

The Bell

The Tuckwell
Scholarship at
The Australian
National University
2017 Edition

THE ANNUAL

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Camp, 2017

TheBell

The annual magazine for the Tuckwell Scholarship Program



Australian
National
University

TUCKWELL
SCHOLARSHIP



With this edition of The Bell now in your hands, we welcome you to journey back with us through 2017 and join our reflection on the year that was.

This publication takes its name from the Tuckwell Handbell, commissioned by Graham and Louise Tuckwell and crafted at London's Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The chime of this bell is the first sound to hit the ears of each new Scholar as they are 'rung in' at the annual Commencement dinner. The ring of the bell is fleeting, yet significant, in that it signals the beginning of each new Scholar's journey at the ANU.

This scholarship transforms its recipients; providing opportunities to chase their passions and hone their skills so that they may one day share them with their communities. As such, this annual seeks to capture this process through showcasing their endeavours and to provide 'updates' for all Scholars, staff and alumni as their adventures carry them beyond the ANU. In this edition you will catch a glimpse not only of the exciting ventures of Scholars, but also the tireless passion and support of our staff that make this program so valuable. This year has been one of hard work, adventure and growth for many of us, and we look forward to what the year ahead will bring.



Letter from the Editor

Mia McConville

Carrying forward many of the innovations and successes of 2016, the Tuckwell program has continued to grow and develop into a strong and supportive community. And, notwithstanding some minor setbacks, our Tuckwell ‘home’, Scholars House, has grown with us; though many a hapless professor still knocks at Scholars House hoping for a



coffee, the building has become a second home for many Scholars and the location of many a late night coffee and study-break debate.

It has been such a privilege to have a role in bringing this edition of The Bell together, as reading each submission has only reinforced my belief that my fellow Scholars are an incredibly talented, passionate and witty bunch that work tirelessly to improve the world around them. Reading about their adventures, trials and successes has left me in an unshakeable state of awe – both at my peers’ experiences and at just how I managed to be standing among them.

This edition of The Bell would not exist as it does without the tireless work of Georgia and the administration team last year, whose vision opened the door to a fully Scholar-led publication. I’m immensely proud of all the work that has been put into this edition – and grateful for the help and patience granted to yours truly – and look forward to seeing The Bell flourish under each new year group of Scholars.

It seems only right that our annual reflects the diversity of interests and ideas that brought us together in the first place and I hope that we have captured this as we look towards another year of making the most of the incredible opportunity we have each been given.

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Tuckwell Alumni Program
Catherine Perry

From Graham and Louise



As we begin the 2018 academic year our fifth cohort commences, and for the first time we will have a full complement of scholars in the program. When we ponder on the fact that five years ago there was no program, nor any scholars, website, Scholars House, Interview Weekend or The Bell Magazine, we realize just how much has been achieved in a relatively short time. We don't rest on our laurels though, as each new year presents us with 'firsts' and like all small organisations, we have to be thinking about future challenges and nimble in response to current ones.

In 2017 we had a notable first – our first scholar to finish the program and officially qualify as our first Tuckwell alumna. Catherine Perry has the auspicious title and we all owe her a debt of gratitude for the work she has been doing this last year in designing and developing an Alumni Program for Tuckwell Scholars. All current and future scholars will benefit from her work: without doubt one of the greatest strengths of the program is the network of relationships forged between scholars and this program will enable growth of those relationships throughout your lives. Knowing that gives us joy.

In terms of the physical environment, last year saw the expansion of the internal space of Scholars House with the building of the new sunroom. This was a timely improvement which, from all feedback, has provided much appreciated extra study space and allowed for separation of study and social spaces. This renovation has been a response to scholar surveys and it's timely to thank you

all for your continued readiness to give this feedback on the multiple occasions it is requested. It does bring results!

We are grateful as always to our wonderful Program Director, Tim Mansfield, who is a steady hand at the helm and someone who comes to mind when we read through the scholar attributes on our website. You are all very fortunate to have his constant guidance and good humour in your lives and we, too, are always grateful for his patience when time zone differences hamper communication with us. Tim was joined in the office this year by Hannah Leary, who has already made her warm and welcoming presence felt.

The coming year will bring a significant change in leadership, with our much esteemed chairman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington, stepping down on completion of her five-year term. Marnie has been such an integral part of designing and implementing our vision for this program that it is impossible adequately to thank her. Her ideas, flair and stamina will leave permanent fingerprints on the program and we thank her personally for her warmth, enthusiasm, guidance and friendship. Marnie is handing the reins over to Professor Rae Frances, Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences, and we very much look forward to working with her.

We also look forward to welcoming the 2018 scholars in February and seeing the beautiful Great Hall full to capacity with scholars for the first time. That will be a sight for sore eyes.

2014 Scholars



Matthew Barton



Sarah Campbell



Marcus Dahl



Janet Davey



Hannah Harmelin



Joseph Dean



Catherine Hall



Guy Leckenby



Lucy Kirk



Matthew Jacob



Sam Wen Huang



Alexander Miles



Morgan Marshall



Harry Main



Samuel Saunders



Bryce Robinson



Abi Rajkumar



Elena Pleass



Phoebe Skuse



Samantha Terry



Jessica Woolnough



Jakub Nabaglo




Katie Ward



Sorin Zota



Catherine Perry 

From the Reps

Sarah Campbell and Marcus Dahl
Scholars House Reps for 2014 Scholars

This year sees the closure of the ANU journey for several of the 2014 scholars, and the start of something new for just as many. Just like when we started in 2014, our group has continued to show just how diverse we all are, this year even more so than any other. While days for some were spent writing theses, in the lab or completing final courses, others were embarking on brand new adventures. Whether that be Catherine, Sam and Lucy who started their Doctors of Medicine and Surgery, or Catherine Perry who started a Master's degree and made Tuckwell history as our first alumna.

The 2014 scholars have continued to travel (and conquer) the world, including Hannah, Abi and Janet who have all been on exchange this year. Those who have remained in Australia have been busy applying for (and achieving) graduate positions in both the government and private sectors, and undertaking PhD applications and further study here at the ANU.

While some are nearing the completion of our studies and others have now graduated, we are all so excited to see what the future brings, not only for ourselves, but for each other. Our get-togethers have been such a highlight of our journey at ANU from the very start of our degrees, and no matter where the future takes us, we will always be connected

to this wonderful community. Once a Tuckwell, always a Tuckwell.



2015 Scholars



Anthony Ricci



Billie Hook



Brody Hannan



Jeevan Haikerwal



Jonathan Tjandra



Lachlan Arthur



Maddison Perkins



Mary Parker



Matthew Bowes



Michael Turvey



Nicholas Wyche



Nishanth Pathy



Robert Cook



Tamara Bohler



Yaya Lu



Eliza Croft



Audrey Lee



Jane Tan



Hannah Sami nee Gregory

From the Reps

Maddison Perkins and Jonathan Tjandra
Scholars House Reps for 2015 Scholars

As we progressed into our later years of study, and, for some, the final year of our undergraduate degrees, the 2015 scholars remained as focused and active on the ANU campus as ever before. At times, our jam-packed schedules made it difficult for us to enjoy time together, but when we managed to catch up we could appreciate the incredible experiences we've been offered as a result of attending the ANU with the Tuckwell Scholarship.

Reflecting on 2017, we can definitively say that the 2015 scholars have outgrown our notorious middle-child syndrome. The strength of this group is in our diversity of skills and talents, and it is evident from the broad range of activities in which we are involved. From launching a new scholarship for rural and regional students, or founding a start-up, to writing, directing and producing a musical rock opera – we have done it all. We have cornered the ANU media market, with an Editor on the Board of Woroni, two founders of the Observer, and countless other sub-editors and contributors. We have even celebrated our first scholar wedding this year!

Mentoring first year scholars was an incredible opportunity for our group. Through these relationships, we were able to pass on some of the wisdom we have gained through

our first two years as Tuckwell Scholars. It was a fantastic way to get to know our inspiring and motivated peers.

The Tuckwell Scholarship has grown so much over the past three years. In 2015, we felt unprepared but excited to tackle the challenge of shaping the relatively new Scholarship program. Now, we are older and wiser (at least we hope so), and we're looking forward to seeing what new challenges are in store. Wherever we end up going, we will always remain connected and committed to this scholarship, which has helped us to identify our passions, enabled us to grasp opportunities beyond our wildest imaginations, and encouraged us to always dream bigger.



2016 Scholars



Ben Rada Martin



Brandon Smith



Charlie Guerit



Chloe Harpley



Damian Mazur



Georgia Leak



Isabella Mortimore



James Hayne



Jen Hung



Jonah Hansen



Julia Lindholm



Kate Garrow



Lachlan Campbell



Lorane Gaborit



Louis Becker



Lucy Stedman



Madeleine McGregor



Max Moffat



Sachini Poogoda



Sam Bannister



Sarah Callinan



Tom Goodwin



Tim Hume

From the Reps

James Hayne and Sarah Callinan
Scholars House Reps for 2016 Scholars

Last year, we entered the ANU fresh out of high school, excited and nervous about our futures. While we aren't first years anymore, much of our cohort remains the same – we still enjoy ice-cream and movie nights, Scholars House study sessions and long ocean swims at Kioloa!

In 2017, the 2016 Scholars have continued to succeed in and outside the classroom. Inside the classroom, we've had Scholars win academic prizes, take on research jobs and present in consulting competitions. Outside the classroom, Scholars have organized charity events, completed Inward Bound victories and been elected as college leaders. Each of these successes should be celebrated not only because they represent achievements in and of themselves but also because they reflect the diversity of the 2016 cohort.

Outside of the joys of university, study and work, we have continued our strong social program. From coffee dates and Bachelorette nights to early morning runs around the lake, we have become more than just a 'cohort of Scholars'. We share our embarrassing stories, relationship troubles and grand failures. Study sessions often end up consisting of equal parts laughter, food and philosophical debate. Honestly, and although it is cheesy to say, we're more of a family

than a 'cohort'.

A particular highlight for the 2016 Scholars this year has been managing the Tuckwell Enrichment Program. From running a Yoga session in Scholars House to organizing the first Tuckwell Innovation Challenge, we hope the 2017 Scholars have enjoyed the program as much as we enjoyed supervising it.

Looking forward, 2018 already appears to be busier than our previous years at ANU. Some of us will take on larger leadership positions within college, the university and the community. Others will continue on to bigger and better successes in the classroom or the laboratory, and many will take up new volunteer roles in the wider Canberra community. Regardless of what we are doing next year, we all look forward to mentoring the 2018 Scholars and (hopefully!) helping them avoid some of the obstacles we encountered early in our university careers.

Whatever happens in the future, the 2016 Scholars have been, and will continue to be, a group that stands together. We celebrate each other's' achievements. We stand up for those who are struggling. We push each other to be better students, friends and people. For that, we cannot thank the Tuckwell Scholarship program enough for bringing us together.

2017 Scholars



Sahibjeet Bains



Peter Baker



Caitlyn Baljak



Jye Beardow



Odessa Blain



Adam Cass



Samuel Cass



Yoann Colin



Jack Crawford



Katherine Curtis



Callum Dargavel



Callum Davis



Lachlan Deimel



Thomas Driscoll



Claudia Hodge



Clare McBride-Kelly



Mia McConville



James Naylor-Pratt



Patrick O'Farrell



Isabella Ostini



Eilish Salmon



Carina Stone



Michael Taylor



Tandee Wang



Alaina Warwick

From the Reps

Alaina Warwick and Sahibjeet Bains
Scholars House Reps for 2017 Scholars

2017 was a year of firsts for the newest Tuckwell Scholars. The first time moving out of home, our first time being immersed in university life and our first taste of experiencing life (somewhat) on our own.

The beginning of the year brought many bonding opportunities, from the orientation day scavenger hunt to our first Tuckwell camp. It has been through these joint activities that we have formed strong friendships and a support network that extends outside of the bounds of our college bubbles.

We have grown together as a group, regularly experiencing aspects of our university journey simultaneously in our own unique ways. This is usually most pertinent before a Tuckwell deadline as the group-chat gets inundated with “is that due tomorrow”s, whilst the more organised among us observe kindly, though slightly smug. We are constantly inspired by the achievements and personal attributes of our peers; leading us to become more knowledgeable about niche areas we had never considered and striving to emulate the admirable traits displayed by others.

Our experience with the Tuckwell Enrichment Program (TEP) began with sessions run by the second year Scholars. They guided us through sessions such as ‘How to Tuck-

well?’ and ‘Avoiding Burn Out’. The latter now holds a tradition, with Vice-Chancellor Brian Schmidt coming to share his advice for finding a balance in our lives – for who better to do so than a Nobel Laureate who runs Australia’s best university whilst also having time for his family and winemaking. TEP also featured some more social events such as yoga, a pizza making night and a first year “family dinner”.

We now get to look forward to our future, another year of firsts yet to come. A first time organising TEP, the first time some of us move out of college (and become even more independent) and the first time we get to re-experience what a year at the ANU can offer.



First Years' Reflections

The first year of university is an exciting, if daunting, experience. Scholars develop interests and friendships in the unlikeliest places and get their first taste of the incredible opportunities offered through academia, the Tuckwell Scholarship and a life away from home. Having thrown themselves into research, sports, college life and all manner of extra-curricular pursuits, the 2017 Scholars now take a moment to reflect on the year that has been.



Lachlan Deimel
PhB (Science)(Hons)

This has been the most experience-rich year of my life. It's been stimulating, challenging and just overwhelmingly positive.

Whilst residential college has been an incredible environment in which to live, and though I've enjoyed engaging with campus life, nothing quite stacks up to the opportunities I've gained through the PhB program. This year, I've been fortunate enough to work with labs investigating regulatory mechanisms of drug resistance mediating proteins in the malaria parasite and have been conducting a survey of standing resistance mutations of HIV-1 within the Australian population; such exciting and daunting tasks which have real and meaningful impacts.



Clare McBride-Kelly
B Arts/B Asian Studies

Many things have brought me joy this year.

I have absolutely loved learning Bahasa Indonesia; which has taught me a refreshing and logical way of thinking, and immersed me in a rigorous and supportive classroom environment. I am very excited to be going to Indonesia this summer to take part in a language exchange! It has also been such a genuine buzz to be actively involved in the College of Asia Pacific Student Society, as it has given me the opportunity to organise events, and connect with people who share strikingly similar interests to me. I am also so happy to have formed connections with engaged, interesting and genuine people within the ANU community. I feel so grateful that I have been given this amazing opportunity to study at ANU.



Eilish Salmon
B Politics, Philosophy and Economics

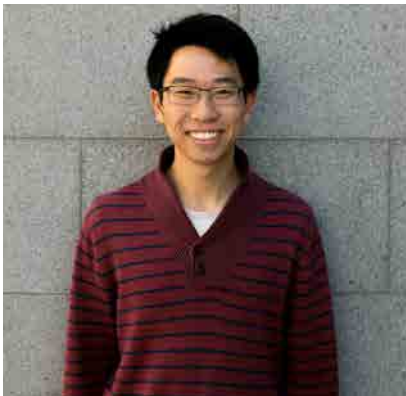
Prior to 2017, I had heard much of what it meant to be a “uni student”. My mother’s tales of cakes demolished in single sittings and a teacher’s recommendation that we learn to cook inexpensive bean-based meals come to mind. Although I have certainly picked up some of my own uni-student habits, my experience has been most strongly characterised by choice. Whether it be selecting courses to complete, societies to join or events to attend, I have appreciated my newfound independence and the freedom of time this scholarship has afforded me to enjoy it.

Tom Driscoll
B Science/B Statistics

My first year at ANU was so much better than I’d hoped it would be. Living in a residential college has far and away been the best experience of my life. The ability for a collegiate community to bring together so many people (via some pretty awesome events) is the reason I’ve made my closest friends here. My degree has also reinforced my love of (call me crazy) maths and statistics. Despite it provoking terror with terms like “prove” and “critically analyse”, it has given me a strong sense of direction, and I can’t wait for the years to come.



Tandee Wang
PhB (Arts)(Hons)



In 2017, I discovered my internal life. The stimulating external environment of ANU has only forced me to turn inward and interrogate myself. So, this year, I’ve learnt that residential college is not for me, and that peace and quiet is invaluable. I’ve learnt that cycling might be the only exercise for which I’m suited. And I’ve learnt that I love studying, learning and researching as much as I always believed I would. Though these insights are simple, they have been personally profound. And in the struggle to reach them, I have never felt a stronger connection to myself.

Odessa Blain
B Arts

“If in doubt, say yes.”

Albeit slightly dubious, this phrase has guided me during my time at university. Thanks to this motto, I’ve learnt how to play chess, construct a set comprised entirely out of shredded cardboard and milk crates, write an essay in French, drive a car (well, more or less – blind spot checks aren’t my forté!) and cook Nigella Lawson’s meatloaf. 2017 was an eclectic and exciting year, and it feels surreal to write this reflection, looking back on a time that is rapidly drawing to a close. But I am so excited to see what my future at ANU will hold and I look forward to continuing my university experience of saying ‘yes’.



Callum Dargavel
B Politics, Philosophy and Economics/B Asian Studies



There’s a wonderful sense of freedom and adventure in moving to a new place and settling into a new home. Of course there’s all the big and exciting things to enjoy like moving in, planning my degree, finding a job, and travelling for events, but it’s been the smaller things like meeting fascinating academics, exploring the city and making friends along the way that I’ve found to be incredibly fulfilling. If this year is anything to go by, these next few years at ANU are going to be truly remarkable.





Callum Davis
B International Relations/B Laws(Hons)

First year marked a fairly substantial change for me – moving out of home to a new city, leaving behind the comforts of school for university, and finding new friends – but I've greatly enjoyed the opportunities that being at ANU has given me.

Moving down to Canberra was the first of many life-altering experiences this year, which also saw me meet some fantastic new people, attend the lectures of incredibly accomplished academics, come face to face with my political heroes and slowly grow accustomed to 5:30pm dinners. Of course, university hasn't been without its more difficult moments and I certainly hope nothing will ever fill me with as much dread as the sun rising over my incomplete assignment after a decidedly unproductive all-nighter, but these, at the very least, are character-building experiences from which I can assuredly learn and grow.

Caitlyn Baljak
B Economics/B Science

Enlightening, challenging and rewarding; these are the three words I would use to describe my first year at ANU.

Enlightening in all the activities, subjects and societies I have been able to immerse myself in to develop my interests and passions. Challenging in the whirlwind of change transitioning from school to university; moving out of home, making new friend networks and adjusting to university work. Rewarding in the victories you achieve by putting yourself out there, from being selected for a student society executive position, rubbing shoulders with world leaders available to me through the university, or being able to travel to Vietnam to undertake a course towards my degree – ANU has helped me reach my potential at every opportunity.





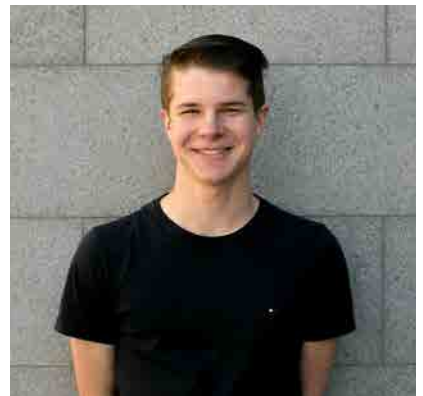
Claudia Hodge
B Politics, Philosophy and Economics/B Laws(Hons)

My first year at the ANU has certainly been one to remember. I had no idea what to expect when I moved into John XXIII College in February, but can now confidently call Canberra my home away from home. My university experience so far has allowed me to participate in various sports, academic programs and community work. One of the highlights this year was my involvement in the Johns Community Outreach Program in the Northern Territory over the spring break. Standing at the base of Uluru with nine other university students reminded me how far the Tuckwell Program has taken me. I can't wait to see what lies ahead.

Yoann Colin
B Actuarial Studies/B Medical Science

For me, 2017 has been synonymous with an enhanced understanding of how the inherent distractions of the adult world are diminished through the individual sense of purpose we each find in due time.

I would compare my first year at ANU to a rollercoaster that starts at sea level and ends in the sky – with the unforgettable ups far outweighing the inevitable downs. From the academics, to the extensive extra-curricular opportunities, to the social life, this year has been amazing. Simple words cannot scratch the surface of my gratitude towards the Tuckwell Scholarship program.





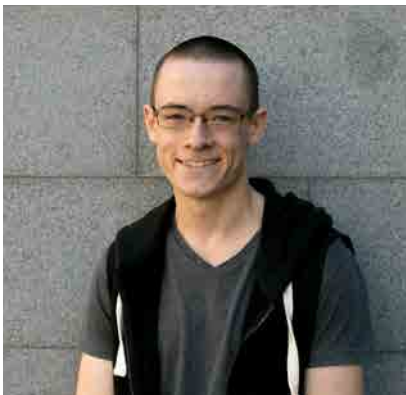
Mia McConville
B International Relations/B Laws(Hons)

The transition to university, to college and to Canberra presented a unique set of challenges yet yielded some incredible opportunities, friendships and culinary innovations I could have never anticipated. Much of this first year has been spent procrastinating in the Burton and Garran Hall kitchen, yet in the midst of this I have been lucky enough to push my body to the limits in Inward Bound and meet some amazing people through the Tuckwell program, college and ANU hockey.

I have learned so much this year; notably that coffee solves some, but definitely not all, problems, that it's okay to seek help when things get hard and most importantly that with a little creative cooking you can almost live indefinitely on Student Bites deliveries.

Alaina Warwick
B Finance, Economics and Statistics (Hons)

2017 has been a year of meteoric personal growth. I have been exposed to a vast array of new opportunities, new friends and new learning experiences. This year has been an opportunity to settle into Canberra, become accustomed to constant change and stumble upon a degree that I am passionate about. The people I have met have challenged me and supported me through the most unexpected and delightful year of my life. I can't wait for the next adventure.



Peter Baker
B Advanced Computing (R&D)/B Science

My first year as a university student and Tuckwell Scholar allowed me to establish Canberra as a home base while reminding me of the importance and promise of academic research. Of particular importance for me was my time at Fenner Hall; while the building is aging, I believe the friendships made will be timeless, providing a support for me as I transition into life in a share house environment. Holistically, my first year was fantastic and I look forward to the challenges and new experiences my future at ANU offers.



Jye Beardow
B Commerce/B Laws(Hons)

Not only has this been my first year at university, but also my first year away from my lifelong home of Lismore – and I can confidently say it has been an incredible journey thus far.

From running across mountain ranges and valleys for IB, through to legal aid work in Cambodia, this has been one of the most challenging and rewarding years of my life. While moving out of my small regional bubble was something that caused me great angst, the support provided to me by both my residential college and the Tuckwell Program has allowed me to succeed (and sometimes fail) in every endeavour I have pursued. I cannot wait to be back next year.

Patrick O'Farrell
B Science(Advanced)(Hons)

My first year at ANU well and truly exceeded all of my expectations. I definitely feel the most important part of my first year experience was learning to adjust to university life and constructing a base to build upon in the coming years.

The people I've met and the experiences I've had have blown me away. I have grown and learnt so much from my time in class, at residential college and playing sport. I'm excited to move into my second year knowing more about what's possible in terms of the exciting opportunities and incredible resources available to me at ANU. I look forward to taking what I've learnt from my first year and utilising it to broaden my horizons and consolidate my contributions to ANU and the wider Canberra community.



Scholars at Tuckwell Camp



Carina Stone
B Economics/B Laws(Hons)

I have loved every minute of making new friends with such a diverse range of people from Bruce Hall, the Tuckwell community, and through the law school. I was surprised by how quickly the ANU felt like home. Most of my law and economics subjects have been really intellectually stimulating and challenged me to think in new ways. Highlights of the year include the adrenaline of Big Night Out, an Interhall battle of the bands competition, and helping to organise some really interesting speaker events as a first year officer with the Law Students' Society social justice and education portfolios. I can't wait for the new challenges and learning opportunities of 2018.



James Naylor-Pratt
B Finance/B Economics

For me there have been two main highlights of this year. The first is the new interests that I've developed as university has exposed me to some exciting new areas of study that I'd previously never encountered. The second is the incredible network of friends that I've ended up with; I know that I'll always have my group of friends back in my hometown, but now I have two whole new groups of friends in Canberra, the first being centred on my residential college and the second on the Tuckwell Program. Both of these things have made for an incredible year, and as I write this sitting at home I'm honestly counting down the days until I get back to ANU.



Front row Callum, Elish, Sam and Sahibjeet at Camp.



Jack Crawford
B Economics/B Mathematical Sciences

Moving to university has come with a large change of perspective for me.

I come from an area in North-West Tasmania with an extremely homogeneous, white population, so this year has been my first opportunity to fully experience the richness offered by multiculturalism first-hand. My favourite thing has definitely been regularly bumping into people with all sorts of different and interesting views – especially living in a residential college as diverse as Bruce Hall – and exchanging ideas in a way that I just couldn't if I had stayed cooped up in Tasmania. Isn't that discourse really what university is all about?

Sahibjeet Bains
B Economics/B Finance

It's been such a whirlwind year. Meeting people from a plethora of places and simply experiencing things I just would never have otherwise had the chance to.

The Tuckwell Program has really complemented my University lifestyle through providing various thought-provoking and unique events to learn and grow. Being surrounded by some of the most amazing and talented people in Australia is just so rewarding!



Isabella Ostini
B Political Science/B International Security Studies



From subjects that have reinforced my love of what I study, to somewhat too many extracurricular activities, to adventures with my higgledy-piggledy group(s) of friends, first year has reignited my excitement to learn. This year it has been a joy to be challenged and inspired to think rigorously, to defend my ideas, and to find ways to care for my new community. And while I have missed home, I have also fallen head over heels for our eucalypt-scented national capital, brutalist architecture and all!

Don't Be So Hard on Yourself

Tandee Wang
2017 Scholar

Since 2015, I've developed the habit of intensively listening to music. I find a song I like, listen to it for hours on repeat, and finally develop an association between it and the salient emotions I experienced at the time I was listening. At the end of the year, I'm able to construct a playlist in which each song is a vignette of the time that was.

In 2017, the highlight of my playlist is Jess Glynne's 'Don't Be So Hard on Yourself'; a very cheesy pop-song of personal empowerment whose main message is self-evident in the title.

Reflecting seriously on my first year of university, I can only admit that it has been often characterised by struggle and stress. University is an act of transposition and transformation, but I have simultaneously felt my transposition of the past is pointless, and

my transformation of my future is inadequate.

In the former case, I felt that all the things in my past of which I'm proud were made obsolete almost overnight. I no longer had geographically proximate friends, all my high school experiences seemed profoundly juvenile and irrelevant, and I was told my ATAR was meaningless the second after it was released. So, when it came to the transposition of my past, I felt that I had nothing to carry over.

At the same time, I felt my adjustment to university was belated and lethargic. It seemed all around me, people were thriving in their new environment: rapidly making life-long friends, gobbling up early opportunities in college and in ANU more broadly, and generally enjoying themselves. By contrast, I struggled socially in college, felt a sense

Photo: Katie Ward

that I was missing out at almost every turn, and, save for my academic prospects, felt generally discontented about my university experience.

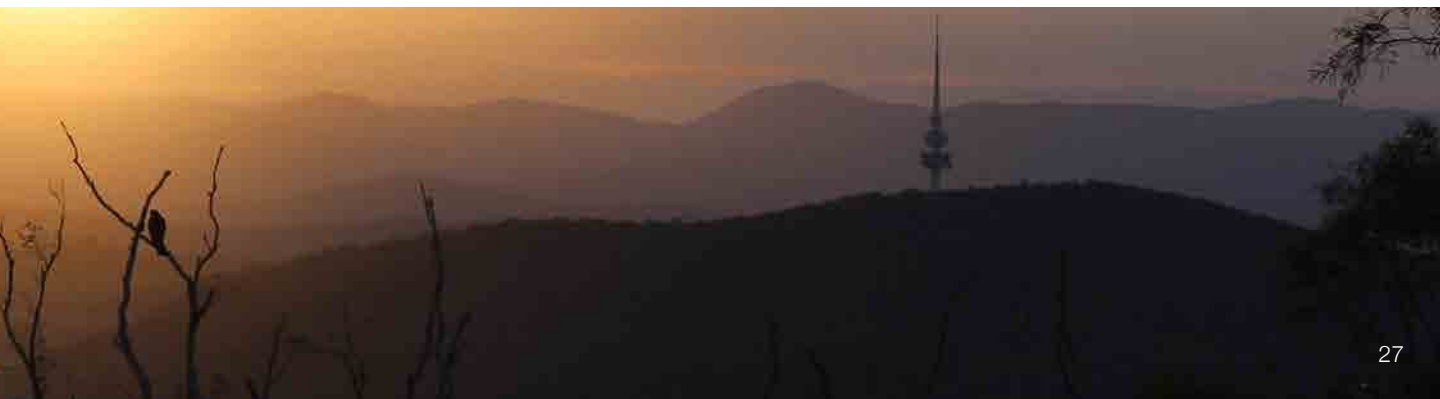
Faced with this dilemma of an irrelevant past and a future shaping up to be far less than I expected, I have spent much of this first year unhappy. But the solution I sought, the nebulous goal of gaining more, has been an irrational spiral. It's been a Sisyphean task, as at every juncture and for every achievement, there has been a comparison I've been able to draw to highlight my shortcomings. Consequently, the task of feeling adequate has been an ever-incomplete process.

In many ways, however, I feel that this internal conflict has been driven by some level of external expectation and pressure that I have internalised. I often find myself confronted with the 'burnout narrative'—a story of the ideal scholar who simultaneously accomplishes the task of being a high-achiever in the most conceivably all-rounded sense, but who is also just able to pull through and avoid burnout. Personally, the spectre of burnout has haunted me from the day we did a TEP session on how to avoid it. Although I understood its good, preventative intentions—and while I have received extensive support from various

sources including the Tuckwell Program—I could not help but think that underlying the burnout warning was a sinister expectation that I should be in a place where that is a real risk to start with. In many ways, my personal experience has taught me that university glorifies the burnt-out scholar as high achiever and inspiration. Yet, although I was expected to be a spectacular fire whose brilliance was threatened only by the possibility that I burnt too quickly or too brightly; the challenges I faced in university transition made me feel rather like a sad spark that failed to ignite.

Overcoming both these external expectations and my, perhaps, overly eager desire to fulfil them, is an ongoing process. But realising that this has been a significant cause of much of my vexation this first-year has been an important step. I think that's why the positive message of 'Don't Be So Hard on Yourself' is the epitome of my reflection this year.

If Glynne's song has as much predictive value as it has reflective, however, then I have hope for the future; as she sings: 'I learned to wave goodbye/How not to see my life/Through someone else's eyes...I won't be so hard on myself no more.'



Unexpected Opportunities

Abi Rajkumar
2014 Scholar

Four years ago, I had just gotten into my car after a gruelling boot-camp session, and I received a phone call from Graham Tuckwell, telling me the panel had decided to award me a scholarship that would go on to change my life in more ways than I could have ever imagined. From Sydney-sider to proud Canberran, the past 4 years as a Tuckwell Scholar at ANU have taken me around the world, and have fundamentally shaped the way I see my place in it. At the beginning of 2014, an old friend told me that being passionate isn't enough to enact real change in the world... and that was the day I decided I would study law. From being 16 and learning how to make short films with a friend that worked with me at the cinemas, to being 22 and learning how to ride a scooter in Krabi alongside friends from Switzerland, I've learnt to say 'why not' as much as I can.

Moving to Canberra has given me invaluable access to the Australian political landscape, to beautiful nature and to a university that has gone above and beyond in creating opportunities for students to understand the world around us. As a result of ANU courses and programs, I have worked with and witnessed sustainable development

NGOs in practice in rural Vietnam, I helped run a leadership conference for 240 Malawian youth in Karonga, I studied the Preservation of Cultural Heritage at Yale University (a Gilmore Girls dream come true), I worked on a Coronial Inquest which shone a light on the plight of Indigenous youth in the Kimberley, I went on exchange to Singapore where I made countless lifelong friendships, and I had the opportunity to explore the corporate legal landscape of London by working for an ANU Alumnus turned Partner, at Latham & Watkins LPP. None of these life changing opportunities would have been possible without the support of dedicated and driven staff who understand the importance of travel and practical experiences and who spend time creating and fostering relationships between organisations and firms.

I've worked alongside my studies and I am constantly reminded of how important it is to network, to meet new people, to be open to new ideas and to just ask! Sometimes the most random conversations and run ins will unexpectedly turn into the most incredible opportunities. I've met CEOs on planes, young entrepreneurs on trains, venture capitalists at tucked away speakeasies,

and I have worked for Senators I am utterly inspired by after briefly meeting them whilst working on an election campaign. Being open to everything life has to offer will always deliver.

The funny thing about being a Tuckwell Scholar is that many of us spend years being treated as though we are exceptional, and in many ways, we are immensely proud of ourselves...but we also continue to question our place amongst it all. Perhaps the most important thing I've learnt over the past few years is to understand how imperative it is to not let imposter syndrome consume you, and to recognise the varied and unique roles we all play - no matter who you are, or what you're doing. I've spent the last 4 years following the universe wherever it's led me, and it has in no way always been easy. I'm constantly being told by friends that it's 'time to settle down' but at 22, I wouldn't have it any other way. There's so much to see, so much to learn, and so many things to feel and experience, and there's never a better time than now. Even when you find yourself in the worst of positions, and it feels like it's all been for nothing, all you need to do is step back and recognise that it has all unfolded the way it has for a reason. That feeling of 'this isn't right' might just be exactly what you need to push you in the right direction. Travelling the world and meeting new people is one of the best ways to get to know yourself and to challenge yourself in ways that will prepare you for the future.

When I decided to move to Canberra, I had absolutely no idea if I was making the right decision for myself. I was 18 and terrified of what the future held. But every decision

I've made, every country I've been to, and every individual that has entered my life, has undoubtedly shaped the way I perceive myself and how I want to contribute to our wonderful world. We don't reflect on it enough, but in many ways, the best part about life is the unknown. Sometimes, there's magic in the unexpected.



Learning to Love Canberra

Mia McConville
2017 Scholar

‘So, how are you liking Canberra?’ they all asked in the same tone, with the same smirk that dared me admit my new home was as dull as they all said it would be. One by one, they all received the same wry smile and the same reply:

‘It’s growing on me.’

The reality for almost all of us is that by obtaining the Tuckwell Scholarship to study at the ANU, we must adjust to an environment vastly different from our hometowns.

Whether we arrive from the chaos of Sydney or a small, weathered town in rural NSW, the move to Canberra will present unique challenges for all of us.

My first taste of Canberra was in March 2016; the first thing I did was take a photo of the empty airport terminal for my friends back in Melbourne, ‘Yep, you were right. Canberra’s dead’ was the caption.

Fast forward twelve months and the same latte-sipping, vinyl-buying, purple-haired Melbournian arrived at the ANU, naively confident about transitioning to university life. The adjustment to college and to a

new way of learning was one hurdle, but the transition to a new city was another I hadn’t anticipated. To me, having grown accustomed to the bustling and colourful streets of inner-city Melbourne, Canberra felt like a ghost town with its big wide roads, functional-looking buildings and shops that closed early on weekends – if they opened at all.

It felt ungrateful to admit, but I struggled to adjust. A large portion of my life in Melbourne centred around venues, events and people that I simply couldn’t see as I lugged groceries through the streets of Civic.

I spent too long waiting for our capital to convince me to love it. Melbourne, like a toddler, throws everything it has at you until you embrace it; it took me a semester to realise that Canberra, too, had its own beauty and personality but I would have to make an effort to find it.

It was easier than I anticipated to befriend ‘The Bush Capital’ once I began my quest to see more of it than Coombs theatre, Aldi and the B&G kitchen. I cycled around Lake Burley Griffin (and got lost in Fyshwick, twice.)



Photo: Katie Ward

I discovered Glebe Park by taking a wrong turn on the way to the pool. I swapped monotonous runs around campus for the seemingly infinite Black Mountain trails and got to explore many kilometres of the ACT's finest gravel roads through Inward Bound. I even found myself missing Canberra's infamous roundabouts after catching my fourth red light in a row back home.

This year of trial and error, ups and downs, has been full of lessons though the one I would like to share is this: it's okay to take your time to adjust to your new surrounds.

Canberra does not have to feel like your home, but you will find things to love there.

Perhaps it will be love at first sight, or, perhaps, like mine your love of Canberra will be the slow-burning kind that sneaks up on you once you resolve it's just 'not meant to be'. Your love of Canberra may be holistic, or it may be the little things – the non-existent traffic, your college community, a favourite store, question time at parliament – that day by day, week by week, work their way into your life until the well-used response 'It's growing on me' becomes past tense.

Scholars on Exchange

Abi catching a totally tubular wave



Majulah Singapore!

Abi Rajkumar
2014 Scholar

Hello from Singapore!

I've had the privilege of studying at the National University of Singapore for the last 5 months and amongst the humidity, student community and expats, I've had an absolute ball. From learning from some of Singapore's most renowned academics and professionals who have found themselves in senior positions in the UN or running international arbitration matters, to enjoying a delicious concoction of gin and rosemary at the prettiest rooftop bar you ever did see, Singapore is for the adventurer. The food is diverse, the alcohol is expensive and Tinder looks very different... (because of all the investment bankers of course), but Singapore has hidden stories just waiting to be told. Known as the exemplar for international development, I've been consumed by wanting to understand what has had to give for an island state to have undergone such an incredible transformation in such a short period of time. You learn very quickly that amongst the economic growth, comes a large gap between the rich and poor, and an utter disregard for workers' rights and fair pay in many industries that are central to the functionality of Singapore.

Despite its flaws, it's not hard to understand why people who move over 'only for a year' go on to stay for decades – Singapore is beautiful. There is greenery amongst the vibrant city, there are bars and restaurants for every taste that are open throughout the

night and there are individuals leading change in every sector you can think of. It really is the ultimate hub.

With the rest of Asia at our doorstep, we explored the most beautiful beach towns and bustling cities. I learnt how to surf and rode my first scooter! My most fond memories are getting to know the staff and cleaners from Tembusu College. From single father, to grandmother of eight, they all had such beautiful and unique stories, and watching their faces light up at the mere notion that someone wanted to find out more about them, reminded me of how important it is to make sure we get to know everyone in our lives - even the people we too often take for granted. I visited the homes and favourite places of local students, explored Little India, hiked through reservoirs, experienced a cloud forest and rediscovered my love of jackfruit and mangosteen whilst finding a new favourite fruit – soursop. From Norway to Japan, Austria to New Zealand, I've made lifelong friends who chose Singapore to take the road less travelled. For once, I should disagree with our dear friend Robert Frost and say that this particular road has indeed made all the difference.

Six months in Dublin was just enough time to realise that I could happily spend the rest of my degree there. When the sun is out, people spill onto the canal and sunbathe in the fifteen degree heat. When it's grey, the pubs are crammed with people drowning the cold in a pint of Guinness. Both scenarios made for a great semester.

I was studying law at Trinity College, and spent the semester popping off to Prague, hanging in the quad and joining the surf club on a trip to Morocco. Parts of the university are centuries old, and it was shameful how quickly I was used to learning in a classroom that looked like it had come from the set of

Harry Potter.

I was lucky enough to be in Dublin for Trinity Ball, which turns the university into a mini festival for a night. ANU friends studying in Germany, the Netherlands and Madrid came to visit that weekend. It felt like the start of year ANUSA party, with an Irish twist.

Leaving Dublin was incredibly sad, and I'm itching to go back as soon as possible. For anyone considering exchange, I couldn't recommend it higher, and am so grateful for my experience at Trinity.





Hannah Harmelin
2014 Scholar

Hello from Tokyo!

Here I've studied Japanese language, modern Japanese literature, multiculturalism in Japan and East Asian foreign policy issues.

The early days of my time on exchange involved trying to navigate Tokyo's notorious train network, visiting beautiful shrines and temples, and of course hunting for the best ramen in town! As time went on, I found fun in the simpler things – from successfully making small talk with shop attendants in Japanese, to learning to cook basic Japanese dishes at home.

Living in one of the busiest cities in the world was a fun, hectic, challenging adventure. But when the city becomes too much, there are some beautiful places near Tokyo to go and relax in nature, like Mount Takao, a sacred mountain I climbed when it was covered in beautiful autumn leaves.

A year is a long time but what a whirlwind my Year in Asia has been. I've spent 2017 living in Shanghai and attending Fudan University. After getting my Chinese up to speed with full-time Mandarin courses in my first semester, I've spent second semester taking Mandarin-language courses in history, literature, culture, rhetoric and Classical Chinese.

I really can't believe how far my language has come. But of course there are still days when I'm staring at blackboard scribbles on Freud's psychoanalytic theory, struggling to read Sun Tzu's Art of War, or mixing up who killed who in the battle of something-or-other, and I'm wondering how exactly I got to this point.

Of course the formal studying is just the half of it. I've made myself at home living in a traditional laneway compound in the leafy French Concession of old Shanghai. Buying

fresh veggies every morning, cycling the local streets on the ubiquitous share-bikes, catching the beautifully efficient metro to uni, life here has really been too easy. It's no wonder a whole year has already passed by.

A particular highlight was my trip around China's southwest during the summer, from Shanghai all the way to Yunnan. I'll never forget trekking Tiger Leaping Gorge, cycling through green countryside and ancient villages, climbing to the summit of Huangshan carrying a ridiculously heavy pack, and seeing the sheer karst peaks of picturesque Guilin.

When I come home I will really miss the street food of Shanghai. But I can't wait to wake up to birdsong again.





Lachlan Arthur
2015 Scholar

Grüetzi aus Zürich!

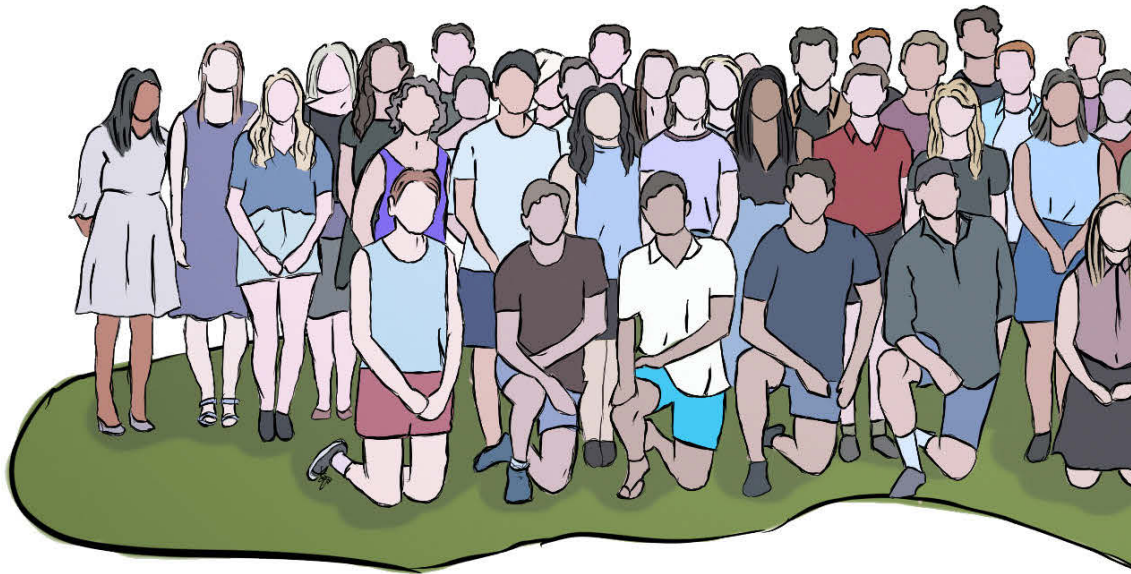
My time at ETH Zürich has been nothing short of incredible. The university's academic reputation speaks for itself, but being so multicultural is what really makes ETH, and Zürich in general, really special. To put it in perspective, there are 6 nationalities represented in my apartment of 7 people and almost every university student is fluent in at least 3 languages!

While I am here, I am taking what are known as 'block courses' in the Department of Biology which are month-long research projects that I work on full-time Tuesday to Friday. I will rotate through four projects in four different labs while I am here, plus I am taking a clinical neurosciences course and German-language course at the University of Zürich.

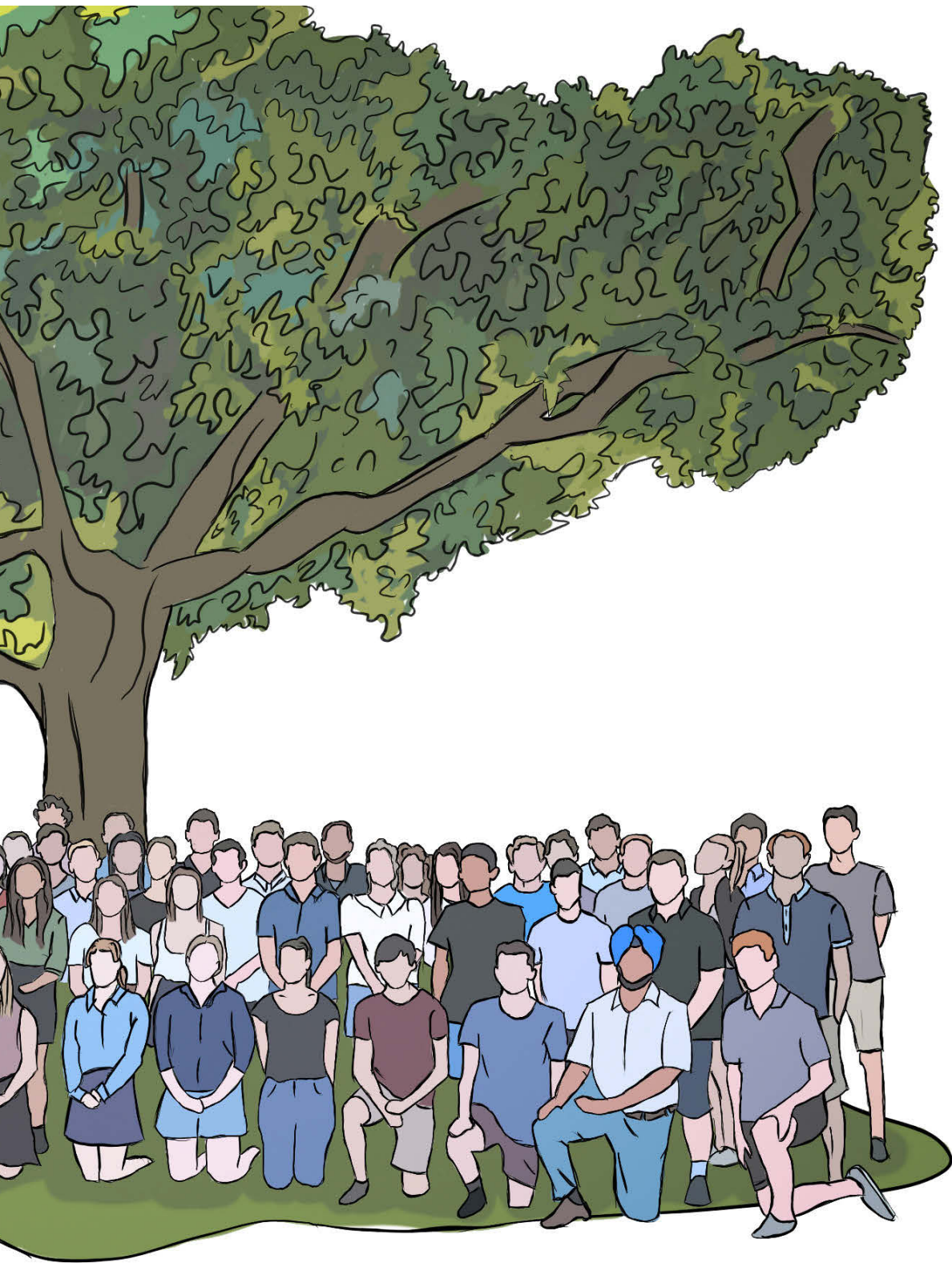
I have also been able to do heaps of sport

and travel, having skied in the alps, run a half marathon on the Swiss-Austrian border and run the Paris Marathon, and I also saw FC Barcelona play at the Camp Nou. I am really looking forward to SOLA-Staffete, which is the ETH equivalent of Inward Bound at ANU and sees 1000 teams of 14 people compete, making it the largest sports event in Switzerland. It involves a relay with legs between 5 and 14 kilometres over a 126 kilometre route through the mountains around Zürich.

To take advantage of my first trip to central Europe I also embarked on trips to Lucerne, Geneva, Denmark (for the Copenhagen Marathon), Netherlands, UK, Germany, Portugal, Morocco and Italy!



Tuckwell S



Scholars 47

From the Head of Scholars House

Prof. Richard Baker
Head of Scholars House

It has been an enormous privilege to have been involved in the Tuckwell Program for its formative first four years. With the passage of time, the visionary nature of Graham and Louise Tuckwell's decision to create a scholarship that allows highly talented and motivated school leavers to fulfil their potential, has become increasingly apparent. A key guiding principle of the Tuckwells in establishing the scholarships was that they "should allow recipients to reinvest their knowledge, skills and experience in ways that positively benefit others". The ANU is now reaping the benefit of the Tuckwell's farsighted vision as Scholars are in so many different ways across ANU and indeed the world utilising their skills and experience to drive so much positive change.

As documented so eloquently in this edition of *The Bell*, the Tuckwell Program has produced an extraordinary cohort of Scholars. As the member of the ANU Executive responsible for the student experience, I have daily interactions with student groups doing remarkable things. Whether it is an ANU event or initiative

associated with theatre, sport, politics, undergraduate student research, advocacy, media, not for profits or other volunteering, there is invariably now a Tuckwell Scholar showing outstanding leadership in making things happen! There are Tuckwell Scholars out the front leading so many things but just as importantly in so many different places Scholars doing the heroic, but often unnoticed, behind the scenes heavy lifting that makes volunteer organisations and events work.

There were many program 'firsts' in 2017. Catherine Perry became our first Tuckwell alumna and has done a wonderful job setting up the Alumni Network. We had a record number of Scholars in the Program this year, and a record number of Scholars studying abroad. The record number of students studying abroad brought a truly global dimension to the program with regular updates appearing in the weekly Scholars newsletter keeping us informed of extraordinary study and extra-curricular activities at some of the world's top universities. The record total number

of Scholars created an impressive critical mass of deeply engaged Scholars. It was particularly pleasing to see many more multi-year support and social events being organised with the spirit emphasised in the annual scholar run event on “how to Tuck-well” being impressively put in place. This year also saw the introduction of a new “Tuckwell Talks” program, which provided Scholars from all year groups the opportunity to engage with experts (and each other) across a variety of themes including indigenous affairs, climate change and culture.

The whole of program cross year vitality outlined above was built on top of a continuing strong sense of individual year identity. Over the last 12 months our first year Scholars forged a strong sense of their own identity and brought extraordinary energy and enthusiasm into the Program. Our second years did a wonderful job running the Tuckwell Extension Program (TEP). Our third years proved themselves outstanding mentors carrying out their formal mentoring role of the first years with aplomb. Our fourth years demonstrated wisdom befitting their deep knowledge of ANU and the program and did wonderful work mentoring younger Scholars in so many ways.

An impressive virtuous cycle has developed the Tuckwell Program of each year Scholars actively reflecting on what has worked well in previous years and building upon this. It is therefore with immense excitement that I look forward to what 2018 brings with the arrival of a 5th group of outstanding young Scholars

from across the country joining us and further enhancing this outstanding Program.

Finally, some heartfelt thanks are due. The ongoing successes of the program is in no small part due to the incredibly hard work of the administration team of Program Director, Tim Mansfield, and Administration Officer, Hannah Leary. Another central plank of the program has been the mentoring work of the team of Academic Fellows and I am deeply indebted to highly dedicated and committed Fellows team of Molly O’Brien, Mary Kilcline Cody, Peter Kanowski and Chris Browne. The wise counsel, encouragement and support the Fellows are daily giving Scholars is something that I know has made such a difference to the lives of our Scholars.



As a Tuckwell Fellow, I'm in the privileged position of having multiple meaningful conversations with Scholars who are each doing extraordinary things. Despite the diversity of these individual pursuits, I find myself navigating similar problems, and in turn giving similar advice. I've learnt that it's almost useless to tell Scholars to "take things easy", or to "not worry about grades", or to "not say 'yes' to everything". Instead, encouraging Scholars to build their own resilience is possibly the most important thing I can advise. There are three ways of thinking that dominate my discussions with Scholars, which I share below. I invite you – particular incoming Scholars, to adopt these methodologies.

Experiment Often

As university students, you'll look for opportunities and situations that will require great personal investment – such as striking up a conversation with your favourite lecturer after class, running for social rep of a society, auditioning for your college revue, or choosing an essay topic that resonates morally. Sometimes these will be experiences that you look back on with fondness in years to come, but there will also be disappointment - your favourite academic will dismiss you when you approach them, somehow the wallflower will be elected social rep, you realise that you don't have a musical bone in your body, or you find out that the degree you have chosen isn't for you. Amidst the deeply personal minor and major wins and losses in the myriad aspects of student life, many Scholars struggle to keep afloat.

We are particularly good at not learning from our successes and failures. The first challenge that I put to you is to treat each activity like an experiment: devise a hypothesis, run an action research experiment, learn from the outcome. Be as objective as possible. For example, rather than just ambushing your favourite academic after a lecture, ask yourself "Will I have more success getting a response from my favourite academic if I approach them after class, during office hours, or by email?". You might get lucky and get an affirmative response first off, or you might try all three and get nowhere. By framing it as an experiment, you give yourself permission to take a step back from the situation and learn from it. In fact, the actual outcome becomes less important than learning about how to approach the situation next time.

Optimise for What Is Important

I often see Scholars have the realisation that they can't continue being everything to everyone, no matter how hard they try. Systems Theory tells us that achieving optimal performance in each component will lead to sub-optimal overall performance. A big part of success at university is learning to optimise for what's important.

When it comes to optimisation, students are generally concerned with three available resources – time, energy and money. The Tuckwell Scholarship helps you with the latter, making time and energy your main resources. Everyone will convert these resources into different outcomes - success with grades,



your passions, your lifestyle, your future. The second challenge is to figure out what is important to you, so that you can maximise the efficiency of your time and energy.

Grades are an area to which the concept of optimisation can be readily applied. The relationship between time spent studying and grades received is rarely linear, and more like a diminishing return – after a certain point, for every extra grade point an even greater amount of time is required. Often, students are obsessed with getting the highest mark, rather than the ‘optimal’ mark, that would leave time in reserve for other activities. If you’re aiming for the optimal mark, the measure of success is how close you are to achieving that mark. In fact, getting a higher/lower-than-anticipated mark is a sign that you’ve misjudged the task. Another experiment comes to mind. “Will I achieve

a grade of X if I spend Y hours working on this assignment?” As you conduct these experiments, your predictions will get better and you’ll optimise your time and energy to get the grade you need.

Evolve Quickly

Almost everything at university will be different - in every way you are moving into ‘deeper water’. More independence, cooler friends, harder subjects, better opportunities. Your existing repertoire for dealing with situations will become less effective. The third technique naturally falls out as a result of the first two - experiment and optimise, then evolve quickly.

The study habits that helped you achieve a high ATAR will not work as effectively at university. This is largely because university is about synthesising and creating knowledge,

rather than reciting facts or applying formulae. Correct answers turn from black and white to a murky swamp of theory. This is made clear in our university's motto: *Naturam Primum Cognoscere Rerum*, 'first to learn the nature of things'. The nature of things is continually contested and changed over time.

To deal with this change, your study habits will have to evolve. Rote learning becomes impossible given the volume of activity with respect to your available resources. Often, I see Scholars drift to poor study methods, like binge-watching lectures or developing a habit of doing all-nighters. A positive alternative to these bad habits is to evolve your study to incorporate outside perspective. That is, you might begin to watch SBS World News for your policy studies or listen to The Science Show for your science studies, or read The

Observer for your student politics. Doing so allows various sources of knowledge and passion into your life, which might inspire you to engage with your studies in a more sophisticated way.

On Reflection

It's no surprise that my advice is heavily influenced by concepts in systems theory, engineering and design theory, and teaching & learning theory. If you're interested in these ideas or projects in this area, you should absolutely come and have a chat with me. I'd also encourage everyone to find space for a VC's course in your program, make a habit of listening to The Science Show, and avidly follow (or even contribute!) to The Observer.



It is now my task to bid adieu to the Tuckwell Program. It has now been about three years since I took up being a Tuckwell Fellow. During those three years, I have met with you individually and in groups. I have been with you at camp in Kioloa and in Birrigai. We have met at Commencement Dinners, Uni House Academic Dinners, Tuckwell Enrichment Program activities, Residential College Dinners, Tuckwell Talks on hot issues, scholar-mentor training, group pizza dinners, group ice cream gatherings and many other sessions. I have been delighted to see you grow, change and challenge yourselves.

During the last two years I have mentored quite a number of scholars who study law, which meant I had the opportunity to see you casually more often. I met up with you in the corridors of the law school and while you were out taking walks or going for coffee. I even met with one scholar at the National Museum of Australia! I have enjoyed spending time with you and have learned a lot from you.

When we met individually, we shared your joy and excitement about university life and study. We also shared your eager anticipation of the goals and possibilities of your futures. At times we also shared some of your worries and concerns. I tried to point you in the right direction each time you had an issue. But I was surprised to find that most often, you were already trying out various possibilities and exploring the ways that you would best contribute to your own growth and to the university community.

In my experience, Tuckwell Scholars

are smart, determined, and willing to be challenged. Many are lateral thinkers, have a good sense of humour and are generally humble. Each of you is an individual, but you exhibit an openness and positive outlook on life: nothing is too much trouble, work is there to be done, and done well, and you really do help each other. I have seen many examples of your positive attitude – helping new students settle in in College, sharing knowledge on the whiteboard walls in preparation for exams, providing information about forthcoming internships and working together to achieve a goal. I have been very pleased with your fresh outlook and positive thinking, despite in some cases, some difficult personal challenges.

In the next few months, I will be focusing on my research. I will be taking leave from teaching to work with books, papers, statistics and studies. I will be spending my days in the library or at my desk, reading, studying and writing. While I love academic work, I will miss seeing my Tuckwell scholars. Meeting with you has always been fun and has given me insight. You have been my mentors as much as I have been one of yours.

I am the longest serving Tuckwell Fellow.
I have checked my records and see that I actually commenced in May 2013 when we had our first meetings to discuss just what being a Tuckwell Fellow meant and what a Tuckwell Program might look like. This is my take on the last 4 wonderful years.

Four years

Four years of emails
New faces in my old office
Shiny, nervous, bored
Who are you? What is a mentor anyway?
I know you, you know me
If it works, fine
If not, let it go

Four years of plans and goals
Degree selections, program changes
tutorial strategies, do the prep, ask a question, get the mark,
exam stress, exam results, it will be fine
appeals, navigating uni , it will be fine
Am I doing enough? Am I doing too much?
Am I enough?

Yes, I'd love a coffee
You know my policy on paying
Tell me all and we will find a way
- Hold that thought
I have to feed my birds

Four years of meetings and coffees and walks
Skype and Facetime
Australia, France, Japan
China, Singapore, Indonesia
Kioloa and Birragai, Commencement and Scholars

Here's my mobile number – ring when you need to
Don't post it on Facebook

Four years of following your instincts
Student politics, green activism
drama, Frisbee, marathons
music, writing, knitting
exchanges, charities, media
Am I doing enough? Am I doing too much?
Am I enough?

Yes, I'd love a coffee
You know my policy on paying
Tell me all and we will find a way
- Hold that thought
I have to feed my birds

Four years of career stuff
I want to work in DFAT, the UN
Development, science communication
Design, medicine, politics,
I want to do a PhD, I think.....
I don't know
Am I doing enough? Am I doing too much?
Am I enough?

Four years of CVs
No Hello Kittys, smiley faces or little flowers
Left justified, black and white, this is the professional you
4 years of referee reports
Internships, cadetships, volunteering, clerkships,
Coffee shop and pharmacy
Am I doing enough, am I doing too much?
Am I enough?

Yes, I'd love a coffee
You know my policy on paying

Tell me all and we will find a way
- Hold that thought
I have to feed my birds

Four years of research and job applications
Yes, I will read it
Research projects (how do you do research?)
Job applications (focus, focus, focus)
Intern reports (what do they want?)
Thesis writing (rephrase -it makes no sense)
I prefer coursework anyway

Four years of change
Yes, I am still here,
how are you doing?
Moving house, achievement, anxiety
broken hearts, broken limbs
HDs, family stuff, people stuff, life stuff
Am I doing enough? Am I doing too much?
Am I enough?

Yes, I'd love a coffee
You know my policy on paying
Tell me all and we will find a way
- Hold that thought
I have to feed my birds

Graduation
You made it. You have done so well.
I am so proud of you.
Mission accomplished.

I am mentor, hear me roar.



Prof. Peter Kanowski
Tuckwell Fellow

For academics, each year is a complex mix of ‘more of the same’ (such as academic timetables, assessment cycles, and both matriculating and graduating students) and ‘the new and unpredictable’ (new personalities, ideas and synergies; and occasionally new challenges ...). For me, the Tuckwell Program in 2017 had elements of each of these; as the Program matures, some elements are becoming familiar (orientation, Commencement, the camp, TEP, graduation pancakes ...), but others are novel or re-interpreted. Amongst the latter in 2017, we

had (of course) the 2017 Scholars, with their own individual and collective personalities; a reprise of the academic dinner for later-year Scholars; a trial “Tuckwell Talks” series; and the Scholars House Sunroom phenomenon ... We’re also experiencing and benefitting from the dynamics of a larger complement of Scholars, as the Program approaches a steady state in overall numbers, and the positives that brings for both the Program and for Scholars.

For all those reasons, 2017 in retrospect

Morgan, Michael, Peter and Sarah at Commencement Dinner



– and 2018 in prospect – seem very encouraging to me, for both the Program and individual Scholars as members of it. We’re seeing new levels of durability and resilience in the Program overall, as well as plenty of those characteristics embodied by individual Scholars as they face various personal or institutional challenges. We’re also seeing the innovation and energy that come from the mix of Scholars at different career stages and interests, and from individual and collective reflections on and interpretations of “being a Tuckwell”.

So, as our first group of 2014 Scholars graduate, and we prepare to welcome the 2018 Scholars and welcome back those from 2nd year on, I think we have lots to look forward to for 2018, both as a Program and as individuals working as part of it. I’m similarly looking forward to realising that potential with you all.



2017 Highlights

The Tuckwell Scholars are a curious, hard-working and diverse bunch and this is reflected in the sheer number and variety of extra-curricular involvements undertaken each year. The following are some individual highlights from Scholars' exciting endeavours and engagement in 2017.



Odessa Blain
2017 Scholar

This year, I was lucky enough to be a part of The National University Theatre Society's production of The Island of Dr Moreau. Having never produced a play before, I wasn't sure what to expect. However, I soon grew to love working behind the scenes and am incredibly proud of the finished product we all achieved. Despite seeing rehearsals of the play countless times, the final scenes never failed to give me chills – a testament to the artistic vision, bravery and hard work of the entire cast and crew. I look forward to continuing my involvement with NUTS as a member of the 2018 Executive and I cannot wait to see what productions will be hitting the stage in the years to come.

Jonah Hansen
2016 Scholar

I've really enjoyed volunteering this year through a variety of programs. In particular, helping out with the ANU ConocoPhillips Science Experience, where a group of about 40 Year 9 and 10 students come to the ANU to learn about science and engineering. It was wonderful to see these students see all the amazing facilities and opportunities available at university, and I learnt a few things myself along the way. I highly recommend anyone interested to volunteer for the program next year!

Eilish Salmon
2017 Scholar

This year I have become involved in the ANU Swimming club, attending and regularly coaching sessions. The highlight of this experience was qualifying to become part of the team to represent the ANU at the Australian University Games on the Gold Coast. Over four days my teammates and I swam in a range of events, and we were pleased to come away with a couple of medals from the relays. The camaraderie between my team members, as well as students participating in other sports and from other universities, rendered this a uniquely jovial competition.

Morgan Marshall
2014 Scholar

This year I was lucky enough to be president of Robogals. Robogals is a non-for-profit that aims to inspire, engage and empower girls to consider STEM careers. We do this through hands-on robotics workshops in primary schools, high schools, industry partnered workshops and community groups (such as Questacon, National Museum of Australia, Girl Guides etc). It is such a fun organisation to be a part of, let alone have the pleasure of leading and I have learnt more than I even knew I needed to learn over the past year.

Peter Baker
2017 Scholar

My interest in computer science grew exponentially this year due to my involvement in a research highlights program in which researchers presented and discussed their passion projects to a small group of students. It was amazing to see just how this field can make a personal impact on people's lives. Some highlights included early Parkinson's diagnosis using machine learning techniques and an analysis of what makes something go 'viral'. I hope to ride this wave of research, improving our world along the way.

Sarah Callinan
2016 Scholar

My highlight of 2017 was, without a doubt, YMCA Space Camps! I was involved as the camp coordinator, working for a semester to plan and organise the experience for 90 high school students from right across Australia. We launched rockets, talked to astronomers, flew drones and so much more. As well as being a transformative experience for myself (so many excel sheets, so many moody teenagers...), both camps were a massive success, and they are only going to be bigger and better next year! Oh, and if any of you would like to be involved next year, hit me up!

Maddy McGregor
2015 Scholar

Being a part of founding the National Council of Young Women Australia was a highlight of my 2017. This experience, allowed me to collaborate with young women across Australia and the older branch of NCWA women who have fought battles for women's rights including suffrage and workplace rights. It also allowed me to bring my concerns on women's issues to the Prime Minister and politicians. The whole experience was incredibly inspirational, showing me many avenues open for change and empowerment.

Clare McBride-Kelly
2017 Scholar

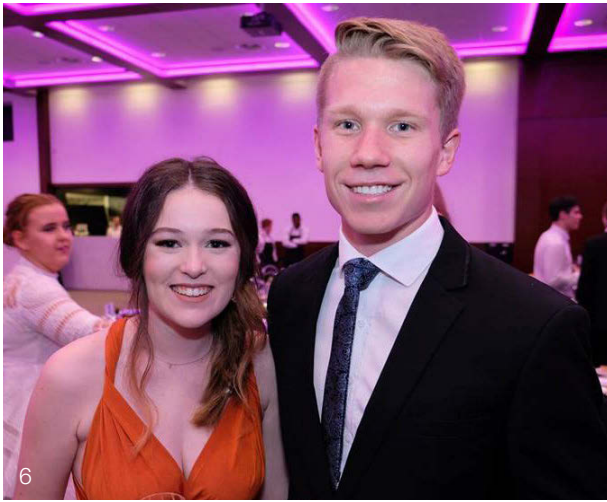
Being a part of the executive team for the College of Asia Pacific Student Society has been an absolute buzz. It has given me the opportunity initiate and organise numerous panels and events, with the highlight being a panel focussing upon "Feminism in the Asia-Pacific Region." I have also really enjoyed learning Bahasa Indonesian this year. I am incredibly excited to be going to Indonesia to complete a language intensive course at university during December of 2017 and undertake an internship with the Jakarta Post in January of 2018. Above all, an absolute highlight of this year has been building friendships with people who have strong values, and are genuine and interesting, both from within the Tuckwell program and broader ANU community.



1 Lorane co-hosting a Woroni radio show
2 Maddison Perkins exploring Canberran wildlife



3 Mentors Bryce and Katie pass on their wisdom to their young mentee, James
4 Dinner time conversation at the Later Year Academic Dinner
5 Jeevan and keynote speaker, Inger Mewburn, at the Later Year Academic Dinner
6 Georgia and Brandon at a formal event
7 Jonathan with Hannah and Nathan Sami on their wedding day
8 Tuckwell Fellow, Mary, out for breakfast with her little ducklings





9 Jonathan and Audrey at Lake Burley Griffin

10 Georgia at a Woroni lunch break

11 Robert, Jane, Jonathan, Audrey, Nick and Yaya enjoying bubble tea

12 Carina and Katie make a new friend at the Law School

13 Sahibjeet and his parents with Graham at the 2017 scholars Parents' Lunch

14 Breakfast at camp

15 Adam at the Parents' Lunch

16 Eliza capturing a magical Tim Mansfield moment





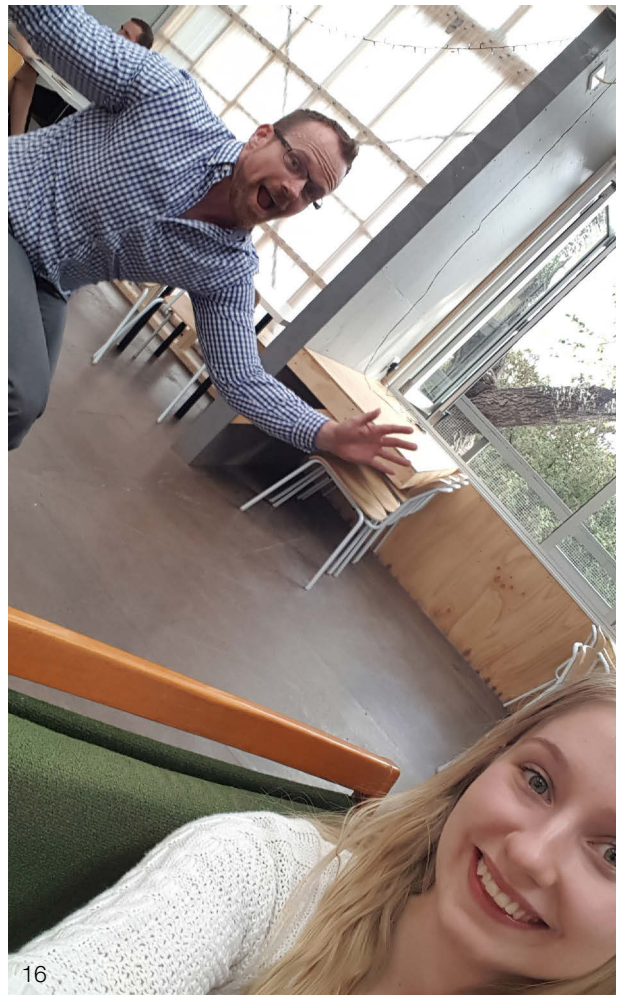
13



14



15



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17 2016 Bell Ringer, Max, speaking at Commencement Dinner

18 Nick, Eliza and Michael at Tuckwell Camp

19 Tom, Alex, Lucy and Mia at Commencement Dinner

20 Scholars bonding at Camp

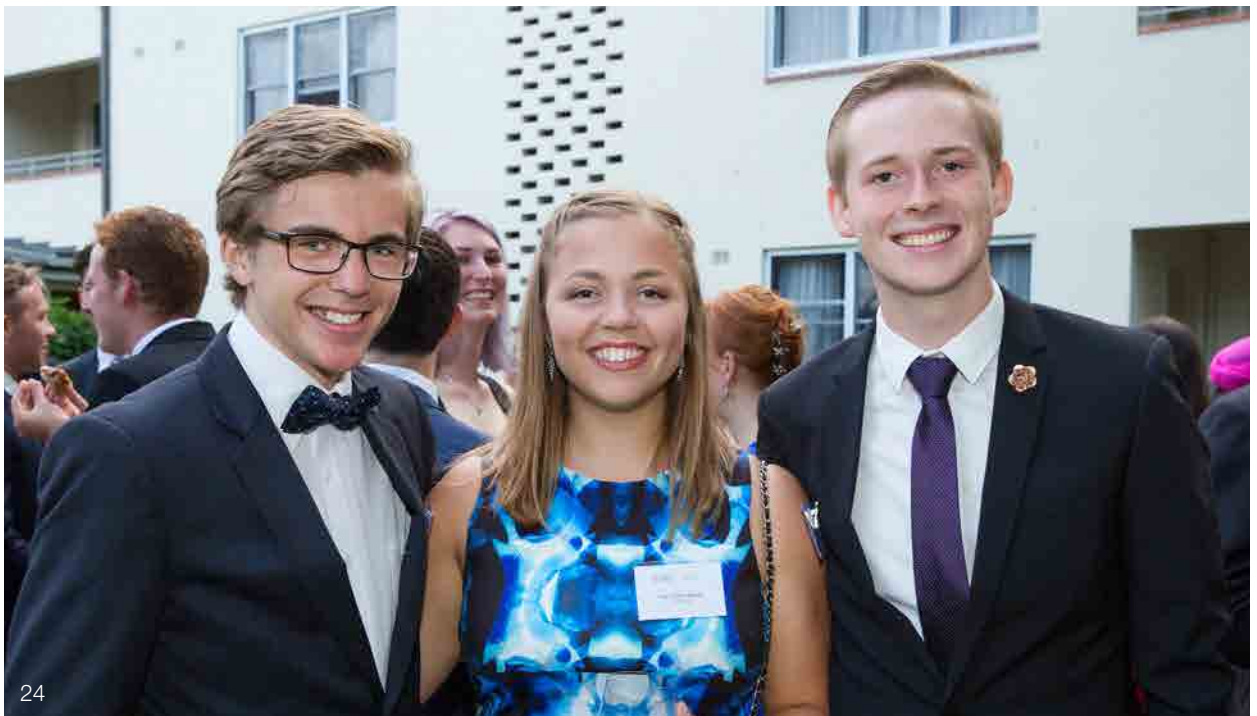
21 Mentor Morgan and Mentee Lorane at Commencement Dinner

22 James, Kate, Sam, Catherine and Carina at Commencement Dinner

23 Katie and Morgan get arty at a Scholars House Crafternoon

24 Michael, Caitlyn and Callum at Commencement Dinner





Commencement Weekend



The Commencement Weekend is an important time of year for all of us. For the newest Scholars, it's a milestone that marks their introduction to the program and to the older Scholars they will soon meet. For their parents, it's often an emotional event as they find out exactly what the scholarship entails, and the incredible opportunity their children have been awarded. For the older Scholars, it's a rare gathering of our entire Tuckwell network and an opportunity to catch up with friends that we have not seen all summer. Finally, for Graham, Louise, and the Tuckwell staff, it's a brilliant display of how the program has developed over the previous year, and a promise of another exciting year ahead with 25 fresh faces on board.

The weekend, as always, began with lunch at University House attended by the newest cohort of Scholars, their parents, Graham and Louise, and various staff including selection panel members, Fellows, and the Scholars House staff. Graham and Louise made it their mission to greet every parent and congratulate them on the success of their children; a move which resulted in a palpable sense of pride in the room and brought blushes to the faces of many of the young Scholars. However, the feature event of the weekend was yet to come.

That same evening, each of us involved in the Tuckwell Scholarship, including our Fellows, staff and panel members, gathered for dinner in the Great Hall of University House to witness the newest cohort of Scholars being

'rung in'. Luckily, this year none of the cohort of 2017 tripped, stopped to tie a shoelace, or were otherwise embarrassed as they walked down the aisle of the Great Hall surrounded by their soon-to-be fellow Scholars. This spectacle was followed by speeches from Graham and Louise, Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Marnie Hughes Warrington, Dr Vince FitzGerald AO, myself as Bellringer of the 2016 cohort, and, for the first time ever, a graduating Scholar, Lucy Kirk. There's no doubt that Lucy stole the show as she described the other graduating Scholars and their passionate flairs for which they were initially chosen by the selection panel, and which they will now take out into the world and use to give back.

I look forward to future Commencement dinners where perhaps they, and each of us in turn, will return as Tuckwell Alumni and reflect on how our time at ANU was a springboard for the rest of our lives. Until then, I think I speak for all in saying that we will continue to enjoy our time in the Tuckwell program and the delicious Commencement dinners that come with it.

Tuckwell Camp



Held early in Semester One, the annual Tuckwell Camp is a chance for scholars of all years to connect, and for first-years to become acquainted with the spirit of the program. This year, scholars were joined by the Tuckwell staff and Fellows, and the campers were also visited by Graham and Louise. Travelling from inner-city Canberra to the university's wild coastal campus at Kioloa, first glimpses of the area were made even more atmospheric by low clouds and rain. But there was little time to fret about the weather, as we jumped straight into a full schedule, getting acquainted with the scholarship program, preparing for the year ahead, and enjoying each other's company.

For the first years, the camp gave flesh to our understanding of what being a Tuckwell Scholar meant. We were pushed to consider exactly what 'giving back' looked like, and how we could contribute to the scholarship program and our wider communities. Scholars worked in groups to craft unique solutions to hypothetical global problems, using each member's skills. We gathered with those in similar degree programs to learn from older scholars' experiences of university study and to discuss survival strategies for the transition and year ahead, as well as sharing advice for juggling commitments. First-years and their later-year mentors had time to get to know each other, exploring the picturesque campus and beach. The weekend was wrapped up by scholars putting these discussions to good use, writing letters to our Fellows and our future

selves, detailing our expectations and plans for the coming year.

The weekend not only cemented our understanding of the scholarship program, but also our place in the community, with scheduled and impromptu social activities allowing scholars to bond across cohorts. We enjoyed the campus' renowned cooking, participated in a highly competitive and dubiously punny trivia night, and cheered on, in entranced horror, an intense marshmallow-eating competition. We also had a chance to put lessons in balancing academic and co-curricular pursuits into practice, playing touch football and soccer on the beach. Tuckwell Fellow, Molly, led the traditional and much-loved campfire sing-along. This was not the only continued 'tradition' the weekend saw, with first-years also, somewhat bemusedly, venturing out on a night-time beach adventure.

Camp allowed the best of the scholarship community – the support, the budding friendships, and the meeting of fearsome minds – to shine through, setting a positive and welcoming tone for the rest of the year.

Academic Dinner

Tandee Wang
2017 Scholar

I left this year's academic dinner with two gifts: one from someone I admire, and one from a total stranger.

The person I admired was my academic dinner 'date'—a professor from the School of History and the course convenor for my first university history course. Her gift to me was an insight into the world of academia, and it came in three parts.

First, she told me that her choice of study has always been driven by a desire to answer the questions that vexed her, and to use research to seek an answer. As I was still quite undecided about what discipline to choose as my major, her response clarified my indecision. I know that history is the discipline I wish to pursue because the questions I want answered are about our collective

identities and memories as they have formed through time.

The second thing she gave me was a self-assured case for the value of humanities research. I was (and still am) plagued by a perpetual concern that academic research, particularly in the humanities, is difficult to justify because its public benefits are diffuse and often difficult to concretely identify. Yet her confident belief in the value of her work made me realise that so many aspects of my knowledge and worldview are built upon the incremental contributions of innumerable researchers.

Finally, through the connection I built because of the academic dinner, she gave me the chance to heavily engage myself in research by working as her research assistant. This



position has been one of the highlights of my 2017 year and I am forever indebted for this opportunity.

The second gift I received that night came from a complete stranger. In so many ways a contrast to the academic I had invited—being much younger and working in the legal profession—she gave me the gift of a resonant personal experience and inspiring life advice.

In our all-too-brief conversation, I discussed some of the difficulties I experienced in my university transition. To my surprise, she echoed my feelings with her own personal story—connecting with me in a way that was all the more powerful because I had thought I shared my experience alone. She coupled this with the inspiring takeaway that



the power of going places lies in having the bravery to ask; to knock on doors until they open. Although, in retrospect, the lesson seems obvious, the impact of the message at the time was emboldening. This was the kind of random encounter with a stranger that I was not going to forget.

I cannot understate the value of these insights. The academic dinner was a gift itself that keeps on giving. As I frequently return and reflect upon this episode, I know that the impacts of this night are still ongoing.

For me, the academic dinner embodied the ideal of university: an external connection that sparks inner growth. And it also embodied the Tuckwell gift—a scholarship that provides so much, in so many unexpected ways.

Interview Weekend

Reflections from a 2017 Scholar



Welcoming candidates with arms outstretched is Program Director, Tim Mansfield, pictured with ANU Staff Volunteers at the 2017 Interview Weekend

My own interview weekend feels both recent and years ago. Most of my recollections are now a blur but I do retain a handful of distinct memories – such as the torrential rain that poured during my campus tour, and having a small and embarrassing existential crisis, unsure of what to say, when asked what my favourite fruit was during the ‘speed dating’. I also remember loving the trivia night – it was a chance to meet and form connections with the other candidates. And, this year, I could tell that the new group of interviewees felt similarly; I have never seen a group of teenagers debate more passionately about whether the top of the Eiffel Tower tilts away from the sun, or if Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Kuwait in 1990 really did lead to the Iran-Iraq War. This year’s questions were also written by two arts students, much to the horror of the young scientists who immediately picked up on some embarrassing errors: there was a mix up between surface area and volume (with Chloe Harpley asking a group of bemused candidates “if it even matters. Is there really a difference?”), and one dubiously worded question implying that Einstein ‘made up’ the Theory of Relativity.

Admittedly, I did pass much of this year’s interview weekend at Canberra airport, wearing my Team Tuckwell t-shirt as a member of Team Meet and Greet. Armed with Tim’s impressive and comprehensive excel spread sheets, my job was to ensure that the candidates arrived and departed safely, and to track down any suitcases

that had been lost in transit – for, interview weekend wouldn’t be interview weekend without one or two cancelled flights and a handful of misplaced bags thrown in for good measure. And, thanks to these mishaps, I can now confidently say that I am able to navigate my way around Canberra’s domestic airport blindfolded. After spending eight hours in a terminal, you get to know it very well.

Though I wasn’t at ANU for much of this weekend, I was there to see the candidates arrive and depart, on planes flying from all across our nation; planes that were often preceded by buses and trains (sometimes both) from towns I had most often never heard of. They usually arrived in scattered groups, having not yet met one another on the flights and, unsure of who was flying to Canberra for the scholarship, many had asked bemused passengers if they too were going to the Tuckwell interview weekend, only to be met with puzzled looks. The candidates were often quiet when they arrived, tangled up in nerves, and observing their new surroundings. But, by the time they left, these candidates were more confident, talking loudly among themselves, and buzzing with anticipation; they were eager to see what the future might hold, for all seventy-five of them, having already come so far.

Reflections from a Reserve Panel Member



Anneka Ferguson

The Tuckwell Scholarship program is my happy place! Ever since I offered up my assistance to assess first round applications in the first year of the program, I have been known to bore people at parties with statements like “The young people in this

country are amazing. I was recently involved in assessing some [Tuckwell] scholarship applications for this year and all of them are amazing individuals – even the ones that don’t get the scholarships. We are in good hands.” And I genuinely believe this.

This year I was also incredibly honoured to be involved in observing the third stage interview weekend, and my wonder at the applicants (whether ultimately offered a scholarship or not) was not diminished by the experience. In fact, combined with the phenomenal qualifications of the Tuckwell scholarship panel themselves, I found myself wondering (more than once) what on earth am I doing here? And the obvious conclusion I came to was that my prime purpose for involvement was to bring me to a point in my life where what I needed to express was best expressed through a beat poem. Accordingly, I offer the following, with deepest apologies to Tim Minchin for stealing his idea and some of his phrasing for a poetry form that, ironically, is meant to be formless¹:

¹ i.e. Tim Minchin, Storm, Live at the Hammersmith Apollo in London in 2009 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlWj3tl-DXg> (Published 13 July 2014)

In a North Canberra institutional building

Red walls

Grey carpet

Cold temp

Modern glass partitions

Funky Pop Art

There gathers ambition

Physicians

Lawyers

Businessmen

And women

So to Tuckwell interviews we have come

The 75 guests are unknown to the hosts

Flown together to be poked and prodded

By the panel of fun.

At first I am wary

Some of the questions unfathomably hairy

When are AI human?

Deficits good?

Vegetables to be discriminated against?

The answers vary

But backed by logic and intelligence

I am struck by the abilities of all

To answer the ridiculous

With humanity and soul.

I am but spectator here

Warned to be silent

To observe

Not talk.

But try as I might I can not fade into the night.

These teenagers are phenomenal

Smart

Humble

Unentitled and far from

Lazy.

Young Women with academics on par

With the spirituality

Of the Pope or Dalai Lama

Cry

When told they are amazing

My eyes are blazing

As I hand over

The soft downy tissues

And wonder

How

How

In this day and age is this still an issue.

Young Men with contributions

Of significance

To give

Made to feel

That if not good

At sports

At maths

At everything else under the known universe

They do not have worth

My brain is buzzing

As I observe the perverse.

Ask these young people

What the world needs

It is not grandstanding

Division

Fear

No, it is them

And more like them

Supported

Educated

And given the reins to dream

Into reality.

Tuckwell reigns supreme.

TEP

The Tuckwell Enrichment Program (TEP) consists of a range of academically – and socially – focused activities intended to facilitate bonding within and between cohorts. Events for commencing scholars are initially planned by second-year scholars, before the first-year scholars commence planning their own TEP program for semester two.

Eilish Salmon
2017 Scholar

2017 saw the introduction of the Tuckwell Innovation Challenge to TEP. The Challenge, set by second year Scholars, saw first-years organised into teams where we devised strategies either to enhance the quality of teaching in Australian schools or improve the tertiary admissions system. Fresh out of high school and in the wake of the ANU's decision to change its own entry system, these were naturally topics about which Scholars were heavily opinionated.

Teams ultimately presented their ideas at an awards night held in Scholars House. A panel of fourth year scholars were tasked awarding the Challenge's inaugural trophy, the Golden Ladle, by considering each group's presentation, research, creativity, impact and responses to questions. The Innovation

Challenge was an opportunity for Scholars to engage with the philosophy of giving back to Australia that is so integral to the program and is something 2017 Scholars look forward to incorporating into TEP in 2018.

This year TEP also featured a series of "Tuckwell Talks" open to all Scholars. The talks covered a range of topical issues, namely climate, culture, Indigenous affairs, gender and health. At each talk, a few academics and practitioners kindly shared their experiences in their respective fields at Scholar's House, where the tea was free flowing and the TimTams plentiful.

Though the quality of academic discussion certainly made attendance more than worthwhile, it was often the personal



The presentation of the Golden Ladle



reflections of the panel that offered Scholars view-altering insights. For example, I will not forget one panel member's discussion of the difficulty they and other emerging female academics have faced in finding work close to (often older) male partners whose careers in academia are frequently better established than their own. It was the illumination of issues like these that made the talks so valuable, leaving scholars with a more nuanced appreciation of the issues at hand.

Given that TEP is run by Scholars, for Scholars, events that facilitate discussions between us are arguably its lifeblood. First years were shown the ropes of the program and of university life at our first TEP event, "How to Tuck-Well", with second year Scholars openly sharing their experiences

and advice on a range of topics. To celebrate the end of our first semester, the 2017 Scholars threw caution to the wind and took a night off studying for our impending exams to hold a "family dinner", where we accompanied our hamburgers and ice-cream with excellent conversation. In one of our final events of the year, Scholars volunteered to share the ways in which they had been supported by other members of our cohort. This uplifting exchange was a testament to the goodwill of the Scholars, with whom we are each privileged to share our university experience.

From the Chair of the Selection Panel

Prof. Marnie Hughes-Warrington
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

The story of the Tuckwell scholarships is for the scholars to tell.

But some of us have been fortunate to have been a tiny part of that story, and to have learned much from it. In my case, I have all of the students connected with the scholarship program—successful and unsuccessful applicants alike—to thank for the repeated and insistent glimpses of the mountain that we have to climb if we are to make access to university possible, and fair, for so many talented students across Australia and the world.

Mountains humble you. You can choose to be cowed by them, or you can choose to climb them one clumsy, heavy step at a time. This program has helped me to choose the latter.

Mountain paths come with jagged edges. Some of these follow from our own missteps. You don't build a scholarship program without getting things wrong, and without acknowledging that things can get better. I believe that the selection process has got



better over five years, and that is thanks largely to the advice of students, teachers and families across Australia, to the panel, to my colleagues at the ANU, and to Graham and Louise Tuckwell. I am deeply grateful to all of you, and I am sure I have not said thank you enough times. But some of the jags and crags come from the hands of others. Some people question why you are on the mountain in the first place, or tell you that you are climbing it the wrong way. Others tell you that you should spend your energies on climbing another mountain, or tell you that you are climbing this one with too much energy. A tiny number even try to block your path.

But none of that counts a jot when you think of the nearly 3500 students that have applied for a scholarship over five years, and of all the students, siblings, parents, guardians and grandparents that have come to the roadshows across the length and breadth of Australia. When I think of those applications, of the students that I have been fortunate to meet at interview, and the scholars, I smile. I smile at the jokes that they tell, the quirky—and beautiful—ways in which they describe their world for me, a stranger, and the various ruses they use to get around word and character limits in the application form. I stop. I stop to re-read and to listen more carefully when I hear about the mountains that they have climbed and I see the path that I am on as nothing. And I sigh. I sigh because it should not be possible in these times that there are so many talented young people who miss out on the chance to get the best education possible. All of this has strengthened my resolve to see this program as the start of something much, much

bigger. That, after all, was our intent from the very earliest days of designing the selection process and the program.

And it is. This year, ANU announced reforms to its admissions processes, the likes of which the world has never seen at this scale. From 2019, the University will complement its usual processes for admitting Australia's most talented students with an offer for the top 3 or 2% of students from every school in Australia. It will also ask students to meet a threshold for co-curriculum participation. That schedule will be published, and it will reflect the views of students, schools, families and community groups from a wide range of backgrounds on what it means to join in. Moreover, the admissions, scholarships and accommodation application processes will be integrated.

Some people have told me that this a courageous decision. It takes no courage to award access to someone that you know will succeed. The Tuckwell scholarships have taught me that. It does takes courage to admit that you have a mountain to climb, and then you just get on with it.

This is my first and last entry in *The Bell*, as I have served the five-year term of the panel chair. I am a small way up the mountain, but buoyed the privilege of what I have learned. We all of us have mountains to climb. Yours might be very different to the one that I am on. Take heart, believe me when I tell you that it is the right one for you, and let each step lead to the next. And don't forget to tell your story. Others may see their mountain come into view when you do.

Peer-mentoring in the Program

Odessa Blain
2017 Scholar

Starting university is a nerve-wracking and daunting experience, and this is why the third year mentors offered by the Tuckwell program are invaluable. They know how university works, having lived through the trials of first year only two years previously. These mentors also strengthen our connection to the Tuckwell program as a whole – they help us expand out of our individual cohort and enable us to interact with the broader community of scholars.

My mentors were Mary and Maddison, and I couldn't have been luckier. We contacted each other throughout the year: checking-in over Facebook, catching up at cafes, and even having dinner at Maddison's share house with another mentor group. Mary and Maddison helped me navigate my new life



at ANU; they provided advice about college life, university bureaucracy, and where to find the best coffee on campus. I have learned so much from both of them and I can only hope that our mentor relationship was reciprocal, with both the mentees and mentors teaching and learning from one another, in a two-way street of knowledge.

Looking Forward, Looking Back

Chloe Harpley
2016 Scholar

*“Advice is like snow;
the softer it falls,
the longer it dwells upon,
and the deeper
it sinks into the mind.”*

– Samuel Taylor Coleridge

As a new year peeks over the horizon, the prospect of mentoring dawns on our 2016 cohort. However, this too marks the advent of an immense transition for our incoming group of Scholars. While there is no doubt that the shift from high-school to university is intellectually invigorating and rewarding in all it encompasses, it is also patterned with a number of trials and tribulations. Peer-mentoring, as a cornerstone of the program, attempts to alleviate some of these pressures and provide our new Scholars with a support network from the outset of their university careers.

As our soon-to-be mentors look towards fulfilling the role to the best of our ability, we have reflected on both our experience as mentees in our first-year and our recent training provided by Geoff Mortimore. While the success of a mentoring relationship is individualistic, there are a few attributes of



a mentor which are central to fostering a healthy environment for our new Scholars to thrive. Firstly, one’s communication must be powerful yet respectful. Secondly, one must listen with an open mind and avoid trivial mental preoccupations; a mentor’s undivided attention is invaluable. Thirdly, advice should be given in a way that encourages the mentee to reach their own conclusions and, in turn, develop their own skills in resolving issues and reaching their goals. The presence of these elements in the mind of a mentor should eventually lead a mentee to ‘self-mentor’, in light of the experiential insight our later-year Scholars have to offer.

Mentoring in the Tuckwell program goes beyond simply providing direct advice. Our mentors can certainly provide much of the academic support, collegial wisdom and little tips about university that first-years need. But, its ultimate aim is to empower and energise these Scholars to be the best they can be; something that cannot be externally imposed, but rather, something that derives from within.

From the Program Director

Tim Mansfield

As we wrap up another year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the different people we work with in the Tuckwell Scholarship Office.

Year 12 Students

There is no doubt that Year 12 is a big year for students as they endeavour to work out and balance what is important to them in many different realms of their life; school and home life, study, work, extra-curricular activities and so on. It's a busy time to be pulling together a Scholarship application - but what better juncture in your life to do a stocktake to understand who you are and what has made you that way.



One of the things we ask candidates to do in Stage 1 is to dig out, scan and upload all their School Reports from Year 10 and Year 11. It is a great chance for candidates to look back over comments from teachers and principals and use it as a stimulus to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses, and remember the various people, conversations and experiences that have influenced their chosen path. While our application process does ask a lot from candidates at a busy time in their lives, we hear from many that it is a helpful and timely opportunity for such reflection!

Parents

I can imagine there's probably only one thing more stressful than being a high-achieving Year 12 student – being a high achieving Year 12 student's parent! That said, between my emails, phone calls and face-to-face conversations, I've talked to quite a few parents spanning the full range of being panicked that their son or daughter has done the "right" co-curricular activities to be considered (hint: There are no "right" co-curricular activities) to those who tell us that they only heard about the Scholarship when it came time for their child to head off to Canberra for the Interview Weekend.

The parents of all successful incoming scholars are invited to attend Tuckwell Commencement Weekend in February. It can feel a little like a 'handover ceremony', as for many, the move to the ANU represents leaving home for the first time. As a parent myself, I can imagine how it must feel to have invested time and energy over so

many years into raising your child – and to proudly, but sadly and nervously leave them in the care of their residence, their University, their peers and the Tuckwell Program. It is reassuring to hear so many parents leave the Commencement Weekend less nervous, less sad – and simply proud, grateful and excited for their child...this doesn't mean there isn't tears, of course; it's a parent's prerogative!

Teachers

My parents were both teachers, my wife is a teacher, her parents are both teachers, and many of our friends are teachers – without a doubt, I'm surrounded.

But what better people to surround yourself with!

We recognise that the Tuckwell Application Process can put teachers under a lot of pressure – but it is because we know the relationship between student and teacher is such an important and influential one, that their input is so highly valued in the process. Each year, there are teachers who can't understand how their student could have missed out on a Tuckwell Scholarship - and I can understand and empathise with their frustration. While the application process and interviews endeavour to uncover both a candidate's obvious and hidden attributes that make them suited to the Program, it can never replicate the understanding a teacher gets from working closely with a student. And indeed, there are only so many scholarships that can be awarded.

One thing that is overwhelmingly apparent



Administration Officer, Hannah Leary

from my interaction with teachers is the care and interest they have for their students – and from candidates, a strong sense of gratitude to those teachers who've helped them on their journey.

Colleagues

Earlier this year we farewelled Andrea Murrow who left the ANU to pursue a career as a photographer. I am grateful to Andrea for her contribution to the Program, and I know she will be fondly remembered by those Scholars and colleagues who had the opportunity to work with her.

In August we welcomed Hannah Leary, who will be in the role of Administration

Officer until August 2018. Hannah is an Alumna of the ANU and joins us from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. It has been great to have Hannah on board and I look forward to working with her in a busy 2018!

While we endeavour to be a productive little office of two, the breadth of our functions means that we rely on a range of other staff throughout the University who are generous with their time and expertise. In particular, we would like to extend our thanks to our fun and friendly colleagues in National Recruitment, Admissions, Marketing, Coursework Scholarships, Alumni Relations and Philanthropy, the Division of Student Life (in particular, the wonderful staff at Burton & Garran Hall who host our Interview candidates each year) and The Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic.

Scholarship Founders

It is a privilege to work closely with the Scholarship Founders, Graham and Louise Tuckwell, and do what we can to help them realise their vision for the Scholarship Program.

Graham and Louise are very keen to make the Tuckwell Scholar experience the best it can be, and in 2017 this was demonstrated through their funding of an extension of Scholars House to include a new quiet study area. This new space has been very popular for Scholars, particularly in the lead up to exams.

Scholars

A big reason for enjoying my role in the Tuckwell Scholarship Program is the opportunity to get to know our Scholars.

Whether it is informal chats over fruit toast in the Scholars House kitchen or when working with them to plan events and activities, I am regularly reminded through their actions and words, of the Tuckwell Attributes that underpin the Program.

I am excited to see where the “launch pad” of the Tuckwell Scholarship and the ANU will help propel our Scholars into the future; and am inspired by them to be optimistic about what that future holds.

Andrea and Tim at Commencement Dinner



Tuckwell Alumni Program



2018 marks the official start of the Tuckwell Alumni Network, with five scholars officially graduating from the Tuckwell program last year.

The Tuckwell Alumni Network is designed to help past and current Tuckwell scholars create a community that makes a difference. The Network is expected to facilitate a very broad range of activity, for example, the organisation of collaborative projects. Unusually for an alumni program, students will have access to the Network from the moment they become a Tuckwell Scholar. They will be able to communicate and connect to the broader alumni community through an easy-to-use web platform.

In its first year, the Tuckwell Alumni Network will hold an 'Alumni Day' in Canberra where alumni can meet and discuss their plans for the year. On this day we will also officially establish an Alumni Committee which will be responsible for the ongoing operation and development of the Network. Initially we expect this committee to be focused on planning events and information sharing.

Over a number of years we expect the Tuckwell Alumni Network to expand rapidly with the establishment of a mentoring program such that each current scholar will be mentored by an alumnus or alumna in a field relevant to their interests. This will be a centrepiece of the program.

Over time, as scholars spread out across

the world, we expect to establish chapters in different locations which will run their own events.

We hope that the Tuckwell Alumni Network will become a key element of the scholarship experience, with the support offered by the Network enhancing the impact that the scholars can make.

It is important to recognise and thank a number of people who have been very actively involved in the development of the Tuckwell Alumni Network and are continuing to help shape it today: Colin Taylor, Tim Mansfield and Hannah Leary, Richard Tuckwell, the ANU Alumni Relations and Philanthropy Team, and of course Graham and Louise Tuckwell.



Contact Us

For further information about the Tuckwell Scholarship, including eligibility criteria and application dates visit our website at <http://tuckwell.anu.edu.au>

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