



Alumni & Friends Newsletter



▲ Top left: Attendees socialise at Mark Arnott's exhibition. Bottom left: Burgmann alumni, staff, and friends of the College who attended alumnus Mark Arnott's art exhibition. Right: Seve de Campo (2018–2020), recipient of the 2024 Outstanding Alumni Award.

Celebrating our 2024 Alumni Awards recipients

Ag innovator, Olympic skier, Aboriginal advocate, and steadfast staff member all recognised

The annual Back-to-Burg Alumni & Friends Weekend was held over the weekend of 7–8 September 2024.

Our event program kicked off with the extraordinary art exhibition *Make a Little Burg House in Your Soul* by Burgmann alumnus (1989–1991) and artist Mark Arnott, showcasing Burgmann memorabilia,

select artworks, and an audio component as an homage to his radio show days with 2RS.

The evening moved on to the Burgmann College Alumni Association (BCAA) Electoral General Meeting, where new members were elected to join the Committee.

After pre-dinner drinks, the highlight of the evening, the Alumni Awards Dinner, was held in the Common Room, overlooking the recently completed Undergraduate Courtyard renovations on Burgmann's back lawns...

[Read more about Back-to-Burg 2024 >](#)

[Watch the Alumni Awards videos >](#)

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.



Key Updates



▲ **Principal Alex McKenzie.**

Update from Principal McKenzie

As I reflect on my first nine months as Principal of Burgmann College, I am filled with pride and a profound sense of responsibility. Returning to Burgmann, where I once lived as a resident, has been a deeply meaningful experience. This College has always fostered growth, connection, and cherished memories, and it is a privilege to serve our community in this new capacity.

One of the most rewarding parts of my role has been...

[Read Principal McKenzie's full update >](#)

Former Principal Bob Northey attends Melbourne Alumni Get-Together

Many thanks to all who attended the Melbourne Alumni & Friends at the Prince Alfred Hotel in Richmond, VIC on 11 October. Alumni and friends shared their stories of Burgmann College, and met other alumni and friends from across the decades. Former Principal Bob Northey (1989–1995) also attended, and was delighted to reconnect with alumni from his time as Principal.

[See more photos of the event on our Facebook page >](#)

▼ (L-R) Kate Pereira (2016–2018), Fiona Nixon (Advancement Volunteer and BCAA Member), former Principal Bob Northey (1989–1995), and Lachlan Hill (2016–2018).



Vale, Len Goodman AO

The Burgmann College community was deeply saddened by the passing of its longest-serving Chair, Leonard James Goodman AO, who was instrumental in shaping the College and faithfully shepherded its growth over many years.

We extend our sincerest condolences to the Goodman family, in particular Joyce Goodman OAM, Len's wife, who has also been an invaluable contributor to the shaping and guiding of Burgmann College.

[The Canberra Times' obituary for Len Goodman AO >](#)

◀ [Len Goodman AO \(left\) receiving an Honorary Fellowship from Burgmann College in 2013, presented by Burgmann Chair of Council and Board Greg Mills.](#)



▲ (L-R) Sarah Ye with husband Roger Arnold (1978–1981), Karen Kok (2001–2003), Daniel Emlyn-Jones (2000–2006), Jock Wong (2002–2006), Tina Kua (2001–2005), Clive Ho (2002–2005), Fontane Fu (2001–2003).

Burgmann alumni host international get-togethers in Singapore and London

It's heartening to see our alumni and friends foster Burgmann spirit and connection, even while living abroad. Burgmann get-togethers in London and Singapore are becoming an annual tradition; perhaps you will host the next international Burgmann get-together?

London

Alumna Rebecca Hossack hosted another successful get-together for Burgmann alumni at her Rebecca Hossack Gallery in London's Fitzroy Square. Burgmann alumni and friends, including Burgmann Residential Fellow Lara Nicholls, the first female BRA President Bronwyn Young (now residing in Heidelberg, Germany), and Australian diplomat John Dauth AO LVO OBE (1972–1974), were all in attendance and enjoyed a night of reminiscences and hors d'oeuvres amongst beautiful artwork.



▲ (L-R) Nic Dillon (2010–2012), Will Jenkins (2008–2010), Madeline Goldie (2011–2012), Rebecca Hossack (1976–1977), Bronwyn Young (1978–1980, then 1983–1985), Lara Nicholls (Burgmann Residential Fellow).

Singapore

Alumnus and event co-organiser (alongside alumnus Jock Wong) Daniel Emlyn-Jones sent this update: 'The inaugural Singapore alumni and friends reunion was held at the Westin Hotel in Singapore on 3 August 2024. It was wonderful to meet friends old and new. It was particularly lovely to catch up with Clive Ho who came over from Hong Kong for the event, and it was also particularly special to meet for the first time Roger Arnold and Sarah Ye, who flew over from Sarawak. And of course it was delightful to catch up with Singapore friends. We started the evening in the Lobby Lounge overlooking the sea and watching jet planes flying Singaporean flags, practising for the National Day celebrations. Later from our dinner table in the Seasonal Tastes buffet restaurant we had an eagle eye view of the fireworks. This all helped to make it a particularly special evening, and everyone expressed a wish to hold a similar event next year.'

[Read the full update and see more photos of the get-togethers >](#)

[See Daniel's video of their view from the Westin Hotel in Singapore >](#)

Alumni & Friends in the News

Burgmann Residential Fellow Lara Nicholls presents 'Women of Empire' at the ANU School of Art and Design

Lara Nicholls, Burgmann Residential Fellow and ANU PhD candidate, presented her final 'viva voce' to the academic faculty and students of the Centre for Art History and Art Theory leading up to the submission of her final thesis in November. Titled *Women in the Imperial Art World: Anglo-Australian women artists and their transnational careers, 1885–1907*, her thesis presents new research which challenges historical perceptions of women artists in late nineteenth-century Britain and Australia.

British art critic John Ruskin and Australian art historian Bernard Smith suggested women lacked prominence in the art world. However, Nicholls argues that British-Australian women artists were more visible and influential than traditionally documented. By analysing exhibition data and contextual evidence, she revealed that these artists not only created significant works but also competed alongside their male peers in the imperial art world, highlighting their vital roles as global art citizens.



▲ **Burgmann Residential Fellow Lara Nicholls.**

Congratulations to Lara on her excellent, fascinating contribution to this important academic discussion.



▲ **Alumnus Dr John C. Mitchell OAM.**

Honorary lecture held at the ANU featuring alumnus and agriculture visionary Dr John C. Mitchell OAM

Burgmann College alumnus Dr John C. Mitchell OAM (1975–1978) has played an integral part in the research of ANU Economics Professor Bruce Chapman and Ecology Professor David Lindenmayer, who are working together to develop sustainable agricultural farming practices for Australia's future. The inaugural John Mitchell lecture was held at the ANU Research School of Economics on 26 August.

'In this honorary lecture, Professor Bruce Chapman and Professor David Lindenmayer [presented] their joint work involving the use of revenue-contingent government loans to finance a diverse range of rural investments, including for projects involving sustainable environmental activities, land restoration, and the protection of threatened species. Their analysis [illustrated] that it is feasible and desirable for governments to be involved in a range of propitious agricultural activities, with minimal cost to the public sector.'



▲ **Alumnus Jye Beardow (centre) at the 2024 Ramsay Postgraduate Scholarship award ceremony.**

Burgmann alumnus Jye Beardow awarded 2024 Ramsay Postgraduate Scholarship

Congratulations to alumnus Jye Beardow (2017–2018) who was awarded the 2024 Ramsay Postgraduate Scholarship.

A constitutional lawyer in the Australian Government Solicitor's Constitutional Litigation Unit in Canberra, Jye plans to use his scholarship to study a Bachelor of Civil Law at Oxford University.

'I am very grateful for my time at Burgmann, where I forged many friendships and networks which have helped me get where I am today,' said Jye. 'I would say I talk to at least one Burgmann friend almost every day.'

[Read more >](#)

Campus News

Burgmann residents host Round Table featuring fintech investor and Burgmann alumna Cathryn Lyall

In July, Burgmann Academic Network Coordinators (BANCs) organised a Round Table discussion featuring finance industry pioneer and alumna Cathryn Lyall (1982–1984).

Cathryn shared captivating stories from her Burgmann days and addressed residents' questions on topics ranging from career advice in finance to navigating



▲ BANCs Emily Baldwinson (left), Tasmin Engelhard (second from right) and Angus Arbuthnott (right) with alumna Cathryn Lyall (second from left).

gender discrimination in a male-dominated field, as well as how she has empowered others along her professional journey.

She thoroughly enjoyed her visit to College, reminiscing about her

time here while discovering the latest updates.

A heartfelt thank-you to our BANC team for their hard work and to Cathryn for dedicating her time to our residents.



▲ Mark Arnott at the grand opening of his Burgmann College-exclusive exhibition, *Make a Little Burg House in Your Soul*.

Mark Arnott opens exhibition of art and Burgmann memorabilia during Back-to-Burg Weekend 2024

Alumnus and celebrated artist Mark Arnott (1989–1991) opened his *Make a Little Burg House in Your Soul* art exhibition during the 2024 Back-to-Burg Alumni & Friends Weekend, featuring selected artworks, Burgmann memorabilia, and displays in homage to his undergraduate days hosting his radio show, *The Really Radically Random*

Radio Show, on Burgmann College's 2RS.

The exhibition was hosted in the A.R. Main Room, and photos of the grand opening can be found on our website Gallery of the Back-to-Burg 2024 event.

[See full Back-to-Burg photo gallery >](#)



Civic2Surf returns: A resident-led event to smash mental health stigmas

Our resident-led Civic2Surf fundraising run was back this year with a revamped, a smaller-scale event. Held on Sunday, 6 October 2024, this annual fun run raises funds for **batyr**, an organization dedicated to mental health support.

Participants started at Burgmann College, made their way through Civic and Acton Beach, and returned to Burgmann College, where a sausage sizzle awaited.

Many thanks to our Burgmann residents and volunteers who worked on this year's Civic2Surf!

Memories of Burgmann

The many lives of Le Chat Noir

In preparation for Back-to-Burg, we decided to revisit and revitalise the original and classic 'Le Chat Noir' for some of our designs, and along the way, we realised we had more than one or two iterations of Burgmann's favourite black feline.

Here are a few of the images and graphics from over the decades!



Do you recognise any of these Burgmann medals and trophies?

With many thanks to resident Jasper Lee's efforts, Burgmann College's collection of mystery awards has been photographed and documented.

With your help, we hope we can recover some of the stories tied to these awards and immortalise the memories in our records.

View all of the awards on our website, and email your comments and memories about awards you recognise to advancement@burgmann.anu.edu.au.

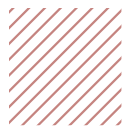
Visit the Gallery using the link below:

Box of Burgmann mystery awards: Can you help us? >



That's College Life

Photos from Burg Ball



Giving to Burgmann

Completion of the Undergraduate Courtyard Redevelopment Project

We are delighted to announce that the Undergraduate Courtyard Redevelopment Project was recently completed, transforming the previous BBQ area on the Back Lawn into a modern outdoor living area nestled amongst a garden of flowering plants.

The Courtyard Redevelopment Project has been years in the making and was made possible through the generosity of many donors to our annual fundraising appeal during the College's 50th Anniversary year.



▲ **The Undergraduate Courtyard features more seating, an upgraded BBQ, and direct access to the Common Room.**

This beautifully landscaped area is now known as The Charles and Elizabeth Price Gardens and includes a beautiful stone water feature dedicated in memory of the extraordinary legacy and impact of Charles and Elizabeth on Burgmann College.

The College will celebrate the completion of this project and formally

open The Charles and Elizabeth Price Gardens on Saturday, 16 November at 11.00am. All are welcome.

We hope you will join us on 16 November to celebrate the opening of this much-anticipated outdoor addition to Burgmann's 'backyard'!

See more photos of the completed project >

Jessica Peacock awarded the 2024 Burgmann Price Scholarship



▲ **Burgmann Price Scholarship recipient Jessica Peacock.**

'It is due to the incredible generosity of donors, such as the Charles Price family, that students like me can enjoy the amazing experience of College culture while studying at the ANU.'

I grew up on a small property outside the rural town of Wangaratta, VIC, attending both primary and high school there.

I spent 18 months in the remote northwestern town of Broome,

where I attended the local high school and engaged strongly with the local community—an experience that has fostered a sense of adventure.

After completing high school, I undertook a gap year during which I worked to save for my stay at Burgmann College. I began my gap year working for racehorse trainer Ben Brisbane. This entailed early starts with an amazing team caring for the wellbeing of the 60+ horses he trains.

During Autumn, I worked on a 3,000-acre property in the New South Wales town of Forbes. I worked long hours operating farm machinery, ploughing and sowing paddocks.

A combination of my time spent in the country and an interest in nature has led me to study for a Bachelor of Environment and Sustainability at the ANU. While I am unsure where my degree will take me, my time spent working on farms has encouraged me to follow the path of agricultural sustainability.

Burgmann College stood out to me as an amazing college since the beginning of my university journey. On Open Day 2022, after touring the colleges along Daley Road, it was the kindness and sense of community shown by Burgmann residents that drew me to apply, and I have not been disappointed. The welcome and support given by Burgmann and an amazing group of friends has made the move back into study enjoyable.

College life has had a massive impact on my time at university. Burgmann has given me the chance to be a part of a community and meet some amazing people from diverse backgrounds. Being close to classes and the city has allowed us to explore Canberra between study.

Receiving the Burgmann Price Scholarship has made a massive difference to my time at Burgmann. The financial support has allowed me to not only come to College but to focus my time on my studies. As I am working less during the term, I have the time and flexibility to focus my work intensively during the breaks for the racing stables; a job that I really love...

Read the rest of Jessica's story on our website >

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 >



▲ A tireless advocate for mental health causes, Harriet Nixon (centre) regularly participated in Civic2Surf, raising money and awareness for batyr, a for-purpose preventative mental health organisation.

Harriet Nixon Scholarship Appeal update

The Harriet Nixon Scholarship Appeal has received extraordinary support with generous and kind donations received from all corners of Australia and around the world.

To date, our Appeal has raised in excess of **\$110,450**.

The Burgmann College community together with Ralph, Fiona and Alicia Nixon express our sincere gratitude for your financial support, kind words, well wishes, and warm memories of Harriet.

This scholarship recognises the unique challenges faced by students

living in regional, rural and remote Australia. Each gift to The Harriet Nixon Scholarship is valued and will allow recipient students to live and immerse themselves in the nurturing and supportive Burgmann College community whilst focusing on their education and future goals at the ANU.

If you haven't yet supported the scholarship, we warmly invite you to give today.

Donate to The Harriet Nixon Scholarship Appeal >

Donor Profile

Burgmann College Residential Fellow Asmi Wood on the importance of giving back

Professor and Burgmann Residential Fellow Asmi Wood, a Torres Strait Islander man and Professor at the ANU Law School and the ANU College of Business and Economics, and the Director (Indigenous) of the ANU College of Law, has been a central figure not only in the Burgmann College community as one of its long-time Residential Fellows, but also as a strong advocate for Burgmann's advancement initiatives.

Since Burgmann began its fundraising program in 2019, Asmi has been an outspoken champion of numerous philanthropic efforts, spearheading the drive for raising financial support among our residents, alumni and wider Burgmann community.

Asmi is passionate about ensuring all students have access to the edifying experience of on-

campus living amongst peers and academics, creating lifelong friendships and accessing better educational resources.

'On-campus living is a fantastic experience for students studying at ANU,' said Asmi. 'The potential for students to meet other likeminded people and form friendships is particularly special about on-campus living, as well as the learning support available. I am motivated to do everything I can to make living at the ANU possible for young students.'

Burgmann College's 2024 Annual Appeal centres on establishing The Harriet Nixon Scholarship, helping students from rural, regional and remote areas take up their place at the ANU while residing at Burgmann College. While Asmi has been a faithful supporter of numerous Burgmann initiatives, this scholarship



▲ Professor Asmi Wood.

is close to his heart, as Harriet Nixon was one of his students at the ANU School of Law...

'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.'

Read Prof Asmi Wood's full Donor Profile >

Get Involved

Burgmann College Alumni Association (BCAA) Committee welcomes newly-elected members

The BCAA held its Electoral General Meeting during the Back-to-Burg Weekend on 7 September 2024, where the new committee members for the 2024–2026 term were elected.

2024–2026 BCAA Committee Members:

President: Matthew Lobb (1989–1991)

Vice Presidents: Robyn Byrne OAM (1974–1976) and Paul Fitzgerald (2016–2018)

Members: Ashoor Khan (2007–2009), Andrew Mainsbridge (1977–1981), Lachlan Moulds (2020–2023), Fiona Nixon (Advancement Volunteer), Athol Opas (1993–1996), and Ameer Tadros (1990–1992)

Ex Officio Members: Anaina Langrana (2024 BRA President), Alex McKenzie (Principal), Amelia Zarafitis (Director of Advancement)

The College is appreciative of the work undertaken by our outgoing 2022–2024 BCAA Members and we thank them for their valued contribution. We warmly welcome and congratulate our new and continuing members for 2024–2026.

Burgmann Journal accepting submissions for 2025 publication

By Angus Arbuthnott, Editor-in-Chief, Burgmann Journal

The double-blind peer-reviewed Burgmann Journal is accepting submissions for its anticipated February 2025 publication.

Aligned with the College's vision of excellence through diversity, the Journal celebrates and invites artwork and academic article submissions from all disciplines of scholarship amongst our current residents and alumni.

The Burgmann Journal not only enriches Burgmann College's academic reputation but also enhances the scholarly status of our community.

Produced by Burgmann Visiting Fellow Dr Brett Davies, Deputy Principal Taryn Ahsing, College Dean Montefiore Charles, and an Editorial team of inspired Burgmann residents, we invite our community to contribute your **academic** submissions by 5pm (AEST) on 10 November 2024, and your **creative** submissions by 5pm (AEST) on 10 December 2024, using the link below.

[Burgmann Journal website >](#)

BCAA Committee 2024 meeting dates

The Burgmann College Alumni Association (BCAA) meets regularly throughout the year. Please email alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au if you would like to join the final meetings in 2024:

23 October at 6.30pm (Zoom)

20 November at 6.30pm (Zoom)

Class Notes

Edwin Gill (1971)

Edwin Gill was married for 20 years, divorced, remarried, and he and his now wife have been together for 21 years. He has two sons, Elliot and Nicholas (Nick). Edwin began his career in finance before transitioning to CEO roles in 1983, eventually retiring in 2014 but still engages in pro bono work. He spent 12 years living in Sydney before moving to Melbourne, and he has pursued numerous interests and activities throughout his life, which he describes as having treated him well so far.

See current and Burgmann-era photos of Edwin and read more Class Notes on our website >

Alumna marries in south of France

Congratulations to alumna Chanel Irvine (2015–2016) on her beautiful wedding to Graham Webb in France's picturesque southern region.

Fiona Nixon, long-time Burgmann Volunteer and cherished friend of Chanel, attended the wedding and sent beautiful photos and updates from the event, and was thrilled to reconnect with many Burgmann alumni who had also made the trip.

We wish the bride and groom a lifetime of love and joy!

Class Notes are shared for publication through the Update Your Details form.

Share your update for inclusion in the next newsletter using the Update Your Details form >

▼ **Chanel Irvine (in white) with guests, including several Burgmann alumni.**

