



Alumni & Friends

Newsletter



▲ (L-R) Monica Hyson, Evie's grandmother, Harriet Nixon Scholar Evelyn 'Evie' Tilley, Fiona Nixon, mother of Harriet Nixon, and Kirsty Tilley, Evie's mother, stand in the friendship garden planted in memory of Harriet Nixon.

Introducing Evelyn Tilley, inaugural Harriet Nixon Scholar

After a heartwarming show of support from you, our Burgmann community, we have raised \$160,000 to establish The Harriet Nixon Scholarship. It is with great pleasure and pride we welcome Evelyn 'Evie' Tilley, our inaugural Harriet Nixon Scholar.

Having spent most of her life on a farm in Booborowie, South Australia, Evie helped her family—mum Kirsty, dad Leith, and younger brothers John and Patrick—shear and slaughter sheep, alongside growing crops like wheat, barley and canola. She dreamed of working in the public service, and knew the natural progression of pursuing her dream would ultimately lead her to Canberra.

On coming to Burgmann, Evie says it felt like she 'was meant to be here'.

'In the beginning of Year 12, I stayed in Burgmann College for a week for the

National Youth Science Forum, and I had the most amazing time. I loved the campus, I loved the Dining Hall and the decorations on the walls—it just felt like a great environment. So, when my family found ourselves in Canberra over the winter holidays, I went back to Burgmann for a tour. I had Burgmann's then O-Week Chair and current 2025 BRA President Charley Ellwood as my tour guide, and it turned out that of the hundreds of rooms in the College, he was in the exact same room I had stayed in earlier in the year. Topping off the experience, I was able to meet all the staff at morning tea, and I had one of the best muffins I had ever had.

'To me, Burgmann just fell into place, and I am so grateful that I made the decision to apply, because it has been one of the best experiences.'

Read Evie Tilley's full story, including photos from her life in Booborowie, and her heartfelt messages of gratitude to the supporters of The Harriet Nixon Scholarship and the Nixon family, on our website >

“Knowing that there are people out there who went to Burgmann or didn't, who knew Harriet and the Nixon family or didn't, or are from regional areas or not, who were willing to donate money to support students like me is such an incredible feeling. Your support and generosity will never be lost on me.”

— Evelyn Tilley,
inaugural Harriet Nixon Scholar



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.

Key Updates

Update from Acting Principal Taryn Stasakova

Since the start of the year, Burgmann College has been bustling with resident activities. The vibe around College is excited and happy, and it has been a privilege to meet our new residents and welcome back our returning residents for another year at College.

As we look back on 2024, I want to thank Mr Alex McKenzie for overseeing a demanding year as College Principal; news of Alex's resignation was shared with residents and staff on Friday, 28 February 2025. Alex has decided to pursue other pathways for 2025, and the College thanks him for successfully overseeing business as usual over the course of 2024, and particularly commends Alex for his completion of significant projects such as the Courtyard renovation and catering outsourcing.

The College sincerely wishes Alex well in his future endeavours.

Already this year, our Burgmann Residents' Association (BRA) leaders, Resident Advisors (RAs), and other leaders have been hard at work creating opportunities for residents to bond and grow together as a community. Residents have enjoyed an 'Aussie Aussie Aussie O O O-Week', Floor Dinners, and the antics of Kill Week which kept everyone on their toes—even Burgmann staff participated in the fun!



▲ **Acting Principal Taryn Stasakova at the 2025 Commencement Dinner.**

We were proud to make it into the Disc Finals against our neighbours John XXIII, and to bring home second place in the interhall debate competition against Wright Hall.

Commencement was held at the beautiful National Arboretum, and it was a pleasure to award resident Claudia Zybenko the 2024 College Medal for her outstanding academic performance and personal contributions to our vibrant community. Claudia's acceptance of the award was met with cheers and a standing ovation from her fellow residents.

We look forward to watching the rest of the year unfold, and with many thanks to our Burgmann leadership, staff, and volunteers, I'm proud to say that Burgmann College



▲ **Taryn was successfully eliminated from the Staff Kill Week competition by Housecleaning Staff member Lence Razmoska.**

continues to provide a lively, safe, and nurturing 'home away from home' for our residents.

Sending warmest wishes from Burgmann College,

Taryn Stasakova
Acting Principal

Announcing our new Advancement & Philanthropy Committee

Established in 2025 to support the philanthropic goals of Burgmann College as we enter the next phase of growth, the Advancement & Philanthropy Committee will raise awareness of Burgmann College's purpose and establish innovative ways of giving, enabling Burgmann College to broaden its reach and impact.

Our inaugural Members bring an extraordinary level of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to make a contribution to the College through their service as volunteers. We are grateful for their support and we look forward to more thoroughly introducing our Members to you via the College website soon.

Committee Members

Ewan Isbister (1989–1990)
Chair, Member of Burgmann Council, fundraising consultant

Matthew Lobb (1989–1991)
Rhodes Scholar, Secretary of Council and Board, BCAA President

Cathryn Lyall (1982–1984)
Finance and fintech, governance, strategic advisory, social impact

Keita Matsumoto (2011–2013)
Forbes 30 Under 30, social impact

Christine McIntosh (1982–1985)
Special Counsel at King & Wood Mallesons

Christopher van Aanholt (1983–1985)
Business, banking and financial services

Amelia Zaraftis
Director of Advancement

Farewell to Margaret Cadman

On 31 March 2025, we officially said goodbye to someone truly special. After years of being the heart of Burgmann College, Margaret Cadman, Deputy Manager of Residential Services, has officially retired. Marg has been a friendly face, a listening ear, and a constant source of warmth for so many residents and staff over the years.

Burgmann won't be the same without her, but we are all so grateful for everything she has given to our community. Marg will be dearly missed, and we hope that this next chapter brings with it all the happiness she deserves!

(L-R) Nikki Ballinger (2022–2024), Margaret Cadman, Joshua Borland (2022–2024), Lily Delves (2022–2024), Robert Jeffries (2022–2024).



Nominations open for the 2025 Burgmann College Alumni Awards

Our Alumni Awards recognise, encourage and celebrate excellence across a broad range of criteria, for endeavours both inside and outside the College community, and at different levels of accomplishment and life stages.

Nominating a Burgmann alum, a current Burgmann staff member,

or a Burgmann volunteer for one of our awards is a wonderful way to express appreciation for their unwavering commitment to making the world a better place.

Using our online form, please submit your nomination(s) **no later than 30 June 2025**.

[Alumni Awards nomination form >](#)

[Read about our 2024 Alumni Award recipients >](#)

For enquiries:

alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au



(L-R) Barry Jenkins (1981–1985, 1989–1991), Linda Martin (1986–1990), Rosanna Comastri (1988–1990), The Hon Dr Peter Garrett AM (1971–1973), Rachel Evans (1988–1990), Acting Principal Taryn Stasakova.

New Alumni & Friends Get-Togethers in 2025

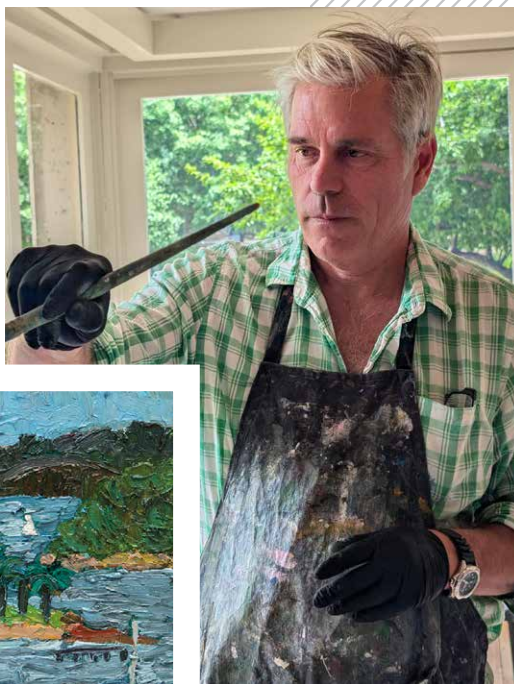
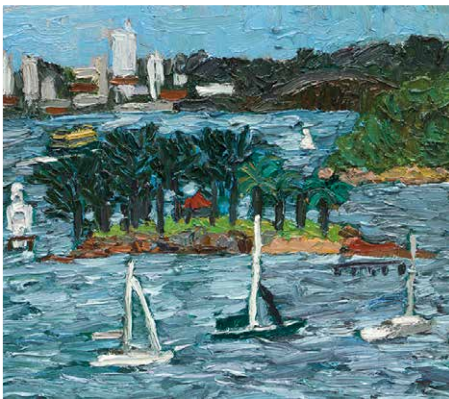
Our alumni network is growing and finding new ways to stay connected to Burgmann College and each other, and we're excited to announce that in addition to our established Get-Togethers in Melbourne, Sydney, Singapore, and London, we're also reintroducing our Brisbane Get-Together, and adding Perth and New York, USA to our 2025 calendar!

[View the 2025 Alumni & Friends calendar on our website and register for upcoming events >](#)



Alumni Profiles

▼ **Sailing, Shark Island 2017**
Oil on board
49 cm x 56 cm



▲ **Julian Twigg**
developing a painting
in Burgmann's A.R.
Main Room.

From stock broker to seascape painter: Julian Twigg's creative evolution

Alum Julian Twigg (1984–1986) is remembered at Burgmann for his integral role in creating Dawborn, and is now recognised as an accomplished Australian visual artist. Julian's work, including select originals featuring Canberra and Burgmann College, will be exhibited at our 2025 Back-to-Burg Alumni & Friends Weekend.

Julian Twigg (1984–1986) is a celebrated visual artist whose works are held in public and private collections; a painter, ceramicist, and printmaker represented by **Australian Galleries** with numerous solo exhibitions, artist residencies, and art awards to his name.

Julian began his artistic career later in life. His mother was an artist and often gifted him sketchbooks whilst growing up, but Julian says his interest in art didn't begin to emerge until his university days, converging with the creation of one of Burgmann's beloved traditions: the Daw-born Cup, later known simply as Dawborn.

Julian grew up in Melbourne and was accepted into the Australian National University to study Economics. He followed a few of his Melbourne schoolmates to Burgmann College, and while he says he initially kept to his old crowd, as those schoolmates began to graduate, Julian began to establish new friends and connections at Burgmann College.

One of his new Burgmann friends was Patrick Southey (1982–1984), with whom Julian frequently played pool in the A.R. Main Room. Together with others, they created a constitution and a committee for a College pool competition they christened 'The Daw-born Cup'.

Read about the origins of the name 'Dawborn', and Julian's journey to becoming an acclaimed artist, [on our website >](#)

“ Starting out at RMIT, we had to choose a subject, so because I had a view of the sea, I chose the ships coming in and out of the Port of Melbourne. It went from there and has stayed with me ever since. ”

– Julian Twigg

Ashoor Khan's career leads him to community development work in remote Australian regions

After leaving Burgmann College, alum Ashoor Khan (2007–2009) has forged a professional path centred around social development, policy and law, and has rejoined our Burgmann community as Treasurer of the BCAA.

'It has been quite a journey since finishing up at Burgmann College in 2009 as a Hawker Scholar. Plenty of up and downs, but I must say that I have learned more from periods of adversity along the way, rather than success. During my time at University, I was able to experience College life, while also doing internships for mid/large professional services firms and some federal government agencies. I finished up with a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) and Bachelor of Laws and did the typical "corporate thing", which was a graduate program for a large multi-national in Sydney.

'Big city working life was not my cup of tea. So, I spent some time with family in Australia, went back to South America, toured the United States and Canada (where I caught up with a Burgmann alum). Then went off to Ireland, Europe and the Middle East. It was a wonderful trip, but I realised that I had to find a "new normal". Travelling without any real purpose can be fun, but it's not sustainable over the longer-term.

'I had previously done an internship with a Community Legal Centre outside of Sydney and that was a good reminder about what I was really passionate about: social and community development...'

Read more >

“ Recently, I joined the Burgmann College Alumni Committee (BCAA) and look forward to giving back to this very special community. ”

– Ashoor Khan

▼ **Ashoor Khan.**



Alumni & Friends in the News

Daniel Sloper PSM appointed High Commissioner to New Zealand

Burgmann alum Daniel Sloper PSM (1989–1990) has been appointed as Australia's next High Commissioner to New Zealand.

Mr Sloper is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was most recently First Assistant Secretary, East Asia Division.

From the press release from the **Minister of Foreign Affairs website**: 'Mr Sloper's previous roles include First Assistant Secretary of the Pacific Division, where he led work on relations with New Zealand, and Australia's G20 Special Representative.

'He has served overseas as Australia's Special Representative on Afghanistan (based in Doha), as Deputy Head of Mission in Berlin, and in Tokyo.'

Daniel served as a BRA Whip during his time at Burgmann College, was on the O-Week Committee, and was also active in basketball, Dawborn, Inward Bound, soccer, and WOBCO.

▼ **Burgmann alum Daniel Sloper PSM appointed Australia's next High Commissioner to New Zealand.**



Charlotte Young featured commentator on ABC Breakfast

Charlotte Young (2021–2023) was featured as a guest commentator on ABC Breakfast on 5 March to discuss Liberal Party Leader Peter Dutton's proposed work-from-home policies for the public sector and its potential effects on people with disabilities or additional caring responsibilities (single parents or adult children with elderly parents), and inclusive disaster management for Cyclone Alfred. Charlotte is a Board Member for the Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA).

See a clip of her ABC Breakfast appearance on the CYDA Instagram account >

Last year, Charlotte was **named Overall Winner at the Asian-Australian Leadership Awards**,



and was the recipient of the **2024 Burgmann College Principal's Award for Overall Excellence**.

“ If we're leaning away from those opportunities [that don't offer flexible options], are we losing talent because of that? Are we losing the perspectives and gender equity goals? Are we working backwards in that sense? ”

– Charlotte Young, ABC Breakfast, 5 March 2025

Friend of Burgmann College appointed new Member of the Order of Australia

The Honorable Richard Refshauge AM was named in the **2025 Australia Day Honours list**, appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his services to the ACT community and the arts.

Refshauge is a valued friend of Burgmann College and volunteers as the Chair of the selection panel for the **Equality Prizes**.



Claudia Zybenko named 2024 Burgmann College Medallist

Congratulations to Health Science student Claudia Zybenko, who was awarded the 2024 College Medal during this year's Commencement—to a standing ovation from her peers. Claudia was recognised for her outstanding academic performance, achieving a perfect 7.0 GPA, for volunteering her time to assist fellow residents, and her commitment to fostering the Burgmann spirit.

Claudia plans to pursue a Doctor of Medicine after her undergraduate studies and is an active runner and tennis player. She has participated in Inward Bound, Road Relay, Civic2Surf, and the 2023 UniGames Tennis Nationals, and was part of the ANU Interhall Sports Organisation Committee.

Council Member and Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee Jo Schumann presented Claudia Zybenko with the 2024 College Medallist Award. ►



Campus News



▲ Honorary guests Fiona Webster and Daniel Sloper PSM holding their custom Burgmann jerseys.

Special guests at the 3H Floor Dinner: High Commissioner to New Zealand and DFAT Chief Security Officer of the Diplomatic Security Division

Burgmann alumni Daniel Sloper PSM (1989–1990), High Commissioner to New Zealand, and Dr Fiona Webster (1990–1991), Chief Security Officer of the Diplomatic Security Division within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, delighted residents of 3H by joining them for their Floor Dinner on 20 March. Daniel and Fiona shared their Burgmann memories and graciously answered questions about their professional careers.

They were gifted custom Burgmann jerseys as a token of appreciation for visiting College, and for making 3H's Floor Dinner an evening to remember.



Burgmann College's 54th Commencement Dinner and Academic Awards Ceremony

Burgmann's 54th annual Commencement Dinner and Academic Awards Ceremony was held at the National Arboretum on 6 March. Residents enjoyed a delicious meal with drinks and a gorgeous view, and alum Ashoor Khan (2007–2009) delivered the Commencement speech, recounting his experience at Burgmann and the life-shaping events that helped him forge his personal and professional path.

“ I want to highlight to you all that there are many different paths you can take after your time here at Burgmann. Whatever you choose to do, please note that there are many hard-working, intelligent, even visionary graduates that come out of the ANU. But I think what I learned most from my time here at Burgmann is the importance of humility. Always remember where you came from. And don't forget the people who helped you along the way. ”

– Ashoor Khan, 2025 Commencement Dinner speech

The College Awards were presented to several residents in recognition for their achievements from the previous year, and residents capped off the night with live music and dancing.

Read the recap and see more photos from the 2025 Commencement Dinner [on our website >](#)

Meet our 2025 Resident Alumni Engagement Team

To keep our alumni community connected with the current happenings at Burgmann College, our Advancement Office is assisted by an enthusiastic team of residents who are keen to foster relationships between current Burgmann residents and our incredible Burgmann alumni and friends, cultivating professional connections and mentorships and organising event opportunities.

Meet our 2025 Resident Alumni Engagement Team—Angus Arbuthnott, Kritika Halder, and Charlotte Gillies—[on our website >](#)

“ Burgmann has such a rich history of community and connection, and I'm excited to engage with our alumni to help keep that spirit alive. ”

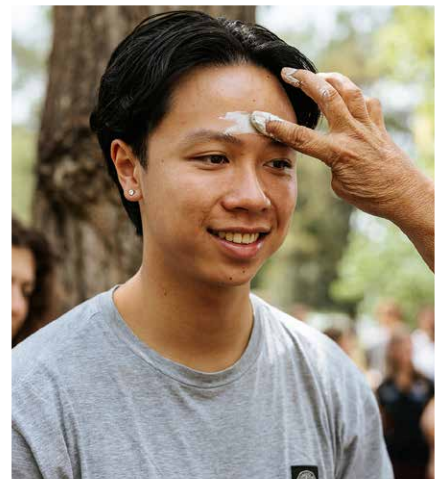
– Kritika Halder, 2025 Resident Alumni Engagement Team member



▲ Kritika Halder.

That's College Life

Save the date 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**.
More info coming soon!



Giving to Burgmann

Dr John C. Mitchell OAM makes generous pledge to support the Burgmann College Endowment Fund

In January, alum Dr John C. Mitchell OAM (1975–1978) pledged an annual recurring gift of \$50,000 towards the Burgmann College Endowment Fund, beginning in 2026.

The College is establishing the Burgmann College Endowment Fund to help us face future challenges and keep our founders' vision alive for generations of residents.

Dr Mitchell, a dedicated and considered supporter of Burgmann College, is a highly regarded economist and generous philanthropist who believes in the power of education to alleviate poverty. He recently funded the transformation of the Mortlock Corridor and Flat 2 into a 10-room facility with access to



▲ Dr John C. Mitchell OAM.

a private courtyard, which improved the social cohesion of the area and provided a new bathroom, laundry and kitchen facilities.

Dr Mitchell has also pledged a \$250,000 gift in his Will toward the Burgmann College Endowment Fund. His generous and forward-looking contribution to the endowment will provide long-term financial security for the College. He hopes that his leadership in giving inspires other alumni to support the College as they are able.

“ I support the Endowment Fund to ensure the future sustainability of the College. We don't know what challenges are ahead, but the culture, nature and character of Burgmann is worthy of protection for future generations. ”

– Dr John C. Mitchell OAM

For more information about the Burgmann College Endowment Fund, please contact Director of Advancement Amelia Zaraftis at amelia.zaraftis@burgmann.anu.edu.au.

Thank you for your support in establishing The Harriet Nixon Scholarship

In January, Acting Principal Taryn Stasakova thanked our supporters for their generosity in establishing The Harriet Nixon Scholarship. 'We warmly thank everyone who contributed. Together we have created an enduring gift of support for future students from rural, regional, and remote Australia,' said Taryn.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Harriet's family—Fiona, Ralph and Liss Nixon—for their wholehearted endorsement and careful guidance in establishing this scholarship in honour of their beloved daughter and sister. Fiona, Ralph and Liss shared their most sincere appreciation to the Burgmann community for the support and encouragement they received in creating The Harriet Nixon Scholarship:



We are filled with heartfelt gratitude, pride, and humility at the generous recognition of our dear Harriet and the support for The Harriet Nixon Scholarship.

We can just imagine the delight this honour would have brought to Harriet. As a most devoted advocate for Burgmann College and the ANU, she would have undoubtedly returned to a rural part of Australia to give back, sharing the invaluable education she was so thankful for and knew would shape her life. It was in the nurturing environment of Burgmann College where she truly flourished and created some of her greatest memories in her 21 years.

Read the full letter of appreciation [on our website >](#)



THE
Harriet Nixon
SCHOLARSHIP



Burgmann's Enrol-A-Door initiative is returning

Do you remember your room number from your time at Burgmann?

Enrol-A-Door was initiated in 2011/2012, around the College's 40th anniversary, offering an opportunity for alumni to add their name to the door of the room they occupied while at College, creating a permanent record and sustaining a sense of pride amongst current and future residents.

We're excited to announce that we're reactivating this initiative in 2025, creating elegant brass name plaques which will include the years alumni occupied that room.

Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

◀ One of the original Enrol-A-Door name plaques, featuring Honorary Fellow Robin Brown (1971-1974).

The St Beryl Society

The St Beryl Society was created to recognise those who leave a gift in their Will to Burgmann, ensuring Burgmann continues as the place to be for future generations of students.

If you would like advice on adding a gift to Burgmann College in your Will, or if you have already included Burgmann, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Director of Advancement Amelia Zaraftis at amelia.zaraftis@burgmman.anu.edu.au.



Write your Will online for free

Our Burgmann community now has access to a **free online Will service** thanks to our partnership with **Gathered Here**. It only takes 10 minutes to complete and includes free and unlimited updates for life.

Not only does a Will help reduce financial and emotional stress for your loved ones, but it ensures your wishes are clearly outlined, reflecting the values

that have shaped your life. After providing for loved ones, you also have the option to include a gift in your Will to causes that you care about.

Write your online Will today **through our partnership with Gathered Here >**

Informative webinar provided by Gathered Here: **Your Big Legal Questions, Answered | Gathered Here (YouTube) >**



Thanking our supporters

2024 was a remarkable year of support and giving from you, our wonderful Burgmann community. We remain forever grateful for your generosity and investment in Burgmann's future, and we thank you for everything you helped us accomplish in 2024.

See our 2024 Donor Honour Roll >

Thank you

Get Involved

Submissions open for The Burgmann Journal

Since 2012, *The Burgmann Journal* has featured interdisciplinary, double-blind peer-reviewed works, judged by an academic panel of professors and industry leaders from across Australia. Showcasing top-tier research, debate, and creative works from Burgmann College residents and alumni in fields like science, humanities, arts, and more, works submitted in *The Burgmann Journal* have sparked discussions beyond our campus.

We want your voice! Submit your research papers, opinion pieces, book reviews, poems, artworks, or other academic, philosophical, or artistic works by **25 April 2025**.

Read more about submission guidelines and contact information [on our website >](#)

Explore past editions and join the ranks of Burgmann's boldest minds.



▲ 'Global Eyes (new series 2)' by Tan Haur (2007). *The Burgmann Journal*, Issue 2, 2013.



Your opportunity to mentor the next generation of Burgies

The Burgmann Alumni Mentoring (BAM) program pairs established career professionals with current Burgmann residents who are seeking career advice and professional guidance to prepare them for life after graduation.

Volunteering for BAM is rewarding and can be flexible to your professional career, with only one or two in-person or online events per year to meet your mentee.

If you would like more information, please see our **Alumni Mentoring page >**

For enquiries, please email bam@burgmann.anu.edu.au.

“ I have no doubt that the shared experience of living at Burgmann and its mentoring program have brought [me and my mentee's] two lives together, which would never have intersected otherwise. I am grateful for this. ”

– Alum Tim Payne (1991–1993),
BAM mentor

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 Zoom meetings held at 6.30PM–7.30PM (Eastern) on Wednesdays throughout the year. Please email alumni@burgmann.anu.edu.au to RSVP.

7 May (Zoom)

9 July (Zoom)

6 August (Zoom)

6 September AGM
(Back-to-Burg Weekend)

5 November (Zoom)

Class Notes

News from alumni around the world

Leonie McGregor (1988–1991)

Since leaving Burgmann and completing my university studies, I have worked mainly in the APS in various roles, including senior roles in Health, Finance and Prime Minister and Cabinet. I am currently the CEO of the newly established Parliamentary Workplace Support Service.

I am married and have two lovely teenagers who are getting to the end of their schooling.

Ashish Gaurav (2023–2024)

I am currently pursuing DPhil in Chemistry in collaboration with the Department of Physics at the University of Oxford.

[Read more Class Notes >](#)



▲ Top: Leonie McGregor.
Bottom: Ashish Gaurav.

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