

The Bell

The Tuckwell
Scholarship at
The Australian
National University

2014 Edition



The Bell

The annual magazine for Tuckwell Scholars



Australian
National
University

TUCKWELL
SCHOLARSHIP

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Reflections on our first year

GRAHAM AND LOUISE TUCKWELL

We all knew we were taking on an ambitious project in creating a leading scholarship program from a standing start with no blueprint. This was a genuine start-up, with all the usual excitement and chaos that one associates with a new venture.

To add to the complexity, the two partners were polar opposites—an entrepreneur and a national university—which made for some very interesting conversations early on.

We now know what a Tuckwell Scholar looks like and they look terrific. The quality and diversity of our inaugural group has exceeded all our expectations. The long-term success of the program will depend on, and be driven by, the Scholars, in what they do not just at university but in the many years ahead. The 2014 Scholars have done us proud in their first year and we see the same potential in the 2015 Scholars who are about to start.

The contribution by, and depth of knowledge of, the Selection Panel members has been incredible. It is their judgement of potential Scholars, based on paper

applications and interviews, which is crucial to the selection process and integrity of the program. Their work is voluntary, yet the time commitment is large.

We have been thrilled by the number of ANU staff who have volunteered to help in many aspects of the program, demonstrating their belief in what we are trying to achieve.

Thousands of hours of work have been done by more than 100 staff, contributing in all manner of things such as reading and scoring of multiple applications, designing and building the website and online application system, creating and distributing information on the Scholarship, and advising the Scholars in a range of areas.

We are grateful to the Fellows of Scholars House for their mentoring and leadership of the 2014 Scholars, all of whom were the ‘guinea pigs’ in setting up the inaugural roles and activities of such. The success of Scholars House is crucial to us and we feel the foundations have been laid for a dynamic future.

The commitment of the senior management of ANU, led by Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington and Dr Colin Taylor, has been outstanding. At our first meeting with the ANU Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor it was clear we all shared a vision for what this program could do, and their support has enabled our complete engagement with the University.

With our own children (just about) all away at university, we will continue to devote a lot of our time to this program. We take a great deal of interest in each Scholar. To us they are like an extended family whose progress we look forward to following. 🍷



Message from the Head of Scholars House

PROFESSOR RICHARD BAKER
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience)

The Tuckwell Scholarship program has an exciting year ahead of it. The number of Scholars in the program will double with the class of 2015 joining the inaugural class of 2014.

An innovative enrichment program is in place to support the Tuckwell vision of highly motivated students fulfilling their potential and reinvesting their knowledge, skills and experience in ways that positively benefit others. A new focus in 2015 will see the class of 2014 taking a leadership role in running events to benefit the class of 2015.

In 2014, the first class of Tuckwell Scholars excelled in living up to the very high expectations of being the Tuckwell program pioneers. They

played a remarkable roll in starting the process of enacting the vision Graham and Louise Tuckwell have for Australia's most prestigious university scholarship scheme.

The attributes used for selecting the Tuckwell Scholars have proved to be inspired and they produced an extraordinary first cohort. As the recently appointed Head of Scholars House, I was immediately impressed by the way the Scholars have not only individually lived out the Tuckwell attributes, but have collectively formed a community that embodies the Tuckwell vision.

Finally, I would like to thank Professor Simon Rice AO, Professor Susan Howitt and Dr Mary Kilcline-Cody for all their

wonderful work as Tuckwell Fellows in 2014. Thanks are also due to the class of 2014 for putting into practice the Tuckwell ideal of positively benefiting others in a most practical way. I am greatly indebted to them for the important role they have played over the last few months in assisting me to develop the program for future years. 🍷

The Tuckwell Bell and the Bell Ringer

The centrepiece of the Commencement Dinner each year is the ringing of the Tuckwell Bell.

Commissioned by Graham and Louise Tuckwell, the Tuckwell Bell was cast by Britain's oldest manufacturing company, the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London.

The crafting of this handbell from molten metal into sound signifies the transformative impact that the Tuckwell Scholarship program at

ANU will have on the lives of the Tuckwell Scholars.

Music has always been very important to Louise Tuckwell, who sings in her local choir. She selected the note A, her favourite note, as the Bell's tone.

The Bell was presented by the Tuckwells to Scholars House as a gift, with the intention that it would be rung once for each new Scholar entering the program.

Each cohort of Scholars must select a Bell Ringer to 'ring them in' at the Commencement Dinner. It is up to each cohort to decide how they elect their Bell Ringer.

The 2014 cohort elected Matthew Jacob as the inaugural Bell Ringer to represent them.



Student



stories





Matthew Barton, NSW

Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Arts

There aren't too many people who can say that they have had the opportunity to come to ANU. There are even less people who can say that their first year of university was christened by breaking bread with the Chancellor and upper echelons of the University. Fewer still who can say that they met the Prime Minister in his office at Parliament House within a matter of weeks of commencing tertiary study. To some, the existence of such a distinctive series of events defies belief. However, when you discover that a scholarship was the catalyst for these events, you immediately wonder what it is and how the rest of the year played out. So, in raw and commercial-free coverage, I shall detail the events of the rollercoaster ride that was 2014.

The first thing I would highlight about my experience at ANU as a Tuckwell Scholar is that this lavish series of events was not a common occurrence. My 2014 was much like most other university student's: attending class, making friends, stressing over assessments and the

occasional assessment procrastination. However, unlike most other students, I had an extraordinary support network consisting of Tuckwell Fellows and my fellow Scholars, on top of academic and pastoral support in the residential halls and academic colleges. The Tuckwell Fellows were insightful, intelligent and inspiring. They were always available to talk to and consult on a variety of issues ranging from academic advice to personal issues.

As a part of the Scholarship program, the cohort and Fellows would meet every two weeks in Scholars House to have workshops discussing leadership, decision-making skills, and listen to a wide variety of guest speakers. One of my highlights of the year was an Academic Dinner at University House where all Scholars invited an academic to an Oxbridge style dinner organised by the Master of University House. There were many academics from a range of disciplines who were fantastic and engaging. The best element about it was its relaxed nature, where we were able to talk to academics in a candid and open fashion. Rather than being separated by a lectern, we were sitting right next to some academics who had inspired us throughout a course or whose area of study interested us.

Above all else, the best thing about the Scholarship was the friendships that I made. I affectionately describe 2014 as 'My Year of Health Problems'; I'm not sure if I could have made it through if it weren't for the friends that I made in the Scholar cohort and the Fellows. With the discovery of a life-

threatening heart condition and surgery for an implantable cardiac defibrillator, 2014 was, needless to say, rather shocking. However, whilst my heart was faulty, the strong friendships that I made were not. Much like the defibrillator, I sparked many friendships within the cohort which solidified during exam period as we would flock to Scholars House to study in order to escape the libraries. In Scholars, we were able to help each other out on assessments, use whiteboards to manifest ideas in scrawl, and use the coffee machine that I so vitally needed to pull me through. Throughout the year, Scholars became a regular study place as it was quiet and spacious for me to spread all my gear out. I will never forget my time there. We studied together and we may or may not have consumed an inordinate amount of Tim Tams which, may or may not have been accompanied with peanut butter on several occasions during the heightened periods of stress during exam time.

Ultimately, 2014 was a fantastic year and a large part of that is because of this amazing Scholarship. I am forever grateful and fortunate to be an inaugural recipient of this prestigious Scholarship.

“

The Tuckwell Fellows were insightful, intelligent and inspiring.”



Sarah Campbell, NSW

Bachelor of Science
(Advanced) (Hons)



One of the best experiences during my first year in the Tuckwell program was the community I was immediately welcomed into.



My first year in the Tuckwell Scholarship has been one which has benefited me in countless ways. It has allowed me to be fully independent—something which at first terrified me. It took me sometime to get the hang of everything—I admit, I walked out of the laundry, more than once, forgetting to put the washing liquid in, or completely forgetting to turn the washing machine on. However, with the support of the Tuckwell Fellows, particularly my mentor, I have been guided to set myself up for, what I would say, are currently the most enjoyable years of my life so far (and yes, I have learnt how to properly operate the washing machines).

As well as this newfound independence and responsibility, the Tuckwell Scholarship has allowed me to completely focus on my university work—something I am extremely grateful for, as this too has given me many opportunities. These opportunities include being a Peer Mentor of first year Chemistry students in 2015, and an ANU Student Science Ambassador for 2015. The Scholarship has also enabled me to engage with scholars and lecturers from different academic colleges, and those who I would not usually have contact with—allowing me to seek future study and career advice.

One of the best experiences during my first year in the Tuckwell program was the community I was immediately welcomed into. This has comprised not only the other Tuckwell Scholars, but the Tuckwell Fellows. These people have significantly helped in areas both in my personal life and in my academic life. Every time the Scholars come

together, everyone can tell we are so happy to spend time with each other—something which I think was highlighted at the Kioloa Camp in late October (which also allowed us to experience the other campus of ANU, located at the South Coast).

Living in a residential college during my first year of university was a very unique opportunity. It allowed me to be immersed with likeminded people, and meet so many students from all over the world. As well as the friendships I have made, I played both an angry homeless person and an over-protective mother in the residential college musical—RENT, took part in sports such as Ultimate Frisbee (which allowed me to see just how seriously some people take it), and get first place in the inter-college choir competition (a night filled with cheering and screaming which really highlighted the community felt at college).

It is for these unique opportunities I experienced through the Tuckwell Scholarship, and ANU, that has made my first year at university as exciting and unexpected as it was.



Marcus Dahl, NSW

Bachelor of Laws /
Bachelor of Arts



The Tuckwell Scholarship has provided me with a channel to meet and communicate with a broad network of students and academics.”

What was the best part of my first year at ANU? This is hard to answer, as it's been the experience as a whole that I'm sure I will always remember. This experience has been centred around my life at Ursula Hall, which has been a wonderful place for me and for many others, and which I hope to continue to be a part of for some time to come. There are countless things I could say about my first year at ANU, but I will say this: coming here was a very good choice for me personally, academically, and philosophically.

Some people assumed that coming from the middle of the city in Sydney, I'd take a while to adjust to living in Canberra. This was not the case at all for me—living here has been enjoyable from the very start. Canberra really is a lovely place, and I've appreciated being able to explore it this year. The University is centrally located and living on campus has made life here logistically easy and very comfortable.

What I have most enjoyed about being a Tuckwell Scholar is getting to watch the program take form in its inaugural year; it has been a special privilege. I've enjoyed seeing very different parts of the University community, like academics, administration and, of course, students come together to make this work. It's an outstanding opportunity, and is all the more interesting to be able to go through with such an interesting cohort of Scholars from all around Australia.

The Tuckwell Scholarship has provided me with a channel to meet and communicate with a broad network of students and academics. I've particularly appreciated being able to get advice from, discuss things, and debate with a number of people who are far more accomplished than me, helping me learn and grow.



Janet Davey, VIC

Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies /
Bachelor of Science

“
**We have such
freedom to shape
the direction of the
program during our
time here.**”

My first year at ANU was a whirlwind of change and activity. After so many years of high school, 2014 felt like a real fresh start filled with new experiences. Coming to ANU you feel like you're part of something bigger. While moving to the big pond could be daunting at times, having the Tuckwell Scholars and the support from the Fellows made it so much easier, and I think it's helped us be far more engaged with the University. One thing I loved about the 2014 Tuckwell program was the feeling that it is just beginning, and that we have such freedom to shape the direction of the program during our time here.

When I started out, what I liked about studying at ANU was the choice of subjects available. Because of the breadth, I could pick and choose what I enjoyed—Chinese, Chinese studies, mathematics, and physics. In many cases, there was also the option to study at an appropriate level. As I wanted to continue Chinese from high school, I went straight into a class of second year students, which I found really enjoyable. It encouraged some healthy competitiveness, but it was also great studying with people more experienced with how university works who could help me out.

Likewise, having the support of older students at Fenner Hall (my residential college) made the transition to living at a self-catered college far easier. I couldn't believe that there was so much support in the college community and such a wide range of activities to get involved in. A total surprise for me was how much I enjoyed Inward Bound. I'd never done anything like it before and never imagined that I could, but I just loved it. It was great having so many Scholars from the different colleges competing, and it definitely helped me to navigate my way around Canberra!



Joseph Dean, NSW

Bachelor of Commerce /
Bachelor of Laws



**We met the
Prime Minister
in our first week
of studies. ”**

I found that absolutely the best thing about ANU and the transition from high school to university generally is the emphasis placed on independent thought and critical analysis. In the space of a year the way I process problems has changed enormously, particularly as a result of my law studies. In high school the focus is largely on remembering large chunks of information, whereas academic study at ANU pushes students to understand complex principles and apply them to problems loaded with new information. This method of learning is inherently more challenging, but knowledge and interest are retained at a rate significantly higher than it ever was for me in high school.

Moving to Canberra, especially to Burton and Garran Hall, was excellent for developing my independence. Prior to moving here I was not someone who had cooked a lot, or even learnt to manage my time as efficiently as possible, but these are skills that you have to learn (and learn quickly) at university. Transitioning from the relatively small and sleepy city of Coffs Harbour to the nation's capital immediately forced me into a circle of highly intelligent and capable students and academics. It is not until I reflect on the opportunities that arose in 2014, like competing in a negotiation competition sponsored by one of the Big 6 Australian legal firms, that I realise just how lucky I am to exist in this amazing web of independent thinkers.

The ability to network with the 'thought leaders' of our society has been an otherworldly experience. Many of the Scholars have become quite accustomed to attending an event with Nobel Laureates, individuals in powerful administrative roles such as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, or even Graham and Louise Tuckwell themselves. This has felt natural as it occurred since we started our journeys here at ANU, however to reflect on the fact that we met the Prime Minister in our first week of studies demonstrates just how excellent the opportunities are at ANU as a Tuckwell Scholar.

Without the Tuckwell Scholarship, studying at ANU would likely not have been an option. It has also made college living, one of the aspects of student life ANU prides itself on the most, a viable option for me. I do know, however, that this is not the full extent to which the Tuckwell Scholarship will aid me in the future; the Scholarship's name carries weight and has opened up opportunities that wouldn't have existed without it.



Catherine Hall, NSW
Bachelor of Medical Science



My life-changing trip to work in a hospital in Tanzania for a month over the 2014/15 summer break was inspired by my experiences at ANU and made possible by the Scholarship. ”

2014 was the best year I've ever had, all thanks to ANU and the Tuckwell Scholarship program. Being a part of a group of exceptionally driven, clever and dynamic people makes us all feel like anything is possible, and that is the best feeling you can possible have at this stage in your life. I've not only loved working with them in the Tuckwell setting but I'd definitely say that I've become very close friends with a lot of the Scholars. Their friendship has been one of the most enriching elements of my year. As a group we organise social events outside our meetings and have a lot of fun together.

The great thing about the Tuckwell Scholarship is that it's not only focused on being exceptional academically; there are some seriously brilliant Scholars among us, but we also do as much as we can from a broad array of activities. I've been really involved with my residential college, Bruce Hall, in its social events and sports. I've tried more sports than I could imagine including Inward Bound, an ultramarathon event you imagine would have originated in Sparta. I've also thrown myself into Ultimate Frisbee, hockey, softball, basketball, soccer, tennis, road relay, athletics, ANU Premier League Soccer and being named Bruce Hall Sportswoman of the Year.

The Tuckwell program has made me realise my dreams and goals are within reach. The Fellows are keen to put us in contact with renowned people in fields that we're interested in. I currently work with an NGO that focuses on maternal health in Sierra Leone and I was put in touch with Dr Kamalini Lokuge, an expert in this field with substantial experience, for advice for the organisation. My life-changing trip to work in a hospital in Tanzania for a month over the 2014/15 summer break was inspired by my experiences at ANU and made possible by the Scholarship.

I've had a lot of fun this year. In all honesty I was worried that all the other Tuckwell Scholars would be superhuman, too serious to joke, too on top of everything to ever feel like they couldn't cope, too conservative of their prodigious brain cells to drink, and I would feel out of my depth. Getting to know them I discovered that they're the most accepting, fun and silly group of people. They're all brilliant and I secretly admire each one so much, but above all I'm proud to say that they're my friends and I can't wait for the future with them and the incoming 2015 cohort!



Hannah Harmelin, NSW

Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies /
Bachelor of Economics



I also love that Canberra is city one second and country the next—it's the perfect balance of the bustle of the CBD and the quiet of the bush for me.

The supportive college atmosphere at ANU is something for which I will always be grateful. At college I've been able to become friends with people of all ages and who all have different backgrounds and experiences. The safe, caring and positive atmosphere fostered by having such a mix of older and younger students has allowed me to grow more than I could have predicted, emotionally and intellectually, and I've met people I'm going to be friends with for a long time to come.

Moving to Canberra has been incredible. There are so many opportunities in Canberra for university students, especially in my areas of interest, to learn from the best in the world, whether in your courses, at public lectures, through internships and work opportunities, or just through sheer proximity to so many major decision-makers. I also love that Canberra is city one second and country the next—it's the perfect balance of the bustle of the CBD and the quiet of the bush for me. And the food is great!

The most rewarding part of being a Tuckwell Scholar is having had the opportunity to meet the other Tuckwell Scholars—24 other incredibly motivated, intelligent, mature and passionate people from all across Australia. I've gained an incalculable amount from knowing all of them, and it has made such a difference to my first year because I've had them to laugh with, to argue with, and to learn from. It's also been good to have such a strong group of people going through this unusual experience with me, and we've been able to support each other.

I think my greatest achievement this year, setting aside anything academic or extracurricular, is having grown into a more mature, self-aware and conscientious person. This seems to me a direct consequence of having the support of the Scholarship—from the mentoring and advice of the Fellows, to the support and friendship of the other Scholars, to the freedom the Scholarship has granted me to not have to worry about the cost of my experience. It's an intangible and immeasurable 'achievement', but I've found it more important than anything else from 2014, and I'll definitely remember it more than anything else.



Matthew Jacob, NSW

**Bachelor of Politics,
Philosophy and Economics /
Bachelor of Laws (Hons)**

2014—what a year it has been!

Moving out of home and living at college has truly been one of the most transformative experiences of my life. Going from six years at an all-boys private school to a co-educational university college—it really speaks for itself! Despite leaving Sydney with assurances to call home each week and visit whenever possible, I found myself anywhere but home during the year. Using university debating as a convenient foil for elaborate travel plans, in 2014 I managed to tick-off Melbourne, New Zealand and Malaysia.

While at times the Tuckwell name often felt like it came with strings attached and expectations, I will never forget a humorous comment I received in first week at ANU. Following a rather eventful evening, a (soon to be) college friend quipped to me the next morning, “I never would have thought you were a Tuckwell”. If anything, this flippant jibe reminded me that we were ordinary students

who had been gifted the most incredible opportunity.

Another notable memory from the year was being elected as the inaugural Tuckwell Bell Ringer. I use the word ‘elected’ fairly loosely here as the process itself was far from democratic. Upon reflection, it more closely resembled an organised campaign to throw me under the proverbial bus! Yet, despite the circumstances of my election, I was truly honoured to ring the bell for the first time at our Commencement Dinner. After cutting my hand on the edge of the bell, I would strongly encourage future bell-ringers to sneak in some practice before the event!

On Monday and Wednesday nights when we held our fortnightly Tuckwell meetings, I vividly recall the off-handed comments received from college friends as we left for University House. “Look the cult is gathering again ... What on earth do you think they actually talk about?”—these lines and various others became all too familiar by the end of the year. I can however truly say that what occurred at these meetings was unlike anything I had ever been a part of before. Our group of 25 is the most diverse group of extraordinary students which I have had the pleasure getting to know over the past year. While at times the Science students attempted to hijack discussions with jargon and scientific complexities, our regular meetings were always engaging and were a definite highlight of the year.

Despite only completing its inaugural year, the general community awareness and recognition of the Tuckwell name has been phenomenal. I recall numerous times this year when applying for

leadership positions and internships with how much regard the Tuckwell name was received by prospective employers and academic staff. Speaking from my own experience, I do believe the scholarships contributed greatly to my achievements in 2014.

In reflecting on the year that has just passed, it is safe to say the program has come a long way in a very short time. With recent personnel changes towards the latter end of the year combined with a very productive camp, I certainly look forward to what the program has to offer in 2015 and in the years to come.

As for myself, the year of 2014 has produced an album of unforgettable moments and treasured memories. I am eagerly looking forward to meeting the next cohort of scholars and taking a new direction in my academic studies by taking up Law in 2015.

“
**Our group of 25
is the most diverse
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Lucy Kirk, ACT
Bachelor of Medical Science

I lay on a tarpaulin over wet ground. I was in the dark, in the middle of the night, in the middle of nowhere, double blindfolded and about to start a 70km adventure run and navigation competition through the bush. I said to the guy next to me, "I came to university knowing that university students get up to crazy things, but I didn't expect it to be this crazy!" This was the craziness of the biggest interhall competition, Inward Bound, held on the last weekend of March every year. Inward Bound is just one amazing experience that I have had over the last year that I wasn't expecting to have. There has been many things over the last year that have occurred or I have been involved with that I did not expect. For me that sums up my experience as a first year at The Australian National University as a Tuckwell Scholar; expect the unexpected!

Living on campus at the ANU has been far better than I could have imagined. At my residence I have been able to make friends with a wide range of people. It gave me the

opportunity to ask later-year students for advice or wisdom about courses or campus life. I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in a number of activities through my hall. These include Inward Bound, academic mentoring, bible study, the hall play, and hall formal events. In all activities there is a desire for us to do our best but also to try new things in a supportive and inclusive environment. There is a support network of people who truly care and are able to help you with any problems that may arise. I expected my residence to be a place for me to live and make acquaintances, but instead I have made friends that will last a lifetime, learnt how to do new things and was gently pushed outside my comfort zone.

ANU is renowned for its world class researchers and top quality courses. The experiences I have had over the last year have made me realise what an amazing privilege this is. I expected to gain knowledge about a number of subjects. What I have also experienced is that passion for my subjects has been ignited, my curiosity sparked and allowed me to engage in new and exciting research. The passion that lecturers have for their research shows in their teaching and they are more than happy to discuss it outside of class hours. From the very first assignment we had to use knowledge learnt in class as well as proper research techniques. This gave us the opportunity to apply knowledge we had learnt and set up good habits for our future careers. I also attended a number of public lectures on a variety of topics throughout the year. This allowed me to expand my knowledge and remain engaged in wider issues

beyond my course. I expected to get a good education but I have also been inspired and engaged with knowledge and the world around us.

The first year of the Tuckwell Scholarship program has been eye opening and an honour to be a part of. I expected to be encouraged to pursue my goals and be developed as an individual. Not only did that occur but I was amazed by the way that all the Tuckwell Scholars have interacted with each other and formed as a cohort. We quickly became friends, team members and a cohesive group. This is not to say that we agreed with each other all the time, but rather we spurred each other on to continue developing by challenging and expanding our views and opinions. We are all very different but we have a common goal; to benefit the wider community. It has been eye opening to see how different people go about achieving this. The Tuckwell Scholarship program has expanded my view of the world and challenged me to set high aims.

During my first year at ANU in the Tuckwell Scholarship I have learnt to expect the unexpected. Residential life has allowed me to make great friends, try new things and enjoy the whole university experience. High quality lecturers and the opportunity to attend public lectures has meant that I am excited to be studying and have kept a broad outlook. The Tuckwell Scholarship program challenged my ideas but also pushed me to continue to develop my views and opinions.



Guy Leckenby, NSW

Bachelor of Philosophy (Science)

They say time speeds up as you get older. I say time speeds up exponentially the longer you spend at university. My first year was literally a blur and sometimes I think that if life is going to flash by that fast, then I might very well be retiring before I even know what's happened! But amidst the blur, there are flashes of clarity, moments I do remember amongst the haze of new knowledge and good times.

Inward Bound is one experience that will stay with me forever. To put it mildly, Bruce Hall isn't the best at sports. Hence I was placed in Division 3 for my first year. We finished in 10 hours or so and came a respectable fourth but that was thanks to the godsend known as Jessie Avalon whose experience was what got us home. Personally, I'd sprained my ankle during week two of the six-week training program, which knocked me out for four weeks. Hence, I had to run 70km on what was basically my base fitness. Needless to say, I didn't enjoy it. It was the most painful piece of exercise I've ever

done, easily surpassing those times I've pushed myself until I threw up or when I've come off my bike. But I've signed up again this year and am determined to run a better race where I can actually enjoy the experience. Wish me luck.

Then there were the arts events that allowed me to indulge my creative side for the first time since the HSC had grasped me with its talons. I participated in the Bruce Hall dance troupe, which was one of the most exciting things I did all year. Each rehearsal was so much fun I even looked forward to getting up at 7am to squeeze them in. In fact, I had so much fun that during performance night I sang along to both tracks without even realising it. Needless to say, I was the only one ... Then there was the Bruce Hall play that consumed so much time I felt like I was doing nothing else in term three. Sometimes I would wake up with an identity crisis as to whether I was the learned Wilhelm Möbius who had discovered the Theory of Everything or whether I was still Mr Leckenby, at the very early stages of his physics apprenticeship. Either way, I can still remember all those soliloquies.

I guess I need also mention the Academia. I'm not exactly sure what I expected from university but it both lived up to my expectations and didn't. Take first year Chemistry. It's everything you expect from a course, builds well on what you already know, has exciting practical elements, and is easy to study for. However you'll inevitably have horror stories to tell as well. Mine was Maths. I thought I was good at maths. I'd done quite well in Extension 2 Mathematics and was fairly confident in my analytical skills. But throughout the whole year I felt

like someone was holding a hose to the back of my ears; it never got easy, not for one little bit. That being said, I've never learned so much so quickly or had nearly as much fun doing it!

So it is that I look forward to 2015 with trepidation and excitement. Excitement because I know it's going to be better than the last. Trepidation because I fear it might be over even faster.

“

I've never learned so much so quickly or had nearly as much fun doing it!”



Harrison Main, WA

Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy
and Economics / Juris Doctor



**The students
(and staff!) at
Bruce are engaged,
passionate and
friendly, which
made the transition
from living with my
parents an easy
one.”**

As I stepped off the plane from Perth to Canberra I couldn't help but feel like I had been duped. Here was me thinking that I had left my life in hot, dry places behind for a fantastic sea change (lake change?). I came expecting Canberra to be a veritable winter wonderland; instead I was greeted by a heat that would cause even the hardiest Western Australian some serious discomfort. Apparently my memories of Canberra from the obligatory school trip as a kid were somewhat misleading.

Fortunately for me, whilst I was wrong about the weather, I was pretty spot on when it came to how much fun college would prove to be. My time at Bruce Hall has been seriously awesome, and it's only the beginning. At the time of writing this piece, I'm only three days away from heading back to Canberra to get started on O-Week 2015 – I can't wait!

The students (and staff!) at Bruce are engaged, passionate and friendly, which made the transition from living with my parents an easy one. The social and academic environment that college provides is a unique experience that I hope more students have the opportunity to engage with.

As for the academic side of things, well, there's always next year right? I am of course referring to the fact that I have just transferred into undergraduate law for 2015! I can now masquerade as one of the many new ANU students who have chosen to study law; little do they know I have a year of university under my belt.

2014 was a great year for me— I'm very glad to have taken the opportunity to get away from home for my time at university. Moving to Canberra has been a fantastic experience. The independence of living on my own has not only been great fun, but I think it has also changed me for the better. I consider myself a lot more able to fend for myself than I was during my high school years.

I was elected as the Secretary for the Bruce Hall Common Room Executive for 2015, and secured an internship position for the 2014/15 summer with Dean Nalder, a Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly.

Aside from the obvious fact that the Scholarship has enabled me to travel across the country and study at an excellent university, the best part about being a Tuckwell Scholar has to be my fellow Scholars. It's great to be surrounded by so many driven and ambitious people who each have their own unique talents and strengths.

I have high hopes for 2015 to be just as good!



Morgan Marshall, NSW

Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies /
Bachelor of Science



I have made some of my closest friends here, being continuously inspired and supported by all the people I live with.”

The best part of my year at ANU has been all the people I have met! Living on campus has been the most intense but rewarding experience I've had. I have made some of my closest friends here, being continuously inspired and supported by all the people I live with. It has given me an environment where I can be wholly myself and not be afraid to try new things, which is an invaluable experience.

Moving from Sydney, I had reservations about moving to Canberra, but it has been so much more amazing, and beautiful, than I could have ever imagined. The ease of living in Canberra is one of my favourite things about it as well as being surrounded by amazing opportunities. Although the size of the city is a lot smaller than I am used to, I am continuously discovering more and more I love about it.

The 2014 cohort of Scholars has been a constant support and inspiration to me. Being from such diverse backgrounds, the variety of perspectives provided by the other Scholars is always challenging me to look at the world differently.

I am extremely grateful for all the Scholarship has provided this year. Financially it has both allowed me to move to this amazing university and has also taken the pressure off living expenses, allowing me to throw myself into involvement with my college and wider ANU community. However, the personal growth I have experienced both through interaction with the other Scholars and through the mentoring provided by the Fellows has been just as beneficial.



Alex Miles, QLD

Bachelor of Business
Administration / Bachelor of
Engineering (Research and
Development)



**The Tuckwell
Fellows went to
great efforts to be
part of the cohort
and were always
available if we
needed advice.”**

After an extended break following Year 12, I packed my worldly possessions into the car and began the long all-day drive from Toowoomba, Queensland to ANU, Canberra. I was apprehensive but excited to be leaving home and starting my studies at ANU. As part of the Tuckwell program all Scholars are required to live in on-campus college accommodation and I was lucky enough to be able to reside at Bruce Hall.

During the first semester, regular Tuckwell pizza nights offered a chance to get to know the other Scholars and develop our team work. The topic and structure of these nights differed wildly but all allowed the Scholars to discuss and get to know each other. One of my favourite structures to these nights was going to see a speech and then coming back to Scholars House and discussing the different views; this is where the interdisciplinary backgrounds of the Scholars allowed for insightful conversations. Different degrees teach us a different approach to problem solving and a different way of thinking and it is very interesting to consider the problem in a different way.

Another large component that I have enjoyed is the ability to have some input into the shape that the program will take in future years. This is due to the infancy of the program, and at a weekend Tuckwell retreat at ANU's Kioloa coastal campus we were able to discuss what worked and what we thought would improve the program for next year. It was great to see that our thoughts were considered when making the decisions for the program's future. Another highlight of the year was the interview weekend for prospective 2015 Tuckwell Scholars, giving tours and getting to meet the new Scholars was incredibly enjoyable and I cannot wait to see them all at the start of 2015.

I now get to the part of the program which I felt was the most useful and is integral to its success: that is the mentoring. The Tuckwell Fellows went to great efforts to be part of the cohort and were always available if we needed advice. An example of this was when Dr Mary Kilcline Cody arranged for me to discuss research projects that were available with another lecturer. The Fellows went to great lengths to develop a cohort and were very successful. Even though Susan and Simon will be leaving us next year, I feel confident that they would provide help and advice if I required it.



Jakub Nabaglo, NSW

Bachelor of Advanced Computing /
Bachelor of Science



As a person who has a background in drama and is academically minded, the cultural scene thrives here with theatres, galleries and libraries. ”

One never truly knows what to expect when first arriving at university. My first year of university was to propel me into the great world of the unknown, with risks and opportunities lying in wait in every nook and cranny. With my mind focused on first year courses and the college O-week plan, the Tuckwell program awaiting my subsequent 40 weeks was merely an afterthought.

I was not suspecting of the role that the Tuckwell program would play in my costume change to that of a university student. Arriving, I was already provided with an established society of peerless peers. This facilitated many hours of discussion, inside and outside our fortnightly meetings at Scholars House, on countless topics.

Following preparation by the semester one Tuckwell program, we dove into our group community projects. The school mentoring group, of which I form a part, is composed of committed and passionate individuals; collaborating with them has been electrifying. At the Kioloa camp planning weekend, we were intoxicated by the thrill of being able to present our progress and discuss the direction for the Tuckwell program.

I found that Canberra unites the advantages of a large city with the charm of a small town. As a person who has a background in drama and is academically minded, the cultural scene thrives here with theatres, galleries and libraries.

For my part, I benefited most significantly from the mentorship provided by the Tuckwell Fellows. They helped me solve problems ranging from questions about University procedure, through concerns about course choices, to existential crises.

Only a year old, the Tuckwell program is still evolving. Despite some barnacles, it was a very valuable part of my year. I am very enthusiastic for 2015.



Catherine Perry, VIC

Bachelor of Philosophy
(Asia-Pacific)



Having individual mentoring has enabled me to establish clear objectives and goals that I am working towards.



The best part of my first year at ANU can be simply summed up in one word: exposure. Exposure to new ideas, new people, new subjects and a new way of life. The mix of people at ANU and all of the opportunities available here have meant that I have encountered a wider range of perspectives and ideas than ever before. Furthermore, having the opportunity to attend regularly-run public lectures has ensured that I can maintain inter-disciplinary interests outside of my course. The courses I have been studying have also been challenging and stimulating. I have loved the choice we are provided in terms of subjects, which has allowed me to develop knowledge and skills where I really want them. With regards to a new way of life, living at Bruce Hall has given me the opportunity to make so many friends, and be involved in so many activities that I enjoy.

Moving up to Canberra was one of the best decisions I have ever made. There is plenty to do around the campus and in Canberra itself, so my days are very full. I am loving life in a residential hall, surrounded by peers who act as a support system, and as your new family. Leaving home is certainly a big step, but the independence we are provided with here has enabled me to develop and start taking accountability for my actions. For me it has all been about embracing the opportunity.

Being surrounded by an engaged, passionate and intelligent group of individuals has definitely been a highlight of being a Tuckwell Scholar. With our different backgrounds and opinions, our conversations are entertaining and stimulating. I have certainly made some friends for life through this program.

The Tuckwell Scholarship has gone much further than providing the monetary support required for me to study at ANU, although it is very welcome! Having individual mentoring has enabled me to establish clear objectives and goals that I am working towards. Furthermore, the support of the Tuckwell Scholarship has meant having greater opportunities to engage with academics in my particular field of interest.



Elena Pleass, QLD

Bachelor of Economics / Bachelor of Science



The meetings also provided us with the chance to interact as a cohort and build an even stronger sense of cohesion and teamwork within our group.



The first term of university is an utter blur between navigating the campus, meeting countless other students and scouting out Canberra's best cafes. I wasn't fully aware of what college life entailed before I moved, but I have been so pleasantly surprised by the sense of community and care, which made the move so seamless. To me, the ability to socialise and spend so much time with friends has been my favourite part of university life. From the more glitzy balls and commencement events to playing girls rugby, from studying in the early hours of the morning to celebrating the end of exams, college life is anything but boring.

With specific regard to the Tuckwell program, it really is like no other and has enhanced my university life immensely. To be able to have an additional support network through the Tuckwell Fellows, for both pastoral and academic care, has been invaluable. Our meetings provide the perfect forum to extend us, challenge us and enrich us as Scholars. The meetings also provided us with the chance to interact as a cohort and build an even stronger sense of cohesion and teamwork within our group. I am so grateful for this community that we have forged this year and have met some of my closest friends as a result.

With a semester of university under my belt I decided to change degrees. The first semester highlighted to me the subjects I loved and those I didn't. It also was a chance to truly experience university and a new learning environment. Now, after finishing second semester in a new degree, my eagerness to learn and do well has only strengthened. For me, what differs so vastly to high school, and what I love so much about university, is the opportunity to dedicate your time completely to learning what interests, engages and inspires you.

In addition to trying out extracurricular activities at ANU, I decided to end my first year by completing an internship at an economics and development NGO in Myanmar for two months over the summer holidays. To be able to gain first hand experience in my field of interest was extremely rewarding while also experiencing the cultural diversity of a country in complete economic and social transition. My first year at ANU has been filled with opportunity and I hope to continue to pursue this in years to come.



Abirami Rajkumar, NSW

Bachelor of Development Studies /
Bachelor of Laws



Reaching for the stars and dreaming big has never felt more normal.

2014 was an incredible year of memorable experiences, emotions, times of uncertainty, and moments of absolute clarity.

My first year as a Tuckwell Scholar at ANU taught me a lot about myself, but most importantly, taught me the importance of making the most of every second. From being part of the World's Greatest Shave and subsequently being called my father's second son, pulling all-nighters to keep up with the demands of law school (and make up for a lack of time management), midnight laser-tag in empty streets, listening to my favourite soul artists coming together to create a night of utter appreciation and tranquility, hours of drinking, dancing and singing away the magnitudes of heartbreak, to diving into makeshift ball pits like five year old children, it's been a year I will never forget!

College life has been immeasurably fun, exciting and insightful. Who would've thought I would have actually developed a desire to exercise ... for fun! I've met individuals I can honestly say I now cannot see my life without—people from all different walks of life, with unique views. There have been nights that fellow Tuckwell Scholars and I have been up chatting about the world, its problems, its beauty, its possibilities ... and it's made me question how it was possible that I finally met a group of individuals that really did 'get me'.

Reaching for the stars and dreaming big has never felt more normal.

In terms of academic and career opportunities, ANU has been a dream come true. Working for the NGO Palmera Projects, ANU, and Australian Labor International has been fascinating, enriching, and has enabled me to think beyond the borders of Australia. Attending the International Indigenous Development Conference in Auckland was a moving experience that highlighted the importance of coming together to celebrate the amazing culture and tradition of indigenous people around the world, and the importance of recognition. The ANU Vietnam Field School taught me the endless possibilities of international development, the wondrous nature of rural life, the importance of preserving agricultural practices and the role of government in ensuring the best life for their citizens.

My first year as a Tuckwell Scholar at ANU has opened many doors, created life-long friendships and has left me feeling invigorated, motivated and ready for whatever 2015 has to offer.



Bryce Robinson, VIC
Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor
of Science



For me, being a Tuckwell Scholar has been, first and foremost, an invitation to dip my toe into as many proverbial pools as possible.”

2014, for me, can best be described as a year of contradictions. Inevitably, my Law and Science double degree has made me both more cynical, and more hopeful, than I have ever been in my entire life. I have become less defensive and argumentative, yet I speak up more than I ever previously felt capable of doing. I have never felt quite so alone as I did in the first few months of the year, a time when I was surrounded by the most enormous and endless influx of new and exciting people. I moved away from the family, friends and environs that I grew up in to take residence in an institution, and yet I have never felt more at home. And so this year unfolded: senseless, confusing, and entirely unpredictable.

For me, being a Tuckwell Scholar has been, first and foremost, an invitation to dip my toe into as many proverbial pools as possible. The program made me feel nothing if not encouraged to participate in a myriad of opportunities that have, in some way, made my life fuller and richer. My year has been so much more than my studies; it has also been debating, performing, and competing. It has been teaching young kids how to make ice-cream with liquid nitrogen, discovering that badminton brings out the worst in my coordination, shameless self-promotion to secure my position as Director of Policy for the Law Students Society, or getting sassy with the delegate for the U.S. at a Model UN conference.

I feel that this is exactly the vision behind the Tuckwell program. In later years, I will forget the brilliant grades I received, just as I will forget the absolutely woeful ones. I will forget the finer details of the legal history of the Commonwealth or the relative energies of electronic orbitals. What I will remember, however, are the competitions, the performances, the friendships made, the horribly awkward social faux pas, and the more ‘eventful’ college parties. As much as I may have sometimes resented the pressure I experienced from over-indulging in all things extra-curricular, I will always be infinitely grateful for the memories, confidence, friendships and worldliness that it gave rise to.

Many people view the Tuckwell Scholarship as nothing more than a very generous sum of money and some awesome additional perks. For the Tuckers of 2014, it has been so much more. For all of the expectations, projects, debates, external scepticism/stigma, internal politics and cheeky intra-cohort scandals, I can happily say that I’ve emerged from 2014 with 27 magnificent new friends—three incredible mentors, and 24 brilliant young people to whom I would entrust the future of the world.



Sam Saunders, VIC

Bachelor of Economics /
Bachelor of Laws



Being a part of the Tuckwell program, I've shook hands with people I never thought I'd meet. I've been challenged in ways I've never faced. I've made friendships that no other program could offer.



Some people think you have to give up a lot to displace yourself halfway across the country. Friends, family, your community. Recently, I've been asked, "Was it worth it?" I responded, "Absolutely". I've come to realise that everything you miss from home never leaves you. You still have your friends, your favourite café, that beautiful beach. They don't truly leave. I have only profited by moving to Canberra and becoming a Tuckwell Scholar.

Being a part of the Tuckwell program, I've shaken hands with people I never thought I'd meet. I've been challenged in ways I've never faced. I've made friendships that no other program could offer.

Three moments stand out when I consider my first year in this program: a 'Scholar only' meeting, a challenging weekend of organisational chaos and—as I like to remember it—a trip to the beach with close friends. I'd like to share these moments with you.

Confused, anxious, unfathomably excited. Four words to describe the first few weeks of the Tuckwell program. Twenty-five students hand-picked from around Australia, all possessing different talents and dreams. What journey were we embarking on? What were we here to do? In my honest opinion, no-one truly knew. To flesh through these questions, we met early in the first semester at Burgmann College. By 'we', I refer only to Scholars. This meeting ran independently of the Fellows.

During those 90 minutes, we threw around concepts and structural ideas about the program that were beyond anything we had previously debated. It was at this moment that I realised the potential we had as a cohort.

The Tuckwell Interview Weekend 2014 was, by most accounts, one of the best bonding exercises we faced. I'd like to first apologise to the 2015 cohort for exhausting you beyond belief. Running a three-day program for 74 students brought us together. It may have been the nostalgia of reliving that weekend, or the passion we felt advertising our college and experiences.

In the history of the Tuckwell program, there is one event that I believe grounds us—the Kiolia Weekend. While a momentous occasion for the operational direction of the program, I will remember it as a simple weekend at the beach with friends old and new—thanks for putting up with our ridiculous fire-side chats, Steph!

With the incoming Scholars, 2015 will be an exciting and challenging year. I expect the next cohort will too feel confused, anxious and unfathomably excited. I hope they do. It's all a part of this journey we're on. All I can say is that I hope this journey never ends and continues to develop beyond our wildest imagination.



Phoebe Skuse, NSW

Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy
and Economics / Juris Doctor



Most of all, I've appreciated the vast range of people across ANU that the Tuckwell program puts you in touch with. ”

What sticks in my mind about my first year as a Tuckwell Scholar? There's a lot of free food happening in the Tuckwell program! From Tuesday night pizza in Scholars House, to formal dinners at University House, to the wine and canapés provided after public lectures (ANU's best kept secret), the Tuckwell program has allowed me to grow both mentally and physically. Mostly physically ...

The most vivid memory I have from the program this year comes from our day at Mount Stromlo in Orientation Week (O-week). It was our first formal event, and although the bus ride up the mountain felt like agony for many of us who had partied a little too hard the night before—special mention to Tuckwell Scholar Matt Jacob—the day rapidly improved. I remember looking around me, as we sat down together that day, and feeling that this was the start of something big. Something that would extend beyond our time at ANU. I saw myself in thirty years, in trouble of some sort, dropping a line to any of the other 24 Scholars and being rescued by Abi's legal expertise, or Elena's intimidation tactics she'll have learnt from being a CEO of some huge corporation. I saw myself watching the news and seeing any one of the Scholars being interviewed about a recent achievement, and saying to myself "I know them! We danced at Mooseheads together every Thursday!"

Thus far, my Tuckwell experience has been one of size. Growing as a person (and in dress size) and growing as a community of scholars. Most of all, I've appreciated the vast range of people across ANU that the Tuckwell program puts you in touch with. There's so much going on at ANU, and being a Scholar has really helped me to find my feet and engage with our chaotic campus life. This program feels like the start of something big, and I'm so grateful to be a small part of it.



Samantha Terry, NSW

Bachelor of Science
(Advanced) (Hons)

Before arriving at ANU, when I pictured my first year as a Tuckwell Scholar I imagined myself among a cohort of mega-nerdy, infallibly upstanding citizens—which thankfully turned out to be only partly true. Our Orientation Day meeting at Mount Stromlo confirmed that we were actually all approachable and relatively normal people, and that no one had two heads to accommodate their excessive braininess. We rapidly became a close-knit cohort, from which I have formed some of my closest friends.

The Tuckwell program involved fortnightly meetings throughout the year, which often featured lively discussions that would tend towards moral or idealistic themes. These always made for an interesting evening, and were of course accompanied by a much anticipated dinner of pizza or soup. A highlight of my first year in the Tuckwell program was my participation in a group project to establish an Indigenous learning community on

campus. Although still in its early stages, working on this project has allowed me to meet new and interesting people and to connect with the Indigenous community of ANU, and I look forward to further involvement in 2015.

Nevertheless, there have been certain challenges associated with being an inaugural Tuckwell Scholar—the dress codes for example. Coming from an ‘alternative’ country town where most events can be defined by whether shoes are required or not, the subtleties of ‘smart casual’ and ‘semiformal’ were originally a source of some bewilderment. However by the end of the year my fellow Scholars and I felt we had more or less mastered such attire. The mysterious person who sets the dress codes obviously thought so too, because for the 2015 commencement dinner the bar was lifted to ‘lounge suit’. I am now more perplexed than ever as I contemplate how to walk this thin line, which according to Google lies somewhere between semiformal and black tie.

I’ve found Canberra a great city to live in. I moved here from Dorrigo, a town of 1,000 people, and although it is Australia’s capital city, I feel I have the best of both worlds here. I love that just across Lake Burley Griffin is Parliament House, the High Court, National Library and National Portrait Gallery, yet five minutes’ walk from college is Black Mountain and the National Botanic Gardens. I was a little bit terrified by the idea of the Canberra climate, and this was not entirely unjustified, as there was one afternoon this winter when it (arguably) snowed, just before I

played soccer in a t-shirt and shorts. But I am pleasantly surprised to find that I have survived winter, and have in fact enjoyed the seasonal variation.

I couldn’t possibly reflect on my year without mentioning my experience of living on campus, which is an integral part of the Tuckwell program. I can’t imagine how different my first year would have been had I not lived at Ursula Hall, where I was able to participate in many extracurricular activities including choir and dancing, and fumble my way through many new sports.

I cannot express how grateful I am to have been able to attend ANU as a Tuckwell Scholar. I would like to thank Graham and Louise Tuckwell for the opportunity to be involved in this program, which has so far been such an amazing and formative experience.

“
The Tuckwell program involved fortnightly meetings throughout the year, which often featured lively discussions that would tend towards moral or idealistic themes.”



Katie Ward, QLD

Bachelor of Philosophy (Science)

My first year at ANU was both exactly what I expected, and not what I expected at all. I expected the stress, the assignments, the tutorials, and the lectures. What I didn't expect were those things that made 2014 the most incredible year: college, academics, the Tuckwell program, and Canberra. I could have never had anticipated the positive impact that these things have had on my year first year at ANU.

I live at Bruce Hall, which, in my completely unbiased opinion, is the best hall on campus. It is everything that I could've hoped for in a place to live—inclusive, supportive, friendly and vibrant. It's through Bruce that I have found friends that will be in my life long after we leave the Hall. Bruce has also been my main source of fun and excitement, with its never-ending source of events and interesting conversation. The Hall provides a great community on a small scale through lively dinner conversations and spontaneous chats in the corridors. It also goes beyond the small stuff and holds social events regularly, always has a handful of

sports training, and provides the opportunity to get amongst the arts. One of the most memorable events for me was Big Night Out, the Interhall Band Competition, where I was a member of the Bruce Hall Band. The atmosphere of that event was paramount to anything else I had experienced before and is something I will remember for a long time.

Amongst all this, I directed my energy to doing some study. Ok, a little more than some. Being in the Bachelor of Philosophy (PhB) science degree, I need to maintain a high distinction average, a feat that demands a lot of time and effort. In fact, I have now spent so much time studying in Tuckwell Scholars House that it might see fit for me to start paying rent. Semester 1 could be best described as a 'learning curve' as I had to quickly figure out how to successfully manage my time between social events and studying, and wrap my head around the expectations of university. Thankfully, I was somewhat capable of managing this by the end of Semester 1, and can now confidently say that it's under control (or, at least, I hope so!). In addition to my courses, I participated in two other academic pursuits that turned out to be highlights this year. The first was the Undergraduate Winter School at Mount Stromlo Observatory where I spent a week hearing and learning from leading experts in their fields. The week ended with the privilege of staying at Siding Springs Observatory where we were given the opportunity to observe and take data from objects in the night sky using the University's 2.3m telescope. The second was a research project undertaken at Mount Stromlo Observatory for the

duration of Semester 2, an opportunity that I am very grateful for and enjoyed immensely.

The Tuckwell program has provided support in more ways than one. The most obvious is the financial support, allowing me to focus on my studies and involvement in university and college life. Another way, which may not be so obvious, is the support of the Tuckwell Fellows. Their advice, guidance, and commitment to the enrichment program helped my transition into university life. Our regular meetings as a cohort provided a space where I could interact with the other Scholars and learn from other members of the University. This exposure to other disciplines, and students from the other halls and colleges, broadened the scope of my learning.

And last, but definitely not least, of the unexpected highlights of my year: Canberra. Our nation's capital grew on me very quickly. I was immediately taken by the beautiful vegetation throughout the city, and the reasoning behind Canberra's nickname of the 'bush capital' became very clear. I've come to find that everything I need is within a short walk, with ANU and Bruce Hall being situated close to the CBD. This has allowed me to explore Canberra, finding different study spots and, I'll admit more frequently, new cafes.



Sam Wen Hua Huang, VIC

Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies /
Bachelor of Laws



The Scholarship has allowed me to think and discuss ideas with a group of highly thoughtful, clever students.”

2014 was the most exciting and different year of my life. After the constant grind of Year 12, and the giddy independence of the summer holidays, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect of university and Tuckwell life.

O-Week was an absolute blast, and it was good to properly meet all of the Scholars. But, as none of the others attended John XXIII College, I was completely absorbed into college life. The most dramatic change for me was the total freedom of university and college. The year was carefully, and sometimes imperfectly, crammed with studying, working, socialising, and exercising. All of these activities set in the context of a building packed with students who never sleep, and one soon realises that self-discipline is vital.

The Tuckwell program sat somewhere within this web of events and commitments. Being so new, at times it suffered from a lack of flow, but overall the fortnightly meetings proved to be interesting and useful. Our retreat down at ANU's Kioloa Coastal Campus towards the end of 2014 was a fantastic opportunity for discussion about the future of the program, as well as a chance for all of us to relax together. The Scholarship has allowed me to think and discuss ideas with a group of highly thoughtful, clever students.

Moving to Canberra has been a wonderful experience. Despite some early misgivings I have come to love this city, and all that it has to offer. Canberra is extremely well resourced, meaning that all of the facilities are significantly better than other cities in Australia. There are great restaurants, cafes, and bars all within a short walk from campus. Being surrounded by bushland is also a massive plus, with trail running and hiking being very accessible.

Some of my highlights of the year include finally starting to study law, attending the Tuckwell Commencement Dinner, running the Inward Bound challenge, meeting Anne Martin and the students from the ANU Tjabal Centre, being elected as a sports representative for John XXIII College for 2015, and learning how to make next year even better!



Jessica Woolnough, TAS
Bachelor of Science (Advanced)
(Hons)

Summing up the highlights of my first year as a Tuckwell Scholar at ANU is quite a challenge, as my year was an exciting, busy and overall fantastic year. Starting university was a bit daunting, especially having to move out of home, and even out of my home state of Tasmania. But waiting in O-Week was a welcoming group of first and later year students at my on-campus college and new home, Ursula Hall. Also welcoming me were the Tuckwell Fellows, and 24 dedicated and enthusiastic individuals: the first Tuckwell Scholar cohort. These individuals have not only become my close friends, but have shared their journeys, passions, time and effort in shaping our dynamic and diverse cohort, the Tuckwell program, and greatly enriched my year. How have the Scholars, Fellows, the Tuckwell program, and the Tuckwell family enriched my year, myself personally, and my years to come? I really don't think words could give it justice, but I'll give it a go:

A major passion of mine is Science. I never thought I would attend a guest lecture discussing law and justice issues within an Australian context; igniting an interest in me to further explore justice and fairness within science and more broadly. Nor did I think I would receive a speech exploring Game Theory at Scholars House, expanding my decision-making strategies as well as my understanding on how very relevant and interpretable the theory is in our socio-political world. Throughout the year, my fellow Scholars and the Tuckwell program have encouraged me to think beyond my own values, opinions, view of the world, and academic field. There is such a diversity in our cohort who, over the course of the year, have raised and discussed with me such exceptionally valid points, interpretations, ideas and issues that I would not have explored nor realised myself. They have offered me opportunities beyond what my own academic and interest areas were, unquestionably extending my understanding and thinking.

Not only have they encouraged me to diversify my understanding and to experience wonderful new opportunities and interest areas, but they have continually inspired me to strive beyond my current aspirations and goals. One example is when Catherine Hall shared her passion for getting involved with and assisting the Aminata Maternal Foundation in Sierra Leone, a country currently experiencing some of the highest infant and maternal mortality rates in the world. Her ideas on how she could help this foundation, why such a foundation and its goals are so important, and her visible empathy, drive and

passion for this idea still inspire me today. I was so absolutely moved by how connected with this cause she was, and her determination in helping the foundation.

In conclusion, the first year of my university journey as a Tuckwell Scholar has been an absolutely invaluable and wonderful experience. The Scholars, Fellows and Tuckwell enrichment program have given me such great opportunities over the year, building upon my own skills, qualities, inspirations and understanding. I am extremely grateful to the Tuckwell family, and all those involved, for starting and fostering such a wonderful program, and giving me, the other Scholars and future applicants the opportunity to be a part of it. I very much look forward to my second year as a Scholar, and am so keen to meet and share a journey with the incoming 2015 Tuckwell Scholar cohort.

“
Throughout the year, my fellow Scholars and the Tuckwell program have encouraged me to think beyond my own values, opinions, view of the world, and academic field.”



Sorin Zota, VIC

Bachelor of Finance / Bachelor of Laws



Campus life is vibrant—there's always something happening. ”

I had an amazing 2014. College life was definitely one of the highlights of my 2014; I met so many new people and have made lasting friendships. The other highlight for me was the challenging nature of the ANU undergraduate courses, which really extend students academically.

Moving to Canberra has given me the opportunity to really grow, allowing me to become much more independent. Campus life is vibrant—there's always something happening. The location is also a definite plus being so close to the city yet right in the heart of nature by the lake.

What I've most enjoyed about being a Tuckwell Scholar are the fortnightly gatherings with the Tuckwell Fellows and other Scholars in Scholars House, where we brainstorm projects and ideas amongst other things; they are always something to look forward to.

It's been a little daunting being a part of the inaugural Tuckwell Scholars cohort because it's all very new and we're still figuring out where we are heading. But as the program is evolving it's great to be able to put forward suggestions as a group and see what will happen.

I'm extremely grateful for the opportunities that the Tuckwell Scholarship has afforded me; it has enabled me to study at ANU and live on campus, an experience I would've otherwise been unable to afford. The support has extended well beyond this, however, giving me the opportunity to meet like-minded individuals and bounce ideas off the Tuckwell Fellows, who are always available when we need them.

I'm looking forward to a great 2015!





Timeline

12 FEBRUARY

Orientation Day

New Scholars were joined by ANU Vice-Chancellor Ian Young AO at Mount Stromlo Observatory to introduce the program, get to know each other and the three Tuckwell Fellows, and develop the Tuckwell Scholar Code of Conduct.

21-22 FEBRUARY

Commencement Weekend

Scholars visited Parliament House and met Prime Minister Tony Abbott before a dinner at University House, where the inaugural cohort of Scholars were 'rung in' by elected Bell Ringer, Matthew Jacob.

FEBRUARY – NOVEMBER

Mentoring

Throughout the year, each student was assigned a Tuckwell Fellow as a mentor and they met at least twice a semester to discuss progress and plans. The Fellows also held drop-in sessions each week at Scholars House.

JULY

Interview Weekend

In the spirit of giving back, the Scholars volunteered at the interview weekend for the 2015 applicants, helping with accommodation queries, transport, social and group activities.

AUGUST

Academic Dinner

Each Scholar invited an academic to attend a formal dinner at University House hosted by Master of University House Professor Peter Kanowski. The evening was conducted in the traditional Oxbridge style.

24-26 OCTOBER

Annual Camp

The Scholars spent a weekend with the Tuckwell Fellows, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) and Tuckwell support staff at the ANU Coastal Campus at Kioloa, NSW, to review the year and plan the enrichment program for 2015.

Interested in a Tuckwell Scholarship?

Applying for a Tuckwell Scholarship is a three-stage process that starts with an initial application from you, and a recommendation from your teacher. Shortlisted applicants will complete a more detailed application in stage two, and final candidates will be interviewed during July for stage three.

Before you apply please review the selection criteria and eligibility requirements on the webpage (tuckwell.anu.edu.au), and think about whether it is the right decision for your future. In addition to this process you will, at the appropriate time, also need to make your UAC application to apply to study at ANU.

Stage 1

Complete your application. Applications open on 2 March 2015 and close at 3pm AEDST on 20 March.

Shortlisted candidates will be notified by 20 April and invited to apply for Stage 2.

Stage 2

Applications open 27 April and close at 3pm AEST on 13 May.

Shortlisted candidates will be notified by 10 June.

Stage 3

The interview weekend will happen on 10-12 July.


Scholarships will be announced on 13 July.

Visit tuckwell.anu.edu.au for full details on the selection criteria, eligibility requirements and how to apply.

Looked at the webpage and still have a question? Contact us via the webpage contact form or via tuckwell@anu.edu.au

Alumni Relations & Philanthropy

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