



BURGMANN COLLEGE

Affiliated with The Australian National University

WINTER 2024

Alumni & Friends

Newsletter

Celebrating 20 years of the Burgmann Village

On 6 May 2024, our community celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Burgmann Village with a special event. We were honoured to be Welcomed to Country by Aunty Dr Matilda House Williams and Paul Girrawah House, who performed a Smoking Ceremony alongside a beautiful tree carving Paul had completed to mark the occasion.

Hosted by Chair of Council and Board, Greg Mills, we heard from guest speakers with close connections to the establishment of the Village, including foundation alumnus and former Principal, Rev Dr Lewis Rushbrook and longstanding Council member, Campbell Macknight.

Read the full article and view photos from this special occasion >



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.



▲ The Burgmann band performing during BNO. (Photo: Linus Wang @linusw.dng)

Burgmann Band wins big at Big Night Out

A team of talented Burgmann residents worked hard and wowed the crowds at this year's Big Night Out, an annual interhall music battle hosted by the Interhall Arts Committee (IAC), and took home the 1st place trophy!

We're proud of our Burgies who performed and volunteered to make the event happen, as Burgmann resident Tess McClintock serves as this year's IAC President and a Burgmann Arts Rep alongside Jonah Siede, in addition to Burgmann Arts Whips Lily Elias and James McCredie; all were instrumental in the coordination and execution of the event.

Clips of their award-winning performances can be seen on our @ernestburgmann Instagram account >

Songs performed:

Spectrum – Florence & The Machine

Take Me to Church – Hozier

Tainted Love – Soft Cell

[Mashup] *All of the Lights* (Kanye)

+ *Sunny* (Boney M)

+ *Umbrella* (Rihanna)

The Burgmann band:

Vocals: Kristen Li, Jacob George, and Hugh Wassall

Brass: Lily Delves (trumpet), Nikki Ballinger (trumpet), Eloise Rudge (trombone), Hannah Claridge (tenor saxophone)

Strings and keyboard: James Ireland (guitar), Robert Jeffries (bass), Chiyo Brown (piano), James Neal (keyboard)

Drums: Lily Elias



▲ L-R Matthew Lobb, John Jousef, Rosanna Comastri (née Valzano), Tim Payne, Rachel Evans, Ameer Tadros.

Key Updates

BCAA President Update

The Burgmann community continues to look to the future in two key ways. Firstly, we're making important improvements to Burgmann's buildings and grounds. This month works have (finally) commenced on an upgrade to the much loved 'backyard' of Burgmann. This will establish a better link between the undergraduate building and the back garden, and includes a new courtyard, new seating, landscaping and the construction of a BBQ that actually works! I am most excited by the creation of an exit from the bar to the courtyard.

Finally, the longstanding, somewhat-hazardous bar night exit-via-the-window-off-of-the ledge manoeuvre will be but a memory of yesteryear's safety standards.

This building work has been made possible through generous contributions of College alumni, friends, staff and residents.

Secondly, to sustain College diversity and improve access to the Burgmann experience we have made significant progress in building up our bursary funds, allowing us to extend support to more residents...

Read the full BCAA President Update >

Matthew Lobb

Matthew Lobb

President, Burgmann College

Alumni Association

BRA President 1991

Burgmann resident 1989–1991



Alumni & Friends Events

See Facebook albums of recent events:



Sydney @ State Library Rooftop Bar >



Trivia Night @ Le Chat Noir >

Please register now for these upcoming events!

Singapore Alumni & Friends Get-Together
3 August

Back-to-Burg Weekend
7–8 September

Melbourne Alumni & Friends Get-Together
11 October

Visit our Events page for full details >

Register now for Back-to-Burg Weekend

The Burgmann College Alumni Association (BCAA) committee invites alumni, friends and former staff to register now for the 2024 Back-to-Burg Weekend.

Full details, including guest list, available here >

Enquiries:

alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au

REGISTER TODAY!





▲ Former Principal Sally Renouf (L) presented Nerrida Higgins (R), Manager of Business and Finance, with the 2023 Staff Recognition Award.

Submit your nomination for an outstanding Burgmann community member for the 2024 Alumni Awards before 30 June

Our Alumni Awards are designed to recognise, encourage and reward alumni excellence for endeavours both inside and outside the College community, at different levels of accomplishment and life stages, and recognise our outstanding volunteers and staff for their commitment to the Burgmann community.

This is your chance to elevate the work of an alumni or Burgmann staff or volunteer you feel deserves recognition for their Burgmann Spirit of giving back to their community and the world.

Recipients will be announced at the 7–8 September Back-to-Burg Weekend.

[Click here to submit your nominations by 5pm, 30 June >](#)

Cindy Watt returns as Manager of Residential Services

We're thrilled to announce that Cindy Watt recently rejoined the Burgmann team as our Manager of Residential Services.

“ I am passionate about developing residences with a “heart” and love the mix of cultures and diversity that is so often found in student residences. I am especially glad to be rejoining the Burgmann Community. **”**



▲ Cindy Watt, Manager of Residential Services.



▲ Monte Nathan, College Dean.

Welcoming our new College Dean

Burgmann College welcomed Monte Nathan as our College Dean on 15 April.

Hailing from Western Australia, Monte holds a Bachelor of Education from The University of Notre Dame Australia (2020) and a Master of Education from Edith Cowan University (2022). Monte has most recently been the Assistant Head within a school environment in Victoria where he has managed residential programs and undertaken pastoral care, whilst leading a small team of staff members to act as mentors and facilitators. Monte is joined by his partner, Kirralee Coulter, on the Burgmann College campus.

[Read more >](#)

Alumni Profile

Matthew Tjapaltjarri Heffernan talks cybernetics, robot dogs, and the future

Drawn to study a Masters of Applied Cybernetics at the ANU School of Cybernetics, Matthew Tjapaltjarri Heffernan (2021), a Luritja/Irish technologist from Alice Springs, says Burgmann College's close connections with the ANU's Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre led him to live in Burgmann's Village, allowing him to pursue his dreams of developing technology projects that shape social issues and make everyday science more engaging.

'My rule is: Work with cool people, and then see if the projects align with my larger aspirations and motivations around education, economic self-determination, and technology upskilling', Matthew says.

'My work is kind of "all over the shop", but on LinkedIn I would say "multi-dimensional". I think, "Why limit your life to doing only the work that's presented to you in the office by someone else's vision?"'



Read more about Matthew's fascinating work and experience at Burgmann >

Alumni & Friends in the News



Third Storey presented at the Kambri Theatre

We are so proud of alumnus and former Acting College Dean Eli Narev (2020–2022) who recently co-wrote, directed and presented an original play, *Third Storey*, at the Kambri Theatre.

Promoted as a play about possums, pizza, and the pursuit of perfection, *Third Storey* was the National

University Theatre Society's first ever full-length, student-written production. Equal parts outrageous comedy and chilling thriller, the play follows Alison and Dom, a young couple pulled by their own private insecurities into the set of a promising feature film.

Cast and crew included current residents Tess McClintock, Letitia Glenn, Jessica Peacock and Catherine Sankey, and alumni Adelaide Hayes (2020–2022) and Beth Fuccilli (2021–2023).

We heartily congratulate all for putting together an incredibly enjoyable show.

Campus News



▲ Top: Families enjoyed dancing to the Burgmann Band's performance.

▲ Left: BRA Vice Presidents Joshua Borlund and Oscar McAuliffe raise a toast.

Residents' families welcomed during Family Weekend

Organised and hosted by the Burgmann Residents Association (BRA) Vice Presidents Oscar McAuliffe and Joshua Borlund, Burgmann College welcomed residents' families to the College for a memorable three-day Family Weekend program in early May, which included an entertaining Trivia Night and a Gala Dinner, alongside other events and activities.

Key features of the Family Weekend Gala Dinner each year are the spirited speeches by the current BRA President and one of their family members, and BRA President Anaina Langrana and her mother Dilbur Langrana embraced this opportunity with humour and great affection.

“ To all the family members accompanying their children here tonight, thank you. We love this College, and I think I speak for everyone when I say the immense joy we feel in showing it off to you is incomparable, ”

said Anaina.

The evening was capped off by our award-winning Burgmann Band who inspired the young and young at heart onto the dance floor.

[Read the full article and view photos of the Gala Dinner >](#)



Cultural tree carving in Burgmann Village

“ Yindyamarra bala mugumnawa dhurringar marruwanha murruwaygu gulaman. ”
Respect is in the bark and tree that forms the coolamon.

Burgmann College is honoured to share that senior Ngambri custodian with Wiradjuri, Walgalu and Ngunnawal ancestry, Paul Girrawah House, recently completed a cultural tree carving in the Burgmann Village.

Auntie Dr Matilda House Williams and Paul (her son) performed a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony earlier this month when the carving was unveiled as part of our Village 20th Anniversary celebrations.

▲ Paul Girrawah House with the coolamon cut during the tree carving.

[See photos of the Smoking Ceremony >](#)

Memories of Burgmann

Burgmann College's first wedding: Edna Patricia Scott and Ian Allan Dundas

Alumna Edna (née Scott) Dundas (1971) recently shared these gorgeous photos of her wedding to alumnus Ian Dundas (1971) on 13 November 1971, which was the first wedding held at Burgmann College.

A regular visitor to Burgmann alumni events since reconnecting with the College during our 50th Anniversary year, Edna shared the story of her wedding day and handmade wedding dress with us.



Read the story and see more photos from Edna and Ian's Burgmann wedding >



That's College Life



'A place where we can thrive' **BRA President's Report**

By Anaina Langrana, 2024 BRA President

Looking back at this past semester at Burgmann, a plethora of words come to mind to describe the experience, but none seem to capture it quite as accurately as the word 'chaotic'. As BRA president, I have the honour of working behind the scenes when it comes to all things social events, sport and art

victories, new big-picture College opportunities and ensuring that all residents at College don't just find Burg to be a place where we reside, but instead a place where we can thrive. It is for this reason that I believe I am well suited to provide a recap as to just how chaotic this semester has been!

◀ **BRA President Anaina Langrana with her family during the Family Weekend Gala. L-R: Theon, Dilbur, Anaina and Cyrus Langrana.**

From our Orientation week with the theme 'Burg takes Hollywood', where new residents integrated with returners at events such as 'Studio 54 Night' and 'Burgolympics', to the return of some of our classic events and traditions through the course of the year, like Burg Day, we did it all.

The BRA VPs hosted an 'Iconic Duos Night: A Valentine's Affair', where resses were assigned a partner and had to dress up as an iconic duo. People went as Taylor Swift and Kanye West, Barbie and Ken, Batman and Robin, and two resses even went as Burgmann former Principal Sally Renouf and her husband, Brodie Buckland!

Burgmann also witnessed many victories in the Sports and Arts departments...

Continue reading the BRA President's Report of Semester 1 >

Giving to Burgmann

The Burgmann community uniting to support The Harriet Nixon Scholarship

The Burgmann College community was honoured to launch The Harriet Nixon Scholarship Appeal to Burgmann families at the recent Burgmann Residents' Association (BRA) Family Weekend Gala Dinner on 4 May 2024.

We are grateful to BRA Vice Presidents Joshua Borland and Oscar McAuliffe for including the appeal launch in their Family Weekend program.

With the support of the broader Burgmann community, we are establishing this scholarship for students from rural, regional and remote Australia in honour and memory of a remarkable rural **Burgmann alumna, Harriet Nixon (resident 2015–2016)**.

Harriet's parents Fiona and Ralph Nixon and younger sister Alicia (Liss) joined Director of Advancement Amelia Zaraftis on stage to formally launch the appeal to a caring audience of 600 Burgmann family members.

Having access to a first-class education in a comfortable home away from home is something Harriet cherished for herself; she would no doubt have wished the same for those otherwise unable to afford such an opportunity. I urge those who can to support The Harriet Nixon Scholarship.

Professor Asmi Wood

Burgmann College Residential Fellow and staff member of ANU Law School & ANU College of Business and Economics

We have been truly heartened by the response of the Burgmann community since we launched the appeal.

We have raised over **\$65,000** towards establishing The Harriet Nixon Scholarship.

We extend our sincere gratitude to every person who has contributed.

Please consider making a contribution today >

Read full article >

For further information about the appeal, please contact the College's Advancement Office via **giving@burgmann.anu.edu.au**



GIVE TODAY

burgmann.anu.edu.au/make-a-donation/appeal

All gifts over \$2 to support Burgmann College are tax deductible within Australia.



Supporting our New Beginnings Flexible Bursary makes a world of difference for Steph

At the age of 10, Burgmann resident Steph Evans founded the nonprofit Seas of Change to raise funds and awareness for marine life and conservation efforts. Her work gave her opportunities for international travel, but unfortunately, during one of these trips, she was involved in a plane accident that left her injured, and forever changed her life's mission.

Now a student at the ANU School of Law, Steph is studying compensation law to champion the rights of those who experience aviation accidents, and says the New Beginnings Flexible Bursary has been 'life changing'.

'Having the conditions I now have from the accident results in very expensive medical bills [...] This Bursary means I can pay my medical bills without having to think twice, never having to skip important appointments because I can't afford them. It also means that I can focus on getting better and putting my energy into my studies, as I don't have to stress as much about work and finances.'

Read more about Steph's inspiring story and how the donor-funded Bursary Fund has positively impacted her life >

Patrick Southey on the lasting friendships that College life can provide



Originally from the Mornington Peninsula, and still living and working in regional Victoria, we recently caught up with alumnus Patrick Southey (1982–1984) who shared some fond memories of his experience as a Burgmann resident and Law student at the ANU, and what motivates him to support the College's annual giving program.

'Since leaving Burgmann I've come to realise there are particularly strong links between the College and my old school, Geelong Grammar', Patrick says. 'The late Richard Cook was a real leader in the early days, followed by gallery owner Rebecca Hossack, and then John Mitchell, Ian Darling, Jeremy Kirkwood and Julian Twigg, who have all made their valuable contributions to the College in various ways. No doubt there have been others since then, too.'

“ So it seemed only fitting to support The Harriet Nixon Scholarship, Harriet having been both a country girl and a Geelong Grammar School student. I made some of my best friends in College—friends for life—and in an increasingly socially-isolated world, it's more important than ever that today's students get to enjoy the face-to-face camaraderie and lasting friendships that College life can provide. I'd encourage all alumni to chip in when and where they can. ”

Read Patrick's full Donor Profile >



Save the date - St Beryl Society Annual Event

We warmly invite you to save the date to attend our St Beryl Society event on Wednesday 2 October from 3pm–4:30pm at Burgmann College.

During this annual event, members have an opportunity to reconnect and membership pins are presented to new members recognising those who have chosen to leave a gift to the College in their Will.

All are welcome. Please contact the Advancement Office if you would like to attend.

For enquiries, please contact Director of Advancement Amelia Zeraftis at advancement@burgmann.anu.edu.au

Learn more about the St Beryl Society >

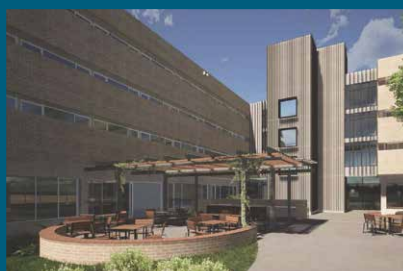
Undergraduate courtyard redevelopment project

Work has (finally!) commenced on the long-awaited Undergraduate Courtyard redevelopment project.

This rejuvenation project was made possible by the generous support of over 100 Burgmann donors during our 50th Anniversary year and has been in the planning stage for a long time.

We look forward to inviting the Burgmann community—including all our supporters who made this project possible—back to formally open this beautiful outdoor community hub later this year.

▼ **Architectural rendering of the project which includes curved seating areas and a new barbecue grill.**



2023 Impact of Giving Report

Our community provided extraordinary support to the College in 2023 across a range of programs and initiatives. We are deeply grateful for each and every contribution. Your support of

our community makes a lasting difference in the lives of current and future Burgmann residents.

Thank you!

Read the 2023 Impact of Giving Report >



Donor Honour Roll

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

Thank you.

See our 2024 Donor Honour Roll >

Get Involved



BCAA Committee 2024 Meeting Dates

The Burgmann College Alumni Association meets regularly throughout the year. Please email alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au if you would like to join our meetings on any of the following dates in 2024:

AGM 7 September

5:30pm at Back-to-Burg Weekend

18 September - 6:30pm (via Zoom)

6 November - 6:30pm (via Zoom)

Class Notes

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

Dr Eric Cother (1971–1973)

When Dr David Griffin was appointed the first Master of the new Burgmann College, he was at Sydney University in the Faculty of Agriculture and had three PhD students: Eric (Ric) Cother, Jill Wilson (1971–1974) and Percy Wong. He offered us a place in the Forestry Department at the ANU, where he was granted a Chair, if we wished to join him in Canberra, and accommodation in Burgmann.

In January 1971, the College was still under construction, so newly-enrolled students were housed in Garran Hall for several weeks. When a couple of rooms were finished, Dr Griffin allocated me a room and a torch to serve as a watchman to keep curious people at bay.

Eventually, students were housed two to a room for many weeks as construction continued. A Law student, Perry Whalley (1971–1973), was one of the first to move in, and together we started the Burgmann Residents Association (BRA).

Soon afterwards, we started the shop with restricted hours—in winter we opened again at 9pm to sell hot pies—and I remember the most expensive item was a Cornetto (drumstick) at 12 cents each.

Basil McCallum was the first Bursar and offered me a job at \$3 an hour (good money then) to mow the



▲ **Foundation Master**
Dr David Griffin at the piano.

lawns and empty the garbage bins daily on each level down into the mains bins at the delivery dock. We purchased a ride-on mower (not common in those days) and all was set.

Over the 1971–1972 summer break, Perry and I took over the Bonython Room to build a Canadian canoe while there were few residents around. Springbank Island was now accessible.

The Master's residence was completed about this time and David and Margaret moved in (he was previously living on Liversidge Street). They attended many College barbecues with their Staffy dog, Rex, who loved fried onions. We delighted in feeding these to him surreptitiously when we realised they made Rex fart in excess, especially after he returned home!

In 1972, a third-year Zoology student, Norma Cantrill, moved into Burgmann from Bruce Hall. One Sunday morning while I was mowing the front lawn, this lass strode across the lawn and accosted me, saying that 9am was too early to be waking people up. 'Bloody undergrads', I thought.

▼ **The Burgmann College Class of 1972.**



The first BRA Ball was soon to be held in the Dining Room, and a floor plan with tables was displayed there. I saw that Norma Cantrill had reserved a table near the band—a location I thought was too good for someone who verbally abused me for doing my job. So I rubbed out her name, replaced it with mine, and relegated her further away.

The Ball came and went without incident, but in a feeling of remorse I knocked on her door the following Monday evening, apologised, and offered to take her out to dinner. Nineteen days later we were engaged, though we delayed our wedding while Norma finished Zoology Honours and I completed my PhD.

Last year we joyfully celebrated 50 years of marriage and recently caught up with Perry Whalley in Bangkok. So you may see why Burgmann occupies a special place in my psyche.

Read more Class Notes >

Share your own update to be included in the next issue of this newsletter using the Update Your Details form >