***Alumni & Residents at the BAM Networking Event.***
Photo credit: Collections From Him

Back-to-Burg was a resounding success, from the Friday night Trivia & Monsterbrain Challenge through to Luigi's at the Lodge with Principal Sally Renouf. Burgies young and not-quite-as-young came from all over to reconnect, share memories and make new friends.

The Alumni & Friends Dinner on the Saturday night was the highlight event, and included a Welcome to Country from close Burgmann friend Aunty Dr Matilda House-Williams, a trip down memory line with Rev. Dr Lewis Rushbrook, the announcement of the 2023 Alumni Award recipients, and a fantastic performance by the Head of the ANU School of Music, Professor Kim Cunio, with his equally talented wife Heather Lee. And of course, who could forget the incredible after-dinner performance by the Burg band, who had both staff and alumni singing and dancing along.

View Facebook photo albums for these events:

Trivia & Monsterbrain >

Alumni & Friends Dinner + Alumni Awards Presentation >

BAM Networking Afternoon Tea >

Burgmann College Alumni Association AGM >

Save-the-Date

Mark your diaries! The 2024 Back-to-Burg will be held on **Saturday 7 September**, and we'd love to see you there!

Professor Kim Cunio and Heather Lee performing at the Alumni & Friends Dinner.
Photo credit: Collections From Him ▲

Barry Jenkins (1981–1985) and Deputy Manager Residential Services Margaret Cadman.
Photo credit: Collections From Him ▶

Alumni Awards 2023 Recipients

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2023 Burgmann College Alumni Awards! Our Alumni Awards recognise, encourage and reward alumni excellence across a broad range of criteria, for endeavours both inside and outside the College community, and at different levels of accomplishment and life stage.

Read more >

Watch recipient videos:

Martijn Wilder AM

Heather Webb

Nerrida Higgins

Fiona Nixon

Distinguished Alumni Award

"What's really important is, as best you can, try to make a difference and try to make a contribution to public life. And, at the same time, just be kind to people along the way."

- Martijn Wilder AM

Outstanding Alumni Award

"[Working at the Aboriginal Legal Service] was a really special experience. I always felt very privileged to be trusted by people to act for them and for them to share so much of themselves with me."

- Heather Webb

Staff Recognition Award

"The most rewarding part of my role is being part of the Scholarship and Bursary Committee. Seeing the benefits of the donations going to residents who can reduce their financial distress and not have to work three jobs to support themselves is incredible."

- Nerrida Higgins

Burgmann Volunteer Award

"It is both enjoyable and fulfilling to give unswerving service to a beautiful and generous community where every person feels valued and cherished."

- Fiona Nixon

Update Your Details

It is always such a joy to reconnect with our alumni. We're eager to hear about your latest updates and maintain a strong connection. Please **update your details** through our convenient online form and encourage your Burg friends to do the same!

Lost Alumni Campaign

We are missing alumni from every College decade. Take a moment to explore the **'Lost Lists'** on our website and help us to reconnect with more Burgies!

ST. BERYL SOCIETY

Inaugural St Beryl Society Event

A special afternoon tea to launch the St Beryl Society was held at Burgmann College on Monday 4 September, where founding members were presented with their St Beryl membership pins, designed by Burgmann alumna Thea Katauskas (1993).

It was a moving occasion which recognised and celebrated the generosity of the Burgmann community, from staff and alumni through to volunteers and friends, who chose to leave Burgmann a gift in their Will. These gifts will transform the lives of residents through scholarships and bursaries, continue the College ethos of egalitarianism and inclusivity, and ensure the success of Burgmann for years to come.

We are so grateful to the founding members of the St Beryl Society for the life-changing support they are providing to future Burgmann residents.

Founding Members in attendance, from L-R (back): Rev Dr Lewis Rushbrook, Nerrida Higgins, Amelia Zaraftis, Dr Susanna Kitty Price Harvey, Sally Renouf and Alex McKenzie. L-R (front): Joyce Goodman OAM and Len Goodman AO

Founding Members

Mr Richard Edward Cook

Mr Len Goodman AO & Mrs Joyce Goodman OAM

Mrs Nerrida Higgins

Mr Alex McKenzie

Dr John C Mitchell OAM

Ms Lara Nicholls

Mr Bob Northey

Mr Christopher George Philpott

Dr Charles Archibald Price AM

Dr Susanna Kitty Price Harvey

Ms Sally Renouf

Rev Dr Lewis Rushbrook

Mr Robert Swift

Mr Martijn Wilder AM

Professor Asmi Wood

Ms Amelia Zaraftis

Anonymous

Alumni Profiles

It's about the journey, not the destination: How Burgmann shaped Ewan Isbister's story

"As a shy, conservative country boy, my time at Burgmann was somewhat of a formative time in my life. As Burgmann had a diverse student base from the country, city and international students, it was a hotbed of worldliness for me and opened my eyes to experience all sorts of different cultures and viewpoints. I did a lot of growing up at Burgmann!

Shortly after I left Uni, I worked at a language translation company, using my language skills. I then moved into import/ export marketing roles dealing with the South Pacific and Japan, once again using language and culture skills from my BA Asian Studies degree.

At that point, I realised I wanted to do marketing with a purpose, so I fell into a career of fundraising for charities. I spent several years working in fundraising roles for International NGOs like Amnesty, Greenpeace, UNICEF and WaterAid. These days I am a fundraising consultant, helping small and medium charities develop their fundraising programs, mainly in the environment, international development and health areas [...] It's extremely fulfilling work as you can see the direct impact on people and places, now and for future generations."

Read more >

There is no place like Burgmann College, a home away from home: Dr Nina Markovic Khaze on staying connected with the College

Alumna Dr Nina Markovic Khaze (2005-2006) with Dr Douglas H Jones, co-founders of Immunity Group Australia.

The best part of living in the post-graduate residential area at Burgmann was the freedom of thought and expression, abundance of opportunities, friendships made and physical proximity to my lecturers, tutors, libraries and events happening on campus.

The nature surrounding Burgmann College was also unrivalled and simply spectacular. Very early in the mornings, I would gallop across the luscious green lawns past the John Curtin Medical School across to the International Relations Department to hand my essays physically in before the 7am deadline. Next to me there were wallabies, rabbits and other amazing creatures peacefully grazing away and listening to my footsteps in the mud.

Burgmann College has given me a sense of identity and belonging in a new and unfamiliar city, a place where I gathered with friends and family visiting from WA, and where I celebrated my birthdays. I am still in touch with some of my friends from Burgmann, although our lives went separate ways

Reflecting back, it is clear that Burgmann College gives you wings to fly in whatever direction you choose with the right support mechanisms and infrastructure that all students need. This includes the Burgmann Alumni & Friends Mentoring Program (BAM), which I have proudly been a part of for many years. My message to all alumni would be:

"Cherish your Bugmann College residential experiences and help others advance and reach for the stars. You never know what impact you will make by supporting others achieve the unthinkable. That is the true spirit of Burgmann College."

Read more >

Alumni & Friends in the News

Martijn Wilder AM announced as Chair of the National Reconstruction Fund

Burgmann College alumnus and Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient Martijn Wilder AM (1990–1992) has been appointed Chair of the National Reconstruction Fund.

Read more >

▲ *Martijn Wilder AM*

Dr Liz Coats ▲

Dr Liz Coats Exhibition

Congratulations to Burgmann College alumna Dr Liz Coats (2009), whose solo exhibition 'Essence - experiments with organic pigments' ran from 29 July to 19 August at Utopia Art Sydney.

Read more >

Sam Saunders is a 2023 Ramsay Scholar

We are proud to announce that Burgmann alumnus Samuel Saunders (2014–2016) is a 2023 Ramsay Postgraduate Scholar. With his scholarship, he will undertake a Bachelor of Civil Law at Oxford.

Read more >

◀ *Samuel Saunders*

Burgmann College Alumni Hall of Fame

Check out the **Burgmann College Alumni Hall of Fame** over on our Pinterest page! Alumni included in the Hall of Fame have achieved great academic success through notable scholarships, excelled in their field of choice or made a significant contribution to social change. If we're missing anyone, please contact the Advancement Team at **alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au** to let us know!

Campus News

College welcomes new Deputy Principal, Mr Alex McKenzie

It is our absolute pleasure to announce that following a rigorous recruitment process, Alex McKenzie has been appointed Deputy Principal of Burgmann College. Alex was selected on the basis of his leadership skills, commitment to student wellbeing, and his ability to promote an inclusive and supportive residential community.

Alex is an alumnus of the College, having resided at Burgmann from 2016 to 2018 where he was a Residential Advisor and the equivalent of our Gender and Sexuality Education Advocate (Men's), as well as a member of Burgmann Council and Board of Management. Alex is a current member of the Burgmann College Alumni Association Committee and was College Dean prior to his appointment as Deputy Principal.

We are so excited to welcome him to his new role!

Read more>

Burgmann gifted a portrait of the College

John Swift and his wife Trish recently gifted Burgmann a beautiful portrait of the College that was painted by accomplished Canberra artist Judy McConchie.

John is the son of Robert (Rob) Swift, a former Chairman of Council from 1984–1999 who received the commissioned portrait as a gift from Burgmann when he retired as Chair.

Rob has since passed away and in his Will requested that upon the passing of his wife, the portrait be bequeathed to the College.

This was a lovely gesture from a wonderful man, and we thank Rob, John and Trish for this cherished gift.

Burgies raise $4000 for MS Plus

Burgmann residents recently participated in the MS Mega Swim at the AIS in Canberra, raising an incredible $4000 for MS Plus, a leading Australian not-for-profit working to improve the lives of people affected by MS.

"The MS Mega Swim is a 24-hour continuous swim, where a member on each team must be swimming at all times. Burg had over 30 people sign up to be a part of the team and managed to come 3rd out of 18 other teams, swimming a total of 73kms. The college helped raise $4000 for MS and came to support and swim during all hours of the night."

— Resident Safi Wheeldon.

Burg's Diversity Committee update with Angelina Inthavong

Diversity brings an incredible wealth of different experiences, knowledge, and personalities to Burgmann College, enriching our community.

In 2023 the Diversity Committee is continuing to advocate for diverse residents, educate other residents on how to upgrade their allyship and provide support to current and future residents. We are a collective of diverse Burgmann residents (e.g., ethno-culturally diverse, religious diversity, LGBTQIA+, low SES, rural and remote, neurodiverse and people with disabilities, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents) who are passionate about inclusion and actively celebrating diversity.

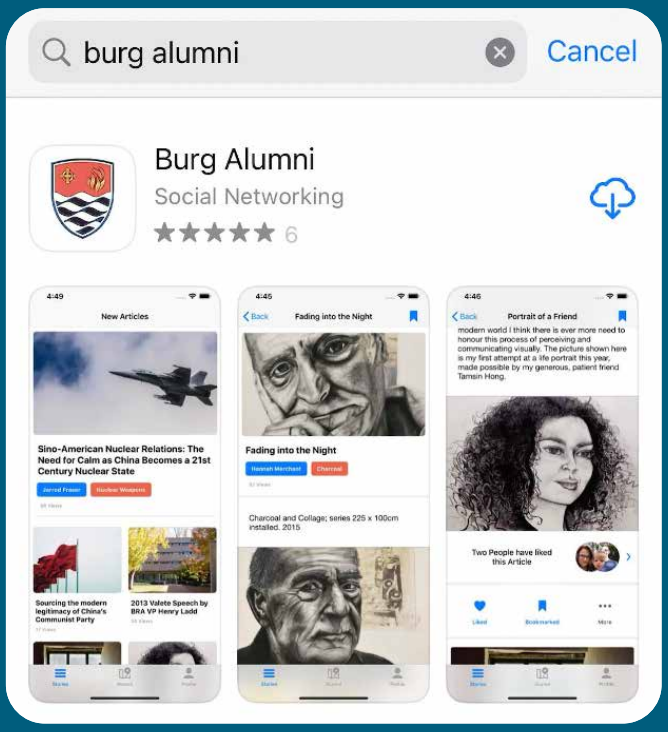
This year the Diversity Committee has continued to foster a more inclusive culture at Burgmann and actively celebrates diversity through hosting events such as morning tea catchups, a Fireside Chat during Bush Week with the International Rep and Bush Week Sub-Committee, Wear It Purple Day morning tea with the Queer* GSEA, and a Diversity Movie Night screening of Moonlight.

In addition, the Diversity Committee has helped fundraise for the Burgmann College Bursary Appeal. We organised a raffle during the Alumni Weekend and as Diversity Chair I gave a speech about how scholarships and bursaries are life-changing not just for a singular person but the countless other lives that they can also help change.

Read the speech Angelina gave at the 2023 Alumni & Friends Dinner here >

App creator Christopher Seidl

Connect with fellow Burgies through the Burgmann College Alumni App!



The Burgmann College Alumni App is a creation by talented alumnus and Advanced Computing whiz Christopher Seidl (2017–2021), which provides a wonderful platform for Burgmann alumni to connect, share memories, and network socially and professionally.

The App includes curated stories and experiences from the Burgmann community, a place to share memories and photos from your time at Burgmann, an AI-powered address book to form new connections, and an open discussion forum. The app community is steadily growing and we would love for 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.

Please see our Alumni App Brochure for more information >

Meet our 2023 Gender & Sexuality Education Advocates (GSEAs)

Mia Kline - Women's Portfolio

The role of a GSEA at Burgmann is incredibly unique. As a GSEA, you are tasked with amplifying the opinions and views of residents at the college on all issues relating to gender expression, sexuality and culture.

2023 has been abundant with highlights. Namely, my creation of Women*'s Chats, a weekly designated time for women* identifying or aligned residents at college to speak about what they are passionate about, addressing underlying issues in society or at Burgmann and reflecting on the latest pop culture trend. Moreover, the success of Culture Nights was an extremely rewarding experience for the team, only the second time the series of floor discussions around culture at college has run.

Read more >

Josh Borland - Queer* Portfolio

This year it has been my goal to continue pushing the community of Burgmann to be active allies. Whether that be through celebrating days of significance such as Wear it Purple Day, or allowing safe queer* spaces such as queer* catchups or any other autonomous events that are held. I want people to realise that being an ally means more than tolerating us, it means actively participating, supporting and embracing the queer* community in day-to-day life.

The role of GSEA is vital to the college's culture, and it has been extremely special to be able to hold this role and be the spokesperson of such a diverse community. I love celebrating this community and have been honoured to be provided the platform to achieve things I never thought were possible thanks to the College and all the support systems within it!

Read more >

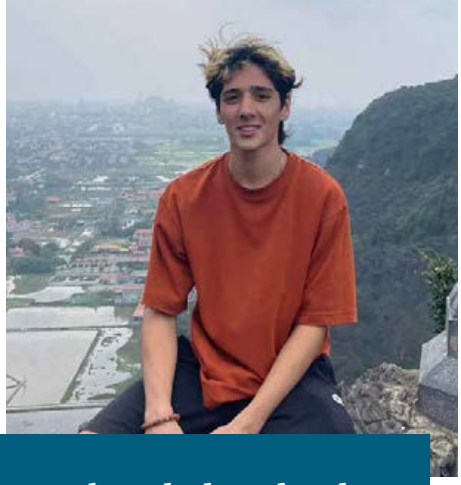
Hugh Wassall - Men's Portfolio

I have always been deeply interested in conversations that dissect gender and sexuality. From a young age, I found myself hiding interests I possessed because I thought they fell outside the scope of my gender identity. As I thought more about the topic, it became increasingly clear that interests, behaviours, and quirks are not inherently gendered. No way in which I act and express myself should ever compromise my manhood. Upon entering Burgmann College, it became clear that the men's GSEA role was closely linked with these passions.

Read more >

Memories of Burgmann

Reflections on school, university and college from our mentoring conversations



Left: Tim Payne. Right: Joe Negrine.

Alumni Tim Payne (1991–1993) and Joe Negrine (2020–2022) met through our BAM mentoring program and wrote an insightful article in 2022 about the nature of education in Australia, the value of living on campus, as well as the impact of the pandemic on the education experience.

Read more >

> *A university education ought to be broad and challenging, humbling and empowering, and eye-opening and horizon-widening. I am privileged to say that, where I have not found this to be the case in the classroom, I have found it at college. The college dining hall, tutorial rooms and common spaces reflect what a university education is meant to be. Buzzing. Interpersonal. Interdisciplinary. Over a meal, you can taste the kaleidoscope of interests, passions and plans of fellow residents. You can engage in discussions with students from completely different fields of study. You can pick the brains of older residents. Every day, you have the chance to completely renew your perspectives.*
>
> *- Joe Negrine*

Photo credit: Judy Middlebrook

Remembering the Burg shop, Greasy Louie's hamburger caravan and Lolly Gobble Bliss Bombs

Did you know? In the 70s, Burgmann had its own College shop managed by the residents. While it opened at mealtimes for student essentials such as newspapers, drinks, chocolate and Lolly Gobble Bliss Bombs, it is most fondly remembered for the pies, pastries and sausage rolls it sold after 10pm.

As the College shop was the only late-night takeaway near the ANU (aside from a hamburger caravan named 'Greasy Louie's), it became a hub for people from all over ANU, functioning as an Aussie café philosophique for sleep-deprived students craving Coke, a meat pie and enlightening conversation.

If you remember the College shop or have other Burg memories that you'd like to share, let us know at **alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au**

That's College Life

Giving to Burgmann

Therese and Fred with their son Nick at his ANU graduation

Therese Cochrane on the Transformative Effect of Education

Therese Cochrane and Fred Woollard are the parents of alumnus Nicholas (Nick) Woollard (2018-2022). While Therese and Fred began to donate to the Burgmann Hardship Fund during Nick's time as a resident, they have continued their donations since Nick graduated. We are so grateful to them for their ongoing support and generosity.

"Our family was not well off, so my parents sacrificed a lot to fund my living expenses. I was incredibly privileged to attend university at a time when it was free. Many people like myself would not otherwise have had the chance to attend a prestigious university like Sydney (or ANU). I received some Government assistance via TEAS for living expenses and I worked part time the entire time through university. I was well aware of the hand to mouth existence faced by people studying, particularly if they are away from family (which is the case for most students at ANU) [...]

I think most people donate to causes they know. I really loved my time at university and I think that it is a special experience that should be encouraged. I believe in the transformative effect of education for people's lives and that contributing to the ability of people to continue their education, particularly for those who are less well off, is money extremely well spent."

Read more >

$100,000 Raised for Burgmann Bursaries

> ***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.***
>
> **Alumna, Sai Campbell**
> 2023 Rhodes Scholar, Bursary & Scholarship Recipient (2019–2022)

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every donor who contributed to our Bursary Appeal in May–June, thank you! Your generous support is vital for supporting residents through our Bursary Program and we are forever grateful.

We would also like to express our deep appreciation to our matched funding donors, whose exceptional generosity served as an inspiring catalyst for numerous others to support our Bursary Program.

Thanks to their contributions, we were able to double the impact of every donation up to $50,000 and we were thrilled to share the news that we achieved our fundraising goal, raising $100,000 in our May–June Bursary Appeal. These funds are absolutely critical, as they will provide vital support to future residents alongside their studies.

Photo credit: ANU

Thanks to our wonderful community, more residents will have the opportunity to pursue their education and reside at Burgmann College, which would otherwise have been beyond their reach due to financial barriers. We cannot emphasise enough how much your support means!

Thank you!

Donor Honour Roll

A heartfelt thank you to all our donors and supporters in 2023! Everything Burgmann College does is enhanced by the incredible generosity of our staff, alumni, parents, friends and volunteers who invest in Burgmann every year.

Read more >

Leaving a Gift in Your Will

"Burgmann was such an important part of my education—and Dad's endeavour over all those years to get it going. I also wanted to honour all those people who have contributed so much to Burgmann over the years. For students coming in at 17 and 18, who don't know anyone… Burgmann is a really important part of giving them a 'family'."

- Dr Susanna Price,
Founding Member of the St Beryl Society

Leaving a gift in your Will is a meaningful way to create a better future and leave a legacy for yourself or a loved one.

By **leaving a gift** to Burgmann, you will be providing life-changing support for future residents in need; the impact of which will be felt for generations to come.

If you would like more information about joining the St Beryl Society, please contact Director of Advancement Ms Amelia Zaraftis 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.

Read more >

Get Involved

Volunteer with the BCAA Committee

The Burgmann College Alumni Association Committee (BCAA) meets regularly throughout the year. If you're interested in more information about the Committee or would like to join us for the next meeting on 8 November at 6:30pm via Zoom, please don't hesitate to reach out via email at **alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au**. We would love to have you with us!

Director of Advancement Amelia Zaraftis speaking at the BCAA AGM

Mentor a Current Resident

Have you thought about sharing your career knowledge and experience by becoming a mentor? The highly successful Burgmann Alumni & Friends Mentoring (BAM) Program connects current residents with professionals working in their areas of interest, providing them with the opportunity to ask questions about their career pathways and gain greater clarity on the sometimes-daunting transition from university to the workplace. For our mentors, this can be an incredibly fulfilling experience as well.

> ***"BAM gave me a great opportunity to meet with someone experienced in the field I was interested in. Being able to have candid conversations and discuss the industry is an opportunity that was really valuable to me."***
>
> Callum Read
> (2016–2018) Mentee

Find out more and register your interest>

Check out our BAM Brochure for stories from past mentors and mentees >

Class Notes

Sarah Turnbull and husband Frédéric

Where are they now? Latest news from alumni around the globe

After completing her BA, Sarah Turnbull (1985–1987) worked as a television journalist including four years at the SBS in Sydney. At 27 she went backpacking around Europe and, after meeting a Frenchman, she settled in Paris. *Almost French*, Sarah's bestselling account of her years in the city, has sold half a million copies.

Now living in Sydney with Frédéric and son Oliver, Sarah recently completed a Doctor of Creative Arts. She is currently working on a biographical novel about Australian Impressionist John Russell. From her years at Burgmann, Sarah has precious friendships and many fond memories.

"How often in life do you get to live under the same roof as so many wonderful people? I feel incredibly lucky to have had the experience."

Find out what Burgmann alumni and former staff have been up to since leaving. **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!