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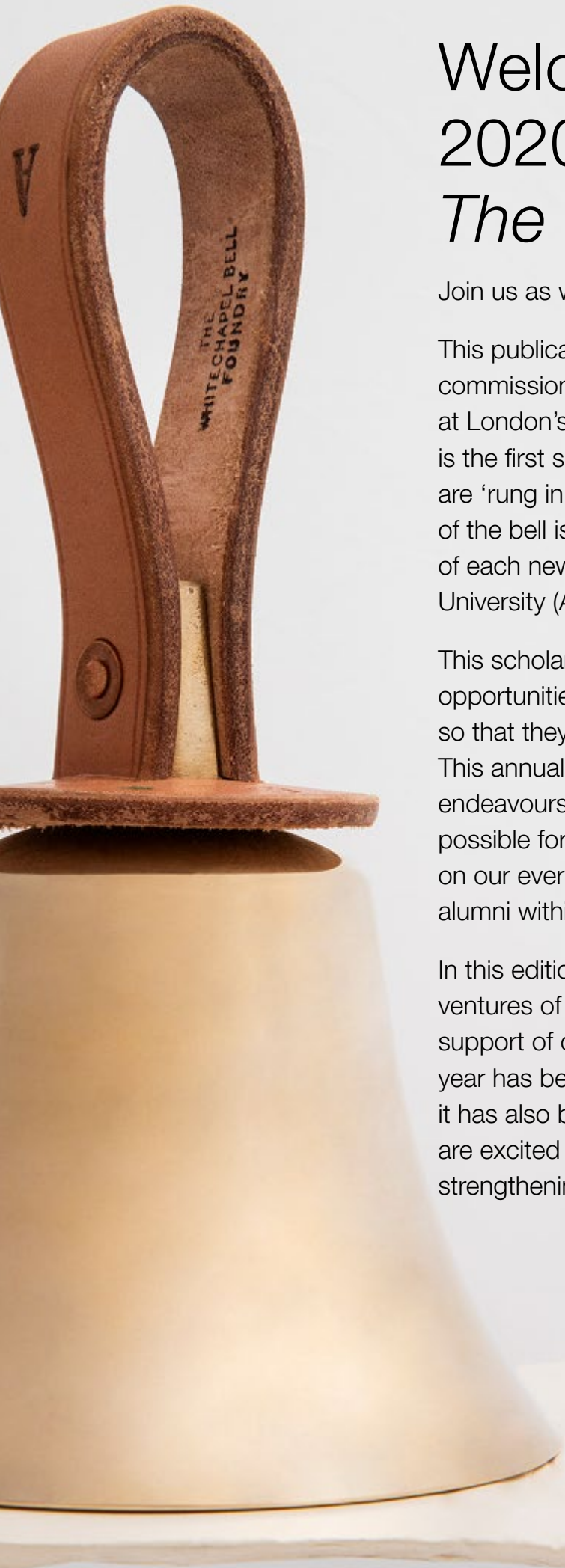
The annual magazine for the Tuckwell Scholarship Program



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SCHOLARSHIP





Welcome to this 2020 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.

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



Greetings!

When we started writing this article we wanted to open with a witty joke about this year. Admittedly, 2020 was enough of a joke in itself. However we are not about to deny you the precious little humour available to us in these strange and uncertain times so here goes...

Question:

What do Tuckwell Scholars and COVID-19 have in common?

On a more serious note, it's been said enough that this year wasn't ideal for many in our community and beyond. However, with this edition of *The Bell*, we wanted to reflect on what we saw as the highlights and the outstanding examples of resilience. We felt this was best reflected, both by Tuckwell Scholars and Australia more widely, by the theme of community. *The Bell* is really a celebration of how a community can pull together in a time of immense difficulty to not only get by, but to grow and flourish. The challenges the Program faced were big but not insurmountable. In fact, as you will see, there were a number of significant Scholar achievements over the year, both individual and community—from making almost 100 face-masks for those in need, to running 100 kilometres. This edition also offers reflective insights from Scholars, ranging from first years thrust into isolation to graduates entering the workforce.

Answer:

They are both “innately driven and determined”.

One of the biggest changes to our own community this year came as we farewelled the incredible Adi Chopra who has contributed so much to the Tuckwell Program over his years as Scholarship Project Manager. While we will miss him immensely, we wish him luck as he moves onwards in his studies and career. It has also been a pleasure to welcome Tess Boylen to Team Tuckwell - she has already proved a huge asset to the Program.

It has been a pleasure working on this edition of *The Bell*. We'd like to thank Tess for mentoring us through this process as well as all the scholars and staff who contributed articles and assistance to create what we hope will be a valuable insight into a year like no other.

- **Ben Harms, Joe Rangiah, Elise Rawlinson and Hannah Price (2020) Tuckwell Scholars**

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GRAHAM AND LOUISE TUCKWELL

What an incredible year we have all had. For us it started with hosing down our beach house on the NSW South Coast as bushfires were fast approaching, and ended with leaving said house in a hurry and driving through the night to cross the Victorian border before midnight. At ANU, Law students learned that the Australian Constitution ensured freedom of movement between States, but that went out the window in 2020. Rather than dwell on the negatives of the COVID year that was however, we would like to talk about what happened in the Tuckwell Scholarship Program.



Graham and Louise Tuckwell

We were delighted to welcome our new Chancellor, Julie Bishop, to the 2020 Commencement Dinner, where she expressed huge support for the Program and gave a brilliant and inspiring speech. Although the Great Hall at University House was not available for the dinner due to hail damage, it did not distract from the wonderful tradition of the Commencement Dinner. Hopefully it will not be too long before we can all return to University House.

Scholarship applications opened as usual in early March but when COVID started to hit hard we wondered whether we would be able to have an acceptable application and assessment process. In fact, there was a time when we thought selections might not be possible at all. However, under the Vice Chancellor's leadership we all pushed ahead and "improvised, adapted and overcame"*. Two big changes had to be made to the selection process. Firstly, interviews were moved from mid-year to end-of-year. One consequence of this was that we had candidates' actual ATARs rather than working from predicted ATARs (although ATARs are only one component of the selection criteria). Secondly, interviews were conducted via Zoom rather than in person. Although this was convenient in some ways, we missed meeting candidates face-to-face, and the candidates themselves were disappointed to miss the unique experience of an Interview Weekend. For panellists, the Friday evening meet-and-greet is always a thrilling and enlightening experience, as it's when the paper applications turn into real people standing in front of us. The weekend is also great for the existing Scholars who help out and transform it into a wonderful experience for all. Although interviews were via Zoom this year, Scholars did provide invaluable help before and after all interviews and many of the candidates expressed their gratitude for this help.

The Zoom interview timetable itself was easy to set out in a spreadsheet but incredibly complex to organise in practice. The Director of Scholars House, Andrew Swan, did an amazing job working night and day in delivering three consecutive days of interviews that proceeded flawlessly. A huge thank you to Andrew and the university IT team that supported him. We should also mention and welcome Tess Boylen who started at Scholars House in October when Adi Chopra moved on to start his overseas post-doc. A big thankyou to Adi for all he did during his time at Scholars House.

Tuckwell Scholars are selected from all over Australia so when the university advised students to return home in first semester, Scholars were spread far and wide. Despite the physical distances, we know from our Scholar letters that all continued to feel very much connected to the Program. All credit is due to Ryan Goss, the Head of Scholars House, and Andrew, who improvised, adapted and overcame to deliver a wonderful program for 2020. They mapped out plans that would work in a COVID environment and their efforts certainly bore fruit. We all hope that those plans can now be filed away for good and that Scholars House will be back to normal for 2021.

We have now had 7 years of commencing Scholars, starting with our 2014 Scholars, the last few of whom have now graduated. For us this is yet another milestone for the Program and feels a bit like our kids leaving home! Those Scholars were not slow learners but are now doctors, having completed their 7-year medical pathway degrees. They have received top academic awards and add to the growing list of Scholars who have received wonderful recognition for all sorts of endeavours. These achievements bode well for the growing reputation of the Tuckwell Scholarship, of which we should all be very proud.

* Guess the movie!



TUCKWELL COHORT WRAP-UPS

2020 reflections

Matt Foster and Marrison Ellis

2020. In the words of Charles Dickens, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.”

Taking hold of the life-changing opportunity to move away from home and immerse ourselves into a world of new people and experiences in the nation’s capital was always going to be a huge change for us after coming straight out of school. However, no one could have known how crazy a year 2020 would be.

On Orientation Day, there were 25 fresh faces, nervous but excited to see what the Tuckwell Scholarship was all about. Warmly welcomed by Ryan, Andrew and Adi, in no time at all the nerves gave way to excitement for what was sure to be an amazing year ahead.

Before we knew it, Joe Negrine (2020) was posing with Julie Bishop and we were being rung in at our first Commencement. Up until that point, the Tuckwell Scholarship was like a dream. However, at that moment, it suddenly felt very real.

Commencement was soon followed by Tuckwell Camp at the beautiful Kioloa Campus. The older Scholars taught us the ropes of university life and over some delicious meals we grew incandescently closer.

This time to get to know one-another in person proved invaluable and was far too short-lived as a global pandemic sent us back to all corners of the country. Lockdown was a challenging and scary time but each week we looked forward to connecting with one another at our First Year Experience events over the new norm of Zoom. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Second Year

Representatives Martha Reece (2019) and Cole Johnson (2019) guiding these sessions, we managed to make the most of the isolation period. Overall, our first semester was unexpected but successful.

Desperate to see each other again, second semester started with a mad dash to scramble across borders. However, our reunion in Canberra was bittersweet as unfortunately, not all of us could make it back. Throughout the semester we sorely missed Joe, Lara and Sam, stuck on the other side of a computer screen at home, but we were still grateful to connect and share the same meal (how good is Uber Eats!) at our fortnightly FYE sessions. From Jasmine’s mask-making genius to an intense debate on Science vs the Arts, our Tuesday nights were always filled with fun.

In a year of social distancing, it would have been easy for the 2020 Scholars to drift apart. But instead, these challenges have brought our diverse cohort closer together. We’re united by a shared desire to be kind, genuine people using the incredible opportunities we’ve been given to have a positive impact on the world.

This year, Scholars House has become a home, and our 2020 cohort, a family. We can’t thank the Program enough for their amazing support this year and we’re so excited for what’s ahead.



2019 reflections

Martha Reece and Cole Johnson

Despite 2020 (need we say more?), the 2019 Tuckwell cohort has had a year filled with exciting new experiences, opportunities and growth. The year began with a series of surreal celeb-like experiences. Together, we graced the cover of the 2019 edition of *The Bell*, commenced at the National Gallery of Australia, and dined alongside Julie Bishop. The onset of COVID-19 only brought a greater sense of celebrity as cameras were thrust in our faces constantly for Zoom classes, catch-ups and meetings.

On a more serious note, the year's strange circumstances did not prevent the 2019-ers from getting involved in the Tuckwell, ANU and wider communities. Camp at Kioloa and the new Tuckwell Buddy Program allowed us to forge connections with the 2020 cohort, who have impressed us beyond measure with their commitment to change and social justice. We cannot wait to see what they will do as we move into 2021 and beyond. Members of our cohort were also involved elsewhere, participating in and running a range of scholarship events, as well as the Humans of Tuckwell initiative.

When attending sports games and arts performances around campus, or even while scrolling through Facebook, 2019-ers popped up everywhere in 2020. Scholars led and played key roles in the interhall sports, arts and social committees, as well as college leadership teams. They filled the ranks of clubs and societies, and the casts of theatre productions that persevered despite restrictions. They ran for student politics positions, and

ran thousands of kilometres training and participating in the 2020 variations on *Inward Bound*. They invested their time, energy and creativity into efforts to address issues ranging from climate change to mental and physical health to gender equality to COVID-19 relief.

2021 will look very different for the 2019 cohort. A number will be leaving college, while others will become Senior Residents, or take on new and different roles within their communities – such as Bruce Hall President. There's no way of knowing where the year will take us, but the sky (and the Australia-New Zealand travel bubble) is the limit.



2018 reflections

Tom Dunbabin and Emily Davidson

With our spirits fortified by some holidays and our thesauruses thoroughly searched for synonyms for ‘terrible’ (dreadful, horrendous, lamentable...), the 2018 Reps sat down to write an article on what a year 2020 has been for our cohort. Unfortunately, the high editorial standards of this great magazine would not have allowed for the profanity that riddled the first draft of a piece attempting to summarise the year, so we turned to our cohort in their (increasing as the years go by) wisdom. We asked our fellow 2018 Scholars to summarise their year in a concise sentence, and the results below speak to the experience that the past year has been. Interpretation is left to the reader.

“When will Durkin take his clothes out of the washing machine they’ve been sitting in there for six days”

“It is what it is”

“Maybe they’ll open the borders next week”

“Transformative”

“Time travellers be warned: this is not the holiday destination you are looking for”

“Over”

“Zoom and gloom”

“Save me, the lecturer is using a virtual background”

“2020: an introvert’s dream”

“I never thought I would own this many bikes”

“A group of strange – almost incongruent – individuals, united by one commonality: a desire to learn more and more”

“A surprisingly comfortable dystopia”

“Always expect the worst, and you will probably still be disappointed”

In a year marked by tragedy, fear, uncertainty and frustration, the 2018 cohort has plodded along doing what they have come to do so well - achieving, both quietly and publicly. A list of accomplishments would fill the limited space this article has, but take our word that the 2018-ers continue to realise their potential.

As the 2018-ers go now into our fourth year (and for some, their last at ANU), we have risen to the position (with humility) of ‘Wise Elders’ of the Program. We are, quite bluntly, getting old; soon to be found on rocking chairs outside of Scholars House, reminiscing on the glory days of soup kitchens, moving walkways and unlimited Tim-Tams. We will arrive in great footsteps; but we also look forward to sharing our ever-growing knowledge and, dare I add, wisdom, with the Cohorts that follow us.

It has been unfortunate that for much of the year our cohort has had to remain physically distant. We enjoyed a few small catch-ups – at Tuckwell events and of our own volition – but we look forward to proper reunification in 2021.

The 2018-ers are spreading out into the wide world: moving out of college, pursuing what travel opportunities are available, and making inroads into future careers (special shout-out to Tom Durkin (2018) for achieving *four* summer job offers at once before quitting them all for Jessup). Yet, no matter how far and wide we go, we will share a common thanks to the Tuckwell Scholarship for bringing us all together and providing these opportunities, memories and connections.

So here’s to 2020 - a year like no other. A year of tragedy, uncertainty, change and brief glimpses of hope. And now, finally, a year that is over.

2017 reflections

Jye Beardow and Carina Stone

The pandemic certainly threw a spanner in the works for 2020 for many of the Scholars in the 2017 cohort. Some were recalled from a hotly anticipated exchange program overseas, scrambling to find (and keep) flights back home. Many of us found ourselves suddenly living back with our families as the uncertainty led many to our home states. Finally, all of us adjusted to online study programs, disrupted internship or work plans, and the general fatigue and isolation of staying at home.

Despite this, the resilience and resourcefulness of the cohort helped us to maintain connection during this difficult time. The Tuckwell team was a great comfort to many by so quickly pulling together the Virtual Scholars House, and we are all so grateful for the work of Ryan, Andrew, Adi, and Tess this year.

Several members of our cohort graduated at the end of this year, and we are so proud of their hard work and achievements. Thank you so much for all your kindness, positivity and energy over the last four years.

This year was a first for online cohort catch ups, and we had some much needed and animated Zoom sessions all together in a time when we were all missing social connection. Catching up at Milligram in person once almost everyone was back in Canberra was a huge relief and a really fun event.

Like all other meetings and events, Scholars House Rep meetings also went online. We both really enjoyed the opportunity to participate with the committee this year, and are excited to see what the new 2017 reps will do with the roles next year!



2016 reflections

Chloe Harpley and Max Moffat

When we began our journey as the third cohort of Scholars back in 2016, we could never have envisaged the adventures we would have at ANU, and we had even less chance of guessing how our final year together would be spent. Who would have thought we would be graduating in the midst of a pandemic or searching for jobs in the wake of a recession? However, despite the challenges that stretch before us, we 2016-ers have always been exceptionally creative and resilient. We'll persist through the hard times in our own refreshingly different way.

Our cohort has always been tight-knit. With fondness, we will remember an eventful first-year Camp where wars were waged between older Scholars (in hindsight, they were mainly Law students of course) about whether a constitution should guide the Scholars House Committee. Debriefing at the beach afterwards, the 24 of us promised to maintain a positive, amicable spirit despite whatever challenges university or the Program threw at us. Even throughout the tumultuous year of 2020, we're proud that we've managed to do this.

Since those early days in the cramped Molly Huxley room, we've shared many stories. From inflatable pools on the Scholars House verandah, to sleepover plans foiled by the Scholars House motion-sensor lights, to a final dinner on Lonsdale Street with a post-prandial stroll in Haig Park, the bonding

moments have been plentiful. Now, with most of us walking paths out of Canberra, nostalgic reflection shows the extent of our achievements in the Bush Capital. Collectively, we've championed for change within the University and beyond, we've set up businesses and charities, we've travelled overseas and supported those in our own backyard (and now, some of us are even getting married)!

It's been an honor to spend the last five years with such a motivated, exuberant, inspiring group of people. We can't wait to see what incredible growth lies before us as we blossom into 'real' adulthood.



2015 reflections

Jonathan Tjandra and Lachlan Arthur

Who knew that our sixth year as students at ANU would make us appreciate our first five years even more than we already do. As elders of the Tuckwell Program our experiences as university students and young adults have been shaped by the opportunities the Scholarship has provided us with. For our cohort, but especially younger scholars, it was difficult to miss out on the on-campus activities we have become accustomed to. However, this year made us reflect and appreciate the experiences we have had during our time at ANU and savour the events that were able to be held once restrictions eased.

One of the few in-person events we could attend, and certainly the highlight of the Tuckwell calendar for our cohort, was the Commencement Dinner, which allowed returning scholars to exchange stories of their summer adventures and plans for the year ahead. It was also a great opportunity to celebrate some of the recently graduated members of our cohort and see their status as Tuckwell alumni cemented with the acceptance of their Tuckwell pin.

Despite the challenges of the year, many 2015 scholars had a hugely successful 2020. We congratulate the members of our cohort who graduated from ANU in 2020 and are moving on to bigger and better things.

Other successes in 2020 included Lachlan Arthur being named South Australia's Rhodes Scholar-elect for 2021. Among our alumni, 2015 Cohort Bell Ringer Mary Parker was admitted as a Solicitor to the Supreme Court of Queensland. Lieutenant Brody Hannan became an Officer in the Australian Army and served in Operation RESOLUTE.

For the few 2015 Scholars returning to ANU in 2021, we look forward to the ANU experience returning to what it once was as we welcome new Scholars to the program and catch-up with familiar faces in-person rather than through a Zoom screen.



Farewell to the 2014 Cohort

This year we said goodbye to the remaining members of the 2014 Cohort – Lucy Kirk, Catherine Hall and Samantha Terry. While we are sad we won't get to see them around Scholar's House, we are so excited to see what they do next and to keep in touch with them via the ever-growing Tuckwell Alumni Network.



Catherine Hall

Lucy, Catherine and Samantha, have all now graduated from their Doctor of Medicine and Surgery through the Tuckwell-MChD pathway. Scholars in the Tuckwell-MChD pathway are not required to apply through GEMSAS, sit the GAMSAT or undertake an additional interview prior to entering the MChD program.

During their 7 years in the program, Lucy, Catherine and Samantha have worked extremely hard at their studies, while also making a real impact on the Tuckwell Community. We wish you the best of luck, Dr Kirk, Dr Hall and Dr Terry!



Lucy Kirk



Samantha Terry



TUCKWELL GRADUATES AND UNIVERSITY PRIZES



Graduating Scholars in 2020

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 their program.

Katherine Garrow (2016)

James Hayne (2016)

Sachini Poogoda (2016)

Eilish Salmon (2017)

Tandee Wang (2017)

Alaina Warwick (2017)

Lucy Stedman (2016)

Abirami Rajkumar (2014)

Jonathan Tjandra (2015)

Samuel Bannister (2016)

Brandon Smith (2016)

Max Moffat (2016)

Charlie Guerit (2016)

Tom Goodwin (2016)

Damian Mazur (2016)

Catherine Hall (2014)

Lucy Kirk (2014)

Samantha Terry (2014)

Nicholas Wyche (2016)

Thomas Driscoll (2017)

Scholars, we wish you the best of luck as you move onto your next great thing!



University Prizes

We are very pleased to announce that in addition to graduating, several Tuckwell Scholars were awarded University Medals.

The University Medal recognises students who have obtained First Class Honours (or Masters Advanced Equivalent) and demonstrated exceptional academic excellence across their studies.

Brandon Smith (2016)

Lucy Kirk (2014)

James Hayne (2016)

Tandee Wang (2017)

Janet Davey (2014)

Congratulations Scholars!

FROM THE STAFF



Ryan Goss

Head of Scholars House

As the extraordinary Canberra hailstorm rattled the Scholars House roof and smashed our windows on a hot summer's day in January 2020, we suspected we were in for an interesting year. Little did we know.

When our 2020 cohort arrived for our wonderful Commencement events at Badger & Co and the National Gallery, we could never have expected that most of us would spend Semester 1 largely off campus. When our final year Scholars looked forward to their final year of lectures, rehearsals, sport, and events, we could not have imagined that so many of them would be cancelled or shifted online – many of the 'lasts' had already happened. And when I took on the role of Head of Scholars House in early 2019, I never expected to one day have to give the instruction to lock down our building.

But the Scholars House community has dealt with these challenges, together, with an admirable spirit. Of course, no community has been unscathed by this extraordinary year. Our Scholars have faced the difficulties of lockdown and dislocation, distance and ill-health. But what has been most striking to me about the Scholar community in 2020 is the way in which our Scholars have approached the challenges of the year with energy, good cheer, and enthusiasm – even when it has been hard to summon those up. Scholars have rarely asked 'why me?' or 'why our cohort?' but have instead looked after themselves and those around them, and sought to do their best amidst a very unusual situation.

We had all planned for 2020 to be a year in which we continued Tuckwell traditions while also developing new strengths and offerings as part of our Program. Scholars and staff alike had worked on a year-long calendar carefully planned for a series of events and activities. But the best laid plans...

With the pandemic and lockdowns thrust upon us, I was very pleased at how Scholars threw themselves into our new online events and the experiment with 'Virtual Scholars

House'. Scholars organised online events for each other, hosted discussions and forums, participated in Q&A sessions and online trivia nights (a special shout-out to the 2020 cohort for facing a first semester of university unlike any other). But, even so, everyone was very pleased to be able to return to campus, to return to Scholars House (albeit under Covidsafe restrictions), and by the end of the year to be able to hold in-person events like our traditional spring BBQ and pancake graduation breakfast.

The Scholar community is a vibrant one, full of energy and activity, and serious thinking about the future. That makes Scholars House a great place to be part of. Beyond Scholars House itself, Tuckwell Scholars have again been active across the University – and beyond – in making contributions to their communities, in positions of leadership, in being recognised for academic and extracurricular achievement, and much more. And as more and more Scholars become alumni, it has been exciting to see the Tuckwell Alumni Network taking form thanks to the leadership of some recently-graduated Scholars. We'll be hearing a lot more about our alumni community in future years.

The Tuckwell Scholarship Program is Australia's most transformational undergraduate scholarship program, and it constitutes a visionary act of philanthropy. My role and the role of our Scholars House team is to facilitate that vision: to provide our Scholars with the support to help them thrive at the University, make the most of their time with us, and help them go on to make a contribution to Australia and the world. We are fortunate to have such an experienced and diverse range of people playing a part in that team, and it is appropriate that I thank them here. In late 2019 we welcomed, as new Tuckwell Fellows, Dr Esmé Shirlow and Dr Iain Henry. They have both already made numerous invaluable contributions to our community. In 2020 we farewelled Dr Adi Chopra (Project Manager) and welcomed Ms Tess Boylen (Admin Officer) to the Scholars House team. As Head of Scholars House, I've been grateful to Andrew, Tess, Adi, and to all our Fellows: Esmé, Iain, Dr Amy McLennan, and Dr AJ Mitchell. And in performing my role I have appreciated the generous support of the University, especially Prof Brian Schmidt and Prof Grady Venville, as well as the ongoing trust and friendship of Dr Graham Tuckwell and Dr Louise Tuckwell.

As the Scholars House community prepares to welcome its eighth cohort of Scholars, we look forward to 2021 (through recently-repaired windows!). Our Scholars are engaged, considerate, interesting young Australians. I can't wait to see what they do next.



Andrew Swan

Program Director

Once upon a time...

The stories we tell help us to understand our world and our place in it. You may know the ancient myth of Sisyphus, King of Corinth who provoked the ire of the Gods? Well, in response to his deviousness, the Gods created a punishment, specific to him (as only ancient Gods can!). Sisyphus was condemned to push an enormous boulder up a mountain but just as he neared the summit, the enchanted rock would roll back to the ground. Sisyphus's labour was to struggle and fail, repeatedly, forever. He never reaches the top. His toils never cease. Grim, huh?

A glance at this myth may show only a story of unceasing and unrewarded effort, of futility and confusion. These themes may resonate with us as we reflect on 2020 but what if we look deeper?

If we look beyond the impossibility of Sisyphus's task and focus on Sisyphus himself we can find lessons in tenacity, resilience, and determination. We see other qualities, too. Grit, perseverance, and, most importantly, hope.

Sisyphus could not control his environment but he *could* control his response to it. The same is true for us. And so, might the story of Sisyphus offer us an opportunity to explore our human condition and to celebrate what we *could* and *did* control in an uncontrollable year? Might it encourage us to admire the grit, perseverance, and hope we displayed in our toils?

We all have moments where we think there is little hope, when our projects, plans and dreams come tumbling down like a boulder to the ground. Where our hearts are broken or our ambitions stunted. Where we may fail to see the green grass beneath us or the blue skies ahead. In the face of such challenges though, sometimes it is enough to simply keep going, one foot in front of the other. To double our efforts. To find new, alternate paths.

American philosopher John Dewey said, "we do not learn from experience...we learn from reflecting upon experience". All of us had visions of what 2020 would or should be. We had plans, dreams and commitments. There is no doubt that COVID-19 interrupted these visions for many of us, in different ways. But what might our reflections of 2020 teach us if we do more than glance at the year that was like no other?

Well, let's see if Sisyphus can help. The parallels of the story of Sisyphus and our own stories of 2020 are many but there is one defining difference. Sisyphus was alone. We, the members of the Scholars House community, were not. We had each other. Through Virtual Scholars House (VSH), our academic and professional networks, social events, and the tireless efforts of the Tuckwell Fellows, our community remained together despite what kept us apart.

If our reflection of 2020 teach the Scholars House community one thing, I hope it is this – Tuckwell Scholars are never alone at the base of the mountain, nor are they alone near the summit. We have hands and hearts alongside us, always. People to help us see green grass and blue skies.

As the world continues to change around us, Scholars House embraces the changes within our control: continued improvement in program operations; a refreshed Scholars House facility with new plants, furniture and safety features; a 10-year plan to support the growth and engagement of our global alumni community; and marketing that resulted in our largest-ever application pool.

A glance at 2020 may show a tale of doom and gloom but if we look deeper we see much to celebrate. This is what this special edition of the Bell attempts to do, and I feel does admirably, as the dominant themes of resilience, hope, curiosity and community shine through. Our community was given a challenge worthy of Sisyphus but we chose to respond in the best way possible – together, one foot in front of the other.



Amy McLennan

Tuckwell Fellow

The year 2020 cracked open the world we take for granted and offered glimpses of the complexity underneath. In disrupting the systems which support our everyday lives, the fires, storms and pandemic invited us to think carefully about what we value, about the future we are building, and about the interplay between technology, environment and people.

In my work, we encourage people to ask questions as a way to make sense of complexity and to collaboratively explore the messiness, rather than getting straight into solutions. This year presented many good opportunities to practice that skill.

What can we learn when an existing system is disrupted? For example, how did supermarket eggs change during lockdown? Did you notice? What does it tell us about the fragility and resilience of our food system?

What does it take for a new system to be designed and delivered? For example, what's needed to take a vaccine to scale? On what existing infrastructure are we building? Who decides about access or affordability or messaging? How might we safely keep vaccination records for billions of people? What are the sustainability implications of cold chain transport, manufacturing and packaging?

How does this relate to the Tuckwell community? While this year was certainly disruptive, our community of Scholars achieved massive things. Some graduated, some started new hobbies, some played key leadership roles in the community, some survived what was possibly the worst first year ever. Everyone supported friends and loved ones through a really tough year, and had the courage to ask for help when they needed it too. We could ask all sorts of questions, but one to perhaps start with: What might have contributed to creating such a resilient system?



Esmé Shirlow

Tuckwell Fellow

I joined Scholars House as a new Fellow at the start of 2020. That now feels a long time ago, given all that 2020 has thrown our way! I was quickly welcomed into the folds of this amazing community at induction, commencement weekend, and then camp. I have since enjoyed many inspiring conversations with Scholars and staff over coffee and at various events (even if over Zoom!). It has been wonderful to meet the Scholars in the Program, to see what Scholars are doing at ANU, and to have the opportunity to support Scholars to achieve all they hope to at University and beyond. I have had many highlights as a Fellow but, overall, it is the abiding sense of community in the face of adversity that makes this year particularly memorable for me.

Beyond the Tuckwell Program, this year has created numerous challenges – and opportunities – for all of the University's fields of study and research. For my own field of international law, this year's events have and will likely continue to have very important impacts. The pandemic in particular has brought international law into the news and daily conversations in many novel and interesting ways. From the responsibilities of the World Health Organization, to human rights in lockdowns (even Bunnings Karen made an attempt here!), to the international obligations of States to citizens as borders closed, to the free transit of diplomats outside of quarantine, to international patent protection for vaccines. COVID-19 has prompted many States and individuals to (re)engage with international law, as a system that might assist to coordinate responses to these global problems. Learning about the utility – and limits – of international law for addressing these problems will hopefully position us all to better respond to and maybe even reduce or eliminate some of the challenges (including global warming) that the future may bring.



Iain Henry

Tuckwell Fellow

This year, I've been amazed by how so many Tuckwell Scholars have, despite significant challenges, achieved their personal goals. Others have faced adversity with resolve and determination.

C.S. Lewis wrote that, "every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you...into something a little different than it was before...either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature...each of us...is progressing to the one state or the other." The personal progress I have observed in Tuckwell Scholars this year is—without exaggeration—inspirational. Observing, encouraging, and occasionally assisting this development has been the most rewarding aspect of my Tuckwell Fellow role.

Sadly, 2020 has highlighted a similar dynamic on the global stage, but with an opposite trend line: the world has become a little more 'hellish'. Events have accelerated a shift away from stability and cooperation towards conflict, as many experts insist a second Cold War—between the United States and China—has begun. Both states increasingly perceive the other as an existential threat, and the risk of military conflict has increased.

As 2020 draws to a close, we face obvious challenges stemming from COVID-19. But we should also consider the larger and even more difficult problems—such as global animosity, nationalism, and risks of nuclear war—which are re-emerging. How can we work to prevent the devolution of our world into a hellish place, and instead work to improve it?

As I see it, one cause for optimism is the humility, selflessness, and emotional intelligence displayed by Tuckwell Scholars. In the year since I became a Fellow, I have seen Scholars display the maturity, wisdom and sound judgement needed to tackle these problems, and make sensible decisions in the future. So, let's follow the advice of Lewis, and remember how each small choice develops character. In the future, Australia and the world will need you at your very best.



AJ Mitchell

Tuckwell Fellow

This time last year, as I drafted a few words for the 2019 edition of *The Bell*, I was blissfully unaware of what lay ahead. And as I sit in the comfort of my home and reflect on the year that has passed, I am thankful. Thankful for my health, loved ones around me, supportive colleagues, inspiring students, the relative 'normality' of life in Canberra; the list could go on. While it is easy to dwell on missed opportunities, I am trying to maintain focus on positive things that did come through in the end.

Despite its challenges, this has been an exciting year for my research. We are making progress on a project that I have been trying to make happen for a few years now. This will create new opportunities for studying the internal structure of atomic nuclei using the ANU particle accelerator. Hopefully, we can answer important questions about the basic forces that hold nuclei together, and the ways that their properties evolve as the number of internal protons or neutrons changes. To cap it off, I've just been awarded my first major Australian Research Council 'Discovery Project' grant to continue this research for the next few years.

I was also particularly proud of my research students this year. Three of my PhD students graduated, and two Honours students navigated major disruption to every part of their coursework and research projects – they showed incredible resilience in doing so.

I've seen the same resilience and adaptability to change in the 2020 Tuckwell program. So please: be incredibly proud of yourselves; recognise progress (even if it moves a little slowly); and be thankful for the things you have in 2020, and opportunities that will come in 2021. I know I will.

All the best.

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Prof. Rae Frances AM

Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences

This year's selection process for the 2021 scholars has, like so many things, been impacted in a major way by the COVID-19 pandemic. The closure of schools and the move to online learning meant that we had to modify the application timeline to allow students and teachers more time to complete applications.



The closure of borders and the general uncertainty around travel meant we had to abandon the usual interview weekend in July. Instead, we revised the process so that students selected from the first stage of applications submitted a short video response to a series of questions, along with the written application. The students selected to proceed to the interview stage will now be interviewed online in the second week of January. Of course, this is not ideal as we see the interview weekend as a really valuable experience for all the candidates, but we are in good company in moving our process online as other prestigious programs, such as Rhodes and Sir John Monash, have had to do the same.

We had an exceptional number of applications this year, despite the pandemic, drawn from the most diverse geographical spread of schools we have seen to date. I am very grateful to Graham and Louise Tuckwell and Narci Teoh, joining me as the Tuckwell Scholarship Executive Committee, who have put in so much time as we adapted to the rapidly changing circumstances. My thanks also to Andrew Swan and Dr Aditya Chopra at Tuckwell Scholars House who provided outstanding administrative and technical support.

We have also had great input from our team of assessors across the Australia National University who generously donated many hours of their time to help assess the written applications. I am also grateful for those Tuckwell Scholars who have volunteered to assist during the online interview process by supporting the candidates. I am very confident we will have another wonderful cohort of Scholars ready to start in semester one and look forward to welcoming them to campus in person in February.

COMMENCEMENT 2020

At the 2020 Commencement Dinner, held at the National Gallery of Australia's Gandel Hall, we heard from 2019 Bellringer Ellie George as she discussed the Tuckwell attribute that binds Scholars more than any – 'refreshingly different.' Here is her speech.



Bellringer Ellie George (2019) addresses the 2020 Scholars and their families at the Commencement Lunch, held at Badger and Co in Kambri

Chancellor Julie Bishop, Louise and Graham Tuckwell, members of the Tuckwell Board, Tuckwell Fellows, and Tuckwell Scholars: it is my honour tonight to address you at the 2020 Tuckwell Commencement Dinner.

It wasn't too long ago that I was sitting in my room after the whirlwind that was Interview Weekend, waiting for the fateful phone call that would determine the course of my future. Even now, standing up here in front of you, my fellow Scholars, I find it hard to believe that I've come this far.

I come from Tamworth, a regional centre in NSW where cows and country music are the main exports – the kind of place where everyone knows everyone. So, as you can imagine, there was a fair bit of culture shock for me when I arrived in Canberra and met an enormously impressive group of kids from all across Australia. I also remember very clearly thinking that someone like me had no business hanging around people like them. But since then, I've realised that there's no way to 'fit in' to a group that has no one defining quality.

There is no way to describe us as a cohort; we are writers, musicians, athletes, photographers, linguists, directors, artists, scientists and philosophers, thinkers and dreamers, activists and politicians. In fact, I can only think of two words that could come close to describing the people before me: refreshingly different.

'Refreshingly different' is the Tuckwell attribute that is closest to my heart. The truth is, we in this room have very little in common. We come from different places, different families, different backgrounds. We have different interests, we study different courses, we hang out with different people. The thing that brings us together, the only reason that this bizarre and exceptional group of people is in this room tonight, is because of the Tuckwell Scholarship. As far as I can observe, there is no pattern to the Tuckwell Scholars except for the courage to be true to themselves and a desire to give back. And I think that this is where the strength of the program lies, because we were selected to be here tonight not so much for our past deeds as for our future potential.

To quote the 2016 Bellringer Mary Parker, "we are ordinary students who have been given an extraordinary opportunity." We have a desire to contribute in all our refreshingly different capacities, to give back to our country and to our communities, and through the Scholarship that Graham and Louise have provided, we are enabled to do so. I hope that we in this room, brought together by our commonality of the Scholarship, will remember the opportunities that have been brought into our reach, the network we've been welcomed into, and the advantage that we've been given. I hope that we, as Tuckwell Scholars, can see our responsibility to give back not as our right or our choice, but as a duty and a privilege. The Tuckwell Scholarship has changed our lives, and through the actions of those here tonight, I think it will change the lives of hundreds more.

So, to Graham and Louise: on behalf of all of us, thank you. You're the ones who first saw how strong refreshing difference could be, and the ones who pulled us from the dark corners of nowhere into this room together. I think the importance of this action will only grow clearer as the Scholarship moves forward into maturity.

To Ryan and the Tuckwell Fellows: thank you for your warmth, your kindness, your patience and the coffee dates.

To Andrew and Adi: you've had enormous shoes to fill in the past year, but you've done amazingly. Thank you for ensuring that Scholars House is a home.

To my 2019 cohort: you are the best people I know. In one short year, we've achieved a ridiculous amount. We solved the future of transport in the Innovation Challenge. We absolutely dominated at tug-of-war at Camp at Kioloa. We overcame our Everest of cleaning up after the Spring BBQ. We consumed a possible world record of Tim Tams while debating contentious questions for hours on the couches at Scholars House. We figured out the square root of 200, and we clumsily coordinated meet ups on the dance floor at Mooseheads. But most importantly, we have grown exceptionally close as a group. Thank you for the listening, the laughing, the hugs, the shared exam stress and the cups of tea. Every one of you inspires me, and I am so proud to be counted as one of you.

Finally, to the first years who have been rung in tonight: welcome to the opportunity of a lifetime. The Tuckwell Scholarship Program is truly one where you'll get out just as much as you put in, and if there's one place to put in everything you can, it's here. You've been chosen from hundreds, just like the rest of us, to get that little bit of extra help so that the difference you make in the world will be the greatest difference you are capable of. Take some time for yourself to grow up and discover the world around you, but while you're doing that, remember to be passionate and remember that someone out there believes in your potential.

With this in mind, I wish you all an exciting, productive and refreshingly different year ahead.



2020 Scholars Samantha, Marissa and Elise at the 2020 Commencement Breakfast.



Graham Tuckwell chats with Scholars at Breakfast.



The Scholars House Community



James Hayne (2016),
Julia Lindblom (2016),
Maddison Perkins (2015)
and Mary Parker (2015)



Scholars enjoy
catching up at the 2020
Commencement Dinner



CAMP REFLECTION

James Hayne (2016) and Jade Lin (2018)

Writing this in January 2021, Tuckwell Camp feels like it took place in another world in another time. However, our time spent at Kioloa in early March was filled with laughs, new friends and deep conversations.

This year's camp was centered around the themes '*Connect, Change and Create*'. Under Connect, first and second year Scholars were encouraged to build relationships with other Scholars over ice breakers and time at the beach. Under Change, Scholars were asked to create personal goals for the upcoming year. Finally, under Create, Scholars were given the opportunity to demonstrate community leadership.

Under the Change theme, we led a session on leadership, asking first and second year Scholars to think about their own experiences with leadership and how they might show leadership in their own communities. In the lead up to camp, frankly, we had no idea what we might have to say about leadership that would be actually meaningful.

Nevertheless, at the end of the session, we asked each of the Scholars to make a commitment about how they were going to show leadership over the next 12 months. It really touched us to read about the great diversity of these commitments and the integrity Scholars showed in making them. While COVID-19

impacted many, it has been great to hear stories about how many Scholars fulfilled their commitments in the months after camp.

In addition to these stories, the camp had two highlights for us at later year Scholars. First, the camp was an opportunity to meet the new first year Scholars. It was fantastic to hear about their lives and their hopes, and indeed to become friends with them; they're a pretty special bunch. Second, camp provided us with an opportunity to reflect about our time in the Tuckwell Program. Our first camps were filled with swimming, new friends and a great deal of nervousness. We had no idea who we would be by the ends of our degrees, or of the really wonderful people we would meet through the program. It is hard then not to feel a deep sense of fondness and nostalgia for Kioloa.

Camp is a highlight of the Tuckwell calendar. The simple happiness of being around lots of good people, food and the ocean is like taking a breath above the bustle of our lives in Canberra. In the often bleak year that was 2020, camp was a joyous relief more than it has ever been.



Morning yoga at Kioloa



A very competitive Trivia Night run by Jonah Hansen (2016)



One of the many chats between younger and older Scholars



Jasmine Pearson (2020), Luka Mijnaerends (2019), and Laura Ferguson (2019) after a morning beach run



The traditional camp fire

LATE NIGHTS AND HARD WORK: OPPORTUNITIES OUT OF THE COVID-19 CALAMITY

Lucy Kirk (2014)

As a final year medical student, I would normally spend most of my time in the hospital, but it was a Friday in early March when all ANU medical students were sent home from placement indefinitely. COVID-19 case counts were climbing at an alarming rate. I spent the weekend pondering both my new-found 'freedom', but also an impending lockdown. Little did I know of the busyness that lay ahead.

Professor Imogen Mitchell had just been seconded from her role as Director of the University's Medical School to become the Clinical Director of the ACT COVID-19 Response. In this new role she asked me if I could work for her as a research assistant. I felt very privileged to be approached and it was an offer I did not want to refuse.

In this role, I prepared summaries of up to date evidence on a range of issues and questions relevant for the COVID-19 response in the ACT. Some examples of questions were 'How infectious is the virus?', or 'How can we be most efficient with our use of personal protective equipment?'. Although my role changed during the pandemic, I always made it my aim to support Professor Mitchell in her role and make her job easier. In the early stages of the pandemic we had limited sources of information and minimal guidelines available. However, we were soon overwhelmed with information from all sides. I had to quickly figure out how to make concise and helpful summaries in the rapidly changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic. These summaries also fed into the University's COVID-19 taskforce that coordinated pandemic advice, as well as State and national committees dealing directly with the response, including: the Communicable Diseases Network Australia, the Infection Control Expert Group, NSW Health, and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.

One positive from the COVID-19 pandemic in the ACT is an increase in both interdisciplinary and interinstitutional collaboration. I would go from one meeting with software engineers, to another with clinicians, another with lawyers, ethicists and community members, and to one with researchers. In a crisis, I saw how the pandemic brought together different networks, but I also had to learn to navigate and respond to tensions between groups.



I am thankful for the opportunity to assist with the COVID-19 response in the ACT in a unique way even though I was still a student. While it involved many late nights and lots of hard work, I learned many valuable lessons regarding research, the health system, crisis management, and teamwork. What is exciting is that it has given me a passion and vision for health systems research where patients are at the centre of care that is guided by evidence. I am looking forward to participating in this alongside my clinical career.

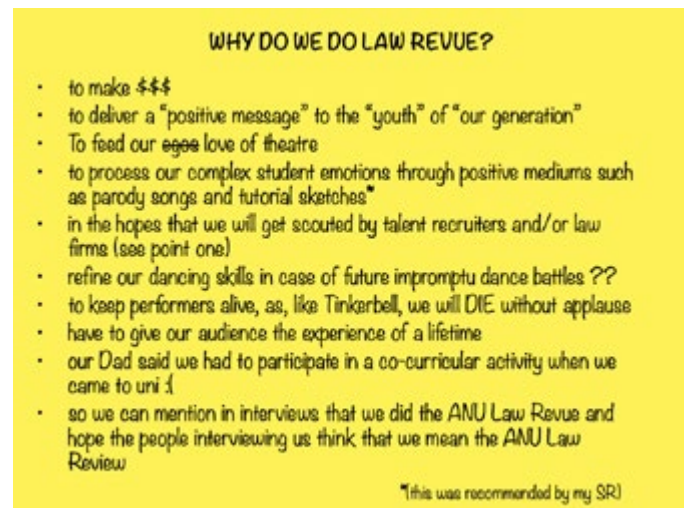
WHY DO WE DO [INSERT THING HERE]?

Kate Garrow (2016)

At the start of 2020 I was set to be one of the directors of the ANU Law Revue, a live sketch comedy show. After quickly realising that things were going to be different this year, we knew we would have to make difficult decisions about how to produce the show safely and lawfully, while still maintaining the essence of what made the Law Revue the Law Revue. It forced us to reckon with a question that many have faced: why do we do [insert thing here]? What makes something good and worthwhile? The answers to these questions, we hoped, could make all our decisions for us.

At first, our gut reaction was that all that made theatre good was performance and audience. With this in mind, the solution to maintaining theatre was easy - Zoom calls and published recordings. However, after attempting dance warmups, improv games and sketch blocking on Zoom I can say with absolute certainty this wasn't all that made theatre good. It didn't capture the sense of gathering and community and emotional intimacy that we got from being in the single space. So we charged on with the hope that when our theatre booking came around, restrictions would have eased and we would be allowed on stage (ideally, with people in the audience). And against all odds, this is exactly what happened. After six months of writing and rehearsal, half of which was conducted remotely, we actually performed in front of a (small socially-distanced) audience. Any other year, this experience would have been difficult and disappointing. We were a comedy show, used to feeding off the excitement and laughter of a full audience. But this year it felt like it would have been enough if we were performing to no-one but the light and sound operators or our families on FaceTime. This year, the reason why we did Law Revue had nothing to do with an audience, and everything to do with the cast and crew getting to participate in this enormous, creative, funny, escapist, communal project.

I cannot say definitively that we do theatre simply for the joy of rehearsing, but 2020 has forced me to reconsider what I love about theatre. It has reaffirmed the importance of the question 'why?'.



A satirical perspective

GOING THE (SOCIAL) DISTANCE

Hannah Price (2020)

Mention the words 'inward' and 'bound' at ANU and you will be met either with an eye-roll or barrage of enthusiasm. The famed, inter-hall adventure race carries a borderline cult status. Given that it involves being dropped blindfolded in undisclosed bush-locations and drinking copious amounts of Gatorade (if not Kool-Aid) while running to find the designated endpoint, perhaps this description is quite apt. Nevertheless, when I first heard about the event during those blissful COVID-free weeks of early 2020, I knew that I was set on taking part.

Thanks to off-campus learning for much of semester one, my first experience of Inward Bound, or IB, comprised long solo-runs around Melbourne and 'meeting' much of my future team through Strava. It wasn't quite the sense of community that I'd expected, but, when the entire world was uncertain, training for an ultramarathon seemed like a fun project to focus on. Fast forward two months and I finally switched the Main Yarra Trail for Black Mountain. Weeknights suddenly involved running around in the dark alongside a big group of fellow masochists or improving my (deplorable) navigational skills.

Sadly, the usual Inter-hall competition didn't take place this year due to COVID restrictions. However, unperturbed by the lack of an official event, different colleges worked hard to deliver their own, internal Inward Bound races. Bruce Hall's immensely dedicated team of coaches set their own course and ran an incredible event, keeping the IB community alive in a difficult year. After running and bush bashing for nearly 60km, our teams were greeted by a huge crowd of Brucies who had come out to support us for running the obscene distance as an achievement in itself.

This is what I have come to love about the event: while IB is ultimately a competition between colleges, this is by no means its most important aspect. Runners and supporters keep coming back for the experience of training, the camaraderie, the magnificent mountain-top views and the unique thrill of finding your way through the bush in the dark. I was amazed by the passion and enthusiasm of my college's team and their determination to improve and work hard for themselves, if not for the attainment of the ISO shield.

While my first IB was not typical, it made me hungry for more. I'm crossing every limb that I will be able to take part in the official competition next year but until then, I look forward to many more adventures out on the trails that I've come to love.



Heavy legs in the final stretch of our race



Serious views on a hike up Mt Coree

LIFE IN THE (WRIGHT) RESIDENCE

Sahibjeet Singh Bains (2017)

Residentially, I am somewhat of an oddity. Having spent my first year on campus at Bruce Hall in 2017, I made my way off campus. Expanding my knowledge base of Canberra beyond the baseline ANU student vocabulary of Lonsdale Street to Daley Road, I traversed the far-fetched kingdoms of Tuggeranong and the Molonglo Valley. Despite loving the experience of jaunting around the Deep South, the once in a generation opportunity to shape the culture of a new hall was too good to pass up on.

2019 marked the beginning of my journey at Wright Hall, where uniquely everyone was a 'first year'. Being a Senior Resident (a later-year resident at a residential hall, in charge of the pastoral care of around 30 students) was an especially exciting experience because of the enthusiasm of the residents. There was a real festive vibe around the college, as most events had in excess of 150 residents attending. The lack of an existing culture was refreshing and enabled the college to avoid the separation between year group cohorts.

I can comfortably say that being a part of (now three) residential leadership teams has been immensely rewarding. In addition to the opportunity to shape the culture of the residential hall in which you live, the interpersonal skills that you gain from a leadership position are invaluable. In my view, the most important skill you gain is the ability to connect with people whose personalities differ to those with whom you would usually interact. This is complemented by those very people ending up in some very interesting scenarios, which you are responsible for assisting them through.

Reflecting on my exposure to residential colleges, prior to attending the Tuckwell Interview Weekend I had no idea they existed in Australia, having thought they were a uniquely American institution. Having gone to a public school, none of my friends or their families had attended a college. Sadly, due to the increasing unaffordability of the rents at these colleges and the growing inequality in Australia, the ability to attract those from humbler backgrounds is being diminished.

Considering it is the diversity of those you attend college alongside who bring the vibrancy to the experience, it is sad to see the impact that increased rents are having on the college culture. I hope that this trend begins to be combatted through either more realistic tariffs or greater equity scholarships. I have made lifelong friends, and had unforgettable experiences at college, and I hope that everyone who wishes to have a residential experience at university can have one, regardless of the size of their parents' wallet.



Wearing my Wright colours



Cultural Exchange

WHY RUN 100 KILOMETRES?

Lachlan Arthur (2015)

With a mix of extensive bike paths, trails and National Park on its doorstep, Canberra is undoubtedly the best city to run around in Australia, and quite possibly the best in the world. The Sri Chinmoy Canberra Trail 100 allowed me to explore almost all of it on one Sunday in September this year. Starting and finishing at the end of ANZAC Parade on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin, the 100 kilometre course can be completed in a relay team or solo. This year I decided to tackle the course on my own.

I started with 100 other competitors at 6am before sunrise and would return to finish at the same location over 13 hours later once the sun had set. Along the way, we would climb over 3000 vertical metres. Unusually for me, I was quite nauseous during the middle of the run which meant I neglected my eating and drinking schedule. After summiting Red Hill, Davidson Hill, Mt. Taylor, Mt. Arrawang, Cooleman Ridge, and Mt. Stromlo, it was climbing up Black Mountain with around 70 kilometres in my legs where my lack of nutrition finally brought me undone. I struggled to the aid station at the 77-kilometre mark where fortunately my mate Sam joined me to run the last 23 kilometres. Knowing the last leg included summiting Mt. Majura and Mt. Ainslie did not fill me with confidence, but I managed to drag myself through to the end, finishing around the middle of the pack of 75 runners who managed to finish.

Many people ask why someone would attempt such a race. My impromptu response would be “why not?”. In reality, with classes online, exams open-book, team sport, and races cancelled, setting out to run 100 kilometres challenged me and used my unexpended energy that would have usually been occupied with other activities throughout the year. Having the ability to enjoy the sights of our beautiful city and share the adventure with competitors, friends and supporters along the way was an added benefit of having the fortunate opportunity to push myself to the limit in 2020.



Crossing the finish line, barely able to stand



Early in the run, about 25 kilometres in. Feeling good

THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THEATRE DURING COVID

Martha Reece

My life this year was not unique in that COVID-19 ripped a large rift between expectation and reality. Like many, I was faced with the challenge of creating some semblance of ordinary life in extraordinary circumstances.

At the end of 2019 I was selected, along with a friend, as director of the 2020 Ursula Hall Play. This was something I had looked forward to for many years: the opportunity to take complete creative control over a full scale piece of theatre, and naturally I had a clear idea in my mind of how this would go. It all began completely according to plan: my co-director and I agreed upon a play (an adaptation of the radio play *"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"* by Douglas Adams, a personal favourite of mine), we planned out a production schedule and engaged producers, designers and a stage manager. We had just put out an audition sign-up sheet when news of the University's first COVID restrictions arrived.

A tumultuous week of meetings ended, remarkably, with a modified plan for auditions to proceed, and we managed to fill all the roles. With the cast scattered across Australia and the world, the only way to get together with the cast was online. This posed a few challenges, notably that work on physicality was close to impossible. Not to be deterred, we took this setback as an opportunity to focus on characterisation and line delivery, which was particularly important for an adapted radio play.

Moving into semester two, we were fortunate enough to have most of the cast back together in Canberra, and commenced partially in-person rehearsals. However, just before the semester started we were hit yet again with bad news: our theatre booking had been cancelled due to the restrictions. After lengthy considerations of outdoor theatre, and non-theatre spaces around campus, we eventually concluded that our best option

(and least likely to suddenly disappear) was to turn our common room into a theatre. Once this decision was finalised, I began to be able to enjoy myself again; this challenging space provided a lot of room for creativity, pushing the boundaries of traditional theatre. We were able to choose the layout of our space to suit our purposes, and utilise the projector screen already in place to integrate a 'zoom-performer' seamlessly into production.

In the end, the larger challenge was technically upscaling the common room to accommodate the work of our wonderful sound designer, and lighting our unconventional space. Incredibly, our tech coordinator managed to source a complete sound system from around the hall, and after assuming the role of lighting designer/operator at the last minute, I managed to source a lighting setup sufficient for the show from Wollongong.

Opening night finally arrived after a very long tech week, and much to the surprise of everyone involved, we pulled off a fairly seamless first performance to a "full house" of 30 (the most we were allowed to have in the space). The audience response was heartwarming, but it wasn't until after that I fully realised how much we had achieved. During the whole process, there was never a moment when everyone involved was in the same city; some of the cast never met in person, and possibly never will. Yet this group was able to come together, and stay together throughout the strangest year of all of our lives. We created not only a work of theatre, but a loving family who will continue to support each other into the future.



Day of the last performance (missing one actor who performed over zoom from India)



First Rehearsal

EMBRACING CHANGE

Marissa Ellis (2020)

A quote from Erica Jong reads, “I have accepted fear as a part of life – specifically the fear of change...I have gone ahead despite the pounding in the heart that says: turn back.” I think this encapsulates how I, and no doubt many, have thought about the idea of change, at some point in our lives.

For many of us, moving to ANU provides the opportunity to do things we have never done, to step out of our comfort zones, to change for the better, and to be better than we have ever been before. Does that come with a sense of fear, a worry that we will be wrong or a fear of making mistakes? Undoubtedly. We aren't always right, but more often than not, our choices – and the changes that they bring – provide us an invaluable level of personal growth and character building.

At the start of this year, my dad described Tuckwell to me as, “the key to doorways that money can't open.” I didn't truly understand what he meant until recently, when reflecting upon this year. As Tuckwell Scholars, we are given the ‘key’ to unlock doors to rooms filled with a community like no other. I don't

think I have ever felt more inspired and empowered than when surrounded by a room of Tuckwell Scholars. The unique sense of ambition heard in the voices and laughter throughout the room (or Zoom?), the diverse range of passion and interests, and the underlying desire to do good in the world in each Scholar I meet, is inspiring. We are all constantly changing, some changes bigger than others. We've all changed where we live, the community we engage with, and the daily life we live at the University. Nevertheless, this year has made me realise that change is something to embrace wholeheartedly, rather than something to be feared.



On the balcony at Wright Hall

THE DIFFERENCE THREE YEARS CAN MAKE

Sarah Marshall (nee Campbell, 2014)

It has almost been three years since completing my degree at ANU and concluding my time as a Tuckwell Scholar. Although I am no longer considered a Scholar, I am far from having left the Program. Over the last three years, I have been working with passionate alumni to develop a lasting and impactful alumni network, to ensure we stay in touch with the Program and the people that shaped us into who we are today.

We are extremely excited to have recently completed our alumni strategy, which has been endorsed by the Tuckwell Board, and are developing an IT system to facilitate alumni engagement. Our aim is to create a network that meaningfully connects alumni, physically and virtually, so we can continue to help each other navigate all parts of life. We have all been united by an incredible and unique experience, and we are aiming to only strengthen that connection.

In the three short years since graduating, my life has changed considerably. I've completed a graduate program in the Australian Public Service, bought an apartment, ran

a half-marathon, got married (that's a big one), completed postgraduate study in Politics and Policy and am now excited to be implementing policy to better manage Australia's waste.

Life after graduation is uncertain, surprising and extremely exciting, and being part of the Tuckwell Alumni Committee has only made it better. I wish all the graduating Scholars the best of luck and hope to see you soon. I cannot wait to see our network grow – in numbers, locations, stories and coffee catch-ups.



Our incredible parents

2020 IN THE NORTH

Mary Parker (2015)

This year, my first year out of university, I am writing to you from tropical Cairns, North Queensland, where I have had the privilege of working as a Judge's associate on the District Court.

It has hardly been a normal associateship year. Although jury trials in Queensland were suspended for much of the year, we continued at a break-neck pace in the courtroom with sentencing and hearings. This means I have spent this year mastering new skills that range beyond the limits of my law degree. I discovered the best way to disinfect the bar table between matters, sourced hand sanitiser for the Courtroom despite its disappearance from the supermarket shelves, and set up video-links to anywhere, and everywhere, in Cape York and Western Queensland. I couldn't have predicted at the end of last year, that come April I would be in a courtroom with a tape measure moving chairs and barristers to ensure social distancing.

Despite COVID-19, I still had the opportunity to travel with the Court on circuit thanks to the easing of restrictions in Queensland as the year progressed. I visited misty Innisfail, where the cream buns were excellent, sunny Mount Isa, which was a circuit entirely by video-link, adding a new layer of complexity to our proceedings, and beautiful Thursday Island, where we were kept busy but still had time to do some long walks at night, adventuring around just a little part of the Torres

Strait. In each new location, the legal communities were strong, collegiate, and hard-working, with barristers, solicitors, and registry staff dedicated to delivering justice in a regional setting.

Outside of the Courtroom, I have made the most of being back in North Queensland after five years in Canberra. There have been many long hikes through damp rainforest (thank you to Inward Bound for all the training), swims in cold, crystal clear waterfalls, and mornings spent buying every tropical fruit at Rusty's markets. I joined a Surf Lifesaving club and spent my first volunteer patrol keeping a watchful eye on a sleepy saltwater crocodile, who was sitting on the beach.

Although my first year in legal practice has not been a typical one, I am grateful for the opportunities, experiences, and brand-new skills I have gained over the last twelve months. The strength of the legal community in Cairns has been unfailing, and I am so thankful for all of my new friends and connections. As the year comes to a close and the Cairns weather begins to heat up, I must admit I am looking forward to slightly quieter, albeit much less exciting, 2021.



A visit to Friday Island, while on Circuit in the Torres Strait



A misty morning on Circuit in Innisfail, overlooking the Johnstone River

THREE LESSONS FROM LEADERSHIP

Meghan Malone (2018)

While I have certainly become accustomed to being affectionately labelled a ‘hack’, this joking but nonetheless embarrassing, term has come to represent a lot for me and my life on campus. The world of student leadership at the ANU can be a whirlwind of drama, and is certainly fast paced but, more than anything else, it is a space for growth. In my time as the President of Burton and Garran Hall and now as the General Secretary of the Australian National University Student Association, I have developed immensely. As the insanity of 2020 draws to a close, I thought it the perfect time to reflect on all I have learned as a student leader thus far.

Perhaps the most resounding lesson I have taken away from my time in student leadership is that it is always best to be prepared. But, when I say prepared, I mean so prepared that you’ve vividly imagined every possible scenario and realised just how unprepared you are. Managing the COVID crisis in the Residential Halls, while also trying to give first-year students the experience of a lifetime, was incredibly difficult. Normal event planning soon looked like preparing for three different outcomes based on completely unique but foreseeable futures depending on different lockdown measures. However, I can now proudly boast that I am well and truly prepared for anything.

Similarly, my time as a student leader has also enhanced my appreciation for flexibility and openness. Whenever I have commenced a new leadership role, I have found it all too easy to become fixated on rigid visions and goals. However, student leadership is inherently chaotic. In my experiences at the ANU, I have learned to let loose and embrace new faces, as well as the fresh perspectives that they bring with them. This has led to many unexpected successes. For instance, despite the pandemic that kept us apart, a Burton and Garran Hall resident inspired our Residents’ Committee to take on the mammoth task of hosting a virtual ball. While this event was certainly not part of my plan for 2020, getting to meet so many family dogs via Zoom while dressed up in formal attire was undoubtedly a highlight of the year.

Finally, I know that I’ll be able to walk away from my time as a student leader with a greater respect for compassionate leadership and a sense of fulfilment that can only come from giving back. It has been such a rough year for so many members of the diverse ANU student community. Through my leadership roles, I have come to appreciate the challenges that many young people face throughout their time at university and some of my happiest moments have come from being able to help them along the way. I’ve met students this year who have been unemployed, been kept away from family overseas or lost everything in the bush fires. Yet, they still manage to reach out with a smile on their faces and kindness in their hearts.

While the chaos of taking on a campus leadership role is often overwhelming, I can wholeheartedly say that to contribute to the ANU community in this way has been far more than a job. To the contrary, it has been an incredibly meaningful part of my life. Though I occasionally curse the day I ever agreed to take on student leadership roles, I am now assured that I will be able to walk away from my time at the ANU as a more complete person.



Addressing B&G residents for the last time as President at the B&G Valeté

WORK IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Jocelyn Abbott (2018)

A woman is sitting in a living room in Orange writing a letter. It is 1940 and her son is in training, a jet-fighter pilot with the Royal Australian Air Force. He is 19, a boy. His mother is desperate to have his emergency contact details changed from her husband's to hers. Her husband fought in WW1, he lives at Bloomfield Hospital, and he is not well. Bad news from his son without her to break it would kill him, she thinks. The RAAF do not understand this. They force her to spell out every last detail of his condition, laboriously argue why she, a mother, ought to have a claim to next-of-kin like a father does. Finally, they give in. It is good they did. Her son died in a training accident six months later.

I am seated in a cool office in Mitchell and I hold her son's files in my hands. My job, almost eighty years on, is to digitise her son's file. I am not working well today. I am far too caught up in the lives pressed into the files piled on my desk, and I need to get a move on. I pin the papers back together, slip the photos into a ziploc bag, and wrap the dossier up in a neat white envelope.

The next folder on my pile is an immigration record. These files are tricky to digitise, they contain countless staples, pins and negatives. They record enormous families waiting patiently to enter Australia. I love the photos that accompany each record, children in traditional dress, parents stoic as they face the camera. Each family member receives an x-ray and a health check, they are examined for their fitness to work. I am always intrigued by the 'examiner's comment', a brief quarter-page piece that makes snide comments about a family's dress, or the behaviour of their children. Often, the migrants are accompanied by police checks and employment references from their home country. Other times, they carry papers giving evidence of months spent in a concentration camp, or adrift in Europe.

My job is to digitise these files so that they will never need to be opened again. When I have finished with them, I carefully bind them back up and replace their envelope, consigning them forevermore to a safe darkness. They will be returned to the bowels of the Archives on a squeaky trolley, and it is there they will remain.

I often think of the thousands of files that wait patiently in the dark for someone to request them; a descendant, a researcher, an historian. They say that history is written by the winners, and I think it must be true. Those who survived to have children, those whose contribution was big enough to be mentioned in other records. It is these people who will have their files recalled and published on the internet, a new-age immortalisation.

Ours is not the first generation of young people to live through "unprecedented times". When I am at the Archives, I live in a world of people surviving through uncertainty. When I return home, I see the same, and I imagine what a digitiser fifty years in the future might bring to light on their Mitchell desk. One of those sickeningly orange ACT handwashing posters, perhaps. A QR-Code sign-in from an ANU Residential Hall, a COVID Taskforce address, a tongue-in-cheek cartoon of a hesitant state premier. It will all go into the Archives and become another chapter in our history. This year seems new, and tougher than we have seen before, but I think resilience has always been our way.



BOOKS THAT CHANGED THE WAY WE SEE THE WORLD

Carina Stone (2017)

Certain books have the power to transform the way we understand our world, either subtly or dramatically. If you are seeking a meaningful book recommendation, try out one of these books that members of the Tuckwell community have found transformative.

The Overstory by Richard Powers (Carina Stone, 2017)

Put simply, this is a novel about trees. It charts the interwoven stories of nine characters as they eventually wind up trying to save the quickly disappearing forests of our planet. This was a both heartbreaking and wondrous novel that has changed the way I think about humanity's relationship with our natural environment. Every day I walk past trees in the ever-so-green city of Canberra, and yet it wasn't until reading this book that I really noticed them – their majesty, complexity and sheer ingenuity. Read this book and you won't be able to ignore them, or the urgency of saving our world's forests.

Gödel, Escher, Bach: an Eternal Golden Braid by Douglas Hofstadter (Ben Jefferson, 2018)

GEB is a dizzying introduction to a lot of topics about which I still don't know very much – artificial intelligence, pure mathematics, Zen Buddhism, emergence and the holist/reductionist dichotomy, to name a few. Despite the difficulty of the material, I was drawn in by the interweaving of Escher's art, Bach's musical motifs and Lewis Carroll-style dialogues loaded with spoonerisms, nested metaphors and hidden meanings. GEB was at least in part behind my decision to take MATH2222, Buddhist Philosophy, and most recently, Chris Browne's course Unravelling Complexity. GEB initiated a flourishing of new thoughts and connections between disciplines and concepts I had previously perceived as isolated, which I believe has really enriched my thinking and in some ways reshaped my view of the world.

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer (Maddy McGregor, 2016)

This book runs the grain of how we are expected to live. It challenges the importance of security, conformity, and proper process, with a call to free-spirited possibility. It hails adventure as crucial to the human spirit and natural beauty to happiness. In particular, McCandless' letter to Ron Franz shows there is no expiration date, no age limit, on living unconventionally, deliberately, and boldly. For me, this book offers a sense of limitless potential and trust in human endeavour.

Crazy Love by Francis Chan (Riley Guyatt, 2020)

Reading this book while I was at home during lockdown completely reoriented my perceptions of myself, other people, and my faith. It emphasised and drew out the aspects of the Christian message that are so often neglected in our self-centredness and greed – the call to give up everything to serve and love others in obedience to God. Not only was it confronting and convicting, leaving me with a renewed desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others, but it was also really well written and a delight to read. "The world needs Christians who don't tolerate the complacency of their own lives".

Far From the Tree by by Andrew Solomon (Tess Boylen, Admin Officer)

I read Far From the Tree during the first semester of my master's degree. It's an exploration and celebration of family and humanity. At the time, it was exactly what I needed as I did my best to stay afloat while awash in political theory and policy. The book explores the relationships between parents and their children when their identities are at odds. It's intensely interesting, well written with enormous heart and it completely broadened my perspective on family and what we mean to each other.

ISOLATION, A NETFLIX SHOW, AND A STICK OF BUTTER

Elise Rawlinson and Ben Harms (2020)

Great articles start with great first lines. As editors of this edition of *The Bell*, we should know that. But as everyone keeps reminding us, these are unprecedented times, so I think we'll be okay.

When we were sent back to our respective homes (Elise to Sydney and Ben to Briarolong in country Victoria), we both felt the isolation. We were halfway through our first semester of university, caught in the middle of a global pandemic and thrust into the "darkest timeline." Like many students before us, we both turned to Netflix, and more specifically the newly uploaded TV show 'Community'. After one eventful First Year Enrichment session over Zoom, the conversation turned to what we were doing to get through our days. Finding that we were both finding solace in the community of Greendale, we soon decided that re-watching our favourite episodes together would be a good way to while away our time in isolation. So Ben made a list of 25 episodes, which was a compilation of all the top rated episodes from various websites, and we began our quest.

For anyone who hasn't seen *Community*, it's an American television sitcom that focuses on the experiences of a group of seven friends attending Greendale Community College in Colorado. With a series of colourful characters and their wacky adventures, its popularity was reignited during a period when people sought comfort in humour and an onscreen sense of community (pun intended).

As one character, Abed Nadir, once said, "you can do whatever you want, you just have to know what that is." So we decided that what we wanted to do most was to experience some of the same joy as the Greendale Seven. Naturally, what we thought was the biggest source of joy was Abed's buttered noodles. These are pretty self explanatory – noodles (a.k.a. pasta) and butter. Although simple, they brought Abed a lot of happiness, and in our "darkest timeline" we needed some of that light.

Upon returning to Canberra, we met up a couple of times in person at a lovely French cafe in Ainslie called Breizh. This was mainly due to our shared passion for the French language, which we also practiced over zoom during isolation with the illustrious Hannah Price (a.k.a. the queen of roller skiing). However, disaster struck. Study. Exams. Moose re-opening. Finally, months after we first bonded over *Community*, we hit the Wright Hall Pav with a dream and a \$9.50 stick of butter imported from Normandy, France (from the aforementioned cafe). This. This was it. The culmination of months of mental and physical preparation. We were ready.

So, turns out, buttered noodles are actually really easy to make. You just boil some pasta and put butter in it. If you're feeling really fancy, you can add some Chartwells provided salt and pepper. We'd also recommend eating it in a good location with good people. In such a trying year, we believe that friendship should be celebrated. Even over a Netflix Party and a Zoom it is possible to form meaningful connections (the butter is recommended but not required).



Holding the ingredients for our feast.



Plating up



Us, triumphant, having finally completed our quest.

SEARCHING FOR STORIES IN FIVE YEARS OF STUFF

Max Moffat (2016)

Inspired by then-Program-Director Tim Mansfield's article in the 2019 edition of *The Bell*, this piece is a reflection on some of the objects I've accumulated throughout my studies at ANU. While many of my possessions have been sold on Gumtree as I prepare to move interstate, all the following things have too much beauty in the eye of the beholder to befall a similar fate.

An academic gown

Wearing an academic gown was compulsory at Bruce Hall's formal events such as Commencement and Valete, so it got plenty of use during my first three years at the University. It seems unlikely that I'll get a chance to don it for a proper graduation ceremony anytime soon, but I did pull it out the other day when my housemates and I hosted an unofficial one in our backyard.



Wearing my academic gown at my backyard graduation ceremony

A wooden lamp

This lamp was one of the first objects I bought to furnish my sharehouse when I moved off-campus. I was living in a shoebox of a bedroom at the time, but the soft yellow light made it feel cosy in there even as my breath condensed in front of me during winter. If I was especially wound up before bed, I'd turn off all the lights, save the lamp, and listen to 'Finlandia' by Sibelius or 'Ballade No. 1' by Chopin to relax.



My phone camera didn't really capture the warmth of the lamp here

A fluorescent yellow wide-brimmed hat

Initially purchased as one of the cheesy matching accessories for my first Inward Bound team, this hat has seen some serious adventures. While my girlfriend describes it as “embarrassingly unfashionable”, it has not only protected me from the sun but has also been a location beacon. Lost friends have spotted me wearing it from a distance in a crowd at a music festival and deep in the bush while hiking. Practicality always trumps aesthetics.



The hat got pulled out again for my final Inward Bound race in 2019

A hybrid bicycle

During my first two years of university, I rolled around on a rust-bucket of a second-hand bike that you could almost hear coming before you saw it. However, a gift of a flat-bar bike from my family for my 21st birthday catalysed my love of cycling and cemented it as my primary mode of transport. Whether I will enjoy riding it as much in Sydney – the road rage capital of Australia – is yet to be determined but I remain optimistic.



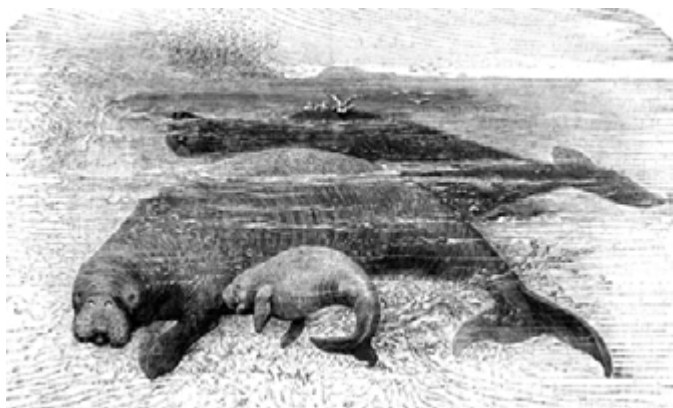
My first spin on the bike in the Arboretum

COMPULSORY READING ON SEA COWS

Lachlan Anderson

Several days ago, I received an email reminding me that I had agreed to write an article for The Bell, and noting, with a faint hint of exasperation, that I was yet to carry out this duty. Having not quite ~started, I put my fate into the hands of the Wikipedia algorithm, clicked on the “random article” link, and vowed to take you, the reader, on a journey wherever it led. Buckle up.

The order Sirenia (meaning sea cow) contains four living species – the Amazonian Manatee, Caribbean Manatee, West African Manatee and Dugong – and one recently extinct species, called Steller’s Sea Cow. Sea cows don’t do a great deal, aside from a) eating sea grass, b) swimming, and c) failing to get out of the way of speed boats. As a result, at first glance, it would seem that they don’t make for particularly compelling reading. However, as you dig beneath the surface, you realise that the tale of the humble sea cow is a far richer tapestry of tragedy and triumph than first meets the eye.



Take for instance, the story of the Georg Wilhelm Steller (March 1709 – November 1746), a German naturalist and part-time shipwrecked sailor, and the unfortunate sea cows which now bear his name. It’s well known to even the most casual student of sea cows (i.e. yours truly), that as a rule, shipwrecked seafarers and marine mammals didn’t get along in the 18th century. This was for several reasons, the most crucial being a lack of shared interests and goals, poor communication and the keenness of the sailors on transforming unwary marine mammals into the early-modern equivalents of shish-kebabs. Understandably, the marine mammals themselves were decidedly less excited about this idea.

Unfortunately for Steller’s Sea Cows, they were particularly susceptible to being turned into shish-kebabs for two reasons. Firstly, they were so fat they couldn’t fully submerge beneath the water. Secondly, there was so much salt in the kelp fronds they ate that their meat did not require salting for preservation – making them the maritime equivalent of a self-saucing pudding. Also, it didn’t help that they communicated to each other by making relatively conspicuous snorting and sighing sounds. Or that they conveniently clustered together in family groups

(Figure 1). In fact, it took just 27 years, following their discovery by Steller, for the last of Steller’s Sea Cows to encounter the unfriendly end of a harpoon.

A more heart-warming tale of resilience and triumph is found in the story of the Cocos Keeling Islands, and their single resident Dugong. The Cocos Keeling Islands are separated from the nearest established Dugong population, in Indonesia, by over 1000km of deep ocean. This begs the question – how did a creature normally found within sight of the coast, with a top speed only very slightly faster than not moving at all, and (presumably) without the dexterity necessary to operate a GPS, manage to undertake such a voyage?

While Wikipedia was strangely silent on this question, a paper written by a group of Australian scientists was on hand to solve the mystery. Entitled, in rather unsubtle fashion, “Long-Distance Oceanic Movement of a Solitary Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands” it made the equally unsubtle claim that the Dugong was very chubby when set out. Interestingly, this conclusion was arrived at using the rather creative research method of “interviews ... with the local people”. Which seems to indicate that a) the Cocos Keeling locals fat-shamed a Dugong, and b) the scientists used a trip to the Cocos Keeling Islands as a tax write off.

In conclusion, the story of the sea cows transfers upon us one overarching moral messages. You can only get so much mileage out of sea cows.

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COMMUNITY AND CHARITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Chloe Harpley (2016)

As the state choked on smoke, and the NSW Fires-Near-Me app filled with red and yellow, I couldn't sit idly by. The 2019/20 bush fire season was unprecedented, devastating, and traumatic for everyone involved. In those early days, I couldn't stop thinking of how much the children, who were having their worlds irreparably shaken, must have been struggling. If the whole situation was hard for us adults to grasp, then how the heck were we expecting the kids would cope?

Consequently, Books for the Bush was born. I began by contacting directly-impacted schools in the Riverina and on the South Coast, to organize a back-to-school campaign. This quickly expanded to helping hundreds of kids all across the country with school supplies, giving them a vague sense of normality, and alleviating the stress and financial pressure from their families.

I could never have anticipated what was to come. In March, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and instead of only dealing with the fall-out from the bush fires, Books for the Bush tackled these compounding crises. Over the past year, we've filled the gaps where governments and charities have failed regional, rural and remote communities. We have supplied thousands of kids and their families with educational supplies, books, winter clothing, bedding, food hampers, and reusable fabric masks. We've helped people from as far as Mallacoota, Tumbarumba, Bowraville and even Kangaroo Island.

Despite the challenges brought by 2020, the generosity of people has been astounding. We've raised in excess of \$7000 and had tens of thousands of dollars-worth of supplies donated. I'd like to especially thank those in the Program who have contributed financially, donated their time, or helped Jasmine Pearson (2020) with a mammoth mask-making effort!

In times of crisis, community is essential. Looking forward in this era of anthropogenic climate change and compounding crises, I'm not sure what the future holds for Books for the Bush. It's been a long year of struggle and trauma, which is exhausting, and there doesn't yet seem to be an end in sight. But, we find comfort in knowing that when we come together, community is powerful.



Kids at Walwa P.S - funnily enough, where Tim Mansfield (former Tuckwell staff) has been working this year - receiving their back-to-school packs



Some of our legendary Scholar volunteers making masks!



Scholars making masks at Scholar's House



MASKING UP

Jasmine Pearson (2020)

When COVID-19 restrictions came into effect, I (along with the rest of the world) was overcome with the sense of powerlessness. I struggled with the idea that there was *nothing* I could do to help fight this pandemic, other than to do *nothing*.

As restrictions eased in the ACT and charities such as *Books for the Bush* began to call for reusable mask donations, I set about sewing face masks in my college room. While I got the process down to a fine art and increased my efficiency, I knew that I could do better. By utilising the vibrant and generous Scholars House community, I was able to work in collaboration with *Books for the Bush*, run by Chloe Harpley (2016), to oversee a mask making workshop at Scholars House.

The workshop spanned three days during the mid-semester break, and saw Scholars of all ages volunteer their time. We formed a Scholar production line, consisting of the fabric cutting, pinning, sewing and ironing and were able to produce 70 (stylish) reusable masks made from recycled fabric. All fabric was purchased from charity shops in the local area and repurposed to give back to the community. The masks were donated to Books for the Bush and sent to various locations in New South Wales – particularly Moruya and Cobargo.

The workshop itself was an incredibly heart-warming experience. I was impressed, but not surprised by the enthusiasm and good will of the Tuckwell community, many of whom attended all three days of the workshop. As a first-year, I found running an event to be a great way to connect with other Scholars. Sitting cross-legged on the carpet of Scholars House, surrounded by fabric scraps and the soft chatter of the volunteers, I was reminded of how privileged we are to be in this position. I am incredibly grateful to the people who gave their time, the Tuckwell Team for supporting my idea, and to Chloe for inspiring me not only to hold the workshop, but also for distributing the masks.



2020 Scholar and sewing extraordinaire, Jasmine Pearson



REFLECTIONS ON THE ATTRIBUTES IN ISOLATION

Eleanor George (2019)

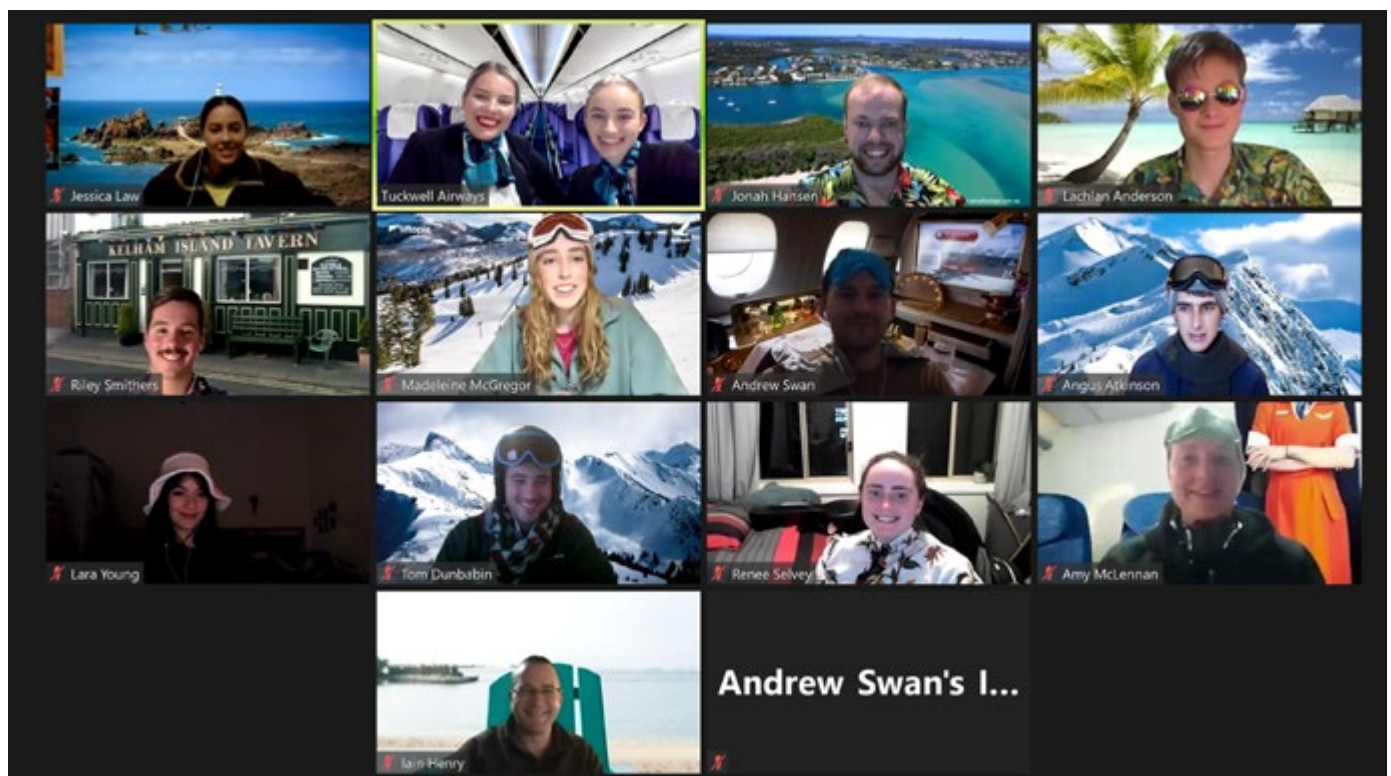
There is a trend among Tuckwell Scholars - we, who have been awarded a scholarship based on the twelve infamous Scholar attributes, rarely believe ourselves to be in possession of them. We show up to the ANU in our first year with one suitcase of belongings, and another full of impostor syndrome.

It's hard to know what you're capable of yet, if you haven't been put to the test - like the urban legends of mothers lifting cars with superhuman strength to save their trapped children. The last nine months have revealed to me some qualities that I didn't know I possessed; in other words, I was the mother, my sanity was the child, and coronavirus was the car from which I had to save it.

My isolation felt long, but in hindsight it was never as bad as it seemed. I waited it out in a country town that wasn't badly COVID-affected, during a winter that was cold but sunny, with my cabin-feverish family (who quickly learned the inestimable value of solitary walks by the river). Isolation was aptly named. With no one for whom we could pretend or put on a smile, we were all forced to start living honestly; we had to start to live just for ourselves. I was no longer surrounded by people for whom I felt obliged to make an effort. I began discovering the things I really valued in myself, since there was no one there to judge.

So, what *did* I value? I found out that I liked calling people more than texting. I found that, now that smiling at someone you passed was no longer an option, a funny Zoom background could do the trick. I realised that, when I was literally stripped of absolutely everything else to do, I was almost capable of actually focussing on assignments. I came to the corny realisation that people could be really wonderful, with very little prompting.

Isolation put me, and everyone, to the test, and we withstood the duress. We were forced to introspect, and that was probably a good thing, because many of us found something we hadn't needed before - be it reserves of patience, some creativity, or the ability to bake your own bread. These last nine or so months have been less than ideal, but that's the case for most memorable moments in history. It might have been hard, but 2020 has admittedly been 'refreshingly different'.



Semester 2 Trivia night with Scholars, Staff and Fellows

HUMANS OF TUCKWELL

Joe Negrine (2020)

Humans of Tuckwell (HoT) is an initiative started by Jaxsen Wells (2019) in 2020. Each week, HoT captures the essence of a member within the Tuckwell Community through a visual and literary profile which is then shared with members of the program each week. Highlighting the diverse experiences of both Scholars and staff, HoT celebrates their stories, their wisdom and their aspirations. Below are a few highlights and notable responses from this year's HoT.

Q: What is your definition of "happiness"?

A: *I think in my mind "happiness" and "satisfaction" are almost synonymous – it is a beautiful feeling having deep satisfaction of your work or study, of the people or nature around you, good exercise, and that delicious food you just ate.*

- Lucy Kirk (2014)

Unfortunately, we often have a propensity to think about conviction in the sense of the destination rather than the journey. You can do all the worrying in the world and have the outcome be the same. Trust the process a bit more, trust that you're going to end up where you're going to end up and work hard regardless." **- Tess Boylen (Staff)**

Q: What has inspired you to pursue your field of study?

A: *My Dad is a research chemist and my Mum is a Chemistry teacher. I knew Physics would be different enough to secretly annoy them, but not so much that I am not invited home for Christmas.* **- Lachlan Anderson (2020)**

"I once had an opportunity to go on a ship to study under-sea volcanoes. Out of nowhere, I booked my flights, and I was off to New Zealand! That was a really amazing, once in a lifetime opportunity to be on a ship and see how the research is done – it wasn't something that was part of my training at all!" **- Adi Chopra (Staff)**

Q: Does pineapple belong on pizza?

A: *Yes (of course only on a Hawaiian or supreme however) - if you like pineapple on pizza, try a cheese toastie with a pineapple ring in between two slices of cheese to prevent sogginess.* **- Carina Stone (2017)**

Q: What has inspired you to pursue your field of study?

A: *President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children..."* **- Prof. Iain Henry (Fellow)**

Q: What is the best advice you ever received?

A: *"Sometimes life shouldn't have to be hard" - my mum quoting my lovely Grandad circa when my laptop and phone died on the same day and then I fell off my bike. It just made me feel heard and seen in a period of my life when nothing was going right. And it reminded me that I could ask for help.* **- Sachini Poogoda (2016)**

Q: What is your favourite Tuckwell moment?

A: *So many favourite happy moments, but maybe the most memorable moment was when Sabi, James Hayne and a bunch of other people found me crying in Scholars House in first year over a horrible mark and reassured me. They made me feel infinitely better.* **- Jade Lin (2018)**



THE TUCKWELL SCHOLARSHIP

No Ordinary Scholarship

The Tuckwell Scholarship Program at ANU is the most transformational undergraduate scholarship program in Australia. Entering its seventh year in 2020, the Program boasts a community of 117 Scholars and 35 Alumni.

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.



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:

- > \$22,200 per annum (2020 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.





Willing to Challenge Yourself



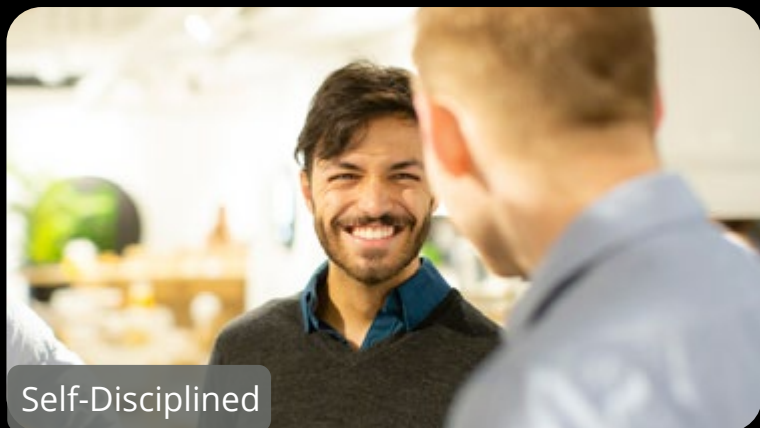
Emotionally Intelligent



Selfless



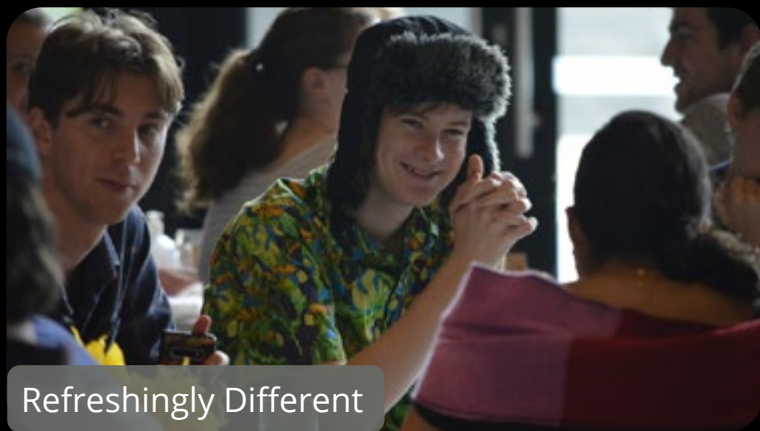
Smart and Lateral Thinker



Self-Disciplined



Resilient



Refreshingly Different



Open



Mute



Stop Video



Security



Participants



Chat