

The Bell

The Tuckwell
Scholarship
2021 Edition



Australian
National
University



TheBell

The annual magazine for the Tuckwell Scholarship Program

The Tuckwell Scholarship Program within the



Australian
National
University



Welcome to this 2021 edition of *The Bell* magazine.

Join us as we reflect 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; it signals the beginning of each new Scholar's journey at The Australian National University (ANU).

This scholarship transforms its recipients by providing opportunities to chase their passions and hone their skills, so that they may one day share them with their communities. This annual magazine seeks to capture these unique endeavours and showcase what the Scholarship makes possible for every individual. The Bell also provides updates on our ever evolving community for all Scholars, staff and alumni within the Tuckwell and broader ANU communities.

In this edition you will catch a glimpse of not only 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 anything but predictable, but as you will see, it has also been full of opportunities and silver linings. We are excited to see the evolution of The Bell as it reflects the strengthening of the Scholar community and the Program.

From the Editors

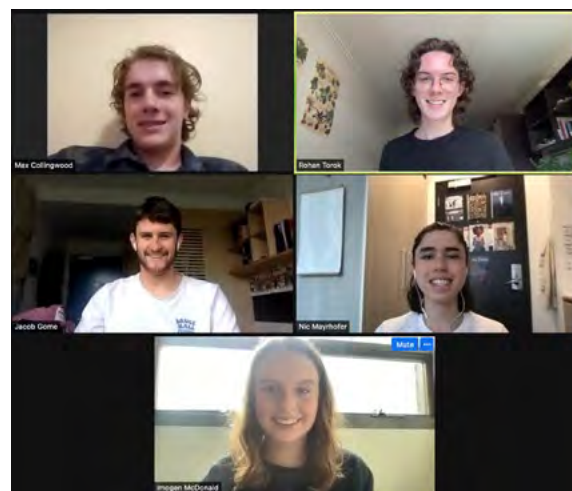
They say history doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes. In 2021, the novel coronavirus lost its novelty, and we buckled in for a hauntingly familiar ride. This year's edition of *The Bell* isn't about these times, though—it's a product of the times, past and present.

In this edition, we take inspiration from Anne-Marie Schwirtlich's Commencement Address, highlighting the ways that 'memory and meaning' define our experience within the Tuckwell Program. For 8 years, the Tuckwell Scholarship has been finding its footing in uncharted territory, and if we have learned anything in these unprecedented years, it's that to find our way forward, we need to make meaning from our memories of the past.

This year marks the first year where no original Scholars of the 2014 cohort are studying at ANU, leaving the Program at a unique stage where the opportunity for reflection is momentous. The Tuckwell community now extends not only across university life, but across many career paths and all corners of the world. Consequently, the concept of this issue is to celebrate, learn from and reflect on the diverse experiences of the substantial foundation of the Program that now exists. It is often said that one of the most rewarding parts of the Tuckwell Program is being a part of something bigger than yourself, and this perfectly depicts the myriad of opportunities that each generation of Scholars leave as inspiration. When we look back on the previous cohorts, we are also seeing our future. We see possibilities of what lies ahead of us, and while that may seem daunting, we feel grounded knowing that a fully established community of Scholars will be with us every step of the way.

One of the biggest changes this year was saying farewell to Tess Boylen and Andrew Swan, who have been integral parts of the Program. We will miss them both immensely and wish them good luck in the next phase of their lives. On a positive note, we have had the pleasure of welcoming Annette Kimber to Team Tuckwell—we look forward to welcoming her to the Scholars House community in-person next year.

It has been such a joy to curate a snapshot of Tuckwell experiences in 2021. The sheer diversity that exists within this fabulous community is so refreshing and exciting, and one of the great challenges we've faced as editors has been creating an edition that captures all of the many many different faces of the Program. We'd like to thank Annette and Andrew for their guidance and support throughout the process. We'd also like to thank the staff and Scholars who contributed articles, for inspiring us and reminding us of what makes this Program so special. We've had a great time making the edition, and we hope you enjoy making meaning from the memories of 2021.



Nic Mayrhofer (2021), Imogen McDonald (2021), Rohan Torok (2021), Jacob Gome (2021) and Max Collingwood (2021).

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From Graham and Louise Tuckwell

Two of the attributes we look for in Tuckwell Scholars are “*resilient*” and “*innately driven and determined*” and it is clear that, during these last two difficult years, Scholars have demonstrated these key attributes in spades. We understand the academic results for 2020-21 have been the highest ever achieved and the same looks to be true of the ATAR results for the 2022 Scholars – the “Tucklings”. The team at Scholars House has helped to provide the structure and engagement with the University that has enabled you to keep body and soul together and achieve in so many ways this year. Congratulations to you all! It is wonderful to know that Scholars House is a supportive and affectionate community, with Scholars helping each other to get through the tough times and celebrate the good times.

All credit is due to Ryan Goss and Andrew Swan, our respective Head and Director of Scholars House, in what has been a challenging year in trying to balance all the demands on their time (which includes newborns in lockdown – no fun for anyone). Lockdowns and border closures take their toll however, and we are disappointed that Andrew has decided to return to Melbourne to be closer to family. In his 2½ years at Scholars House he has brought great energy, many new ideas and introduced structures which will make it easy to hand over the reins to our new Director, whose appointment we are hoping will be announced by the time you read this.

As you have all experienced, the selection process to become a Scholar is a huge undertaking involving many months of work from a large number of people. At the head of that effort is the Chair of the Selection Panel, a role Professor Rae Frances has taken on for the last five years in addition to having a full-time workload. With her term having finished, we say a huge thank you and a sad goodbye to her. Rae has been a delight to work with: always clear-thinking; always gracious and good humoured, and always *available*. Thank you Rae. Commencing this year will be two new ANU panelists, Professors Ian Anderson and Maryanne Dever, who will rotate as Chair of the Selection Panel. We look forward to welcoming and working with them.



Your semester letters to us are something we always look forward to, and especially so these last two years, where we have not had the in-person contact of previous years. Your letters have been the lifeline for our ongoing involvement with the Program. We are especially looking forward to catching up in person at the 2022 Commencement weekend and have set aside some extra days on our Canberra visit to catch up with far more Scholars and Alumni than would normally be the case.

Whilst your letters are a wonderful record of your personal journey through university and the Scholarship program, The Bell magazine is becoming a valuable record of the way in which the Program, in all its many facets, is evolving over time. Each year we are stunned by its quality and it becomes more and more difficult to judge the winner of the annual 'Bell Prize' for the author of our favourite piece*. To use an underemployed adjective that's in danger of obsolescence in Australia, the magazine is simply *smashing!*

*The winners to date have been: Joe Dean (2015 magazine); Chloe Harpley (2016); Mia McConville (2017); Jocelyn Abbott (2018); Wyatt Raynal (2019); and Tom Dunbabin and Emily Davidson (2020)

From the Staff



A/ Prof. Ryan Goss — Head of Scholars House

This was a year of two halves. The start of the year saw our Scholars House community gathering for Camp and Commencement with excitement and optimism after the challenges of 2020. Both events were a great success, supercharged by our energetic and engaged 2021 cohort, and set the scene for a busy first semester. Supported by the Scholars House staff team, many of our events and activities were designed and run by Scholars for their fellow Scholars. Exactly what we aspire to as a Program.

And then, shortly before lunchtime on Thursday 12 August...the ACT went into Covid-19 lockdown. Some of our Scholars were locked down in Melbourne in 2020, or in Sydney earlier in 2021, but for most of our community this was their first extended lockdown in Canberra. These last two years will be studied and debated for decades; perhaps a future historian of our Program will read this edition of *The Bell* to learn what life was like in these times. They should know that this year's lockdown brought challenges for many in our community and our families. Our Scholars did remarkably well in difficult circumstances, notwithstanding lockdown restrictions, health challenges, and Zoom fatigue. But it was hard –and harder still for many in the broader community. And when the time came, our Scholars did their part in contributing to the ACT's vaccination success. We know that much remains uncertain about the near future, but we all hope 2022 will bring a little more normality, a little more on campus, a little more face to face.

Notwithstanding all that has happened, this edition of *The Bell* gives a wonderful sense of the breadth and depth of our Scholars' engagement with Scholars House, the broader ANU community, and the country. The Tuckwell Scholarship Program is an extraordinary program, reflecting an extraordinary act of philanthropy. Our role at Scholars House is to provide our Scholars with the support to help them thrive at the ANU, make the most of their time with us, and help them go on to make a contribution to Australia and the world.

That effort is a team one. Our team in the Scholars House office this year has been brilliantly led by Andrew Swan with the support of Tess Boylen and Annette Kimber. Our Fellows this year included Associate Prof Esmé Shirlow, Dr Amy McLennan, Dr Iain Henry and Dr Richard Burns. As parental leave cover in semester 2, we were also pleased to have an encore semester from Dr AJ Mitchell. In late 2021 the media has been full of stories about 'the Great Resignation': the ways in which the pandemic and lockdowns have changed peoples' career plans and lives. Scholars House has not been immune. This year we will have farewelled Andrew, Tess, and Amy, as they leave Canberra to move to be closer to family and new opportunities in their hometowns. We wish them well.

It's appropriate that I single out Andrew for particular thanks: over two and a half years he has made an enormous contribution to the Tuckwell Scholarship Program. That contribution has been characterised by his genuine care and concern for every Scholar, his commitment to excellence and attention to detail, and his vision for the future of the Program. We'll all miss you, Andrew.

I'm also grateful for the backing of the ANU, especially that of Prof Grady Venville, and the ongoing support and trust of Dr Graham Tuckwell and Dr Louise Tuckwell.

But above all, in this lockdown year, my thanks go to our marvellous community of Scholars. As always, our Scholars this year have been active citizens and leaders across campus and beyond; our alumni continue to do great things. (Particular congratulations go to Madeleine McGregor (2016) who will be the 2022 Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar). I have had countless conversations with Scholars this year –both in person and on Zoom –and inevitably I am struck by your thoughtfulness, your enthusiasm and energy, and your hope for what comes next. You have lived through history these last two years; you have faced challenges few previous ANU students have faced. I look forward to seeing how you shape the future.



Andrew Swan – Program Director

The Ancient Greek aphorism “know thyself” is one of the Delphic maxims and was inscribed on the Temple of Apollo at Delphi. When exploring the maxim Aristotle said, “knowing ourselves is the beginning of all wisdom”. A life worth living. But what happens when life as we knew it is put on pause? Is what we know about ourselves less certain or valid when our world becomes unfamiliar and unpredictable?

You have a choice. You can let life-with its many vicissitudes-happen to you or you can influence it by gaining clarity on who you want to be no matter the circumstances. Clarity can come from answering simple questions about the kind of life you are living, such as:

- What in your life is within your control?
- What moments were good this past year?
- What things did you do right?
- How could you have done things differently?
- What are you grateful for?
- How could you improve your relationships with others?
- What communities are you proud to be part of?
- What can you improve on next year?

I am in the process of answering these questions. As you know, I am stepping away from my role as Program Director to re-join family in Melbourne. As I pondered my departure, I have felt a mix of emotions, starting with an overwhelming sense of deep sadness, but it ends now with gratitude and hope. The sadness comes from the fact that I might only see some of you again. Only the memories of the times we have shared has made me feel better. For that, I am very thankful. I am also left feeling hopeful about each one of you. You will be just fine with whichever path you choose, and I know that. I hope you do too.

Thank you to my colleagues in 'Team Tuckwell', which in 2021 combined the efforts of Associate Prof Ryan Goss, Associate Prof Esmé Shirlow, Dr Amy McLennan, Dr Iain Henry, Dr Richard Burns, Dr AJ Mitchell, Tess Boylen and Annette Kimber. Thank you for your support and your friendship. I am also grateful for the continued support of Dr Graham Tuckwell and Dr Louise Tuckwell, as well from colleagues across ANU, especially Prof Brian Schmidt and Prof Grady Venville.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to our resilient and kind community of Scholars. You are the energy that animates Scholars House and the work I have done within it these past years. You have been my 'why' and although I will soon depart this community, I hope to remain connected to it as a lifelong supporter and friend.

Go well, together.



Dr Amy McLennan — Tuckwell Fellow

Twenty twenty-one. What a massive year for every Tuckwell Scholar. As a community you've attained incredible grades and created new friendships. You've excelled in internships, cared for loved ones, competed in myriad sports, and won prizes and scholarships. You've learned to cook new things, received feedback with humility, found new passions, made someone smile. And in so doing, you've added to your rich tapestry of memories.

For me personally, it has also been a memorable year, in more ways than one. In January we welcomed our daughter, Astrid, and I am grateful for the support of ANU and the entire Tuckwell community in affording me time and space to care for her. In addition to creating your own tapestry of memories, you've also helped to create mine, and for that I want to say a massive thank you.



Dr Iain Henry — Tuckwell Fellow

Tuckwell Fellows are appointed for three year terms, which means that — very sadly — I have only one year left in this role. On current projections, it appears (fingers crossed!) that 2022 will be somewhat “normal.” But despite the turmoil and tribulations we’ve all experienced this year, the Tuckwell Scholar group continues to demonstrate resilience, kindness, courage and initiative.

This year, the 2021 and 2020 cohorts have been especially inspiring. Our 2021 scholars bonded quickly at the Tuckwell camp at Birrigai, and it was amazing to see such a positive and uplifting group identity form. When lockdowns started, this cohesiveness intensified even further, as they hung out in Zoom rooms and group chats, in addition to Tuckwell Program’s scheduled activities.

The 2020 cohort are, as I’ve told a few of them, playing this game on the hardest difficulty level. They are now veterans of (at least!) two Canberra lockdowns, have done multiple tours of duty on the frontlines of Zoom, and have attended more classes online than in person. But they have confronted these challenges with determination, resilience, and good cheer. I’m looking forward, especially, to seeing these scholars — in person — at Coffee Lab in 2022!



A/ Prof. Esmé Shirlow — Tuckwell Fellow

As my second year as a Tuckwell Fellow draws to a close, I've been reflecting on just how strange and challenging the past two years have been but -at the same time- how wonderful and inspiring I have found them. It has been incredible to watch as Scholars and the wider community have worked to adapt, and re-adapt (and re-adapt again!), as circumstances have continuously changed around us.

While the pandemic and associated border closures and lockdowns have come with their fair share of challenges, they have also highlighted our capacity for great resilience, growth and hope. Reflecting these themes, this year many of the events and conversations in which I've taken part in my role as a Fellow have focussed on the future: what we hope to make of it, where we hope to be, and what we might do now that will help us get there.

I'm looking forward to seeing what 2022 will bring, and what the amazing Tuckwell community will make of it!



Dr Richard Burns — Tuckwell Fellow

The United Nations declared 2021 as the 'International Year of Peace and Trust'. But from the storming of the US Capitol, to global distrust in science and the health response to the pandemic, increased likelihood of armed conflict from Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia, despairing increases in global inequality, and the “blah, blah, blah” that was COP26, one could reflect that this has not been a stellar year for espousing peaceful and trusting relations between global citizens...

Despite a touch of pessimism in my opening lines, I am quite optimistic for our future. And having been part of the Tuckwell family for the last 9 months, I'm particularly enthusiastic about the leadership you can bring to address these pressing issues, whether to a local or international stage. Notwithstanding the trials and tribulations of 2020 and 2021, I have been impressed by the grit and determination many of you have shown.

There has been a major shift in how we do business, study, and share our lives with friends and family. Some of us have managed better than others. That's okay, that's life. Our measure has to be in how we respond and adapt.

Prospective employers are now using pandemic experiences to screen-out interviewees. They don't expect you to be impervious to hardship, but they want to know that you can manage adversities—that you can learn to be optimistic and resilient. That is what they are looking for in future employees. And it is what is so desperately needed in our future leaders.

From the Chair of the Selection Panel



Prof. Rae Frances AM speaking at commencement

Prof. Rae Frances AM — Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences

The last year presented special challenges for the selection process for both the 2021 and the 2022 cohort of Scholars, due to the COVID-19 travel and lockdown restrictions. Last year's disruptions meant that we were not able to interview the finalists until January 2021, and then the interviews were conducted entirely over Zoom. Needless to say, this presented logistical challenges for the team of staff and Scholar volunteers who managed around 700 separate Zoom interviews – with four simultaneous parallel interview streams – in a tight schedule over three days. To everyone's relief (and astonishment), the process went very smoothly and we were delighted with the final selection of Scholars who we were able to welcome in person to the campus a little over a month later.

We had hoped that 2021 might look more like the old days, with candidates coming to the ANU for a weekend of interviews in July. Alas, it was not to be, and once again we had to resort to Zoom. However, having already run a successful process in January we entered the July interviews with more confidence and were very pleased with how it all went from a technical point of view. Once again, we were delighted with the quality of the applications and with the final selections. Each year the Tuckwell Scholarship attracts a larger number of applicants from an increasingly diverse range of schools from all across Australia; this makes it much more possible to select a group of Scholars who more closely reflect the diversity of Australia.

A new element in the selection of the 2022 cohort was the inclusion of several Scholar Alumni as observers in the interview process. In future, we will include at least one alumni on the Selection Panel.

Sadly, this will be my last year as Chair of the Tuckwell Scholarship Selection Committee as I will be retiring in May 2022. It has been an enormous privilege to be charged with this responsibility for the past four years. I look forward to following the careers of all the Tuckwell Scholars as I remain connected to the ANU as a Professor Emerita in History. I am extremely grateful to all those who have contributed to the selection process along the way – the dozens of academics who have read applications, the eminent members of the Selection Panel, Andrew Swan and the staff of Scholars House, Sarah Hawkins and staff of Student Admissions, the IT staff who came in from the beach on the weekend in January to trouble-shoot, the wonderful Tuckwell Scholars who helped out with the logistics and support for the candidates, and especially to the other members of the Tuckwell Scholarship Executive Committee, Graham and Louise Tuckwell and Narci Teoh.



Behind the scenes of stage 3 online interviews

Commencement 2021: Memory and Meaning



Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM

At Commencement Dinner in February 2021, the Program welcomed 25 new Scholars, and farewelled, among 20 graduates, the last of the remaining inaugural 2014 cohort. In the following speech, keynote speaker and member of the Selection Panel, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM, inspired us to reflect on the significance of ‘memory’ and ‘meaning’.

My professional life has been dominated by two words beginning with ‘M’ – ‘memory’ and ‘meaning’.

At university, I studied ancient history, Latin and Greek. I was trying to make meaning from often fragmentary ancient sources as varied as literary texts, histories, letters, memoirs, laws, funerary inscriptions, speeches, coins, and business records – to understand something of the ancient world.

It still seems magical to me that, on graduation, I, an immigrant with little knowledge of Australia and Australian history, and a student of ancient Greece and Rome, was recruited by the Commonwealth government to work at the national archives. I say this because the national archives is the body that determines for how long the records of the Australian government are to be kept, preserving those to be retained in perpetuity.

I had mental whiplash going from being a student trying to understand the ancient world from a finite number of sources, to being a neophyte archivist thinking about which of the thousands of kilometres of Commonwealth records needed to be preserved as part of the memory of this nation.

At selection interviews in January 2021, some scholarship candidates were asked about their favourite board or card game. Almost every answer mentioned that it was the memories of playing the game with friends and family that made it special. This is a small example of how, at the personal level, memory is both a vital and a defining characteristic of an individual. We consider the clinical loss of memory, such as amnesia, or Alzheimers, a disease.

At the communal and cultural level, we fear the loss of memory – when we emigrate, when our immediate environment is threatened, we prioritise saving items or material that represents our individual, familial and community memory.

At the national and international level, in periods of war or civil strife, one of the most potent means of striking at an enemy is by annihilating memory. In 1992, Serbian President Slobodan Milosovic and his associates, who sought to destroy Bosnia, were responsible for the systematic destruction of 480,000 metres of archives and manuscripts, and 2 million printed books.¹

The destruction of memory diminishes us all – in May 2020, Australia had a potent reminder of how vulnerable it is to such destruction when the Juukan Gorge rock shelters in the Pilbara, Western Australia, were destroyed. The interim report of the parliamentary inquiry noted that it was a tragedy for the First Nations people of that region, with implications for Indigenous heritage nationally and internationally.²

The stewardship and protection of our communal, national, and international memory is one priceless inter-generational gift we bequeath those who follow.

The destruction of memory is the destruction of accumulated knowledge, of identity, of education, and of hope.

Memory is vital because without it we find it difficult to make meaning.

One of the ambitions of our memory institutions – archives, libraries, museums – is to support the creation of meaning so that we build discovery, opportunities, understanding, knowledge, skills, acceptance, tolerance, creativity, innovation, delight, and more.

Creating meaning is also one of the crucial things that happens at universities.

Our collective wish for you is that you will find meaning in what you do and what you learn at the ANU. It goes without saying that you will be exposed to knowledge and its formation. But you will also find meaning around you – in a poem or song, a formula, a piece of music, the landscape, philosophy, relationships and much more. We know that you were born into, and that you navigate, an information rich world. We know that you will now

be encouraged to read, listen, and think even more widely. The ANU's responsibility to you, and your responsibility to yourself and your community, is to develop ever more sophisticated ways of making meaning from information. How to think, how to question, how to debate, how to identify what is missing, how to probe why something is presented in a particular way, how to communicate, collaborate and partner – all these skills are part of making meaning.

In a world where we have already reached the 'peak' of many natural resources, national growth will no longer come from such resources, but from the growth and spread of knowledge.³ This knowledge and information-driven economy is harder to measure, and its use of resources can be non-rivalrous, requiring us to be weaned from the metrics of a raw materials economy. How we do that – and how we go about advocating, for example, the value of democracy, the value of universities, and the centrality of tackling climate change – are pressing and stimulating collective challenges.⁴

The word 'collective' is significant – the nation's and the world's challenges require collective approaches, and each of you will bring to the collective wisdom a variety of skills, knowledge, and talents to tackle them.

May your time as a Tuckwell scholar at the ANU give you a bank of wonderful memories; may your meaning making skills and talents develop exponentially, and may you have enormous satisfaction and success in putting your ideas into action over the years ahead!

1. Richard Ovenden, *Burning the Books: A History of Knowledge Under Attack*, John Murray, London, p159

2. Parliament of Australia, Joint Standing Committee on Northern Australia, Inquiry into the Destruction of 46,000 Year Old Caves at the Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara Region of WA, Never Again, Section 1.5 - aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Northern_Australia/CavesatJuukanGorge/Interim_Report/section?id=committees%2freportjnt%2f024579%2f75133

3. Ross Gittins, 'Knowledge, not resources, driving growth' *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Business Day Section, 24-25 December 2016, p4

4. Professor Brian Schmidt, Vice-Chancellor, The Australian National University, State of the University Address, February 2021.

“Hearing the bell chime and my name read out, it really sunk in – I was starting my university journey as a Tuckwell Scholar. Let’s just say I learnt very quickly it would be a marathon, not a sprint.”

Chris Jackson (2021)



“Such a surreal and intense day.”

Sebastian Viner (2021)

“The ringing of the bell may just be symbolic, but I could feel a tangible shift from waiting outside that door as a scared first-year terrified of embarrassing myself in front of a crowd of strangers, to feeling welcomed and a part of an extraordinary community.”

Maddy Sloan (2021)



“A much needed chance to reconnect and remember why this Program is so incredible”

Hannah Price (2020)



2021 Reflections

Mariane Johnstone (2021) and Olivia Von Bertouch (2021)



Reflecting on 2021, a lot can be said about the success of our cohort's first year together. There is no doubt that this is connected to how well we've connected as a group. We first met each other before O-Week and before the Tuckwell Commencement, and this marked the beginning of many incredibly beautiful friendships, which have only strengthened throughout the year. Both Tuckwell Camp and Commencement were immense successes; beginning with a group of people from all corners of the country, and finishing with a close-knit group of friends, mentors, and everything in-between (well, except those who were carted off for a COVID test on camp, but they were in our thoughts). That success is largely due to the hard-working camp coordinators, and the standard of friendship set by the 2020s and older scholars who are an inspiration to all of us. Honourable mention to Liv and Chris' Mobile Mafia -nothing like some competition with a touch of threat to break the ice and mass-generate inside jokes. Importantly, Joe and Hannah's First Year Experience (FYE) events were incredibly influential in keeping us engaged, entertained, and educated by the Program in our first semester, which was so valuable in generating thought-provoking conversations with others in our cohort.

Through our FYE events in Semester 2, we have been able to connect with each other on a more personal level, delving into important conversations surrounding the challenges and joys of the first year of university, and expressing our visions for the future of our cohort and beyond university, both on individual and collective levels. Our Week eight FYE stripped back the barriers that often prevent us from listening to and understanding all those around us—which is especially difficult with a group of 25 incredibly diverse people in our cohort—as we anonymously shared our thoughts, ideas, concerns, and gratitude for both the Tuckwell Program and community, especially our cohort. Following on from this, we focused our Week 10 FYE on gaining a better understanding of the members of our cohort; not as anonymous voices in a collective whole as per Week eight's session, but rather as individuals with unique experiences and passions that we shared with each other. We are a conscious cohort with visions of a future where we stay connected and empowered by one another, and we look forward to building stronger connections with other year groups, especially the incoming first years. We are so grateful for the friendships and community we share, and look forward to all that lies ahead. As someone mentioned in the Week eight FYE: "I can't wait for my grandkids to meet you all."

2020 Reflections

Joe Negrine (2020) and Hannah Price (2020)



2021 – what a year. After feeling hard done by and a little bit sorry for ourselves after having our chances of a ‘normal’ first year taken away, many in our cohort were gearing up for a second chance at what we thought would fulfil our expectations of university life. Suffice to say, the past 12 months have thrown more spanners – indeed the whole tool box – into the works. Paradoxically, it seems that the only ‘normal’ and constant thing has become the inevitability of change. In spite of this, the 2020s have risen to the challenge of rolling with the punches and learning to contribute and give back in an atypical environment.

After a year of being the ones asking the questions and needing help, many 2020 Scholars have stepped into leadership positions this year, instead attempting to come up with the answers. Many have taken on executive and pastoral roles in college, coached teams or advocated for change. Others upped their involvement in student societies (with a few presidencies to look forward to @Henry, Marissa and Elise) or otherwise moved into the student politics space (@BenHarms). We’ve grown up a little, started jobs, and challenged the expectations we had for ourselves when we first started uni and discovered new dimensions to our interests that we hadn’t previously considered. Perhaps the one constant among us is that we all

felt a little hesitant going into these roles without having the experience of what they used to entail in the time “before” – how does one coach for IB when they’ve never seen an end point, or organise a college event that wasn’t legal last year? How does one answer the queries of a curious first year about university life when in some ways, we still feel a little like first years ourselves? The answer, I think, is that no one ever really knows what’s going on but the exciting part of anything is learning to make contributions of your own.

Growing into shoes which we’ve scarcely seen worn has been both daunting and exciting. What we may lack in knowledge and tug-of-war dubs against the 2021s, we make up for with the potential to change how things are; we aren’t constrained by ideas about how things used to/should be. Yes, the 2020s certainly have the stretch marks to show the challenges of starting university amidst a pandemic. Looking to 2022, we hope that we can swap out the doomscrolling and zoom-calling for in-person lectures and a sense of constancy.

Pandemic or not, if the previous two years have taught us anything, it’s that you can’t predict what happens next. 2021 may have thrown the toolbox into the works, but we have crafted new tools from this year’s blazing heap of soiled plans: tools of resilience and perspective.

2019 Reflections

Oliver Hervir (2019) and Olivia Taifalos (2019)



The award for phrase of the year in 2021 goes to “the new normal” and for the 2019 cohort this certainly rings true. After three years in the Program the 2019ers have reached the awkward teen phase of the Tuckwell Program. The transition to becoming “Wise elders” is marked with a move from mentee to mentor and advice receivers to advice givers. While 2021 could most certainly be considered a tumultuous year for all, the 2019 cohort kept moving forward. For some this meant the end of a degree and the transition to postgraduate studies, for others the move to an honours program. There were research projects and internships galore, as well as all the other things that come as we begin to reach the pointy end of our degrees and make that move to the next stages of our careers.

Outside of the academic sphere, all of us found ourselves facing some real experience with “adulthood”. Many of us moved into our first share houses and others took on leadership roles in many forms, from senior residents to the running of the many clubs and groups across the ANU and beyond. The 2019 cohort continued to give back and

participate in the Program in many ways. Highlights include acting as camp coordinators, allowing some of us to meet the 2021 Scholars and shape the camp experience more directly after attending the last two years, weekly contributions to The Chime, engagement in academic networks, and volunteering in the buddy program to help bring together the ever-growing Tuckwell community.

The workload for uni and life has jumped for our cohort but we still tried to make time to catch up at the many Tuckwell events and even managed to sneak in an in-person catch up event with the new 2021 cohort before the Canberra lockdown. While we haven’t managed to catch up as a cohort as much as we’d like, the 2019 cohort still has each others’ backs and has survived three years of very uncertain uni life. Both cohort reps, Oli and Liv, have enjoyed participating and representing the cohort on the Scholars House Committee and can’t wait to see where the next few years take us all.

2018 Reflections

Jacob Ellis (2018) and Ben Durkin (2018)



Being a Tuckwell Scholar means different things to different people. Not only that, but this meaning can change and develop over time. For the 2018 Scholars, the end of this year will bring a big change. Some Scholars are graduating, and are off to start new jobs, new degrees and new opportunities. Others are heading into their final year of university. Honours projects, and our role as the ‘elder statesmen’ of the Tuckwell Programme, await.

Time at university truly has flown. It feels like we were getting our phone calls from Graham and Louise only yesterday, welcoming us to the Program. Each of us can still vividly recall early Tuckwell memories – meeting fellow Scholars, cheeky games of mini-golf with our mentors, late nights in Scholars House.

For some, arriving in 2018 came with pressure – pressure to live up to others’ expectations, and pressure to fit in. At the same time, it also represented freedom to pursue goals and ambitions – a level of opportunity which younger versions of ourselves could hardly have dreamed of. As time passed, being a Scholar began to entail fellowship and community, and a uniquely energising refuge away from a college life that was hectic and at times exhausting. As the end of our time with the Program grows nearer, a different meaning beyond these three is emerging – that being a Scholar

means in many ways the same thing as simply being human; contributing a little piece to a puzzle that existed before us, and will exist long after us.

Much has changed over four years. We’ve switched degrees and career plans, found new passions, developed new goals (and, most concerningly, Dunbabin’s hairline has receded at a rapid rate). But throughout it all, some things have stayed the same for the 2018 cohort. Whether it be an informal catch-up, or the formal Tuckwell events, our time as Scholars has been shaped by the community. There’s something reassuring about a simple chat with a fellow Scholar, being inspired by fellow achievements, receiving guidance right when we need it, or just having a friend to lean on.

As the 2018 cohort heads into our final year together, we’re all hoping that the lockdowns and restrictions of the past two years are behind us. We hope to see off our final year of university with laughter, memories, and a community that has shaped our Tuckwell experience.

The Scholarship has given us so much to be grateful for – above all, we’re grateful for the people. The pressure, the empowerment and the fellowship remain – but as cliché as it sounds, the true meaning of the Scholarship is being part of something bigger than yourself.

2017 Reflections

Caitlyn Baljak (2017)



For five years we have shaped, and been shaped by Canberra, the ANU, and the Tuckwell Scholarship Program. For many of us, 2021 signals an end to this chapter and the beginning of a new one. It is a bright future for our cohort, with our paths leading to every sector, city, and success. Researchers, lawyers, policy makers, Olympians-in-the-making, investment bankers, and doctors - from Brisbane to Santa Barbara, you'll be sure to find a 2017-er anywhere you go. Although many of us are scattering to the four winds, there are still several Scholars who will continue their studies at the ANU or call Canberra their forever home.

It has been an undeniably difficult few years to be a student. The trials and tribulations of the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated disruptions have shaped our final years at university and will continue to influence our lives in a post-COVID workforce. We have mustered the attributes of self-discipline to resist the many distractions of working and studying from home, resilience, drive, and consistency in pursuing our goals despite lockdowns, and our intelligence and lateral thinking to take on the challenges of a world

tipped on its head. Our good sense of humour and refreshing differences have kept our spirits high, and our humility, emotional intelligence, and selflessness allowed us to help those who were struggling more than ourselves. The Tuckwell attributes are truly the best Pandemic Preparation Pack™ anyone could hope for, and demonstrate that whatever challenges might come our way, we'll be ready.

Our cohort has initiated a graduation gift that we hope will become an enduring tradition in the Program. Scholars will be invited to donate a book to Scholars House, with a brief note written in the front cover to current and future Scholars. There are no restrictions on what books can be donated, nor what is written in the personal note: sharing wisdom, a favourite place on campus, or a funny one-liner. Over the years, we hope this will build a mini-library, serving as a record of past Scholars who have come through the Program – we can't wait to start filling the shelves!



2021 Scholars at the top of Camel's Hump

Graduating Scholars in 2021

This year we had many Scholars graduating from their programs and from the Tuckwell Program. We would like to congratulate them and thank them for their contributions to the Scholars House community.



Sahibjeet Bains (2017)



Caitlyn Baljak (2017)



Jye Beardow (2017)



Tamara Bohler (2015)



Sam Cass (2017)



Adam Cass (2017)



Kate Curtis (2017)



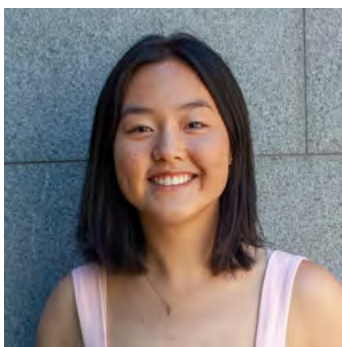
Callum Davis (2017)



Chloe Harpley (2016)



Audrey Lee (2015)



Jade Lin (2018)



Isabella Ostini (2017)



Isabel Longbottom (2018)



Maddy McGregor (2016)



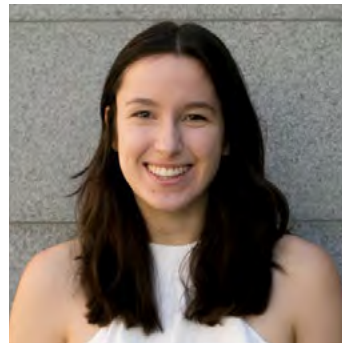
Lizzy Mee (2018)



James Naylor-Pratt (2017)



Harrison Rieck (2018)



Carina Stone (2017)



Hayley Yates (2018)

2021 in a Sentence/Word/Picture



Hectic



Frenetic

Un-unprecedented

Adventure

Bruh

Transformational

Transitional



“Like that competition in England where they chase a wheel of cheese headlong down a hill.”

Ellie George (2019)



“An emotional rollercoaster from start to finish.”

Jacob Ellis (2018)

“A year of discovery”

Chris Jackson (2021)



“Started well, got a little weird.”

Hannah Price (2020)

“An amazing start to the rest of our lives.”

Olivia von Bertouch (2021)

Hannah Price (2020) on a training run in some unexpected snow at Mt Beauty
 Angus Atkinson (2020) climbing Black Mountain
 Elise Rawlinson's new puppy Meriadog, fast asleep at the start of the Sydney lockdown
 “I'm the Icarus of crochet” – Henry Palmerlee (2020)
 2021 Scholars stargazing

Camp Reflection

Oscar Pearce (2021)



Henry Palmerlee (2020) and Sam Gollings (2020) falling from a milk crate tower

This year's Tuckwell camp was at Birrigai, nestled in the beautiful Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Setting aside the bold decision to schedule an 8am departure on a Friday morning, camp took place at the perfect time. Us 2021s had started to settle into Canberra and ANU life but were still eager to forge friendships and glimpse what the next few years might hold. Sure enough, camp was an amazing experience. Over three days, 12 or so formal activities and many more informal ones, we got an opportunity to foster a sense of connection, comfort and purpose within the Scholars House community.

An early highlight was a team building challenge involving the construction of a tower of milk crates while two members of the group stood on top. Not saying we started a TikTok trend, but is it a coincidence that the 'milk crate challenge' emerged a few months after camp? I think not. In the end we performed fairly well in this challenge. Not well enough, however, to beat the 12-year-old gymnastics team that holds the Birrigai record for the crate-stacking challenge¹. Other highlights included half the 2020 cohort getting exposed in 'Calling All My Neighbours', a camp leader giving us the three definitive keys to a happy and meaningful life² and the game of 'Mobile Mafia' that still hasn't finished and has a 50% chance of lasting through to graduation.

1. To my knowledge, no proof exists of this alleged record-setting tower, so excuse me for still having a few doubts.

2. He was also going to tell us what really happened to Harold Holt and give us KFC's 11 secret herbs and spices. Unfortunately, we ran out of time.



Bridgett Lunn (2020), Jacob Gome (2021), Christopher Jackson (2021), and Oscar Pearce (2021) on a morning run through the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve



Scholars problem solving



Scholars working collaboratively to build a 'radiation shelter'



An impassioned trivia night run by Camp Coordinators

The editors of this fine publication have sternly instructed me to embrace the theme of 'Memory and Meaning' so I'll try to shoehorn it in here. When I think back to camp, one of my most meaningful memories (two birds, one stone, look at me go) is of sitting by the campfire and passionately discussing philosophy with my fellow 2021s Jack and Brian. It was little moments like these which made me step back and appreciate just how awesome this group is. That memory took on new meaning (@editors: admit it, I'm on fire) recently as Jack, Brian and I

decided to tie the knot and move in together for 2022. Camp marked the start of a journey and the beginning of special friendships that have only grown stronger. For that reason, camp will always have a meaningful place in my memory of 2021 (surely I've hit the quota now?).

In all seriousness, our time at Birrigai was truly special and I couldn't be more grateful to everyone who made it happen!

Tuckwell Academic and Professional Networks

Riley Guyatt (2020) and Marissa Ellis (2020)

When we applied to be on a team of coordinators for the Tuckwell Academic and Professional Networks at the end of 2020, we definitely weren't expecting to be put in charge. But if 2020 and 2021 have taught us anything, it is certainly to expect the unexpected. With the support of Andrew, Tess, Iain and the Academic Dinner Committee, we worked to connect Scholars with one another and with interesting people in their fields, through a range of in-person and online events and projects.



Academic and Professional Networks launch in Marie Reay

You can't go to space without launching your spaceship, as they say, so we started off the year with a good old-fashioned program launch. We took over the sixth floor of Marie Reay for a night of games and conversation that gave Scholars from different cohorts the chance to start building relationships with other students in their field. Following on from this, we launched Facebook groups for each of the seven networks, aiming to provide a space where Scholars could ask questions, offer support, and share information relevant to their areas of academic and professional interest. Through these groups and the Tuckwell Alumni Network we were able to organise a few other events throughout the year, including panel sessions with older Scholars and alumni where we discussed career pathways and study tips for science, law and medicine students. We started a weekly Monday night study session in Semester 2, known as 'Might as Well Mondays', where Scholars came together to enjoy some snacks, chats and study motivation in Scholars House (and online). Although our plans were slightly derailed by Canberra's lockdown, we are excited to get these study sessions up and running again in 2022.

The Tuckwell Academic and Professional Networks Program has gained a lot of momentum in 2021, and we hope to continue this in 2022 and beyond. A degree is so much more than the units you study. It is a framework to apply your passions, skills, niche interests, and to make a meaningful difference. The network program aims to not only provide study support, but to guide everyone in making the most of their degree. We are always looking for better ways to support the academic and professional aspirations of our community, so if you have any ideas that you would like to see us implement, or would like to bring forward yourself please don't hesitate to get in contact!

“Crammed full
of life-long
memories, new
experiences
and amazing
friends”

Maddy Sloan (2021)

Academic Dinner

Academic Network Dinner
Organising Committee: Riley Guyatt (2020), Isaac Martin (2020), Jonathan Lang (2018), Imogen McDonald (2021) and Stephanie Lunn (2021)

The Tuckwell Academic and Professional Networks Dinner is something that Scholars hear about in their first few weeks at ANU, and often spend months deciding which lecturer, tutor or researcher they would like to invite. This highly anticipated event creates much excitement, especially in 2021 as it was the first Tuckwell Academic Dinner since 2019, and the first of such events for two cohorts including most of the organising committee! The theme of the dinner was “The Future of Work,” and the night featured a thought-provoking speech by Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell AO (no relation to the title of the magazine), who has had an impressive career in cultural anthropology, technology development and cybernetics.

When they arrived, attendees stepped into the warmly-lit Manning Clarke Hall in Kambri, nestled away from the chilly winter afternoon outside. After 20 minutes of COVID-safe mingling in the foyer, they were invited to enter the main hall. Whilst they settled in and ate their entrees, guests were encouraged to chat about how perceptions of the future of work have varied over time. Professor Genevieve Bell then led an insightful discussion, framed around the development of “systems thinking”, working in a complex environment, and sharing new ideas. As expressed by William Gibson; “The future is already here – it’s just not evenly distributed.” The rest of the evening was spent enjoying the delicious food whilst having rousing discussions with the other Scholars and invited guests at their tables.



Putting on an event like this did not come without its challenges. It was planned through a series of in-person and zoom meetings, hundreds of emails and messages, and a 15-page document over several months preceding the event. With Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide all in lockdown at the time, and fears that Canberra would be next, we unfortunately lost over 20 guests in the weeks preceding the event. However, thanks to Stephanie’s tireless last minute table-rearranging we managed to fill the Manning Clarke Hall with around 100 eager attendees, including Scholars, their invited guests, and Program staff.



Scholars and academics listening to Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell AO at the Tuckwell Academic and Professional Networks Dinner

The conversations that were sparked on this night are invaluable in reminding and reinforcing the underlying meaning as to why we are all here. We enthused over various social issues, debates, new research, and career ambitions. The night was an invaluable opportunity to evaluate our goals and hopes for the future, and to consider ideas and career-paths we weren't even aware existed. The conversations morphed into coffee catch-ups with various academics, and meetings with Tuckwell fellows to discuss new opportunities.

We hope that Scholars left this event with sparks of inspiration and a stronger sense of belonging in their academic network, and can't wait to see everyone again in 2022!

Tuckwell Alumni Network

Matthew Bowes (2015), on behalf of the Tuckwell Alumni Committee

After busy periods, it's always good to find time to reflect. For me, as for many recent Tuckwell alumni, the past two years have been a blur of graduation, career change, and of course endless pandemic-related news stories. As such, I appreciated the moment of reflection that was provided by recently reading the book 'Shutdown' by the historian Adam Tooze, which sets out to provide a 'present history' of the COVID-19 pandemic. Apart from being a great read in itself, it felt like a natural bookend to a significant period of change and upheaval.

The various Bell magazines I've collected provide a similarly abridged history of the time since I found out I had been awarded the Tuckwell Scholarship seven years ago. As many Tuckwell Scholars and Alumni can attest, the Program has a knack for selecting individuals who take seriously the Tuckwell attribute of 'challenging yourself.' I distinctly remember the buzz and 'can do' energy that surrounded so many of the Program's events, or the many chance meetings and late-night study sessions that took place in Scholars House.

On many occasions during my time at ANU, it was the passion and encouragement of other Scholars that inspired me to take a step into the unknown, or to make the most of a challenging opportunity. Whether I am talking to Tuckwell alumni several years removed from the Program, or first year Scholars just beginning their learning journey,

I am constantly struck by the way in which that same drive motivates everyone within the Tuckwell community to strive for more in their contributions to society. It's these connections between Scholars that the Tuckwell Alumni Network was created to extend and build upon, especially as alumni are taking the next steps in their professional and personal lives.

Pandemic notwithstanding, this year saw alumni engage with the Program in a range of ways. Notably, several alumni were for the first time involved as observers on the Tuckwell Selection Panel, setting the stage for alumni to take a greater role in selection in future years. As has been the tradition for several years now, alumni also had the opportunity to enjoy breakfast with the new 2021 cohort on commencement weekend. While new Scholars took advantage of the opportunity to ask for war stories and advice, for alumni it was a great chance to hear the diversity of experiences the new cohort are contributing to the Program.

Looking forward, the Alumni Committee are aiming to increase the opportunities for alumni and Scholars to reconnect, as well as to create new opportunities that expand the growing alumni community across Australia and abroad. Here's to hoping for a 2022 that brings many more memories to reflect upon.



Graduating Scholars from 2020 with Louise and Graham Tuckwell at commencement

A New Era for Nuclear Science in Australia?

Dr AJ Mitchell

16th September 2021 started off like most other lockdown days in the ACT. I'm an early riser; that window between 5:30-6:30 AM is prime time for making a start on the day, before the two-hour mission to get my son ready for day care begins.

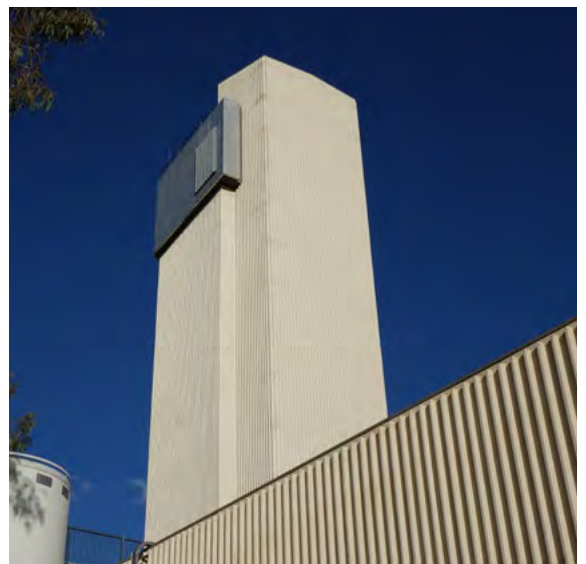
I had the morning news playing low in the background that day. Ordinarily, updates on COVID case numbers and vaccination rates would dominate the conversations. Today was different though: "Australia to acquire nuclear submarine fleet as part of historic partnership with US and UK to counter China's influence" was the main headline. Wow. As a nuclear physicist working in Australia, this was big news. But what would the announcement mean more broadly? For Australia? For nuclear science in Australia? It came as a surprise to many; especially since Australia would break a \$90 billion contract with a French company to build a new fleet of submarines, in favour of nuclear-powered ones in collaboration with our trilateral-agreement partners.

The story dominated headlines for the next few days. To complement the political discussion, I published an article in *The Conversation* to explain the fundamental physics of nuclear power. The concepts involved in nuclear-powered submarines are essentially the same as those involved with nuclear power on land.

Unfortunately, there are polarised memories associated with the technology that are often ignorantly and, frankly, irresponsibly used to service an individual opinion or political agenda. One politician's labelling of nuclear-powered submarines as "floating Chernobyls" is a prime example. The statement is factually incorrect, misrepresentative, and amounts to little more than fearmongering. Sadly, I have continued to see those words repeated throughout conventional and social media in the month that followed.

So, there is a lesson to be learned for our Scholars reading this article. Many of you will be considering careers in public service, and I wouldn't be surprised if we have our first Tuckwell alumni running for political office soon. If this happens to be you, I encourage you to engage with technical experts whenever you can and, importantly, listen to them. The old adage goes that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. However, remembering past events and truly learning or gaining meaning from them, do not necessarily go hand-in-hand.

The next 18 months will bring more clarity to the nuclear-powered submarines conversation. One thing is certain: the growth of a nuclear industry in Australia will have value-add benefits to diverse areas such as medicine, mining and border security, that serve to benefit society. And to support these developments, the ANU will continue to play a leading role in advancing Australia's sovereign capability in pure and applied nuclear science.



The ANU Heavy Ion Accelerator

The Constitution, COVID and Colons: Why Mooting is the Best Lifestyle Choice

Maddy McGregor (2016), Tom Dunbabin (2018), and Ben Durkin (2018)

It takes a special type of masochist to commit their holidays to the pursuit of hypothetical questions of constitutional law. On the face of it, mooting is a painful endeavour that should be avoided at all costs. Long hours, large textbooks and inane arguments abound. However, there is a reason that we have returned, time and time again.

This time, our arena was the Sir Harry Gibbs Constitutional Law Moot, competing against 18 Australian universities. The 2021 problem was drafted by the Hon Justice Kristen Walker QC of the Victorian Court of Appeal, and focused on constitutional issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, the problem question considered the application of a travel ban preventing the return of Australian citizens to the country, and the co-opting of State officers to implement this Commonwealth policy.



A triumphant team consisting of Tom Dunbabin (2018), Maddy McGregor (2016), and Ben Durkin (2018)

After defeating the University of Queensland in the quarter-final and the University of Sydney in the semi-final, we faced the University of Melbourne in the final round. The bench was composed of the formidable Hon. Justice Stephen Gageler QC AC of the High Court of Australia (and Graham Tuckwell lookalike, search him up) as well as Justices Melissa Perry and Mark Moshinsky QC, both of the Federal Court of Australia. Tom would also like to mention that he was awarded Best Speaker of the Final (and is a far better mooter than Durkin, who was uncharacteristically and refreshingly silent...).

History was made this year, as in an unexpected turn of events the judges were unable to split the two teams and crowned both the ANU and University of Melbourne teams as joint winners! However, the biggest controversy of all related to some intrateam discord over the use of semicolons; Tom, who unfortunately did not receive the same standard of education as the rest of us, spent numerous hours arguing for greater presence of semicolons in our submissions. He then resigned himself to sneaking them in (as he has in this article -a special Chime prize for the first person to find both).

The three of us would encourage any interested law students to pursue legal competitions, for the following reasons. First, potential employers love that type of legal experience; it undoubtedly contributed to Maddy's ability to secure three(!) clerkships. Second, the practical legal research and writing skills you learn will be invaluable to your future studies. The ability to sculpt concise and precise legal arguments is transferable to your assessment. Third, team competitions allow you to develop your collegiality skills. Working under intense pressure in a small team gives you friends, which Durkin was/is sorely lacking.

It is not hyperbole to state that mooting has been one of the best experiences of our time at university (which, in the case of Maddy, is a very long time indeed). To have the opportunity to research, apply and argue fascinating areas of law in front of some of the nation's best judges is testing and nerve-wracking, but an immense privilege.

It will likely be many years before we have the chance to appear before judges of this calibre again (most likely Durkin as defendant). It was an experience we recommend to all Tuckwells studying law, and we are eager to assist future teams! Please reach out if we can tempt you to enlist in future years.

Choosing Adventure

Oliver Pulsford (2018)

At the beginning of this year I found myself apprehensively eyeing off a long list of events that I had entered, or committed to in some other shape or form. It seemed a silly and excessively painful way to spend so much of the year, yet looking back from the confines of lockdown I am so incredibly grateful to have chosen to pursue these adventures whenever I had the opportunity.

This scheduling nightmare was born out of the endless frustrations of 2020, where the only consistent theme appeared to be events that were cancelled the week after I entered them. I promised myself that in 2021, I would say yes to everything that crossed my path.

The culmination of this string of events was taking part in the 11th edition of XPD, a non-stop 500km mix of running, mountain biking and kayaking based out of Cairns. None of our team had ever competed in an event longer than 36 hours but despite this, we found ourselves crossing the finish line over 130 hours later, having had only 11 hours sleep throughout the week. Along the way we paddled with freshwater crocodiles, abseiled into a lake, descended white water rapids whilst half asleep and finding a lot of little orange flags in the middle of nowhere.

The obvious question many would ask is “Why!?” But, I don’t have a straightforward answer. I do, however, have some thoughts on what keeps people coming back to events like XPD and Inward Bound, and some potential reasons as to why those on the fence might want to give it a go.

Driving from Canberra to Sydney, one invariably passes the humble Marulan BP. For many, it is just another bland feature on the long highway drive. As I pass it I am reminded of the best choccy milk I have ever had, as well as an extremely suspect bacon and egg roll that were both scoffed down at 5am after cycling through the night. Taking part in all of these events has taken me to strange and incredible places that I usually have never heard of until a week or two before. It’s often incredibly

difficult to find the time to visit these places otherwise, but I find adventures always provide the perfect excuse.

I also don’t think I’m alone in finding balance between university, work and social events a lot to handle. Constantly balancing tasks and deadlines with catch-ups and coffees gives me a splitting headache. Having this complex hierarchy of competing priorities stripped away and replaced by the singular goal of finding the next tiny orange flag is incredibly refreshing, and a great way to remove oneself from the everyday grind.

Whilst the back half of 2021 has involved much less adventuring than I had hoped, the imminent easing of restrictions opens up a whole heap of possibilities I’m excited for. Hopefully there’ll be some more familiar faces on the trails too!



Earning the Green and Gold

Caitlin McManus-Barrett (2021)

A year and a half ago, my rowing coach gave me an Australian rowing team zootie (uniform), that belonged to a very inspiring woman who attended the Tokyo Olympics this year in the Women's Eight. I remember how astounded and proud I was that he had given it to me, as it showed me that he thought that I had potential to one day row for Australia, which is one of my biggest goals. However, I never wore the zootie. I hung it up on my door to look at every morning at 5:05am when I was leaving my tiny university room to ride my bike to training, but not to wear.

I never wore the zootie because although I had it, I hadn't earned it. Unlike any other piece of clothing I owned, this was something that had to be earned to wear. During April this year, in the freezing, windy valley of North Tasmania that housed Lake Barrington, I raced the race that selected me for the Australian Under 21 rowing team for 2021. It was the national final for the Under 21 pair, and honestly it was one of the craziest races of my life. My partner and I came second, and ended the week-long competition with an extra two gold and one bronze. Although I was endlessly proud of the medals—the physical objects that represented the 25+ hours per

week of training, not to mention the innumerable Murray's bus trips—it was not the medals that made it worth it. It was the fact that through those medals, I earned my very own green and gold zootie. With that green and gold zootie I got to go to Adelaide—which, despite not being the international competition that the team would usually attend, was such an incredible experience. We raced in green and gold alongside the Olympic Rowing Team in green and gold themselves, as a replacement for their cancelled world championships. Obviously they were absolutely amazing and a LOT faster, but it was so incredibly meaningful to even be a small part in their preparation for Tokyo, where they all did so fantastically.

It was an experience that I will always remember—and will make me more determined than ever to make the team again next year, hopefully take that green and gold zootie to Italy for the 2022 World Championship, and show the world how much it means to me.



Return to Sender

Nic Mayrhofer (2021)

The following letter is adapted from the one I sent to Graham and Louise in Semester 1, 2021.

Dear reader,

One of the quirky things I did in 2021 was write a lot of letters – a few of them addressed to myself.

I wrote the first two at the start of the year – coincidentally, on the night before my Tuckwell selection interviews. The plan was to open them in the future – in 1 and 5 years respectively. It'd be a kind of time travel, spaced over a long enough distance to compare how far I'd come. I actually thought it'd be too awkward to write about the next day's interview, so I didn't ask myself if I was successful. Sometimes, you find yourself with the answer to a question you were too afraid to ask.

I wrote the next few letters at Tuckwell camp, from a table overlooking Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Driving half an hour out of the nation's capital to a horizon of rolling hills had hit me with a welcome reminder of home. I'd been coming to realise how Canberra really was the perfect fit for me – a Blue Mountains kid who always dreamed of living in a city, but felt at home wrapped in hills and bush.

It was ironic that one of our activities was 'writing a letter to yourself in a year's time' – I'd already done this, of my own intuition, exactly one month earlier. Surely I didn't need to repeat myself and do it again? Of course, this letter shaped up vastly different to what I'd written at home. In the tiny space of a month, everything had changed – I'd accepted the Scholarship, moved out of home, met hundreds of new friends and enjoyed a whirlwind couple of weeks finding my footing in some of the most exciting communities I'd ever been a part of.



I remember thinking to myself how blindingly optimistic this second letter was shaping up to be – I was legitimately so happy and grateful to be where I now was, truly having the time of my life. I kept having these moments at camp where I would momentarily detach, take a breath, and feel giddy with excitement – *I'm here. We're TUCKWELL Scholars! This is it.*

A week later, I was hit by my first course of 'freshers flu' – it was just a cold, but for the first time I was sick and away from home, with a throbbing headache my mum couldn't make better. I didn't want to tell her I'd gotten sick for the first time – I knew she'd hate not being there to hover over me. The honeymoon period of moving onto campus had ended, and all of a sudden my wildly optimistic letter about moving away seemed a little shortsighted.

Cut forward a few months – to my Senior Resident at Wamburun Hall asking us (yet again!) to write a letter-to-ourself-to-read-at-the-end-of-the-year. I thought I'd finished this game, twice now... but it wasn't hard to realise how each letter would be so different. Written only months apart, they came at incredibly different stages of my life. The first in January, before having any idea what my future looked like; the second in February, with wide-eyes about how this future had begun. The third was now a term into my studies – I was often exhausted and feeling the pinch of looming assessments and deadlines, typically overcommitting myself with activities, and struggling to find enough hours in the day. I know I wouldn't have done it any other way.

It's difficult to do justice to the unique and incredibly enriching experience it's been to live on campus at the ANU – it's one of those things I always said I was looking forward to, without realising how excited I should have been. In the months that followed that fated interview in January, I've weaved classes and two jobs around myriad social and extracurricular events – trivia nights, debating, directing a film in forty hours, joining a choir, rehearsing for two upcoming university productions, even meeting top diplomats at visits to foreign embassies. Things I only could have dreamed of, if I'd known what the ANU had to offer.

Just before I left home, I told a friend that it felt like I was taking a great big jump, and that I had no idea where and how I would land – I was just filled with inexplicable faith that things would work out; that no matter where I ended up, I'd hit the ground running. My ANU experience so far has been a resounding vindication of this faith. The best bit? Discovering that everyone else here took the same jump as me. With that, comes the realisation that we've all hit the same ground, running together.

On Lexicality and our Inadvertent History-making

Ellie George (2019)

This year, I wrote a short ‘word of the week’ column in Tuckwell’s Chime newsletter, exploring the etymology of words like *nightmare*, *furphy*, *pineapple* and *clue*. An eclectic, shambolic collection of words, you might say – but each one of them, just like every word in the English language, is like a window into history. They’re glimpses at some of the millions of tiny, inextricable pieces that come together to form our culture.

Nightmares were named after terrifying fairy monsters that sat on the chests of sleepers in medieval times and brought them bad dreams. *Furphies* weren’t originally just tall tales, but rumours that ANZAC soldiers passed around in the trenches of World War One – as well as tales told by the miners of the Australian Gold Rush. The story of the etymology of *pineapple* follows Portuguese explorers as they sailed across the world during the 1600s, and the wonder Europeans had at the sight of exotic fruits. A *clue* didn’t always just hint towards a solution, but once led Theseus out of the Minotaur’s maze in Greek mythology.

Etymologies – the origins of words – are frequently lost as language changes and things are forgotten with the passing of time. But the footprint of original meaning remains even if we speakers don’t remember it, and so every time we open our mouths to speak, we are linked with people who lived hundreds and thousands of years ago. Every time we speak, we are using words that were brought into English from French, Arabic, Sanskrit, Tupí and Gamilaraay. Every time we speak, we accidentally perpetuate and create linguistic history.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said that language is the archive of history. It is a means of storytelling, but the perpetual evolution of language itself tells a story too – a rich, beautiful, and often ugly story of a civilisation and the billions of people in it. Etymology remembers every single time those billions of people came across something new and tried to give it a name. We look back now with fondness at how people in New York and Chicago went about naming skyscrapers during the 1800s. I imagine English speakers in 200 years will be amused at how we who live today came up with a range of new words – *zooming*, *iso*, *covidiot* and the *rona* – to describe our own baffling new situation. And we can know with surety that even if we’re forgotten in a few hundred years more, we’ll be remembered in the language our descendants are speaking.



“An amazing
start to the rest
of our lives.”

Olivia von Bertouch (2021)

The Perfect Tuckwell Scholar?

Imogen McDonald (2021)

Tuckwell Scholar: a highly-committed, friendly face that frequents all academic, volunteering, and sporting corners of Canberra.

This delightful concoction of energy and enthusiasm has the capacity to change the world, and I have zero doubt that every Scholar will do this in some sense of the meaning. Sometimes, though, we need to caution ourselves against the glorious tales of achievement and inspiring future endeavours that are displayed in this magazine. A reminder: it is okay if all you did this year was survive.

The following is an attempt at describing a typical day in the life of a Scholar, combining slithers of people's days, as the Scholarship community is so diverse that there is no generic Tuckwellian routine.

You wake up at 5:00am to go to training: rowing, running, all sports in between. You return to campus, grab a coffee from Rex, and proceed to study in Marie Reay for a few hours and attend your classes for the day. You then start your tutoring sessions in the afternoon, volunteer at a local community organisation, or go for a walk with your friends by the lake. Then, you return home to work on your personal passion project: artwork, poetry, scientific research. You then head to orchestra rehearsals, or your dance class, before returning home and eventually fall asleep. It's 1:00am and this day was not at all unusually full or busy. You are accustomed to putting your passions first, because this is what energises you and it is why you're here. And you are doing an impeccable job.



Scholars lifting each other up at 2021 Tuckwell camp

However, a perfectly organised and effective schedule like this is rarely realistic. You may think that this is how everyone around you is living, but I promise it is not the case. What if, when you went to training in the morning, you realised you weren't meeting the targets that were set for you, and you aren't keeping up with your team-mates? What if, when you were studying in Marie Reay, you realised that you don't even understand half of the course content, and you are barely passing. You feel guilty, then, about spending time with your friends instead of catching up on all of the work you are behind on. Soon, you might realise that it could take at least 10 years for your passion project to make a difference in the world, or even to be recognised. So what is the point?

Maybe you feel like an imposter. You don't believe that you are living up to the picture of an ideal Scholar. You can't see a clear path to the world change you are hoping to make. You feel exhausted, and stagnant. Your commitments demand more and more of your attention.

Now, I need you to carefully consider all of the parts of this very normal nightmare day that you didn't even notice:

Remember when you got up at an ungodly hour to go to training? On the inside you were focusing on how bad you were doing. However, on the outside you were encouraging and pushing the other people you were training with, and this helped them to achieve new personal-best times. Remember how, when you grabbed your coffee from Rex, you also struck up a conversation with the person behind you in the line? Well, this random interaction made their day. When you were studying at Marie Reay, on the inside you were stressed about not understanding your own course. But, don't forget how you helped the person sitting across from you to understand a tricky concept that they hadn't come across before. Remember how, when you were going for a walk with your friends, on the inside you were feeling guilty about being behind on your study? You were also playing the role of a counsellor: supporting your friends in whatever is going on in their lives, whilst making them laugh.

It is these moments that we deem so tiny and insignificant, that are actually what make you a Tuckwell Scholar: your values. There will always be someone who has better grades than you do, someone whose research project will make more of a difference than yours, someone who is faster in your sport than you are. Sure, these external achievements and activities helped you to get where you are, but they aren't the sole reason as to why you have achieved what you have. The core essence of your existence are the small acts of selflessness, humbleness, openness, resilience, humour, drive, consistency, self-discipline, challenge, and lateral thinking. It is these that make you refreshingly different.

Question of the Week

(from the Scholars House Whiteboard)

Music recommendations?

The 10 hour video of Jimmy Barnes screaming on Youtube

What do you want to be proud of on your deathbed?

The pyjamas I'll be wearing

What's your unproductive procrastination habit?

Watching monthly grocery hauls on Youtube by women with 10+ kids

What makes you happy?

That the Sullys ducklings have become teenagers

What's a good idea?

The Hancock basement time-swap: no natural light, change the time on your phone/laptop-boom, no tiredness

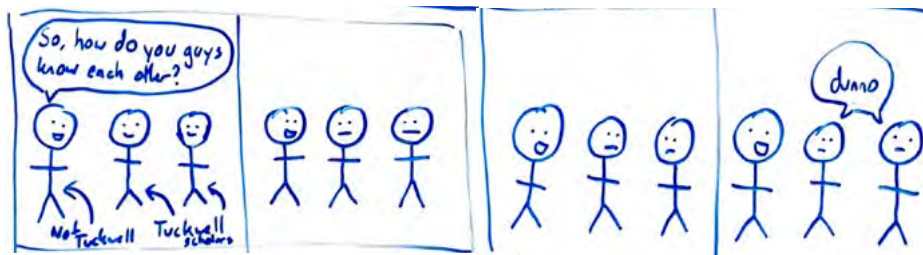
What's a fun fact?

The average person has an above average number of legs

Movie recommendations

Sharknado (fantastic acting and realistic plot-good for a first date!)

Draw a 1-4 panel comic



Haiku

Burley was calling
He could hear it loud and clear
So dove in he did

Chris Jackson (2021)

We all thought the worst
Had passed in 2020
Ha ha ha ha nope

Ellie George (2019)

Scholars House is great
But not good for studying
Bananagrams rocks.

Maddy Sloan (2021)

'anything' is a
Big Concept. I think nothing
is more comforting

Elise Rawlinson (2020)

Sneaking 'round the House
Crafting birthday card and cake
Look! A giant swan

Sebastian Viner (2021)

Women In History, Featuring Twilight

Chloe Heiniger (2021)

Recently, I watched the first movie in the Twilight Saga – again. At first glance, there appears to be many worrying elements with this choice: I was choosing to spend two hours of my post-exam life investing in an 87-year-old age gap, and it wasn't even my first time watching. However – whilst some of you may wonder whether this piece of writing is simply a justification for an outward manifestation of my quarter-life crisis – in reality, viewing this film with a critical eye actually unveiled a more interesting perspective for me on how this pop culture phenomenon has possibly weakened the meaning of the female protagonist. I thought it might be relevant to give a bit of contrast to such a character with a few small insights into some pretty epic women in history.

To start off with, no offence to Bella Swan (the main character in the Twilight Saga), but she really has very few defining qualities, skills, or aspirations. Obviously, wanting to become immortal for a 17-year-old male is concerning, but also, what do we know about the person she wants to become? Her career goals? Hobbies? Talents? Absolutely nothing.

In contrast, Empress Theodora practically ruled over Byzantine Constantinople from 527–565 CE and was so politically adept that her name is mentioned in nearly every single one of the laws passed during this time period. Despite women making major checkmate moves in the world, even during times where strict gender roles were heavily enforced, I found it sad to see that a modern film such as Twilight failed to delve deeper behind the surface of what women are really striving to achieve. Twilight depicts women as insanely passive figures in the lives of men, but my above example quite evidently depicts how the influence of women can sometimes outstrip the figureheads that they are seemingly working behind, as was the case with Theodora and her husband Justinian.

I'm sure most of you have heard about the Bechdel test (if you haven't, it asks whether a film features at least two women who talk to each other about something other than a man). Whilst the movies in the Twilight Saga all actually pass the Bechdel test – albeit extremely dubiously – the central premise of the Saga is the love triangle between Bella and her two male 'suitors'.¹ Obviously, love is a key component of the human condition, but love and infatuation become heavily blurred in the Twilight Saga, to the point where Bella's ability to discredit all other aspects of her life in favour of such an unhealthy obsession sets me truly on edge.

Contrarily, Queen Elizabeth I was the only English queen to never marry because she did not want any foreign king to have influence over her country. Whilst she did have affairs or perhaps 'flings' with several suitors, it is interesting to see how some adaptations of her life like to depict her choice to remain single as a sad and lonely endeavour, failing to see that perhaps she just had different and more balanced priorities. A really great alternative ending to the Twilight films could have perhaps seen Bella finish high school!

I'm sure many of you might gather from this piece that you should not watch the Twilight films at all because of the inherently sad messages they portray about the main female protagonist, in contrast to her strong historical counterparts. Some of you may also not want to watch these films because you consider them to be simply poor – this is fair. However, for those of you, like me, who like to critique these films endlessly, they are actually a relatively valuable watch, as they reveal a deeper insight into the way that fiction can gloss over what reality and history might do a better job of portraying.

1. I chose to put suitors in quotations because it is a relatively loose fit for the terrible notion that they are of good boyfriend material.

How *Star Wars* Created The Stories it Never Told

Harry Tunks (2021)

Press play on the first movie released in the *Star Wars* galaxy, *A New Hope*, and it's only a matter of 44 minutes and 51 seconds before Obi Wan Kenobi and Luke Skywalker step into the Mos Eisley Cantina.

What follows is a period of essential character development – naïve Luke is attacked by an alien at the bar, Kenobi demonstrates his competence as a warrior, and Han Solo duels a debt-collecting bounty hunter. Advancing the plot, Luke and Kenobi negotiate a ride on the Millennium Falcon with Solo and Chewbacca, headed to the soon-to-be-blown-up planet of Alderaan.

You'd be forgiven for missing the truly pivotal feature of this scene – a series of camera shots featuring dozens of alien races and the foreign machinery of the cantina, all bound together by an iconic jazzy soundtrack. It's this familiar-yet-bizarre atmosphere that forms the magic of *Star Wars*, immersing the viewer in an entirely new world.

Look a little closer, and you'll notice that this music is more than an ordinary backing track. Performed on a live stage, six aliens (known as Bith) feature enlarged yellowish heads, massive bulbous black eyes, and convoluted saxophones. With the closed captioning tragically referring to their tune simply as 'alien lounge music', you'd be forgiven for calling this group the 'Cantina Band' and not immediately recognising them for what they are: Tatooine's chart-topping jazz ensemble, Figran D'an and the Modal Nodes. Of course, they are performing no less than the compositionally genius song that rocketed them to that position, 'Mad About Me'.

This information is never mentioned in the movie. For all intents and purposes, the Modal Nodes are a set-piece for the *Star Wars* universe. Fortunately, however, having captured the imaginations of



Figran D'an and the Modal Nodes

audiences worldwide for five decades, the *Star Wars* universe has become host to countless backstories – enough that every seemingly random character seems to have developed an extensive origin story.

Virtually every race in the Cantina now has a name and a history that spans thousands of years. The man who informs Luke that his partner doesn't like him is now the notorious Dr. Cornelius Evazan, widely renowned as a mad-scientist for his work in illegal cybernetic enhancements. Even Greedo, the green alien bounty-hunter killed by Han Solo, has an established feud with the Modal Nodes – they've both previously dobbed each other into a notable crime lord.

I hope that these extensive and somewhat meaningless stories reflect something about the humans in our own far-far-away galaxy. If we care enough to tell the stories of characters otherwise unrelated to the plot, and if a fictional Cantina Band that never speaks can inspire a semi-cult following, I'd like to think we have a truly meaningful capacity to care about each other, and our own stories, too.

rising in the rough

Chloe Harpley (2016)

the blackbird croaks
not sings
this morning

a regretful hangover
clings to its breath –
the stench
acrid
and mean-spirited

“to be a toad
would surely be easier”,
both man and bird
think
staring blankly
at an egg
sunshine yolk oozing –

the dream
may
or may not be
rougher
than the reality

feathered eyelashes
flutter
awake,
each
as lonely as the next

the garden smoulders
keeping rain drops
busy
keeping the white spittle
jumping like sparks
from the corners of your mouth
busy

busy
busy
busy

at work
the ants are
circling
in the shadow
cast by the blackbird

a cast
for this satirical
sitcom
romcom
devoid
of any canned laughter
to fill
the silences
made when Mr Protagonist
with his slick sick composure
fails to show –

where did time go?

do not long
for a hero
when you're down
out
throwing up
screaming out
out of your mind
out of your senses –

the blackbird
is despondent and tired

perhaps it is time
to slow down for a while



Illustration by Katja Curtin (2021)

The Tuckwell Scholarship

No Ordinary Scholarship

The Tuckwell Scholarship Program at ANU is the most transformational undergraduate scholarship program in Australia. Entering its eighth year in 2021, the Program boasts a community of 118 Scholars on campus at ANU and 68 Alumni worldwide.

The Scholarships are funded by the largest ever contribution from an Australian to an Australian University. Graham and Louise Tuckwell started the Tuckwell Scholarships with a commitment worth \$50 million in February 2013. The contribution has now been more than doubled to secure the Scholarship in perpetuity.





Scholarship information

The Tuckwell Vision

The Tuckwell vision is to see highly talented and motivated school leavers fulfil their potential and reinvest their knowledge, skills and experience in ways that positively benefit others.

The Program has a focus on giving back to Australia and is the only one of its kind that nurtures Scholars to fulfil their broader community ambitions over and above the pursuit of an undergraduate degree.

The Scholarship

Tuckwell Scholars receive:

- \$22,350 per annum (2021 rate) for each year of their degree, for up to five years, to cover on-campus residential costs, books and general living expenses
- Priority access guaranteed to ANU-approved student accommodation
- An annual allowance to assist with the Scholar's move to Canberra and to support two annual return journeys between their home and the University for each year of their degree. The allowance will be dependent on the proximity of their family home to ANU
- A domestic economy return airfare, or other transport costs, for Scholars' parents to visit at the start of the Program, and
- A Health and Wellbeing Allowance that can be redeemed in the form of either an ANU Fitness Centre membership, or reimbursement towards alternative activities external to the ANU Fitness Centre.

