



BURGMANN COLLEGE

Affiliated with The Australian National University

Building Bright Futures Together

**Impact of Giving
Report 2025**



Cover image: L-R: Ava Mclean, Milly Dynan, Lauren Moloney.

Acknowledgement of Country

Burgmann College acknowledges the Ngambri-Kambri 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. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

Aunty Dr Matilda House-Williams OAM performing Welcome to Country protocols for new resident Genevieve Kessey on 8 February.



Celebrating the power of community

Thank you for your support of Burgmann College in 2025.

The stories within this Impact of Giving Report are a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we come together. Every gift—whether financial or a gift of time and expertise—helps build opportunity, nurtures emerging leaders, and strengthens the community that makes Burgmann so distinctive.

We are deeply grateful for the real and lasting difference you make.

2025 was a period of transition for our community, and a valuable time for reflection and consolidation. Following the short tenure of our previous Principal, the interregnum gave Acting Principal **Taryn Stasakova** and Acting Deputy Principal **Monte Nathan** the opportunity to demonstrate their exceptional leadership skills—under their calm, thoughtful and steady stewardship, the College never missed a beat. We are very grateful to them both.

This includes their important work on our newly launched **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention**—a set of policies and procedures in response to the National Higher Education Code that came into force on 1 January 2026, to address this serious issue across Australian Universities and residential communities.

Commitment to creating a safe, respectful and inclusive student community is a hallmark of our culture, and I am pleased to report that we continue to be a sectoral leader in this respect, with our whole-of-organisation approach to GBV Prevention commended by ANU and other colleges for its comprehensiveness.



This included extensive consultation with residents, development of a new webpage (burgmann.anu.edu.au/community/gender-based-violence-at-college) and schedule of training for resident leaders, and contractual agreements with every resident, to ensure gender-based violence has no space to exist at Burgmann.

Taryn and Monte's excellent work throughout the year paved the way for the smooth appointment in November of our new Principal, **Dr Brenda Holt**, who brings with her over two decades of executive level experience in residential colleges.

Brenda's appointment has been marked by warmth, clarity, and an already deep and long-standing appreciation for Burgmann's egalitarian values of shared governance and resident leadership. Her arrival heralds an exciting new chapter in the College's story—building on strong foundations as we look confidently to the future.

And that future is made all more sound and secure by your generous support. We are so thankful for you.

Greg Mills

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Mills'.

Chair, Burgmann College Council and Board

Where generosity changes lives

Although I was only Principal of Burgmann for a small part of 2025, the dominant messages of community, generosity and engagement expressed in this 2025 Impact of Giving Report ring true for even that brief experience. This is a really special place that has stayed true to its values since 1971.

Burgmann has been on my radar since Rev Dr Lewis Rushbrook, sitting beside me at the University Colleges Australia Conference in the early 2000s, told me there was no other college in Australia like Burgmann, because the heart of its culture was shared governance and decision-making with residents.

When we talk about the ‘impact’ of giving, what do we actually mean? As this report highlights,

some of our young people will, quite simply, never be the same because of your generosity.

Perhaps you have given your time and expertise, perhaps mentored a resident or connected them with your network, perhaps given some of your monetary resources towards a scholarship, program, or to capital works. **Whatever you have given, please know you have made a profound difference.**

In 2025, there were numerous events designed to shape the Burgmann experience. Highlights include:

- **Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony** during Orientation Week for all residents, led by Aunty Dr Matilda House Williams.
- **Commencement Dinner** at the Arboretum.
- **Big Night Out in early May**, where the remarkable talent of our Burgmann Band earned second place.

- Hosting Australian High Court Justice and Burgmann alum Robert Beech-Jones (1984–1986) for a special **Burgmann Law Dinner on 16 May**.
- An August visit by another illustrious alum, the **Hon Dr Kevin Rudd AC** (1976 - 1977).
- **Back-to-Burg Weekend in September**, at which we honoured Professor Graham Farquhar AO, FAA, FRS (1971) and Sarah Rosenberg (2015–2016) with our Distinguished and Outstanding alumni awards respectively.
- The artist **residency of alum Julian Twigg** (1984-1986) and his exhibition.
- **Inward Bound**, where the Burgmann team gained another well-deserved second place across all divisions.
- **Valete Dinner**, honouring our departing residents as our newest alumni.

These events were made truly special by the generous hours given by our volunteers, whose efforts brought warmth and life to the shared culture and community that define Burgmann.

The first generous gifts in 2025 to our newly launched Endowment Fund also mark an important milestone for sound investment in the security of Burgmann’s future. We are deeply grateful for contributions to this vital fund.



It’s been several decades since my own life trajectory changed because of a scholarship to an elite university. That opportunity led me first to education and eventually a long career in residential colleges. The gift of that scholarship literally changed my life. **Your gifts are doing that too, helping each and every one of our residents to soar.**

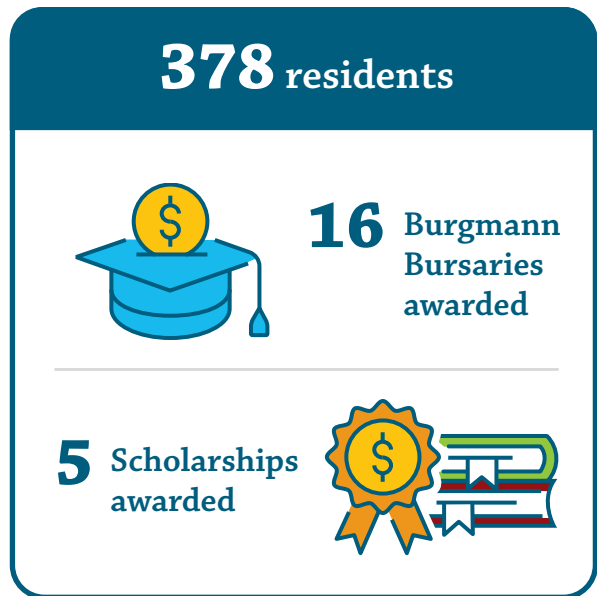
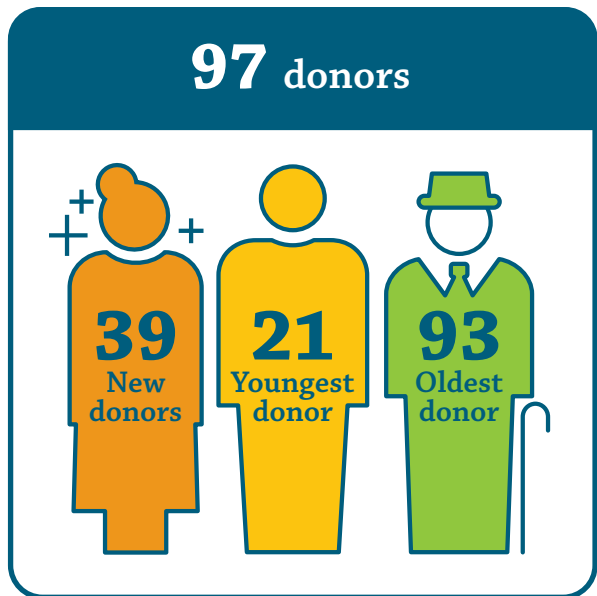
Thank you.

Dr Brenda Holt

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenda Holt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Principal, Burgmann College

Giving snapshot



- ### Giving by designation
- \$67,128** Harriet Nixon Scholarship

 - \$50,600** Special Projects

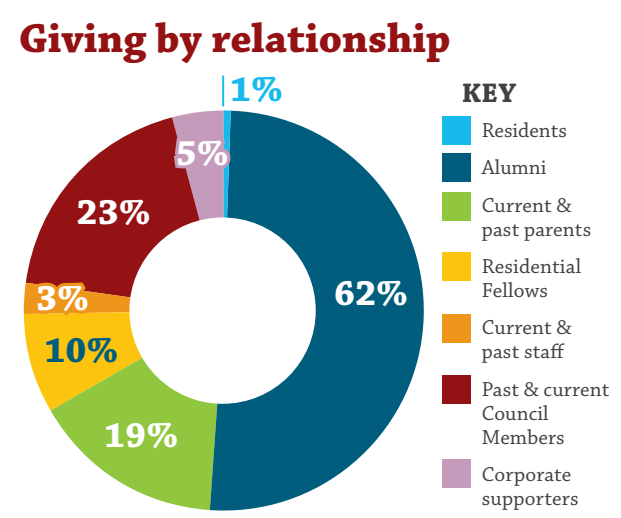
 - \$44,750** Scholarships & Bursaries

 - \$21,875** Principal's Priorities

 - \$10,200** Burgmann College Endowment Fund

 - \$5,200** Resident Hardship

 - \$2,000** Equality Prize



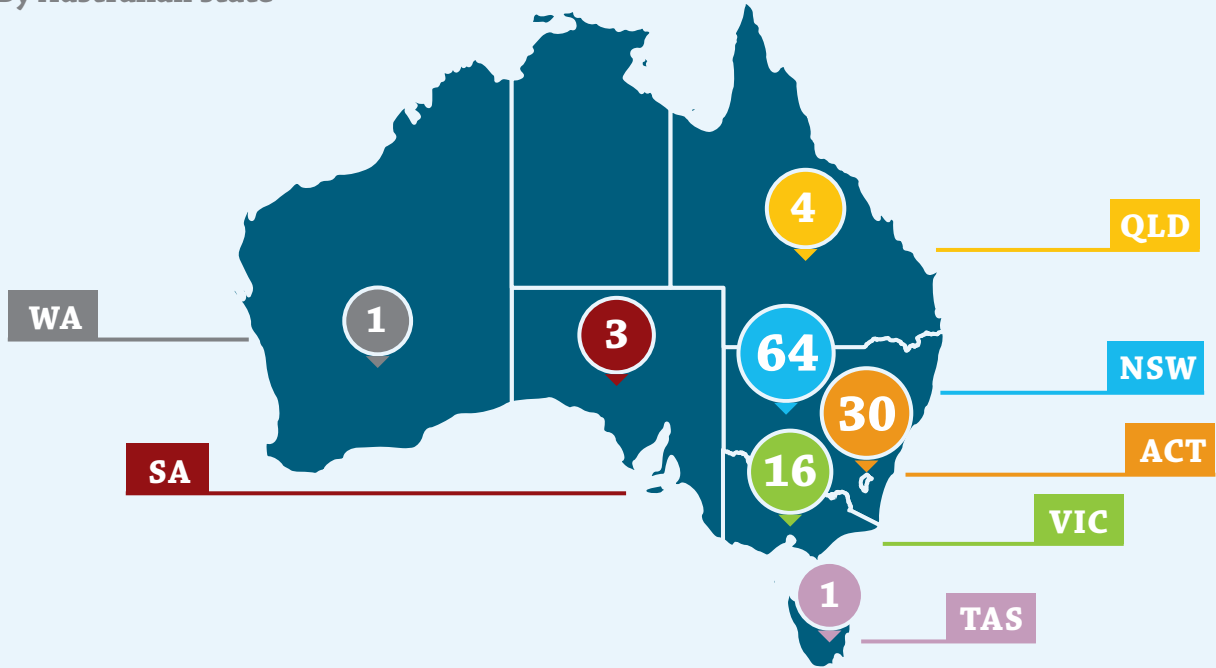
Gifts of time

97 volunteers including residents, alumni and friends—giving time to governance and leadership, as mentors, speakers, helpers and advocates.



Giving by location

By Australian state



By country



Workplace giving



\$1,713
raised



More than 1 in 3
Burgmann College
staff participating

YOUR GIFTS, GROWING NEW TRADITIONS

History down the hallways, opening the door for future generations



Through the generosity of donors, Burgmann's doors are becoming more than entryways—they are markers of a shared story stretching across decades.

Every door at Burgmann holds a story. Now that's becoming literally true with the launch in 2025 of **Name My Door**—an initiative celebrating community across the decades, while at the same time supporting current and future residents.

For new residents, few moments rival the excitement of first finding their door at Burgmann—unlocking not just their home away from home but the beginning of a new chapter filled with independence, discovery, and lifelong connection.

This has been true for over 50 years of Burgmann's history, with each room home to a succession of residents whose experiences and memories are forever linked by a shared room number.

Through Name My Door, every alum can now make a permanent name at Burgmann with a brass door plaque commemorating their time here, for a gift to the **Principal's Priorities Fund**—providing essential support for resident programs, pastoral care, and improvements to communal spaces.

'As the plaques grow in number, they will become a powerful reminder to every new resident that they are stepping into a community built across generations—sharing the same traditions, experiences and spirit,' says Principal Brenda Holt.

'At the same time, each plaque is a signifier of the wonderful generosity of Burgmann's community and commitment to ensuring the same rich collegiate experience is passed onto the residents of today and tomorrow.'

Already building the story

Already, 35 plaques adorn Burgmann's corridors, with Barassi wing narrowly leading on 17 plaques, followed by Homer on 14 and the Village on 4, and \$18,925 generously contributed to the Principal's Priorities Fund in 2025.

Burgmann alumni can continue to watch how the story unfolds amongst their peers by visiting the Name My Door Leaderboard at burgmann.anu.edu.au/name-my-door/supporters.

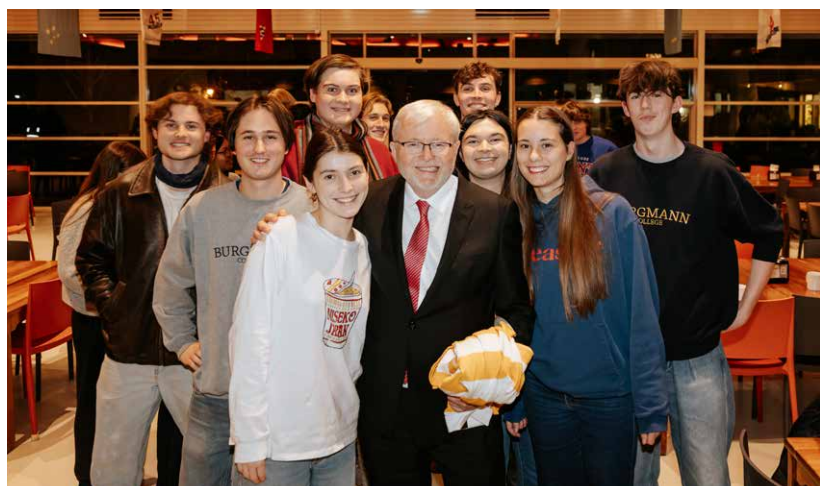
Each plaque represents a resident who stepped through that doorway and began their own journey. And each gift helps ensure many more residents will continue to do the same—unlocking opportunity, community, and transformation at Burgmann.

We are deeply grateful to all who are supporting this initiative—keeping Burgmann's doors open for generations to come.



Find out more

Scan the QR code to discover how to make your own enduring mark at Burgmann.



Residents with Hon Dr Kevin Rudd AC during his June visit.



Celebrating excellence, door by door

The generous \$10,000 gift of an anonymous donor to the newly launched **Burgmann College Endowment Fund** means every recipient of the annual **Principal's Award for Overall Excellence** will henceforth have a plaque on their door.

Third-year Health Science student **Claudia Zybenko** is the first recipient of this special recognition, after receiving the Principal's Award at Valette in November.

Claudia, who was also awarded 2024 Burgmann College Medallist in March 2025—to a standing ovation of her peers—truly embodies the best of Burgmann's values. Her academic excellence, and selfless volunteering in support of fellow residents and for St John's Ambulance, combined with her indefatigable pursuit of extra-curricular activities, and commitment to fostering the Burgmann spirit have made her beloved amongst both fellow residents and staff.

A keen runner and tennis player, Claudia has participated in Inward Bound as both competitor and coach, competed in the Road Relay, Civic2Surf, and 2023 UniGames Tennis Nationals, and was a member of the ANU Interhall

Sports Organisation Committee—all while maintaining a perfect grade point average.

While Claudia herself describes her semester schedule as 'dizzying', she believes Burgmann has prepared her well for the next step on her journey, balancing the intense study load of a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery (MChD) at ANU in 2026.

'One of the most significant aspects of Burg life for me has been Inward Bound [IB],' she says.

'We are so privileged to have such a unique opportunity that nurtures our resilience, grit, and teamwork. I've forged such special connections through IB, and it was incredibly rewarding to give back as a coach in 2025—and bring Burg into the podium in 2nd place!'

'The strength of our community, and the wealth of opportunities Burgmann offers have allowed me to live a very full life.'

Claudia was delighted to receive her door plaque, along with the Principal's Award.

'The Name My Door initiative is a lovely way to connect residents across generations. I'm sure it will contribute positively to the sense of belonging within our community.'

Our heartfelt thanks to our anonymous donor for creating this physical connection to Principal's Award recipients—celebrating the excellence of our community in perpetuity.



Claudia Zybenko receiving the 2024 College Medal from Jo Schumann (Chair, Burgmann College Audit & Risk Committee) at our 2025 Commencement Dinner.

YOUR GIFTS, MAKING EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA

Growing the Harriet Nixon Scholarship



Generous contributions to the Harriet Nixon Scholarship throughout 2025 have continued to grow this valuable fund supporting students from rural, regional and remote Australia.

From the Family Weekend in May—at which families of current residents contributed over \$13,000—to the Annual Appeal, raising more than \$44,000, along with other creative fundraising activities, this has been a whole-of-community effort, bringing the total amount raised for the Scholarship to \$224,277.

With the support received in 2024, we were able to award the inaugural \$10,000 Harriet Nixon Scholarship in 2025 to Evelyn 'Evie' Tilley (read Evie's story on [p.12](#)).

Young people from rural, regional and remote Australia continue to face some of the biggest hurdles to their education—including the significant distances to reach universities, disproportionate educational opportunities and attainment compared with metropolitan students, and the greater likelihood of facing socioeconomic disadvantage.

These obstacles dampen aspiration and hamper preparedness for higher education—while those who do enrol often experience cultural disconnection and a lack of meaningful support from institutions that are more tailored to urban students.

'This can exact a heavy emotional toll on young people, who are already far from their families and support networks,' says Director of Advancement Amelia Zараftis.

With almost a third of Australians living outside capital cities, and just over 10 per cent living in outer regional and remote areas, this affects a significant number of

young people—as reflected in their continuing underrepresentation in our universities.

The current cost-of-living crisis only makes this more likely.

Evie recognises these challenges only too well. In spite of having clear goals for university study from a young age, she had fears she wouldn't make it.

'I took every opportunity I was given—I did as much as I possibly could. But in the back of my mind, I was certain it was never going to be enough,' she says.

'The beauty of scholarships for rural, regional and remote students is that they recognise that successes within these communities may look different.'

'Knowing there are people out there, across Australia—who went to Burgmann or didn't, who knew Harriet and her family or didn't, who 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.'

Harriet Nixon's mother, Fiona, is equally moved by what the Burgmann community is accomplishing in her daughter's name.

'It is incredibly inspiring, gratifying and humbling to know that by giving to a beautiful scholarship, you can change the trajectory of a person's life.'



Lence Rasmuska with residents at the Bake Sale.

Big bake-off with sweet reward

The Harriet Nixon Scholarship Fund got a boost from bakers and Burgmann community members with a sweet tooth on 7 August.

What began as a thoughtful idea from Housekeeping staff member Lence Razmoska turned into a fully-fledged bake-off by a dozen staff, raising over \$500 towards the fund.

Residents not only purchased the delicious treats but made additional donations.

'This was a perfect example of the Burgmann community spirit in action—one of the many ways the Burgmann community came together in 2025 to grow the Harriet Nixon Scholarship for rural and regional students,' says Director of Advancement Amelia Zараftis.

'We are so grateful for the outpouring of support for this important cause.'

Find out more

Scan the QR code to read more about the Harriet Nixon Scholarship.



Julian Twigg's art with heart

Another special contribution to the Harriet Nixon Scholarship Fund was born from the inspiration of our 2025 Artist in Residence and Burgmann alum, Julian Twigg (1984-1986).

During two two-week stays on campus over semester breaks, the Melbourne-based painter, ceramicist and printmaker created a body of work—sparked by his explorations of Canberra—that formed a stimulating exhibition for Back-to-Burg Weekend guests in September.

In consultation between Julian and the College, the College's 10 per cent commission fee for artwork sales over the weekend was donated to the **Harriet Nixon Scholarship Fund**—a cause with special resonance for Julian, whose boarding house matron at Geelong Grammar School was Harriet's grandmother.

'Donating a percentage of sales from my residency exhibition was a fulfilling way of helping those less fortunate than myself attend the College and ANU,' Julian says. 'And even more so because of my own special connection to the Nixon family.'

Julian also generously donated one of his residency paintings, *Winter*, to the College for the permanent art collection, and with the contributions of alumni, staff and College Council members, we were able to purchase another of Julian's works of special significance to the Burgmann community, *Burgmann Village*.

'I thoroughly enjoyed my residency at Burgmann,' Julian says. 'It gave me time to explore Canberra and create a body of artwork, while generously provided with board, lodging and a studio to paint in.'



Julian Twigg working in his studio during his residency.

'Gifting a painting shows my appreciation of everything that was done for me while I was Artist in Residence. The painting is a culmination of all my art residency work.'

Director of Advancement Amelia Zaraftis said it was a pleasure hosting Julian.

'We are so grateful for Julian's kind gifts and his continued connection to Burgmann, and to those who made it possible to secure another artwork by this accomplished Australian visual artist and alum.'

Find out more

Scan the QR code to read more about Julian's art and view the full gallery.



Winter (2025), Julian Twigg



Burgmann Village (2025), Julian Twigg

Australian High Court
Justice Robert Beech-Jones



YOUR GIFTS, SHAPING FUTURE LEADERS

Personal integrity, a constant guiding light

‘As a lawyer, you will have many clients, but most of your clients will have only one lawyer. To them, you will be “my lawyer”. They will get to sleep at night because “my lawyer is looking out for me”.’

At a special Law Dinner hosted by Burgmann College on 16 May, Australian High Court Justice and Burgmann alum Robert Beech-Jones (1984-1986) shared the valuable advice he would have given himself as a student.

Emphasising the amazing work that can be achieved by ‘compassionate, intelligent, principled individuals who advocate for justice on behalf of the vulnerable and oppressed’, and the importance of personal integrity as a lawyer’s ‘constant guiding light’, Justice Beech-Jones highlighted the gravity of respecting the rule of law.

‘I’ve sat through numerous speeches emphasising the importance of the rule of law and

an independent judiciary, and I kept thinking, why are they repeating the bleeding obvious? Of course, everyone accepts these ideas. I was wrong.

‘Right now, in a comparable country [to] Australia, with a written Constitution, day by day, we are seeing a tragedy unfold.

‘Its own government flouts its courts, intimidates its judges, sacks its own prosecutors and lawyers for sticking with their own ethical obligations, and attempts to bully private law firms to do its bidding. Some of those law firms—some of the largest and richest in the world—have given in to those tactics.

‘No matter how smart or well-resourced you are, a lawyer without courage is a total waste of space. Why would any client want a lawyer who won’t fight for their own independence?’

Almost 70 residents, alumni and other distinguished guests were in attendance, including Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, the Honourable Justice Lea Armstrong (1983-1985); CEO of the Law Council of Australia, James Popple (1984-1987, 1989, 1997-2000); barrister Bill Gillies (1980-1982); former Burgmann College Principal Sally Renouf (2010-2024); and our emcee for the evening, barrister Brodie Buckland (2010-2024).

We are deeply grateful to Justice Beech-Jones for sharing his experience and wisdom.



(L-R) Resident attendees Lauren Moloney, Sophie Munstermann, Oscar Dethridge, Alix Macdonald, Rose Dowdle, Charley Ellwood.



Find out more

Read more highlights
and view the event
photo gallery.



Dr John C H Mitchell OAM

YOUR GIFTS, SECURING BURGMANN'S FUTURE

Endowing to secure Burgmann's future

The first generous gifts to the newly launched Burgmann College Endowment Fund in 2025 marked a vitally important milestone for investment in the College's future security.

This includes the \$10,000 gift from an anonymous donor to annually recognise recipients of the Principal's Award for Overall Excellence through the Name Your Door initiative, the pledged recurring gift of \$50,000 from alum Dr John C H Mitchell OAM (1975-1978), commencing in 2026, and a Workplace Giving gift from Director of Advancement, Amelia Zاراftis.

'Through the series of extraordinary events in 2020—unprecedented bushfires, destructive giant hail, and the COVID-19 pandemic, closing the doors indefinitely—Burgmann College faced significant financial challenges,' says Principal Brenda Holt.

'Thankfully, the College Council and Board, with support from our community, were able to navigate safely through this.

'Our growing Endowment Fund will help ensure such circumstances never cause uncertainty about Burgmann's future, and that we keep our founders' vision alive for many generations to come.'

John Mitchell, who is a highly regarded economist, wholeheartedly agrees.

'We don't know what challenges lie ahead, but the nature and culture of Burgmann is worthy of protection for future generations,' he says.

'I support the Endowment Fund to ensure the future sustainability of the College.'

'I owe my success to the ANU Faculty of Economics, but if I'd lived in another hall of residence,

I may not have gotten through. The support of the staff and residents at Burgmann was amazing.'

John has also made a \$250,000 bequest in his Will to the Endowment Fund.

Amelia Zاراftis has now worked at Burgmann for a decade, first as Deputy Principal from 2016, shaping the culture and direction of the College, and providing exceptional pastoral care for residents; then becoming Director of Advancement from 2021—a move inspired by her deeply positive experience of engaging with the College's broader community.

'Investing personally in the continuation of the important work Burgmann does in the world was an easy decision to make,' she says.

YOUR GIFTS, FULFILLING DREAMS

Your generous support of our Scholarships & Bursaries Program gives students the chance to experience Burgmann’s supportive and collegial community—helping them overcome barriers to education and empowering them to thrive as they pursue their aspirations.

Evie Tilley

1st Year Student | Bachelor of International Security Studies
Harriet Nixon Scholar

The heartwarming support from our Burgmann community in 2024 meant we could welcome inaugural Harriet Nixon Scholar, Evelyn ‘Evie’ Tilley, in 2025.

Last year, our community raised an incredible \$160,000 to establish the Harriet Nixon Scholarship, and we are proud to introduce our inaugural scholar, Evelyn “Evie” Tilley.

Evie grew up in rural South Australia, attending a tiny primary school in Booborowie with just 12 students, where, as she recalls, ‘all of us kids would fight over who would get to ring the bell’. Life in her community was simple, close knit, and rugged. She remembers swimming in the ‘one degree off freezing’ town pool and joining the whole community for ‘Bowlo Night’ at the local bowling club.

Evie learned resilience early—whether tagging hay bales in 42 degree heat on her family’s farm or picking grapes at 4:30 a.m. for her high school vineyard. It was a childhood full of hard work, but also ‘so much fun’.

Evie says she had always wanted to work in the public service, so going to Canberra was a natural progression. She accepted her offer of early entry to ANU straight away.

‘To get that email was one of the most exciting days of my life,’ she says.

And Burgmann felt like home from her very first visit for a Year 12 National Youth Science Forum.

‘To be honest, it felt like I was meant to be at Burgmann.’

Since moving to Burgmann, Evie says it’s simple, everyday moments she treasures most—like ‘sitting in convo or having a good chat at dinner’.

‘Coming from Booborowie, it was never easy to have friends around—you couldn’t just go out to grab a coffee or go to the movies or go shopping. Everything had to be meticulously planned. Deciding on the fly to go kick a footy on the Oval—these are opportunities I’m not used to.’

‘I love the people I’m surrounded with at Burgmann—I love the community I have here.’

Now studying towards a Bachelor of International Security Studies, Evie has ambitions to pursue a career in Foreign Affairs or Trade and Security. But she is clear eyed about what brought her here: ‘I took every opportunity I was given, I did as much as I possibly could, but in the back of my mind I was certain it was never going to be enough’.

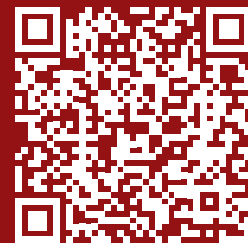
‘Every time I wake up at Burgmann, I remember how grateful I am to be here,’ Evie says. ‘To every member of the Nixon family, every donor, and every staff member who allowed me to get where I am today, to support me to be a part of this community, I will always be endlessly grateful. Thank you.’



(L-R) Evie’s grandmother Monica Hyson, Evie, and Evie’s mother Evelyn.



A young Evie and her younger brother on her family’s farm.



Find out more

Read Evie’s full colourful memories of growing up in Booborowie and her deeply felt thanks to the Burgmann community.

Ava Pullen

1st Year Student | Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws

Ian Darling Scholar

The diagnosis of Ava Pullen's father with cancer in her final years of high school cast sudden doubt on her continuing education. Receiving the Ian Darling Scholarship was a relief for the whole family.

Now studying towards a double degree in Arts and Law, Ava says her father's shock discovery of not one but two cancers—multiple myeloma and oesophageal—'completely altered' his life and impaired his ability to work'.

'When I was in Year 12, he underwent an esophagectomy—a surgical procedure to remove all or part of the oesophagus,' Ava says.

'Not only was this emotionally challenging, but it impaired his ability to work.'

When she received the \$10,000 Ian Darling Scholarship to reside at Burgmann College for her first year of study at ANU, Ava says it brought 'huge respite'.

'My family and I are incredibly grateful.'

After that difficult final year at high school, Ava says Burgmann gave her 'a fresh start'.

'I have immersed myself in the College community and culture—I love getting involved in inter-hall activities. This year's inter-hall dance and theatre sports were special highlights, as well as seeing my best friend perform in the Burg play, *A Midsomer's Night's Dream*.

'I've found a group of lifelong friends and am following in my brother's footsteps at ANU. I am enjoying the rigour of study and looking forward to the years ahead.'

Outside of her studies, Ava loves to read, play basketball, paint and sail, and while at high school, represented Australia in the inter-dominion sailing competition against New Zealand.

In a beautiful personal card to Ian Darling, featuring one of her own High School Certificate (HSC) artworks, Ava expresses her deep appreciation for his generosity:

*Because of your scholarship,
I am fortunate to call
Burgmann home.*



Ava Pullen, Ian Darling Scholar 2025.

The Ian Darling Scholarship was established by award-winning documentary filmmaker and alum, Ian Darling AO (1981-1983). Each year, it supports a Burgmann resident based on financial need, academic merit and community contribution.



Find out more

Read more stories of dreams coming true.



Ava's card to Ian featured this detail from her Rewilding the Edge body of work, completed for her HSC.

YOUR GIFTS, HELPING RESIDENTS THROUGH HARDSHIP

Family commitment providing a lifeline

A wonderful gesture of support by **Therese Cochrane and Fred Woollard** during their son's residency has grown into a sustained and deeply thoughtful commitment to the Resident Hardship Fund.



Therese and Fred with son Nick, celebrating his graduation in 2022.

Therese and Fred first became part of our Burgmann College community in 2018 when their son, Nicholas (Nick) Woollard (Bachelor of International Relations & Bachelor of International Security Studies), enrolled in 2018.

Therese says their initial gifts to the Hardship Fund were inspired by her own experience studying towards degrees in Law and Economics at the University of Sydney.

‘Coming from Newcastle, I knew no-one in Sydney. My family were not well off, and my parents sacrificed a lot to fund my living expenses,’ she says.

‘I received some government assistance, but I also worked part-time throughout my studies. So, I was well-aware of the hand-to-mouth existence faced by many students—especially when living away from their families, as most ANU students do.’

‘When the COVID-19 pandemic began, I realised many students dependent on part-time jobs would be facing even tougher circumstances,’ she says.

Even though Nick left Burgmann in 2022, Therese and Fred continue their support for Burgmann residents—driven by a deep belief in the transformative impact of education.

‘Contributing to people’s ability to continue their education—particularly for those less well off—is money well spent,’ she says.

‘I was incredibly privileged to attend university at a time when it was free. Many people like me would not otherwise have had the chance to attend prestigious universities like Sydney or ANU.’

The Resident Hardship Fund provides discretionary funding to residents who find themselves in difficult financial circumstances, including being unable to pay their residential fees or to travel home to see their family during a vulnerable time.

‘Sometimes, despite a student’s best-laid plans and planning with their families, things can go awry,’ says Burgmann Principal Brenda Holt.

‘Parents get ill or lose their employment, relationships break down—this can happen in any year. This fund is an absolute lifeline for students with no other means to continue their education through challenging financial circumstances.’

In 2025, two residents faced such circumstances, each receiving \$5,000 worth of support towards their fees.

Therese knows from her own experience what it’s like to be a student a long way from home, and just what a difference a college like Burgmann makes—describing it as the source of ‘many happy family memories’.

‘From the very first day, I was impressed by Burgmann’s caring and nurturing atmosphere—the smiling and welcoming faces and friendly hellos made us feel right at home. I remember [then Principal] Sally Renouf being very much on the ground welcoming the new students.’

‘Burgmann is large enough to feel diverse yet small enough that it feels like home. I know how much the staff at Burgmann care for their students.’

YOUR GIFTS, NURTURING THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

A unique gift fuelling intellectual rigour

During Back-to-Burg Weekend in September, we recognised Visiting Fellow Dr Brett Davies with the 2025 Burgmann Volunteer Award—an honour reflecting not only his professional excellence but the generous spirit with which he has shared his time, wisdom and care with our community.

Upon joining Burgmann in 2024, Brett quickly developed a passion for reviving the *Burgmann Journal*—an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed publication of research, debate and opinion from residents and alumni designed to engage the wider community, last published in 2022.

A Partner of Legal Consolidated Barristers and Solicitors, Adjunct Professor for Curtin and University of Western Australia law schools, and high court barrister, Brett enthusiastically offered his legal and academic expertise as Chair of the Burgmann Journal Committee and Lead Reviewer.

In this role, he formed a new editorial committee among residents, provided mentorship, created a new style guide, and leveraged his academic network to review resident submissions through a double-blind peer review process.

A double-blind review is the gold standard in academic publishing, where submissions are reviewed without the author's name attached—removing bias and ensuring the work is judged on its own merit.

‘This means an idea succeeds based on its logic and evidence,’ Brett says. ‘Not on who you are, where you come from, or who you know.’

‘For a student, successfully navigating this rigorous process is an incredible achievement. It validates their work at a

professional level and gives them the confidence and credentials to take the next step in their careers.’

Then Acting Deputy Principal Monte Nathan said Brett’s ‘immense work’ had enabled residents to have their best assignments and papers reviewed by some of the most respected academics in the country.

‘We cannot thank Brett enough for the extraordinary opportunities he has opened up for Burgmann residents.’

Brett says his motivation for supporting young people at the beginning of their academic and professional journeys is rooted in his own family history, growing up in Western Australia with parents who worked hard to make the most of limited opportunities.

‘My father was a butcher who never had the chance to finish his schooling. My mother—a brilliant woman—was forced from her career into marriage,’ he says.



Principal Dr Brenda Holt and Dr Brett Davies.

‘Their stories instilled in me a profound belief in the power of education, and why I’m passionate about creating rigorous, fair and accessible platforms for the next generation of thinkers.’

Angus Arbuthnott, Residential Advisor and 2025 Editor-in-Chief of the *Burgmann Journal*, thanked Brett for ‘kindly and selflessly’ contributing his time and expertise.

‘The *Journal* is a community-wide effort by residents, staff, alumni and associates, and it’s through Brett’s commitment and tenacity that we have renewed momentum for this special publication.’

We look forward to sharing the next edition of the Burgmann Journal which will be published online.



Find out more

Scan the QR code to read past issues of the *Burgmann Journal*.

YOUR GIFTS, CREATING LEGACIES

Ben Chen's simple will for generational impact

As a Law lecturer and researcher at Sydney University, our newest St Beryl Society member, Ben Chen (2008-2012), has an insider's view on both the importance of making a Will and the extraordinary value of charitable bequests to education.

Ben made his own bequest to Burgmann because of what a bursary made possible. Arriving in Australia from mainland China in his early teens, the first-generation immigrant and his single mum faced all the challenges of a new country, language and culture, while also facing the struggles of financial hardship.

'Culturally, China is very different to Australia. It was a challenge adapting to a new environment, but everyone was incredibly friendly,' Ben says.

'The biggest challenge was financial. Mum raised me all alone and worked multiple jobs to give us a better life. We moved between rental properties and rented out our spare rooms to make ends meet,' he recalls.

Like many new Australians, Ben attended a public school in Sydney's Inner West, and when he finished, says all he wanted was to leave home. Applying to the University of Melbourne and the ANU, Ben received offers of partial financial assistance from both, but the bursary from Burgmann College made living on campus financially viable. Ben chose Burgmann and has never looked back.

A community that changes lives

Here, Ben found much more than just a place to live during his studies.

The bursary alleviated financial pressure, allowing Ben to focus on his studies and achieve good grades, and perhaps even more importantly, it gave him the freedom to actively participate in student activities and societies.

'The Burgmann community and College life had a huge impact on me, my studies and my career,' he says.

'Burgmann was incredibly supportive—the residents were friendly and helpful; Principal Dutton and the staff were very supportive. I just felt like I was at home from the outset. And I had all the academic and personal support I didn't know I needed.

'Burgmann was incredibly open-minded and embracing of diversity. Living with like-minded individuals in a highly supportive environment was the perfect transition into adulthood. The friendships I made there have been long-lasting.

'When my friends' and colleagues' children are graduating from high school, I always recommend Burgmann to them.'

The bursary from Burgmann helped Ben graduate with a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) and Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in 2013. He went on to obtain a PhD in Economics in 2018 and a JSD (the US equivalent of a PhD in Law) in 2019. He believes his formative experience at Burgmann contributed significantly to all these academic milestones.



Ben Chen with Burgmann friends at Valete in 2010.



Ben Chen (2008-2012)

The challenges facing students today

Now an Associate Professor at the University of Sydney Law School, Ben has a heightened awareness of the increasing challenges faced by today's students.

'Even in my short time working in the tertiary sector, I've seen declining government support for students and universities, and that's unfortunate,' he says.

'If I imagine trying to do what I did 15 or 20 years ago now, I think it would be much harder.

'Colleges like Burgmann provide an incredibly important environment where students can flourish both academically and personally. But to do that, they need support.'

Residential colleges play a particularly vital role at ANU, which attracts students from across Australia and around the world.

'Moving away from home to Canberra presents challenges for students from the outset,' he says.

'My own tertiary education was partially funded by Burgmann, and I have been a beneficiary of that ever since. Any way that I can, I want to give back.'

A simple step with lasting impact

Despite his own legal background, Ben used the **Gathered Here** platform offered by Burgmann to make his Will, including his charitable bequest to the **Burgmann College Endowment Fund**.

'It was really easy to use—it took me five minutes, did the job, and didn't cost anything. For people with more complex situations or concerns, it's advisable to seek professional advice. However, this is a great solution for those with simple wishes.

'The reality is, making a Will is something people often put off or don't think about, especially in my age group. But it's very important. It makes things much easier for your family. Making a Will is something you should do for your loved ones.'

A gift that will last generations

For Ben, including Burgmann in his Will was a natural extension of the gratitude he feels toward the College.

'Charities like Burgmann do incredibly important work,' he says. 'And at a time when the tertiary sector is facing significant challenges, private individuals can play an important role in supporting students.'

While the impact of a bequest may not be seen immediately, its significance can last for generations.

'I know there is a cost-of-living crisis right now, and everyone has their own circumstances. But to whatever extent we can, it's important to support institutions that helped us.'

Create your own Will online for free

Our partnership with **Gathered Here** gives you access to the same free, easy-to-use online Will-writing service used by Ben. In just minutes, you can have peace of mind for yourself and your loved ones.



Find out more

Learn more about the St Beryl Society and making a gift in your will.

Introducing our inaugural Advancement & Philanthropy Committee

In 2025, Burgmann College established a new Advancement & Philanthropy Committee to help guide and support the College's philanthropic future as we enter an exciting new phase of growth.

This dedicated group of volunteers shares a deep commitment to Burgmann's purpose and the transformative opportunities we create for residents. Together, they will help strengthen awareness of the College's mission and inspire new and meaningful ways for our community to be involved.

Our inaugural members bring extraordinary knowledge, experience and generosity of spirit. We are deeply grateful for their willingness to share their time, insight and passion in service of Burgmann and its future.



Ewan Isbister (1989–1990)

Chair, graduated Bachelor of Arts (Asian Studies) from ANU. He is a freelance strategic and analytical direct marketer and fundraiser with over 25 years' experience in the not-for-profit sector. Organisations he has worked with include The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Black Dog Institute and Canteen, along with WaterAid, UNICEF, and Greenpeace, internationally. Ewan has held senior fundraising positions at WaterAid, UNICEF and Canteen. Ewan is also a Burgmann College Council Member.

Matthew Lobb (1989–1991)

Matthew graduated Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from ANU, Master of Arts from Oxford University (Rhodes Scholar), and Master of Science from the London School of Economics. He has more than 20 years' experience as a strategy and transformation executive, building and scaling technology and infrastructure businesses. This includes establishing Vodafone nbn, Kogan Mobile/Internet and TPG Telecom's 4G/5G Home Broadband businesses, and leading major integration programs, such as the Vodafone-TPG merger and establishment of NBN. Matthew has been a member of a number of industry and charity boards. Since 2019, he has been President of the Burgmann College Alumni Association (BCAA), a member of the College Council since 2020 and its Secretary since 2021.



Cathryn Lyall (1982–1984)

Cathryn is an experienced markets infrastructure consultant and Non-Executive Director with a 30-year career in capital markets across multiple asset classes. She has helped build and grow several start-up exchanges, including ADX in Sydney, CBOT in EMEA and Asia, and Nasdaq NLX and CurveGlobal in London. Cathryn has held many board and trustee roles, including serving on the Deutsche Bank UK Bank Board, as a founding Trustee of Futures for Kids (FFK), and founding Director of Women in Listed Derivatives (WILD), for which she is a mentor. Amongst many accolades, Cathryn has been named among the Innovate Finance Women in Fintech Power List (2018), Financial News 100 Most Influential Women, and as Qantas Australian of the Year UK.

Keita Matsumoto (2011–2013)

Keita graduated Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts from ANU. His career spans public education, philanthropy and private equity. Keita was previously an Associate with Teach for Australia, later serving on its Board, and Partnership Manager at the Colman Foundation. His contributions to the social sector have been recognised by *Forbes*' '30 Under 30' (2021) and in the inaugural Australian Education Awards (2018). He holds a Master in Public Policy (MPP) from Harvard University as a John F Kennedy Fellow, and an MBA from Stanford University as a Ramsay Postgraduate Scholar and is currently a Private Equity Operating Executive at Alpine Investors.



Christine McIntosh (1982–1983, 1985)

Christine was raised in Canowindra, NSW, and received an ANU National Undergraduate Scholarship to study towards her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws. She went on to build a 38-year career in banking and finance law with Mallesons in Sydney and Linklaters in London, working remotely from her family farm in Central West NSW from 1994. A mother of three, Christine has been an active supporter of regional communities and causes and recently served 11 years on the Board of Kinross Wolaroi School, including five as Chair.

Chris van Aanholt (1983–1985)

Chris is an experienced senior executive across banking, financial services and investment. He is Managing Director of Myecho Group Pty Ltd, a family investment business with interests in international business processing, technology, superannuation and trustee services. Chris previously held executive roles with Westpac, National Australia Bank and AXA Australasia. He served for nearly a decade on the Board of FINSIA, including as President. Chris holds an MBA and Bachelor of Economics, is a Chartered Accountant, and is a Senior Fellow of FINSIA. Together with wife Bidy and his children, Chris actively supports community food programs, Indigenous art communities, and equality and climate change programs, and acts as a Children's Guardian.



Amelia Zaraftis Director of Advancement, Burgmann College

Amelia graduated from ANU with a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Hons), and from the University of Canberra with a Bachelor of Education (Primary). Since joining Burgmann College as Deputy Principal in 2016, she has played a pivotal role in shaping its culture and direction, twice serving as Acting Principal. As Director of Advancement since 2021, Amelia has built the College's alumni and fundraising program, raising over \$1.5 million to date, establishing the annual giving and bequest programs, and leading alumni engagement initiatives and milestone celebrations. A highlight for Amelia—and the College—was her leadership on the development and launch of Burgmann's inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS

2025 Burgmann College Donor Honour Roll

Thank you for supporting Burgmann College with such generosity. Your kindness strengthens our community and expands what's possible for our residents—while studying and beyond. We are deeply grateful for your partnership—together, we create lasting change.

This year, we are delighted to launch uniquely identified **Burgmann Giving Circles**, celebrating the cumulative gifts of our community members. This recognition program will be officially launched in 2026 with special presentations to each of our Circle members.

*As our community of supporters continues to grow, we are pleased to introduce two further Giving Circles that reflect the extraordinary impact possible through leadership philanthropy: **The Principal's Circle** (\$500,000 to \$999,999) and **The Chair's Circle** (\$1,000,000 and above).*

Luigi's Circle (\$150,000 to \$499,999)

Ian Darling AO

Dr John C H Mitchell OAM

Dr Susanna Kitty Price Harvey

Convo Circle (\$10,000 to \$149,999)

Anonymous (6)

Betty Ferguson & Wal Collins

Susan & Stuart Lloyd-Hurwitz

Michael & Sue Renouf

Gwenyth & Kevin[†] Bray

MA Financial Group Foundation

Matthew Lobb

Sally Renouf

Burgmann Residents Association

Len Goodman AO[†]

Alex McKenzie

Dr Lewis Rushbrook

Therese Cochrane & Fred Woollard

Ruth Higgins

Cath & John Murray

The Ryan Family Foundation

Fiona, Ralph & Alicia Nixon

Burgie Circle (Up to \$9,999)

Anonymous (72)	Melinda Brindle	Dr Philip Dutton	David Hornery
Chris van Aanholt	Brookfield Gardens, The McLay Family	Hope Dyson	Christopher Howell
Rita Agha	Felicity Brown	Heather Ewart	Dr Hanna Hoyne
Matthew Aitchison	Callum Bunday	Tracy Fantin	Chanel Hughes
Dr Debbie Argue	Editor Group	Hannah Finkelde	Joanna Hughes
The Hon Justice Lea Armstrong	Robyn Byrne OAM	Kate Fishlock	Ewan Isbister
Dr Roger Arnold	Mark Calder, in memory of Jocelyn (Bunty) Buchanan	Paul Fitzgerald & Annie Wassall	Graham Jefferson
Dr Christopher E Aston	James Carter	Melanie Foreman	Basil Jones
Tanya Austen	Barrie Cassidy	Janie Forrest	Jeremy Jones
Tania Austin	Ian Chapman	Gerda Foster	Wendy Jones
Prof. Nadia Badawi AM	Dr Ben Chen	Andrew Freer	Arvind Kamath
Andy (Bert) Baker	Michael Chen	Graham Fryer	Lucy Kanissery
Sinduja Balakrishnan	Dr Darrel Chia	Jacqueline Fuller	Ellen Kazias
The Baldwinson Family	The Chisholm Family	The Billberry Blue Stocking Fund	Alexander Kunzelmann
Darren Barrett	Peter Clark	Robynne Furini	Stephen Lam
The Bartlett Family	Gregory Clayton	Adam, Jean, and Harriet Furphy	Alasdair Lau
Hugo Bartlett	Jean Coddington	Ben Galea	Nicole Laurie (nee Cantrill)
Ryan Bartlett	The Cohen Family	Bruce & Lynette Glendinning	Weston Levings
Brant & Louise Bassam	The Collett Family	Jeremy Goff	Tiger Lin
Helen Baxendale	The Estate of Richard Cook	Alexander Goldsmith	Rachel Lloyd and Lex Weaver
Justine Beaumont SC	Madeline Cooper	Dr Narelle Gordon	Sally Loane AM
Emily Bell	Janet Copland	Simon & Manda Gressier	Cathryn Llyall
Lisa Bell	John Corrie	The Grimshaw Family	Samantha & Dougal Mackey
Hannah Benhassine	The Court Family	Vicki Guyer	Lisa Macqueen
Daschle Bennett	Stephen Croker	Tongzhou Han	Sharon Marjenberg
David Bennett	Prof Kim Cunio	Nathan Hancock	James Marshall
James Bernasconi	The Cunningham Family	Lauren Hannan	Harry Martens
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Ian Blanden	Ella Davison	Stephanie Henderson	The McCredie Family
Jamie Bolic	Andrew de Fégely AM	Nerrida Higgins	The McDonald Family
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Paterson Boyd	Eliza Drysdale	Lachlan Hill	Kate McIntyre
Sebastian Braham	Edna Dundas	David & Sally Hirsch	Dr Daniel McKay
Timothy Edward Brennan			Robin McLay
			Aaron McMahon

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Jillian McSpedden & Robin Brown	Kate & Bill Parsons	Hugh Silvers	Ian Torrance
Stephen McWilliams	Unity Paterson	Louise Sinclair	Harry Treloar
Hamish Middlebrook	Gillian Pereira	Thomas Skilbeck	Greg Trigg
Judith Middlebrook	Kate Pereira	Daniel Sloper & Fiona Webster	David Turbayne
Mr Greg & Rev. Gayl Mills	Christopher George Philpott	Jules Smith	The Cooper Tuxen Foundation
Felicity Moran	Andrew Post & Sue Quill	Cameron, Melissa & Zara Smith	Hannah Upton
Megan Morris	Noah Laszok	John Söderbaum	Dr Adil Vaghaiwala
Steven Mundy	Anthony Poynton	Patrick Southey	Ellie Waddel
Montefiore Nathan	Deborah Price	Aran Srikantha	Yiyun Wang
Matúš Németh	Henry Price	Taryn Stasakova & Mat Stasak	The Watkins Family
Dr Lara Nicholls	Richard Price	Rachelle Steer	Jonathon West
Joan Nixon	Stephen Priest	David Stewart & Kirsty Hibbins	Philip West
Thomas Nouri-Azari	Lence Razmoska	Rebecca Stoljar	Dr Tom Westland
Haydn O'Brien	Alexander Readford	Jo-Ann Strong	The Westwood Family
Rosalind O'Connor	Gabriella Richmond	The Estate of Robert Swift OBE AO	Gregory White
Jennifer Oehm	Janice Ruru	Ian and Atsuko (Annie) Taylor	Martijn Wilder AM
Athol Opas	Chris Ryan	Colin Taylor	Rebecca Williams
Dr Brad & Mrs Nancy Opdyke	Robert & Petra Salisbury	James Theophile	Aaron Wilson
Dr Dwain & Mrs Alyson Owensby	Prof. Glenn Salkeld	Michael Thomas	Mike Wong
Rosie Oxenham	Elizabeth Scott	Geoffrey Thorn	Lorraine Wright
Abimbola Oyetunji	Margaret Selby	Louise Thurgood-Phillips	Amelia Zاراftis
Ben Parsons	Prof. Mark Nolan		Odessa Zاراftis
	Lindsey Nascimento da Silva		Thea Zاراftis
			Ziyu Zhao

Daley Road Circle (Young Alumni Under 30, \$200+)

Anonymous (2)	Annabelle Cleary	Catherine Hynes	Grace Poon
James Bartolomei	Lily Elias	Amy McEachern	Charles Rozario
Claudia Biddle	Charley Ellwood	Alexa Moss	Minami Shimojima
Matthew & Sophie Bunten	Ryan Graham	Tom Osborne	Stanley Thomson
Molly Chapman			



St Beryl Society Members

The St Beryl Society honours individuals who intend to leave a gift to Burgmann College in their Will, supporting the dreams and aspirations of future generations.

Anonymous	Alex McKenzie	Dr Susanna Kitty Price Harvey
Robin Brown	Jillian McSpedden	Sally Renouf
Dr Ben Chen	Dr John C H Mitchell OAM	Rev Dr Lewis Rushbrook
Richard Edward Cook†	Robert E Northey	Robert Swift OBE AO†
Len Goodman AO† & Joyce Goodman OAM	Dr Lara Nicholls	Martijn Wilder AM
Nerrida Higgins	Christopher George Philpott	Distinguished Prof Asmi Wood
Matthew Lobb	Dr Charles Archibald Price AM†	Amelia Zاراftis

Members as of 30 December 2025

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Image: *Members of our 2025 leadership team following the Welcome to Country.*

Burgmann College Advancement Team

For more information on giving at Burgmann College, please contact:

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Email: giving@burgmann.anu.edu.au

Gillian Pereira
Advancement Associate

Building Bright Futures Together

Burgmann College is a deductible gift recipient.

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