



Alumni & Friends Newsletter



▲ Members of the Price family cut the ribbon to formally reopen The Charles and Elizabeth Price Gardens.

Celebrating the new Burgmann Backyard

On Saturday, 16 November 2024, Burgmann College alumni, staff, volunteers, residents and friends celebrated the official completion of the newly renovated Undergraduate Courtyard and reopening of The Charles and Elizabeth Price Gardens in its new location on campus.

“ We are delighted to see this vision brought so well to fruition as a wonderful new garden and social space for students and staff of Burgmann College, and as a special way to honour the unique contribution our father and mother made to the foundation of Burgmann College. ”

– Henry Price, son of Charles and Elizabeth Price, on behalf of his family

[Read the full story and view photos of the event >](#)



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.

Charlotte Young named the Overall Winner at the 2024 Asian-Australian Leadership Awards

Burgmann College is enormously proud to share that alumna Charlotte Young (2021–2024) was named the Overall Winner and Rising Star Under 25 at the 2024 Asian-Australian Leadership Awards.

“ For me, my work is focused on the community, rather than the self. I just want to do something good with the privilege I've been given. ”

– Charlotte Young

Charlotte served as a Co-Chair of Burgmann College's 2023 Cultural Change Working Group and was nominated for Victoria's 2024 Young Australian of the Year Award. Born with a hearing impairment, Charlotte founded the ANU Auslan Club, and she is also this year's recipient of the Burgmann College Principal's Award for Overall Excellence.

[Read more >](#)



▲ Charlotte Young delivers her acceptance speech at the 2024 Asian-Australian Leadership Awards ceremony.

Key Updates



▲ *Principal Alex McKenzie at Valete 2024.*

Principal McKenzie speaks at Valete 2024

“ This year hasn’t been without its challenges, but as Principal, I’ve been moved by the way our community has come together, looking out for one another in the toughest of times. It’s a reminder of how important community is, and how lucky we are to be surrounded by people who care so deeply. ”

– *Principal Alex McKenzie*

Valete is about celebrating the incredible year we’ve had and reflecting on what makes this community so special. 2024 has been a remarkable year at Burgmann, full of achievements that we should all be proud of, and we invite you to read more about the special developments in 2024, and our 2024 College Awards recipients.

[Read more and see photos of Valete 2024 >](#)



▲ *Outgoing BRA President Anaina Langrana celebrates with fellow residents after delivering her Valete speech.*



2025 Alumni & Friends Event Calendar

Perth, Brisbane and New York Burgies, 2025 is your year to reconnect—Burgmann Alumni Get-Togethers are coming to your cities!

[View the 2025 Alumni & Friends Event Calendar >](#)

Please save the dates for the following 2025 events, and share with your friends!

Melbourne Alumni & Friends Get-Together
Friday, 21 March

Sydney Alumni & Friends Get-Together
Saturday, 5 April

Burgmann Law Dinner
Friday, 16 May

London Alumni & Friends Get-Together
TBD June

Perth Alumni & Friends Get-Together
Friday, 4 July

Brisbane Alumni & Friends Get-Together
Saturday, 2 August

Back-to-Burg Weekend
Saturday 6–Sunday 7, September

Singapore Alumni & Friends Get-Together
TBD September

New York Alumni & Friends Get-Together
TBD September or October

Young Alumni Event @ Le Chat Noir
Friday, 10 October

For any questions about any events, or to express interest in hosting a Burgmann event in your city or at Burgmann College, email us at alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au

Update Your Details with us, to ensure we have your most up-to-date contact information to send you relevant details about Get-Togethers near you.



▲ BCAA President Matthew Lobb speaks at the opening of the Mark Arnott art exhibit during Back-to-Burg 2024.

President Matthew Lobb welcomes new alumni

Dear recent graduates,

Welcome to the Burgmann alumni community!

Firstly, thank you for your time at Burgmann. You have made your own unique contributions to the great traditions and community of this remarkable place and have shared countless unforgettable moments in the convo spaces of Barassi, Homer and in the Village.

Secondly, congratulations! You are now part of the broader Burgmann alumni community. Thousands of Burgmann alumni have gone on to make incredible contributions to Australia and the world, and you will too.

The main role of the Burgmann College Alumni Association (BCAA) is to help you stay in touch with your Burgmann mates and connect you with opportunities to help you celebrate your time together.

Whether through our quarterly **Alumni & Friends newsletters** or our regular **events or social gatherings**, we've got plenty of opportunities for you to stay in the loop about your friends and what they're up to.

And let's not forget the Burgmann diaspora! No matter where life takes you, your fellow alumni are always just a message away, ready to lend a helping hand across the globe...

[Read more >](#)

We're almost there! The Harriet Nixon Scholarship appeal update

The generosity of the Burgmann community is inspiring and deeply touching, with so many giving with open hearts and anticipation for what the future will hold for recipients of The Harriet Nixon Scholarship. Thank you!

When alumnus and loyal supporter of Burgmann Dr John C. Mitchell OAM (1975–1978) read Harriet's story, he was moved to generously donate \$20,000 to support the appeal. With his knowledge of economics and belief in the transformative impact of education, John is a strong supporter of bursaries and scholarships that remove barriers of access for students from regional areas.

“ The writeup of Harriet's very short life, with so much achieved, was compelling for me to donate. I had not achieved a fraction of what Harriet had done by the age of 22. Her sudden passing was a big loss to Australia. ”

- Dr John C. Mitchell OAM

Because so many in our Burgmann community have given with such heartfelt generosity, we're thrilled to report that we have now raised **over \$137,000**.



▲ The Nixon family at Burgmann College in 2016. (L-R) Fiona Nixon, Harriet Nixon (top), Liss Nixon (bottom), and Ralph Nixon.

We have only come so far because of gifts great and small, and it is only through your support that our **\$150,000 goal** is now within reach.

[Give today to support The Harriet Nixon Scholarship Appeal >](#)

New catering partner donates \$10,000 to The Harriet Nixon Scholarship

“ Supporting The Harriet Nixon Scholarship perfectly aligns with our values and our dedication to easing financial burdens while fostering access to high-quality education. It is this synergy of purpose that made partnering with Burgmann College and empowering its students a natural and meaningful choice for us. ”

Burgmann College has signed a new catering partner, **gather by Cater Care**.

As a gesture of enormous generosity and goodwill to our new partnership, gather has donated **\$10,000 to The Harriet Nixon Scholarship**.

'gather by Cater Care is proud to sponsor the Harriet Nixon Scholarship. We believe education

should be accessible to all, and our commitment to feeding students in schools and college residential halls across Australia reflects our drive to create a home away from home for those pursuing education far from their families. The Harriet Nixon Scholarship will provide life-changing support to students from remote and rural communities, first-generation

gather.

BY CATER CARE

learners, and Indigenous students. It embodies our shared mission to nurture and empower the next generation,' said Karen McLaughlin, gather's State Manager for NSW.

We extend our most warm and enthusiastic welcome to the gather team, and we and the Nixon family wish to express our deepest gratitude for gather's generosity in supporting the establishment of The Harriet Nixon Scholarship!

[Read more >](#)

Alumni & Friends in the News



▲ Alumna Hmalan Hunter-Xénié.

Alumna Hmalan Hunter-Xénié receives scholarship to study at the University of Oxford

Tiwi/Iwaidja, Kaytej/Warlpiri woman and former recipient of Burgmann College's New Beginnings Bursary Hmalan Hunter-Xénié (2020) is a 2024 Charlie Perkins Scholar, awarded by Aurora Education Foundation.

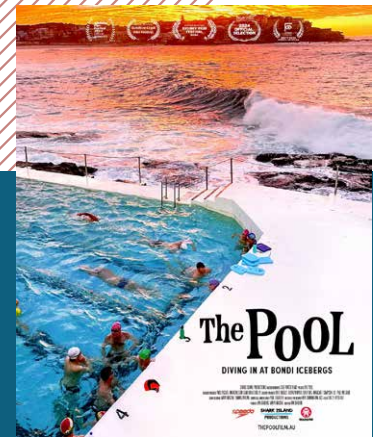
This scholarship will empower Hmalan to pursue a Master of Public Policy at Oxford University. '[Hmalan] is passionate about positively influencing policy and programs relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly in relation to water and land rights,' reads **the announcement** from Aurora Education Foundation.

Hmalan has also been recognised as the Scholar of the Year and the Caring for Country award at the 2024 NAIDOC Darwin Awards.

Alumnus Ian Darling's documentary 'THE POOL' debuts

On 7 November, Burgmann College alumnus Ian Darling AO (1981–1983) launched the limited cinema release of his latest documentary, THE POOL.

Bondi Icebergs is the world's most photographed pool, a 50-metre gem at Bondi Beach that has captured hearts for nearly a century. THE POOL offers a cinematic experience set to a 1960s soundtrack,



showcasing diverse characters with touching stories. It highlights the power of community and our universal quest for belonging, reminding us that everyone is equal in their swimsuits.

[Find screenings of THE POOL here >](#)



▲ Alumnus Samuel Cass.



▲ Alumnus Charles O'Neill.

Two alumni awarded prestigious scholarships to study at Oxford

Congratulations to Burgmann alumni Charles O'Neill and Samuel Cass on receiving prestigious John Monash Scholarships to advance their studies at the University of Oxford.

Charles O'Neill, a former Tuckwell Scholar, will pursue a Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science, aiming to enhance his understanding of AI models to drive innovation and application in Australia.

Samuel Cass, also a Tuckwell recipient, plans to engage in postgraduate research in law. He will explore how legal frameworks can foster equitable and evidence-based governance, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized communities in Australia.

Clara Conheady selected as Australian-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program delegate

Alumna Clara Conheady (2019–2021) has been selected as a delegate for the 2024 Australian-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP).

'This prestigious program is not just an opportunity; it's a gateway to deepen my understanding of the vital Australian-Indonesian relationship,'

said Clara. 'One of my key interests lies in exploring how our countries can collaboratively address global challenges. Through AIYEP, I'm eager to engage in meaningful discussions and initiatives that impact both nations.'

[Read more about AIYEP >](#)



▲ Alumna Clara Conheady.

Campus News

Burgies place 4th overall at Inward Bound 2024

This October, Burgmann residents brought their A-game to Inward Bound, with a team in six of the seven divisions, and we're proud to share that every Burgmann team completed the race in their division. Their outstanding efforts earned Burgmann College a very commendable 4th place overall.

'This year, Burgmann's motto was 'Redemption Era,' and they truly embraced it,' said Deputy Principal Taryn Stasakova. 'It was incredible to witness the camaraderie at End Point as we cheered for our runners. They should all take immense pride in the hard work and dedication they brought to the race.'

[See more photos from Inward Bound 2024 >](#)



College Awards announced at Valete 2024

Every year, Burgmann College recognises individual residents for their exceptional academic achievements and contributions to College at our Valete ceremony.

We're proud to announce the following residents were the recipients of the 2024 College Awards:

Principal's Award for Overall Excellence

Charlotte Young

The Callum Fryer College Spirit Award

Leo Burgess

The Glenn Downey Award for Outstanding Contribution to College

Lily Delves

The Brett Ringland Award for Outstanding Contribution to BRA

Joshua Borland

The John Dauth Award for First Year Contribution to College

Lily Elias

Indigo Emerging Leader Prizes

Angelina Inthavong

Stephanie Evans

We wish all of our vale-ing residents our warmest goodwill on your next adventure. Your Burgmann family will always be here to support you!

[Read about Valete 2024 and see more photos >](#)

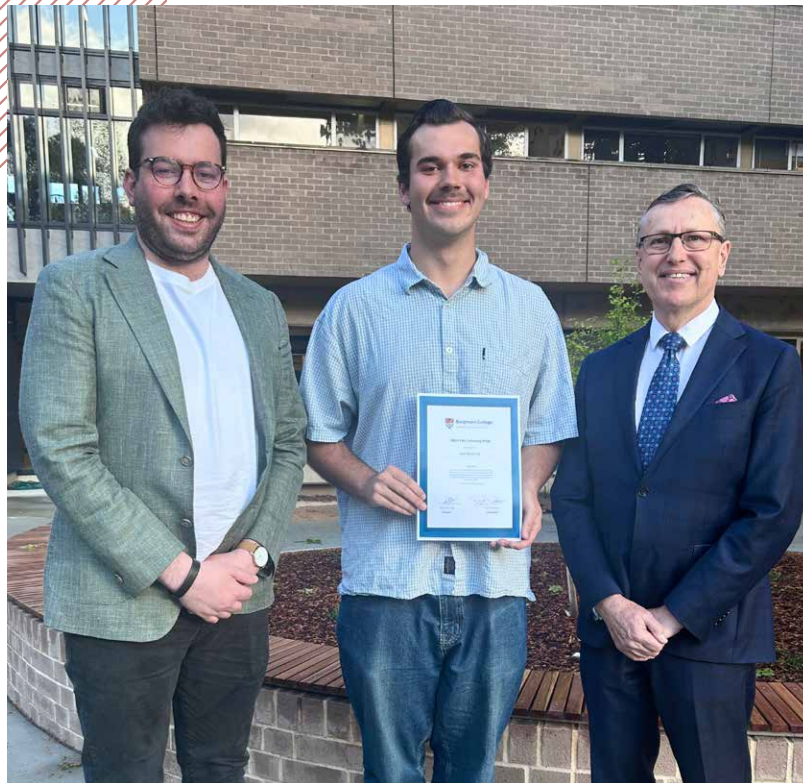
Women+ residents learn self-defence

Resident and Gender and Sexuality Education Advocate (GSEA) Georgia Nolan coordinated a two-hour self-defence seminar for women+ residents on 14 October in the Burgmann Chapel.

Co-led by instructors Reece Cummings and Nicky Foote of **Karate Canberra**, the seminar focused on situational awareness, verbal de-escalation, and basic physical self-defence techniques.



▲ Residents practice self-defence techniques during the seminar.



▲ Joshua Borland (centre) with Principal Alex McKenzie (L) and Prof Brett Davies (R), Burgmann Visiting Fellow and adjudicator of the 2024 E M Cumming Essay Prize.

2024 BRA Vice President Joshua Borland receives E M Cumming Prize for his essay, 'The Everyday King'

Congratulations to Joshua Borland on his winning essay entry 'The Everyday King' in this year's E M Cumming Essay Prize competition.

'Josh Borland's winning essay particularly stood out with its compelling discussion on the

sovereignty of one's everyday life,' said 2024 E M Cumming Essay Prize Adjudicator and Burgmann Visiting Fellow Prof Brett Davies.

Read Josh's award-winning essay and learn more about the E M Cumming Essay Prize >

New Resident Leadership Team ready for 2025

Despite some inclement weather, our 2025 Resident Leadership Team enjoyed their leadership training and bonding time in Kioloa, NSW!

Resident leaders learned crucial tools, techniques and training for their new roles, including group behaviour leadership training and hazing prevention training, offered as a micro-credentialled course by Credly, a first for Burgmann College.

'It was a busy weekend full of learning, board games and team bonding. The vibe amongst our incoming leadership team was amazing, and we are feeling really excited for the year ahead,' said College Dean Monte Nathan.

Announcing our 2025 Resident Leadership Team >

▼ Our 2025 Resident Leadership Team during their leadership training.



Memories of Burgmann

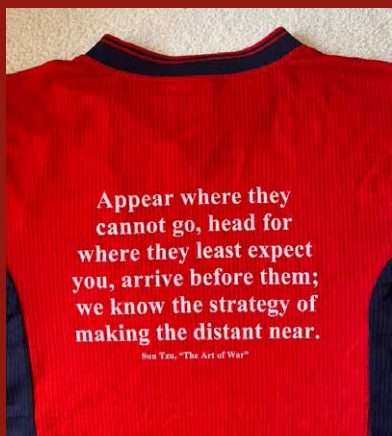
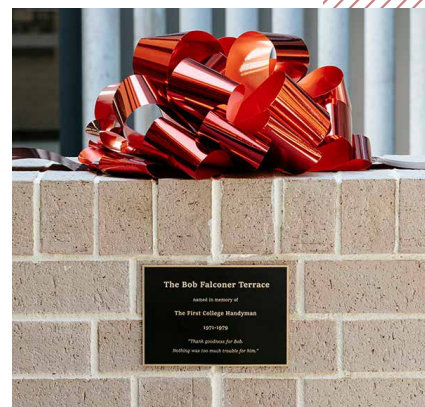
Remembering Bob Falconer, Burgmann's first handyman

Burgmann College has re-dedicated the Undergraduate Courtyard's terrace in loving memory of the First College Handyman, Bob Falconer (1971–1979).

Bob is fondly remembered by our early residents as always being ready to lend a helping hand, and we're honoured to celebrate Bob's memory and legacy with a permanent dedication to him on our beautiful, renovated Courtyard terrace.

[Read more about Bob's legacy >](#)

▼ [Plaque commemorating The Bob Falconer Terrace.](#)



Former Principal Rev Dr Lewis Rushbrook donates vintage Inward Bound shirt

Just in time for our Burgmann residents' memorable performance at this year's Inward Bound, former Principal Rev Dr Lewis 'Luigi' Rushbrook (resident [1971–1976] and Principal [1995–2005]) and his partner Jennie Lindsay donated this shirt from Inward Bound 2003.

The back of the shirt reads:

“ Appear where they cannot go, head for where they least expect you, arrive before them; we know the strategy of making the distant near. ”

– Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

Thank you, Lewis and Jennie!

Alumni Profile

In focus: Rittwick Visen finds connection and purpose through his camera lens

“ If you want to truly understand community living, Burgmann is the place to be. ”

– Rittwick Visen

Alumnus Rittwick Visen's (2018–2019) journey to Burgmann College, and eventually his current role as the International Student Recruitment Lead for the College of Engineering, Computing and Cybernetics (CECC) at the ANU, all began with a camera.

Rittwick said his father is 'a very artistic person' and was eager to share his love for photography with his son. 'I remember on my 10th birthday I got a Kodak KB10



▲ Rittwick Visen (right) at his Australian Citizenship ceremony in 2024.

camera as a birthday gift,' he said. 'That's how I was introduced to photography.'

With his father's encouragement, Rittwick began to teach himself photography as a hobby. He eventually attended university to study marketing, and worked for seven years in his home country of India before coming to the ANU to pursue a Master of Marketing in 2018.

He said that when he first arrived, he didn't know he could apply to live at Burgmann College.

'When I was shortlisting accommodations, Burgmann College always gave me the impression that it was a separate college, not a residential college, because it has "college" in the name. I never thought of it as accommodation that I should apply to.'

Thankfully, fate intervened in a most surprising way: A toga party.

[Read more >](#)

Giving to Burgmann



▲ Resident Charley Ellwood.

Investing in the future: C.A.S Hawker Scholar and 2025 BRA President Charley Ellwood on the gift of scholarships

I arrived in Canberra in February last year, having spent most of my childhood growing up on the Gold Coast in Queensland.

Needless to say, the decision to move and my first few months in Canberra were hallmarked by one thing—change.

Change, not just in my postal address or my electoral enrolment, but in the people I was surrounded by, a change in where my mind was most focused, and a change in the environment that would continue to shape who I was as a young person. And while I like to believe at times that as an optimistic and naïve 19 year old, I know everything, the truth is, I don't. I am far from it. That's precisely why an environment like Burgmann is such a valuable asset—not only for academic growth but also for personal development.

[Read Charley's full article >](#)



▲ New St Beryl Society members Jillian McSpedden and Robin Brown.

St Beryl Society welcomes new members

On 2 October 2024, the St Beryl Society held its second annual high tea at Burgmann College, welcoming four new members: alumnus Matthew Lobb (1989–1991), alumna Jillian McSpedden (1972–1974), alumnus Robin Brown (1971–1974), and a member who wishes to remain anonymous.

Jillian and Robin (pictured) have been instrumental in supporting the **Equality Prizes**, which are awarded annually in partnership with **indigo foundation** to honour efforts in reducing inequality. Their bequest commitment ensures these prizes will continue to benefit the Burgmann community indefinitely.

[Read more and see photos from the event >](#)

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



Ressie voices call for support of The Harriet Nixon Scholarship

Four of our incredible residents lent their voices and experiences to endorse The Harriet Nixon Scholarship in short but powerful videos.

We thank them all for sharing their stories, and invite you to [view their videos on our YouTube channel >](#)



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.

[See our 2024 Donor Honour Roll >](#)

Thank you

Get Involved

BCAA Committee 2025 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 6.30–7.30 PM (Eastern) meetings on any of the following dates in 2024:

5 March (Zoom)

7 May (Zoom)

9 July (Zoom)

6 August (Zoom)

6 September AGM
(Back-to-Burg Weekend)

5 November (Zoom)



We've updated our Lost Lists

Is your name on our list of Lost Alumni, or do you recognise another Burgie who is?

Thanks to so many Burgmann alumni using our simple **Update Your Details** form on our website, we've reconnected and kept up with thousands of alumni from across the generations, but we've also lost touch with many, and we miss our Burgies!

Take a moment to look over the Lost Lists. We would love to reconnect with you.

Review the Lost Lists for the alumni we're still seeking >

If you find your name on the list, please reconnect with us using our **Update Your Details form >**

Class Notes

Latest news from alumni around the world

Jessica Elliott, LL.M.

Since leaving Burgmann and graduating the ANU, I have worked as a lawyer across the justice system: from being a Judicial Clerk in the Courts, to a Solicitor Advocate in Moree for the Aboriginal Legal Service, to an International Lawyer for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

I recently graduated from Harvard Law School with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree. I was honoured to receive the Morgan and Helen Chu Prize for the top two LL.M. students. I am very grateful for the support of the Harvard Club of Australia,

the Lionel Murphy Foundation (ANU College of Law) and all those who made such an incredible year possible. Snippets of my year (and some of my inspiring classmates) are featured in **this Harvard Law School publication**.

I am currently living in London with my fiancé and fellow Burgie Sam Saunders (2014–2016), where we have enjoyed reconnecting with the many other Burgies based here.

I represent victims of the Fundão dam collapse in Brazil suing BHP, and I am busy planning our upcoming wedding!

Read more Class Notes >



▲ Jessica Elliott at her graduation from Harvard Law School.

These 'Class Notes' are shared with us for publication through the **Update Your Details** form on our website.

Share your own update for the next edition of this newsletter!