

Alumni & Friends

Newsletter

Former PM Kevin Rudd AC welcomed back to Burgmann

There was an excited buzz running through College in the middle of residents' final week of exams, as we waited for the arrival of a very special guest—former Prime Minister and Burgmann alum, His Excellency the Honourable Dr Kevin Michael Rudd AC, 23rd Ambassador of Australia to the United States (1976–1977).

His Excellency—or 'Kevin', as he asked to be called during his visit—toured College, reminisced about meeting his wife, entrepreneur and Burgmann alum Thérèse Rein (1976–1977), in the Dining Hall, took photos with residents, and delivered an inspiring speech to an audience of 150 residents.

Read about his visit and see more photos >

The future is there for us to carve out with our hands, with our hearts, and with our imagination. And being here at this place, at this College and this university, you're given every box of skills you will need to help carve out Australia's future, in whatever your field of expertise is.

- His Excellency the Hon Dr Kevin Rudd AC

▼ Ambassador Kevin Rudd (centre) took multiple photos with residents during his visit to College.





High Court Justice Robert Beech-Jones delivered a thoughtful and impassioned address during the Burgmann Law Dinner.

High Court Justice Robert Beech-Jones offers 'guidelines' for law students at Burgmann Law Dinner

Burgmann College was honoured to host Australian High Court Justice and Burgmann alum Robert Beech-Jones (1984–1986) for our Law Dinner on 16 May.

Before a crowd of guests that included notable alumni, distinguished friends of Burgmann College, and current Burgmann residents, The Honourable Justice Beech-Jones opened his remarks by promising to avoid providing residents with 'rules' to follow, but instead offered advice he would have given himself as a young law student.

Read more about the Law Dinner >

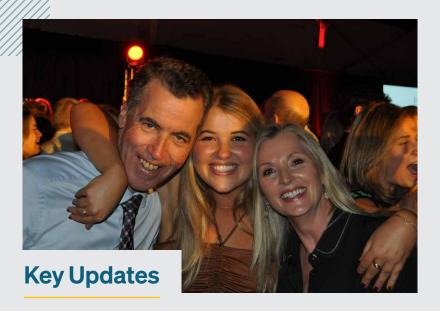
Being a lawyer is not important because of its status or salary. It's important because of the trust placed in you by your clients and the role lawyers play in society.

- The Honourable Justice Beech-Jones

Acknowledgement of Country

Burgmann College acknowledges the Ngambri and Ngunnawal peoples 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.





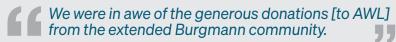
Residents raise over \$26,000 for charities during Family Weekend 2025

Burgmann Residents' Association (BRA) Vice Presidents Eloise Ridge and Billy Fuller led a team of dedicated resident leaders and volunteers to coordinate a fun Family Weekend over 9–11 May.

The event was a smashing success, with families travelling to Canberra to get a glimpse of their students' lives at Burgmann College and enjoy the weekend's capstone event, the Family Weekend Ball.

Featuring a three-course meal and live music, the Ball offered families and residents a chance to meet and mingle in a formal but lively setting.

The Ball also hosted the launch of Burgmann College's 2025 Appeal, **Growing The Harriet Nixon Scholarship**, and Charities Committee Chair Sophie Hill spearheaded a fundraising initiative for mental health research and services support for **Amber's White Light** (AWL).



Tamara Wraith, mother of Amber Wraith and Burgmann resident
 Monty Wraith

Read more about Family Weekend 2025, Amber's White Light, and Growing The Harriet Nixon Scholarship >

Celebrating Semester One: Acting Principal Stasakova's midyear update

As winter settled over Canberra, the College entered the quiet focus that exam season brings. Semester 1 has been full and vibrant, and as it drew to a close, I found myself reflecting on the many highlights of the year so far.

The Burgmann Band's Big Night Out was a standout event, showcasing the remarkable talent within our community, as was the memorable Law Dinner with special guest and alumnus, the Honourable Justice Beech-Jones.

At this time of year, many residents made the most of the teaching break and headed off in search of warmer weather. Whether embarking on a 'Euro summer' adventure or returning home to recharge and reconnect with loved ones, I hope they enjoyed their travels and a well-earned rest.

Taryn Stasakova Acting Principal

▼ Acting Principal Taryn Stasakova.



You're invited: BCAA President encourages Alumni Award nominations and registering for upcoming Burg events

By BCAA President Matthew Lobb

At Burgmann, we take pride in our rich traditions and vibrant events. Think Bar Nights, Burg Day, Dawborn, and Monsterbrain—all unique and sensational parts of life at the College.

At the start of the year, numerous alumni events were planned, including our second Alumni Get-Together in Singapore and our first-ever events in Brisbane, Perth, and New York, USA.

We get it—reunions can feel a little daunting. But those who've come along always say how glad they were to take the leap. Groups of friends are using the Melbourne and Sydney events as an annual catch-up and a chance to reconnect with people they've lost touch with. So, gather your crew and join in!

All of this is the warm-up for the big one—the annual Back-to-Burg Weekend held over the weekend of 6–7 September!

A highlight of Back-to-Burg will be the announcement of this year's Burgmann Alumni Awards recipients at Saturday's Gala Dinner. Last year's recipients were truly inspiring, and we know there are more amazing stories to uncover.

We can't wait to welcome you at one of our events this year. Check out all of Burgmann's Events in 2025 on the College's website >



▲ 2025 BRA President Charley Ellwood at the Burgmann Law Dinner.

Refreshing BRA's style guide, appreciating 'Secondmann' status, and more resident news

2025 BRA President Charley Ellwood's mid-year report

From a fresh new logo for BRA to thrilling interhall competitions, Burgmann's first semester of 2025 was anything but quiet. In his midyear report, 2025 BRA President Charley Ellwood reflects on a season of standout moments—from the creative chaos of Big Night Out, to a flurry of policy renewal and Family Weekend's fundraising success. Charley's recap of the year so far highlights the talent and community spirit we saw in Semester 1, and captures why Burgmann remains 'the place to be'.

In my first speech to residents on Open Day, I gave the advice of making the most of the opportunities and Burg, getting involved, and stepping out of your comfort zone. Our new residents have well and truly done that, and the community at Burg continues to thrive.

 2025 BRA President Charley Ellwood

Read Charley's full Semester 1 recap on our website >

Register now for Back-to-Burg 2025

Back-to-Burg is back for 2025! Featuring an exhibition by alum and accomplished visual artist Julian Twigg (1984–1986), a beautiful gala dinner and Alumni Awards ceremony, and a casual gathering of Luigi's and barbecue, we hope you'll join us at College over **6-7 September 2025**.

Earlybird registrations (before 7 August) will be entered into a draw for complimentary tickets, and Under 30/ concessions are available on request.



▲ Friends of the College Lindy Corrie (left) and Juliet Robinson (right) with alum John Corrie (centre, 1972–1974).

We can't wait to welcome you Back-to-Burg!

Find out more details and add your name to the guest list here >

2025 Alumni & Friends Event Calendar

We loved seeing you at our Sydney, Melbourne and London Get-Togethers, and look forward to seeing you in Brisbane or Singapore next!

View the 2025 Alumni & Friends Event Calendar >

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

Brisbane Alumni & Friends Get-Together Saturday, 2 August

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

Singapore Alumni & Friends Get-Together Saturday, 6 September

New York Alumni & Friends Get-Together Thursday, 9 October

BAM & Young Alumni Event 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.

Henchliffe twins make C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship history

Burgmann residents Thomas and Nicholas Henchliffe have made history as the first twins to be awarded the prestigious C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship in the same year.

Each brother received a C.A.S. Hawker residential scholarship valued at up to \$75,000 disbursed over three years,

in recognition of their accomplished academic records, exemplary moral character, and demonstrated leadership capabilities.

Read more about the Henchliffe twins >

(L-R) Nicholas and Thomas Henchliffe.



Alumni Profiles

Cathryn Lyall: Shaping the future of fintech and elevating women in finance

Alum Cathryn Lyall (1982–1984), a venture capital (VC) investor and non-executive director of various fintech initiatives, grew up along the eastern coast in Kiama, New South Wales.

The daughter of two educators, she attended agriculture-based Dapto High School and was heavily involved in the Australian Junior Slalom Canoeing team.

She enrolled in the Australian National University at 17 and started her academic career in Economics until finally settling on an Arts degree with majors in Political Science and English.

'After graduation', said Cathryn, 'I was accepted into DFAT to go into Foreign Affairs. However, before stepping into the role at DFAT, I decided to take a year off for travel.

'I worked on Hayman Island, travelled around Australia and overseas, and came back to Sydney, where [my then-boyfriend] was working in Financial Markets. I was going to waitress for the final few months, but he suggested I get a job as a Futures Broker, so we would both be working in capital markets.

He took me to a popular bar for capital markets traders and bankers in the Sydney CBD on Thursday night, and by 10pm I had a job starting on Monday. The company was Allstate's Futures, which was one of the five official dealers in interest rates with the Reserve Bank at that time, and I was the newest trainee

Client Advisor.



Cathryn Lyall.

'But Monday was the 19th of October in 1987—the infamous Crash of '87.'

Read how Cathryn broke down gendered barriers and found her professional passion >

Follow your heart. If you are passionate about something, it's not work, it's a purpose. But always take time to step back and assess: Do I have balance in my life?

- Cathryn Lyall

Dr Peter Graves keeps the Griffins' spirit alive in Canberra

This autumn, we were delighted to welcome Dr Peter Graves (1972–1974) back to College for tea and warm scones; the perfect setting to reminisce about his Burgmann days and hear about life in retirement, where he's kept wonderfully busy.

Until recently, Peter served as Chair of the Canberra Chapter of the Walter Burley Griffin Society, an organisation devoted to honouring the lives and legacy of architects Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin. Walter won the 1912 international competition to design what would become Canberra, and his wife Marion Mahoney Griffin was a celebrated and visionary architect in her own right.

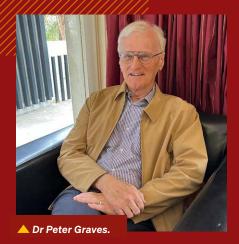
Passionate about the Griffins' enduring influence and Walter's original vision for the nation's capital, Dr Graves encourages anyone interested in the Griffins' remarkable story to visit griffinsociety.org or explore the Griffin Trail, which you can find at the National Capital

Authority's desk at Regatta Point, to rediscover their architectural legacy throughout Canberra.

In his final years, Walter found what he considered to be his 'spiritual home' in Lucknow in India's State of Uttar Pradesh.

Peter was pleased to have recently arranged for a passionate Lucknow local, Prateek Hira, to maintain the previously neglected gravesite into the future. The headstone now has additional signage explaining who Walter was and how he came to die in Lucknow in 1937, with his wife Marion by his side.

Regarding his time at College, Peter said:



'Being at Burgmann in its early years was a wonderful experience. I made life-long friends and even enjoyed the potato gems in the dining room. I still feel connected after 50 years.'

Thank you, Peter, for your ongoing connection with Burgmann College. It was wonderful to catch up and hear your news.

Alumni & Friends in the News

Celebrating Burgmann alumni and friends recognised by the Order of Australia

Congratulations to the alumni and friends of Burgmann College who were recognised by the Order of Australia in 2025, including:

Mr Neville Tomkins JP AM

Neville Tomkins JP AM (1976–1979) was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours for 'significant service to youth through leadership roles in the Scouting Movement, and to the community.'

Ms Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz AM

Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia

(AM) in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours for 'significant service to the property sector through executive roles.'

Emeritus Professor Keith Alexander Nugent AO

Emeritus Professor Keith Alexander Nugent (1977–1978) was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the 2025 Australia Day Honours for 'distinguished service to tertiary education, to science as a physicist, and to the advancement of optical physics.'



▲ Mr Neville Tomkins JP AM.



Lily Delves awarded AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship

Lily Delves (2022–2024) is a recipient of AgriFutures' Horizon Scholarship for 2025.

The Horizon Scholarship
Program uses industry
partnerships to connect
students to real-world
leadership, research and
networking experiences to
strengthen the sustainability of
Australia's agricultural industry.

Lily will receive a \$10,000 bursary over two years and is sponsored by the FRDC - Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

Alison Penfold elected MP for Lyne electorate

Alison Penfold (1990–1992) has been elected as the Federal Member for Lyne representing the National Party, making history as the first woman to represent Lyne in Federal Parliament.

Raised in the Manning Valley, she advocates for stronger rural healthcare incentives and aims to enhance regional infrastructure and address cost-of-living pressures.

Alison brings her extensive experience in both corporate and government sectors, including her most-recent role as a Director of Futureye, a social licence and risk communications consultancy, her experience as Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council, Chief of Staff to the Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, and numerous other high-level roles in government.

During her time at Burgmann, Alison was active in sport and Outward Bound. Later in her career, she has volunteered multiple times as a BAM Mentor.



Campus News

Womens+ GSEA Update

By Womens+ GSEA Peggy O'Sullivan (She/Her)

Semester 1 was a meaningful and energising time for the Women's+ community at Burgmann. Led by Womens+ GSEA Peggy O'Sullivan, the portfolio hosted safe going-out events, deeply engaging 'Nights In' discussions with the Mens+ community at Burg, and a creative mood board night that brought women+ residents together to reflect and connect on their goals for the semester.

Read Womens+ GSEA
Peggy O'Sullivan's recap of
Semester 1's activities >





Sport Update

By Sport Reps Max Dewhurst, Lachie Hunt, Matilda Moorman & Gretel O'Brien, and Sport Whips Emily Hay & Caspar Bosscher

Climbing from last year's 'Thirdmann' label to a string of second-place finishes, Burgmann showed heart, hustle, and serious team spirit in Semester 1. Highlights included beating Bruce in the badminton grand final, some Lawn Bowls drama, Road Relay heroics, and the always-popular inter-College mixers.

Read the full Semester 1 2025 Sport Update >



Queer+ GSEA Update

By Queer+ GSEA Clara Bertuch

This semester, the Queer+ portfolio brought colour, connection, and conversation to the College. Mardi Gras was marked with a joyful 'Queer+ Icons' night featuring themed drinks, live music, and iconic costumes, while 'You Can't Ask That' offered a welcoming space for open dialogue between residents and Queer+ panelists, and more.

Read Queer+ GSEA Clara
Bertuch's report on the
portfolio's work this semester >

Greens Update

By Greens Rep Florrie Torney

The Greens committee has had a strong start to the year, focusing on building community and promoting sustainability around Burgmann. From relaxed events in the Botanic Gardens to initiatives such as Market Days and a campus clean-up, the Greens Committee has worked to make sustainability accessible and engaging. Greens Rep Florrie Torney's report recaps the Greens projects and successes this semester, and what they're looking forward to in the coming months.

Read Florrie Torney's full Greens recap for Semester 1>





Arts Update

By Arts Reps Lily Elias & Euan Maclean

Burg Arts kicked off the year with movie nights and talent shows, then kept the momentum going through debating, theatre sports, trivia, and the iconic 40 Hours of Film. Though Burg narrowly missed retaining the BNO crown, the talent and turnout spoke volumes. With packed crowds, standout performances, and plenty of fun, it's been a semester to remember.

Read Arts Reps Lily Elias and Euan Maclean's Semester 1 Arts wrap-up >

Mens+ GSEA Update

By Mens+ GSEA Oscar 'Saf' Saffin

Heartfelt chats and over \$2,300 raised for a good cause. Mens+GSEA Oscar 'Saf' Saffin reflects on a standout Semester 1 filled with mateship, mental health, and mullets.

Read Oscar 'Saf' Saffin's recap of the Men+ GSEA portfolio's Semester 1 activities >



Burgmann Residents Association unveils updated panther logo

Earlier this year, the Burgmann Residents Association (BRA) Committee updated its design materials, and asked resident and Bachelor of Design student Charlotte Wallace to refresh BRA's black panther logo.

Charlotte's design retains key elements of the original logo—the panther, the shield, and the colour palette—to honour the association's history, with thoughtful updates to reflect and affirm BRA's modern progressive and inclusive values.

The original logo depicted the panther facing backward, which resulted in a static impression. In the redesign, I aimed to create a sense of unity and movement by

repositioning the panther to face forward, symbolising progress and a future-focused outlook', explained Charlotte. 'The panther's head now emerges from an open shield, adding depth, dynamics, and a three-dimensional feel.'

Charlotte also incorporated the flame motif from Burgmann's official logo onto the panther's cheek. 'This small but meaningful detail serves as a visual link between BRA and the broader Burgmann community', explained Charlotte.

The new logo presents a refreshed, cohesive identity that bridges tradition with contemporary values.

'It was an honour to contribute to the visual identity of the Burgmann



Residents Association

Residents Association', said Charlotte. 'The project challenged me to thoughtfully balance tradition with modern design, resulting in something that reflects the community I'm proud to be part of.'



Burgmann leaders' new dogs bring joy and paw-sitivity to campus life

This year, we were excited to welcome two new members to the Burgmann community, Ben and Ernie!

Ben is a Border Collie/Saluki cross living with Acting Principal Taryn Stasakova in the Village, and Ernest (Ernie) is an Australian Shepherd who lives with Acting Deputy Principal Monte Nathan in the Homer Wing.

These two adorable dogs were an instant hit with residents and staff, bringing smiles and a sense of home to campus. Ressies love taking the

dogs for a walk or play, and staff enjoy the short breaks to offer these furry office visitors pats and tummy rubs.

Ben and Ernie even appeared in the College's Mid-Year Survey, with multiple resident respondents stating that Ben and Ernie's presence on campus has had a positive impact on resident well-being during the Semester.

Burgmann has a cherished history of dogs on campus, and we're glad that Ben and Ernie are continuing this beloved tradition!

Memories of Burgmann

Then and Now: The Hon Justice Lea Armstrong and Barry Jenkins

They met at Burgmann in the '80s, and they're still going strong.

The Hon Justice Lea Armstrong (1983–1985) and Barry Jenkins (1981–1985, 1989–1991) first met as residents of Burgmann College in the 1980s. During their time at College, a friendship grew into a lifelong partnership, and a deep, ongoing connection to the Burgmann community.

They joined us for the 2025 Sydney Alumni Get-Together earlier this year, and returned to College for our 2025 Law Dinner, which featured fellow Burgmann alum the Hon Justice Robert Beech-Jones (1984–1986) of the High Court of Australia.

We're delighted to share some wonderful throwback photos from Barry and Lea's Burgmann days, alongside more recent ones that celebrate how the relationships formed here can last a lifetime.



L-R) Lea Armstrong, Philippa 'Pip' de Veau (1983-1987), Barry Jenkins, and Phillipa Weeks (then-Staff Tutor) at the Macabre Ball, 1984.

See more of Lea and Barry's photos from their time at Burgmann >

That's College Life

Join our residents for Civic2Surf, Sept 20-21

Civic2Surf is a student relay run from from the ANU to Bondi Beach, promoting positive conversations about mental health and raising funds for batyr. Follow Burgmann on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn to support and register for this year's Civic2Surf!

















Giving to Burgmann

Resident-led Mother's Day Market raises over \$2k towards Growing The Harriet Nixon Scholarship

The morning after an elegant Family Weekend Charity Ball on Saturday evening, residents and their families enjoyed a beautiful and relaxed Mother's Day Market held in the Burgmann Village.

In true Burgmann spirit, the Market was coordinated by BRA Village Rep AJ McMahon and BRA Village Whip Milly Dynan and supported by numerous kind-hearted residents who were passionate to be part of Growing the Harriet Nixon Scholarship.

The Market featured music, preloved clothing and books, Burgmann merchandise, baked goods, beautiful handmade posies by Fiona and Liss Nixon with the help of a dedicated team of volunteers, a barbecue, and coffee provided by Blak Bean Coffee & Catering.



Village Whip Milly Dynan and Katie Elliott managed the flower stall, selling handmade bouquets crafted by florist and cherished Burgmann volunteer Fiona Nixon and her daughter Liss Nixon.

The event was a fitting send-off for families and friends following a special weekend of reconnection and celebration, and a touching show of support from our resident community, who successfully raised \$2,209 towards the Appeal.

We thank AJ McMahon, Milly Dynan, Blak Bean Coffee & Catering, the volunteers and residents who supported the event, and the families who attended.

See more photos from the Mother's Day Village Markets on our website >



RA James Nouri-Azari skillfully manned the barbecue.

Exciting 2025 Appeal update: \$200,000 raised for The Harriet Nixon Scholarship

Our incredible Burgmann community has raised over \$200,000 (total) in support of our 2025 Appeal Growing The Harriet Nixon Scholarship. We are enormously grateful and amazed by your generosity!

After establishing The Harriet Nixon Scholarship in 2024, Burgmann College and the Nixon family have partnered together again for our 2025 Appeal to strengthen and expand the scholarship's reach for more rural students to live at Burgmann while attending the ANU.

We thank you again for your support of our 2025 Appeal, and we are honoured to share this heartfelt letter addressed to the Burgmann community from Fiona, Ralph and Alicia Nixon. You're invited to read their full letter on our website >



The impact of this scholarship reaches far beyond financial support. It creates connections between people who believe in education's power to transform lives and communities. Scholars will return to our regions, strengthening the places that nurtured them, carrying forward Harriet's legacy of service and grace.

- Excerpt from the Nixons' letter

Get Involved

We've updated our Lost Lists

We recently updated and re-published our **Lost Lists**. Thank you for your help in reviewing the Lost Lists and putting us in touch with alumni you know!

Read the Lost Lists here >

BCAA Committee 2025 meeting dates

Join the Burgmann College Alumni Association (BCAA) at any of our regular Skype meetings held at 6.30pm-7.30pm (Eastern) on Wednesdays throughout the year. Please email alumni@ burgmann.anu.edu.au to RSVP. 6 August (Zoom)

6 September AGM (Back-to-Burg Weekend)

5 November (Zoom)



Spotted on Campus

It was a pleasure to welcome back former Principal Rev Dr Lewis 'Lew' Rushbrook (1995–2005) for a recent visit.

 (L-R) Director of Advancement Amelia Zaraftis, Acting Principal Taryn Stasakova, and former Principal Rev Dr Lew Rushbrook at College.

Class Notes

News from alumni around the world

Rob de Fégely AM (1977-1978)

Rob worked in operations developing softwood plantations in southern NSW before doing a Masters in the UK and becoming a forestry consultant, working all over Australia, New Zealand and Asia. He currently serves as the Chair the Board of Sustainable Timber Tasmania, and as a Director of Forestry Corporation of NSW, and as a Board member of the Bega Circular Economy (Regional Circularity Cooperative Ltd) initiative led by Bega Cheese. He runs a small forest and farm with his wife Sarah near Pambula.

Oliver 'Ollie' George-Brown (2016–2018)

A former Burgmann Sports Rep (2017) and BRA President (2018), Ollie is now completing a PhD in Integrated Composition, Improvisation & Technology at the University of California, Irvine. His creative work blends new media performance, acoustic ecology, and site-specific art, and recently he performed his project *Xylocyclos* at New Interfaces

for Musical Expression (NIME) 2025. The performance used foraged timber interfaces from Galambary, or Black Mountain, on Ngunnawal country.

Reflecting on his time at College, Ollie said, 'I found the College to be an amazing springboard into other opportunities. I'd encourage ressies to push themselves beyond their program and their regular College life, and to get involved both at College and beyond, since ANU offers such a huge range of students and student activities.

I tried to take one class outside my department every semester as a way of meeting new faces and ideas, and I have carried that through to my graduate studies. Even as a grad student, I try to enrol in one course each semester in a totally different department as a way of meeting new faces and hearing new ideas. Even when I'm totally out of my depth, it forces me to think in different and unexpected ways.'

Read more Class Notes >



A Rob de Fégely AM.



Oliver George-Brown (right) at his recent Xylocyclos performance at NIME2025 in Canberra.

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