

TheBell

The Tuckwell
Scholarship
2022 Edition



Australian
National
University



TUCKWELL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

TheBell

The annual magazine for the Tuckwell Scholarship Program



Australian
National
University



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SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Welcome to the 2022 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.

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.

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From the Editors

Welcome to the 2022 edition of The Bell!

After two years of distancing and disruptions, we began 2022 optimistic that the new year would be, if anything, refreshingly different. Luckily, it seemed like our resilience paid off; we have relished the opportunity to be back on campus living and studying together again, and to be at Scholar's House face-to-face with our peers. The contents of this magazine provide a small but rich window into what scholars and staff have gotten up to this year, as we settled into the (surprisingly normal) "new normal".

As we approach nine years of the scholarship, the Tuckwell program reaches an important milestone: Tuckwell Alumni now outnumber current scholars! As represented on this edition's cover by Etta the ANU Alumni duck, this is a pivotal moment for the program. It affirms that the legacy of Graham and Louise's vision will indeed be far-reaching and long-lasting, while also highlighting that we are all a part of something bigger than ourselves. Furthermore, this milestone reminds us that you are not just a Tuckwell for the duration of your time at ANU; instead, you are a part of the Tuckwell community for life. As more and more scholars graduate and disperse all around the world, we hope that they continue to find success, and that the growing network of Tuckwell Alumni can continue to be a valuable resource that future scholars can draw upon.

There have also been some big changes this year to the team at Scholar's House. We were very sad to farewell Annette; we will miss her support, her smile and big pink coat, and we wish her the very best for the future. On the other hand, we welcomed our new Program Director Fiona to the Tuckwell community, as well as Lois and Kim, who have been wonderful in guiding us through the editing process.

We are very excited to see Team Tuckwell grow, and we are forever grateful for their hard work and support (even if it means that the Christine Allard Room has to be converted into an extra office!).

Like every edition of the Bell, the 2022 magazine reflects the Tuckwell community: talented, vibrant, funny, and most of all, refreshingly different. In its pages you will find snapshots of the year, with reflections on events from "On-Campus Camp" to Academic Dinner. It seems to have been a particularly sporty year for Tuckwell scholars — read about our IB trailblazers, and netball and rowing superstars. With articles spanning topics from classical music, to the Great Barrier Reef, to a step-by-step guide to how to win the coveted Bell Prize, there is something in here for everyone.

We must thank those who made this edition of the Bell possible, especially to Lois, Kim, and everyone who contributed. It's been such an honour curating this year's magazine, and we hope you enjoy it — happy reading!

From the editing team,

Kate, Bo, Gypsy and Kyle



From left to right: Kate Chipman, Bo Zeng, Gypsy Polacheck, and Kyle Cavanagh at the 2022 Tuckwell Annual Spring BBQ



From Graham and Louise Tuckwell

As we mentioned in last year's magazine, the Tuckwell Scholarship program did well to get through two tough years of COVID restrictions. We expected 2022 would be back to normal and it mostly was, except for a final sting in the COVID tail, when health orders in February caused the cancellation of the Commencement Dinner and Parents' Lunch. This was a big disappointment as these are our most important and eagerly anticipated events of the year. Thankfully a wonderful, postponed Bell Ringing event was held for the 2022 Scholars in October but the one-off opportunity for us to meet the parents of the incoming Scholars was lost. That lunch is a highlight of our year as only then are we able to complete in our mind the picture of each Scholar whose applications we had read in detail and who we and the Selection Panel had chosen the previous year. As we said at the Bell Ringing event, we would be delighted to meet any parents of the 2022 cohort if we and they happen to be in Canberra at the same time.

The year did get back to normal again with the July scholarship interviews being held in person rather than by video as had happened for the previous two years. A rather curious outcome of all this is that we ended up meeting the 2023 Scholars in person before meeting the 2022 Scholars, as we met the former during their interview weekend in July but met the latter only in October when we attended the delayed Bell Ringing. This was a little discombobulating for us (as was writing this paragraph....)

At the beginning of this year we were delighted to learn that Dr Fiona Scotney had been appointed as the new Program Director. Fiona has brought the experience gained from working on the Sir Roland Wilson scholarship program and during the year she was joined by Lois and Kim to form a fantastic team. Together they will help deliver and increase the support given by Scholars House, which is such an important part of the program.

This year we reached a huge milestone, where we now have more Alumni than current Scholars – what a difference nine years can make! We believe the long-term success of the program rests in the hands of an ever-increasing body of connected and committed Alumni, who can continue to thrive on their camaraderie with their peers and develop meaningful ties with Alumni and Scholars of all ages. As and when they are ready, we would like to see Alumni being an important part of the selection process, including serving on the selection panel. It is now time to start an Alumni program in earnest.

For 2023 we have added a new full-time staff position in Scholars House dedicated to setting up and building out the early foundations of a new Tuckwell Alumni Program. We cannot wait to see how this develops.

Finally, 2022 saw the passing of Queen Elizabeth II who epitomised selflessness, self-discipline, humility, resilience and constancy. Most of all she dedicated her life to service of her country. It is no coincidence that these are attributes we look for in a Tuckwell Scholar. Our photograph this year was taken in our garden while planting a Jacaranda tree in her honour.

From the Staff



A/ Prof. Ryan Goss — Head of Scholars House

Three scenes from 2022.

First, our Tuckwell Networks event in May. A large group of current Scholars and alumni Scholars gathered in Kambri to share conversations over a meal, and to listen to a panel of alumni discussing university, life, and careers. Sitting back and watching the intergenerational chat and laughter, the interest of the current Scholars, and the generosity of the alumni Scholars, was exciting and rewarding for me. As our community of alumni Scholars grows this year to surpass the number of Scholars on campus at any one time, it has been great to see increasing activity within our alumni community and between alumni Scholars and current Scholars. The inaugural alumni reception in August, attended by alumni, the Vice Chancellor, and many former Tuckwell staff, was another highlight.

Next, our traditional but non-traditional Bell Ringing ceremony in October. To the great disappointment of everyone in our community, the summer Omicron wave prevented Commencement from taking place as planned in February. This was a real shame. But we were eager to salvage and protect the key traditions from Commencement – and, in so doing, to keep those traditions alive for the 2022 cohort and our community as a whole. So we were delighted to have a standalone Bell Ringing ceremony at the National Film and Sound Archive. The ceremony ‘ringing in’ the 2022 cohort was attended by all Scholars, Graham and Louise Tuckwell, and the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic). The highlight for me was the chance, after a turbulent couple of years, to meet and mingle with Scholars in the NFSA courtyard on a beautiful sunny Canberra afternoon. There was plenty of laughter and tall stories (and not just from Graham).

And finally, let me take you to a chilly Friday afternoon at the end of semester two. After enjoying Spring Celebration lunch courtesy of a visiting food truck, the 2021 and 2022 cohorts organised an ultimate end-of-year soccer showdown on South Oval. It's fair to say the 2022s seemed to have the edge to begin with, but the prompt arrival of 2021 reinforcements ensured things became genuinely competitive. Watching from the sidelines (alongside the 2022s' team managers), I saw a mass of happy, energetic Scholars taking the game seriously with great camaraderie. It was a vivid example of the connections and memories our Scholars are able to make through the Tuckwell Scholarship Program.

Community, conversations, connections.

Of course, these scenes capture just a glimpse of the breadth of experiences and activities at Scholars House in 2022. This edition of The Bell offers a more comprehensive look at what has been happening at Scholars House, the endeavours of our Scholars on campus, and how our Scholars are already beginning to shape the world around them.

The Tuckwell Scholarship Program that this issue of The Bell depicts is the product of an extraordinary act of philanthropy. In that context, in my role, I continue to be grateful for the advice and trust of Dr Graham Tuckwell and Dr Louise Tuckwell, and the support of the broader ANU, especially Vice Chancellor Brian Schmidt and Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Grady Venville.

As Head of Scholars House I have the great pleasure of working not just with our Scholars but also with a dedicated team of professional and academic staff. This year special thanks go to Program Director Dr Fiona Scotney, who has made a fantastic positive contribution since joining us in March, and of course to our dynamic duo of Lois Carlton and Kim Haines. Thanks, too, to Annette Kimber and Tim Hillman, who both made such valuable contributions, not least over the summer. Our Tuckwell Academic Fellows hold busy academic roles but nonetheless continue to make a real impact on the lives of our Scholars and our community: my sincere thanks go to A/Prof Esmé Shirlow, Dr Iain Henry, Dr Richard Burns, and Dr Rebecca Clode.

As always, though, my greatest thanks goes to our terrific Scholar community. Thank you for your energy, your conversations, your generosity, and your involvement in this Program. Particular congratulations go to Scholars like Abi Rajkumar (Monash Scholar), Max Kirkby (Rhodes Scholar), Clare McBride-Kelly (ANU Alumni Award winner), Joe Negrine (NCP Scholar), Oli Hervir (Global Undergraduate Award winner) and our cohort of University Medallists, but certainly not to those Scholars alone. This has not been an easy few years for many in our community, and I congratulate you all for your resilience and persistence: for facing your challenges and grappling with them constructively. I look forward to welcoming our tenth cohort, and my fifth cohort as Head of Scholars House, in 2023!



Dr. Fiona Scotney – Program Director

One of the questions I have reflected on a lot since joining the Tuckwell community in March this year is what makes the Tuckwell Scholarship program so special? The answer, which many Scholars and Alumni have told me, seems simple enough: it's the people.

It is interesting that for a scholarship like this, that they don't say it is the financial assistance, although that is generous and even life changing for some Scholars, and it is not the gym membership or the access to Scholars House and biscuits, although again those things are great. But the unique thing, the truly hard to define and harder still to replicate is the way the Tuckwell program continues to attract such exceptional Scholars and dedicated supporters. And the way those people contribute to the life of the program, and Scholar's experiences while studying at ANU and beyond. From the amazing team working behind the scenes in Scholars House, to the Fellows offering their wisdom and support, and Associate Professor Ryan Goss, the Head of Scholars House, whose Facebook gifs and leadership provide a beacon for the program. We are lucky to be surrounded by so many talented, accomplished and genuine people.

A highlight for me this year was the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt pronouncing himself as an honorary Tuckwell alum at our first Tuckwell Alumni Reception in August.

Brian has been a strong supporter of the program since the beginning, and we appreciate his ongoing support and dedication, as well as his openness with Scholars. From our Morning Tea with the VC event early in the year, to the Alumni Reception and the Graduation Pancakes, Brian continues to make himself available to Scholars and the program. It has been great to see him engage in animated conversations with first years and also reflect on the ANU Alumni experience with some of our very first Scholars.

I am told he even recognised one of our early Alum on a recent trip to London, and commented that he had grown his hair!

To get the opportunity to join such a community has been such a gift, a gift that through my role I want to continue to grow and share. Our community grows as Scholars accept their offers each year, but it also grows with the connections the program continues to make with the people most important to our Scholars and Alumni: their families. And it grows in other ways as Alumni spread out from Canberra and create an international network of Tuckwells, connected through their shared experience at ANU (and LinkedIn). A rich international community that includes Tuckwells from every state and territory in Australia, from independent, public and private schools, from coastal, regional and remote communities, and from every academic discipline; all contributing in their own way, to making the world a better place to be.

Our Scholars and Alumni are already making significant discoveries through their research, contributing to communities all over Australia through their placements and field activities, and more locally through the roles they play in their college residencies and the community organisations where they volunteer their time. This year we've celebrated so many successes, including Scholars and Alumni winning prestigious international scholarships, submitting honours theses, and outstanding academic achievements. But there are so many quiet accomplishments too, the Scholars who discovered running or a new skill through a club or society on campus. Scholars who overcame their fears or anxiety to try new things, and put themselves out there to experience as much of what's on offer at ANU as possible. And those who got their first jobs, car licences, went to their first formal dinner or night at the pub. And there are those who are still finding their way, still figuring out what they are good at and how they can contribute to their communities – and we celebrate them too, knowing that it is not a race, but a lifelong commitment to learning and giving back.

So thank you to the whole Tuckwell community for such a special year, and I look forward to all that 2023 has to offer!



2022 Spring Celebration Silly Hat Competition



Dr. Rebecca Clode Tuckwell Fellow

This has been my first year as a Tuckwell Fellow. It has been a pleasure working with the other Fellows and Tuckwell staff, and wonderful getting to know students from across the program.

How terrific it feels to have gotten through the Academic year without another lockdown. I am mindful of the fact that so many of our scholars have navigated significant years of their education in the midst of COVID. There have been other extraordinary challenges this year, too, but I have watched the scholars move through the year with grace.

For me, one of the highlights has been getting to know such a diverse and interesting group of people. My conversations with the scholars have been robust and engaging, and while many have sought me out for snippets of advice, I feel I have learned so much. It has been exciting to ponder new topics varying from Women in STEM, yachting on Lake Burley Griffin, Boulderling, Inward Bound and even organ playing.

Another highlight for me has been attending the First Year Experience events, which seem to be such a valuable part of the program. Seeing the 2022 cohort connect, forge friendships and grow into uni life has been excellent and I look forward to seeing what the next couple of years will bring.

Finally, all the best to those heading on exchanges, or moving on in 2023 (either through graduation or postgraduate studies). I am grateful to have spent this year within the Tuckwell program and hope you'll stay connected.



Dr. Iain Henry Tuckwell Fellow

The Tuckwell program recently surveyed its Scholars, and asked them to identify the Tuckwell attribute they demonstrate most often. Not a single scholar selected “selfless” or “humble.” Yet I observe one or both of these qualities every time I meet a Scholar or hear news about them.

The attribute most survey respondents selected was “innately determined and driven.” And, of course, I see this too. But what makes Tuckwell Scholars so special is that this drive and ambition is often connected to selfless goals. They volunteer with local charities and NGOs –or start their own, if a gap is recognised. They serve in residential hall or ANU society leadership. They come up with new and innovative ideas to tackle long-standing problems. Sometimes they even load or unload the dishwasher in Scholars House! They give their time, energy and sweat to help others in all sorts of large and small ways.

And when the job is done, they eschew any self-promotion. Most often, they simply seek out a new challenge. So, this year, I'd like to simply note how very, very proud I am of the Tuckwell Scholars group and all they have accomplished.

Well done!



A/ Prof. Esmé Shirlow Tuckwell Fellow

For me, the end of the year at the ANU always elicits a particularly nostalgic feeling. It seems to be closely linked to the atmosphere created by a combination of the still mornings and hot days, the smell of the gumtrees, the sight of celebrating students and their families, and the sound of the cicadas and noisy miners. It always feels to me like a very contemplative time, a chance to reflect on the year that has been while thinking ahead to what I might want next year to become.

I have had a lot to reflect on this year, as 2022 was a particularly busy one for me both personally and professionally. That said, this year is definitely bigger than the sum of its parts. Rather than individual events, what stands out to me from the past year is the connections I have built, the ways in which I pushed myself outside my comfort zone, and the lessons I learned along the way.

It has been a particular joy to have had the continued opportunity to participate in this community as a Fellow. While it has been wonderful to see a return to in-person events, the thing I have most enjoyed from my role this year is the chance to meet scholars individually for tea, coffee or juice in the sunshine (though more frequently in recent months, sheltering from the rain!). It is always inspiring to hear what you are up to, to learn more about what you have been studying or thinking about, and to help you strategise your next steps for ANU and beyond. I'm looking forward to continuing these conversations into 2023, and to helping you to navigate any challenges and celebrate all the successes that the new year may bring.



A/Prof. Richard Burns Tuckwell Fellow

My writing for this year's contribution to The Bell has been a little piece-meal; I initially started to write this during a meeting one day - "Oh great, Richard's taking minutes I see" - which put paid to my finishing it there, and now, a week later, I'm sitting in Gomersal, a little rural hideaway, looking out across the rolling hills of the Barossa Valley. Henry is running amuck on the hay bales, and his mother is trying to capture a photograph; I'm sitting here with pen and paper and a glass of Sangiovese. In vino veritas!

And so, as I sit here reflecting on the year that was, I think about all the positive things we've done as a community this year. It has been a full and fruitful year for many of you in so many ways, and it has been a privilege to share these moments with you. For me a highlight was that I got to do camp! It wasn't the usual trip away to the mountains or the coast that I'd been promised, but I thought the "on-campus camp" at ANU was a great alternative to start the year to welcome our 2022 cohort. Noting how competitive the '21s were in the tug-o-war, I hope the '22s have some training scheduled over summer before the newbies arrive; the bar has been set!

Whilst we were disappointed with postponing commencement and the bell-ringing, the event at the National Film and Sound Archive was a fantastic opportunity to catch-up with so many, especially as we were heading into the homeward stretch. It was a lovely sunny afternoon and reminded me how important meeting and catching up with friends and colleagues can be. And what a supportive community we have; I for one am indebted to Fiona, Stephanie, Grace and the ANU Global Programs for running an excellent international exchange discussion in my absence.

Here's hoping 2023 provides more challenges for us and an opportunity for atonement for those who need it.

Graduating Scholars in 2022

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

Name	Graduating
Benjamin Durkin	Bachelor of Laws (Honours) Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Clare McBride-Kelly	Bachelor of Laws (Honours) Bachelor of Asian Studies
Claudia Hodge	Bachelor of Arts Major Development Studies Minor Economic Studies Bachelor of Laws (Honours) (1st class)
Cole Johnson	Bachelor of Arts Major English Minor Sociology Bachelor of Science (Psychology)
Eleanor George	Bachelor of International Relations Minor Spanish Bachelor of Languages Major Arabic Minor French, Language and Culture Minor Linguistics
Elise Rawlinson	Bachelor of Health Science
Fergus Abbott	Bachelor of Actuarial Studies Bachelor of Mathematical Science
Finlay Dennison	Bachelor of Science Major Astronomy and Astrophysics Bachelor of Finance Major Capital Markets
Jacob Ellis	Bachelor of Arts Specialisation Philosophy Honours
Jemma Jeffree	Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) (1st Class Honours) Specialisation Earth and Marine Science Honours
Jocelyn Abbott	Bachelor of Arts Major History Minor Philosophy Bachelor of Laws (Honours) Specialisation Public Law
Joseph Rangiah	Bachelor of Health Science
Kieran Hamley	Bachelor of Statistics Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (1st Class Honours) Major Mechatronic Systems
Martha Reece	Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) (1st Class Honours) Specialisation Physics Honours
Max Kirkby	Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) (1st Class Honours) Major Human Biology Minor Mathematics Specialisation Medical Research Honours Specialisation Neuroscience and Physiology
Meghan Malone	Bachelor of Laws (Honours) Specialisation Public Law Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Mia Judkins	Bachelor of International Relations Minor French Language and Culture Bachelor of Laws (Honours)



2022 Graduation Pancakes Event, outside Scholars House

Name	Graduating
Mia McConville	Bachelor of International Relations Minor Japanese Language Bachelor of Laws (Honours) (2nd class honours Division A) Specialisation Law Reform, Environmental and Social Justice
Michael Taylor	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (1st Class Honours) Major Mechatronic Systems Bachelor of Arts Minor Australian Indigenous Studies Major Environmental Studies
Oliver Hervir	Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) (1st Class Honours) Specialisation Medical Research Honours
Oliver Pulsford	Bachelor of Engineering (Research and Development) Major Electronic and Communication Systems Bachelor of Science Major Computer Science Minor Geography
Renee Selvey	Bachelor of Science Specialisation Computer Science Honours
Riley Smithers	Bachelor of Economics Minor Econometrics Bachelor of Arts Major International Relations Minor Mathematics
Ruby Turner	Bachelor of Science Specialisation Earth and Marine Science Honours
Ryan Mannes	Bachelor of Actuarial Studies Minor Finance Bachelor of Mathematical Sciences
Thomas Dunbabin	Bachelor of Economics Bachelor of Laws (Honours) Specialisation Public Law
Tobias Tasker	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) Major Mechanical and Material Systems Bachelor of Finance Major Quantitative Finance
Wyatt Raynal	Bachelor of Arts Minor Economic Studies Minor English Major History Bachelor of International Security Studies
Zachery Steyn	Bachelor of Science Major Astronomy and Astrophysics Minor Computer Science Bachelor of Statistics Major Statistical Data Analytics

Scholar Achievements

This year our Scholars celebrated many amazing achievements in the Tuckwell community. This page reflects just a selection of those achievements.

Abi Rajkumar (2014 Scholar) was named 2023 Rio Tinto John Monash Scholar

Carina Stone (2017 Scholar) received equal first prize for her honours thesis awarded by the ANU Gender Institute

Clare McBride-Kelly (2017 Scholar) won ANU Student Volunteer of the Year (undergraduate) and co-founded Canberra's Refugee and Migrant Swim Program

Jonathan Tjandra (2015 Scholar) received a 2022 Ramsay Postgraduate Scholarship, Bachelor of Civil Law, at the University of Oxford

Joseph Negrine (2020 Scholar) awarded the 2023 New Colombo Plan Scholarship

Mariane Johnstone (2021 scholar) and Ulrika Wild (2022 scholar) won first prize in the French and German categories of the 2022 Swiss Prize Competition

Max Kirkby (2019 Scholar) was named a 2023 Rhodes Scholar for Australia-at-large

Oliver Hervir (2019 Scholar) awarded a Global Undergraduate Award

Oliver Hervir (2019 Scholar), Jemima Jeffree (2019 Scholar), Martha Reece (2019 Scholar), Ben Durkin (2018 Scholar), Meghan Malone (2018 Scholar) and Samuel Cass (2017 Scholar) awarded an ANU University Medal for Academic Excellence

Tom Dunbabin (2018 Scholar), Ben Durkin (2018 Scholar) and Madeleine McGregor (2016 Scholar) for jointly won the Sir Harry Gibbs Constitutional Law Moot

Yu-Ting (Jennifer) Hung (2016 Scholar) won the ANU 3 Minute Thesis Competition and competed in the Asia Pacific final at the University of Queensland



Max Kirkby (second from right) accepting 2023 Rhodes Scholarship



Oliver Hervir (right) accepting Global Undergraduate award



Yu-Ting (Jennifer) Hung preseting at ANU 3 Minute Thesis Competition



Mariane Johnstone (top row, third from left) and Ulrika Wild (top row, second from left) at the Swiss Prize Ceremony

2022 Scholars House Committee

Gypsy Polacheck (2022)

Ellie George (2019)

Kyle Cavanagh (2022)

Max Kirkby (2019)

Katja Curtin (2021)

Jocelyn Abbott (2018)

Harry Tunks (2021)

Oliver Pulsford (2018)

Samantha Barton (2020)

Sahibjeet Bains (2017)

Nina Gannon (2020)

Callum Dargavel (2017)

From the Chair of the Selection Panel



Prof. Maryanne Dever **Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Digital)**

This year was my first as Chair of the Selection Panel after getting to know the ropes by participating as an observer in 2021. I very much enjoyed rolling up my sleeves and working alongside Graham and Louise Tuckwell and Professor Ian Anderson as the Tuckwell Scholarship Executive Committee.

We again had an impressive number of applications, and what stood out for me was the energy and drive applicants showed, even as their academic plans and personal lives were repeatedly turned upside down by COVID. Given the quality of applicants, reaching our list of finalists was as challenging as ever, but I felt confident we had selected a genuinely interesting and diverse group of young people to invite to interview.

In 2022 we returned to on-campus learning at ANU and so we were able to make the happy decision after several years of COVID disruptions to once again hold our interviews with our Tuckwell finalists in person over a chilly July weekend in Canberra.

We began with a meet and greet session with candidates on the Friday evening where we welcomed them to Canberra and, through a series of fast-moving 'speed-dating' activities, connected for the first time

with candidates who had really impressed on paper. Everyone felt a little less formal and a little more relaxed by the time we finished. It was a great way to start things off and ensure everyone felt at home, was ready to engage with us, and keen to find out more about ANU and Canberra.

We made a change this year for our interviews on the Saturday and Sunday by holding them for the first time in our Marie Reay Teaching Centre at the heart of our Kambri cultural precinct. This turned out to be a great shift as it meant far less moving about for our candidates and also provided an opportunity for us to showcase our most impressive teaching venue with its variety of flexible teaching rooms and break-out spaces.

I hope that our finalists got a sense of what learning at ANU might be like for them. Across the weekend, our Selection Panel members worked hard to ensure that through our interviews we were able to bring out the best in our finalists. We also had the support of existing Tuckwell Scholars working in the background.

At the conclusion of our deliberations, Selection Panel members also took some time this year to reflect on the process, to consider what had worked well and where we might consider making changes. Capturing insights in this way is vital to ensuring we learn and evolve as we move forward with the Tuckwell Scholarships.

I am extremely grateful to all those contributed to the selection process along the way, especially the dedicated members of the Selection Panel, the staff of Scholars House, the team from Student Admissions, and the Tuckwell Scholars who helped us out. I am excited to welcome the latest cohort of Tuckwell Scholars to the ANU at the beginning of the new academic year.

2022 Reflections

Gypsy Polacheck (2022) Kyle Cavanagh (2022)



What a year!! Our first year in Canberra, first year away from home, and first year of tertiary studies, 2022 was a year of firsts for our cohort. Unsurprisingly this massive change was daunting, with plenty of concern about making friends, getting our readings done, and surviving the Canberra winter. But these fears were quickly quashed as Tuckwell Orientation and Camp welcomed us into this new chapter. Through tours of campus, plenty of advice, and even an amazing race which somehow tested both our dancing and drawing abilities, we started to adjust to university. But by far the best part of this introduction was the community we were immediately gifted. Names were learnt, group chats created, and friendships formed as the people we had briefly met on discord and zoom became real. A massive thank you is owed to the 2021 cohort who quickly became friends and mentors, setting a culture of generosity we attempted to emulate throughout the year.

Despite the absence of a traditional Bell Ringing ceremony, thanks to the super spreader event that was O-week 2022, we quickly settled into life in the scholars house community. Our swift transition from high school to university was made so much easier by First Year Experience, which were facilitated by older year scholars, our fellows, and the scholars house staff. Organised by 2021 scholars Katja and Harry, these experiences answered all our questions ranging from “what courses should I take?” to “where are the best spots in Canberra?”, and opened our eyes to the broader world as we took ‘deep dives’ into specific areas of interest

such as whether we live in a simulation or how to allocate resources to the various challenges facing our society.

By the time the reimagined Bell Ringing came around we had already bonded and become a lot closer as a cohort, having made amazing memories together, such as our late night study sessions at Scholars House, many shared meals thanks to our friends at catered colleges, and our dominance over the 2021s in soccer. But Bell Ringing gave us a chance to unite with all other cohorts as we met with older scholars and learnt their stories. The ceremony itself was very meaningful, with us being rung in before an audience of our peers, and learning about the correct way to format salutations and valedictions ... the ceremony really covered all bases.

As we move into our second year, there is much to be excited for! While the newness that characterised 2022 has faded, there are several benefits to having a bit of experience under our belt, and we are particularly eager to be welcoming the 2023 scholars onto campus next year. Already our cohort has impacted the ANU community, through research projects, leadership within their residential halls and various clubs/societies, and by participating in sport at an intercollege, national, or even international level. Perhaps most importantly, our various adventures are bound to continue into 2023, with several more lake walks, games of articulate, and heated conversations about what does or doesn’t count as a vegetable, bringing us all together.

2021 Reflections

Katja Curtin (2021) Harry Tunks (2021)



If you ignore the cancellation of commencement, the wave of COVID that swept through residential halls, and the campus mask mandates, 2022 was our cohort's first year at university not entirely under the shadow of COVID. Scholar's House reopened, providing long conversations to distract us from work (as well as many biscuits to plunder). Classes returned to being back in person, with some of us seeing the inside of a lecture hall for the first time. Things could not be said to be truly normal, but it felt as though the world around us was making an effort to be.

No longer being the new kids on the block was a pretty massive change. Whilst a little daunting, the adjustment to second year came surprisingly naturally. Backed up by the introductory courses of our degree and marginally better study habits, the rhythm of university was far easier to adjust to than 2 years ago. Further, many scholars saw a pivot into leadership roles of their communities – giving back across the wide range of passions that the 2021s hold.

It was useful this adjustment and newfound comfort at university came at the same time we welcomed the 2022s, having some actual advice to pass down about the first year of university. Kicking off the year with Tuckwell Camp and ending it with a heated soccer match between the 2021 and 2022 cohorts, it meant a lot to be able to welcome a new set of scholars – the best thank you we can give to how warmly we were welcomed by the Tuckwell community.

Whilst we hope we provided good answers to questions like 'should I keep doing MATH1115', 'Is PPE any good' and 'How do I write in HIRAC', we hope even more that each and every 2022 feels like they have a place in the program and realises that this community is here whenever you need it.

2022 was also a year of incredible success for our cohort. It's impossible to set foot in Scholar's House without hearing about someone's endeavours as an elite athlete, a champion mooter, a social justice advocate or a devout researcher. Whilst imposter syndrome can run rife through Tuckwell Scholars, when each and every 2021 is so passionate about their own causes and their own communities, we hope that is something that is starting to disappear. It is always an inspiration to listen to individuals who care about making the world a better place – and who clearly have a plan to do so.

As we move throughout the years as a cohort, its unavoidable that we'll get busier and busier – no longer possessing the relentless free time of first year. But it will always be a joy to see each other around university – hearing the incredible things everyone is doing, arguing over a random hypothetical or just spending hours catching up. 2022 is a year that feels like it has gone by far too quickly, and yet one that people have achieved, experienced and changed so much in.

We are incredibly grateful to have played a role in facilitating the scholar's house community this year – and wish everyone a wonderful and restful break.

2020 Reflections

Samantha Barton (2020) and Nina Gannon (2020)



2022: The year we thought would be back to normal. But alas, the beginning of the year was plagued with many of the same problems, restrictions and uncertainties that have been a hallmark of the university experience of us 2020's. While opportunities to formally meet with each other were once again reduced, we didn't let this stop us. Smaller catch-ups over Scholars' House tea and biscuits or a cheeky bowl of Badger's chips have been frequently enjoyed.

Third year is a strange year for a cohort of 24 very different individuals. The very nature of the Tuckwell Scholarship brings together a diverse group of people, with different hopes, dreams and plans for the future. This eclectic mix results in each and every one of us being on diverging (and sometimes converging) paths in our academic, personal and professional lives.

Some of us are on the verge of finishing our undergraduate degrees, with exciting postgraduate opportunities looming. At the other end of the scale, some of us are barely halfway through our undergraduate. Across the board, our cohort has achieved plenty this year, in ways as diverse and extraordinary as the people that make up our cohort. We have three presidents of ANU Student Societies. Stella has been selected to journey to the Arctic at the end of this year, and Antarctica in 2024, to document the effects of climate change. Many of us have begun our first professional jobs, in law firms, government departments and the private sector.

Some of us have spent the year giving back to our homes away from home, as Senior Residents, Academic Advisors, Presidents and committee members in our residential halls. Chloe was named the first ever female head 'nav' for Div 1 IB at Bruce Hall. Throughout the year, Scholars have been extending their academic horizons through legal internships in the Northern Territory and scientific research exchanges in Japan. Isaac has been the Project Lead of the ANU Solar Car Racing team. Scholars across the cohort have been involved in mentoring younger scholars, both formally and informally, and running events for the entire Tuckwell community. Evidently, every time our cohort meets we are spoilt for choice about which and whose exciting opportunity or adventure we should talk about first.

As we move into fourth year, there are even more opportunities ahead. For the first time, the 2020 cohort will have scholars heading off on semester-long exchange programs around the world. Some scholars will be starting their Honours year. More of us will move off campus and into sharehouses, and be required to learn the 'adulthood' skills that go along with living independently. Fourth year signifies a hopeful year of normalcy for our cohort, who has endured disruption and uncertainty since the beginning of our university journey. We look forward to making the most of the future leadership, academic and professional opportunities, and can't wait to hear about more of the impressive things our incredible friends have been up to.

2019 Reflections

Ellie George (2019) and Max Kirkby (2019)



Scholars agree almost unanimously that the best part of the Tuckwell program is the people you meet. This certainly rings true (bell-related pun intended) for the 2019s – who have somehow weathered COVID-19, multiple IB cancellations, the latter half of the Trump presidency, countless confusing Tuckwell dress codes, and a Dorito fire on the beach, and nevertheless have remained close. More eloquently put by one of the 2019s, ‘we have this gang who we hang out with and don’t see for months at a time but we still all like hanging out’. That’s pretty awesome.

In 2022, most of what the 2019s have done together during official cohort hang-outs has involved eating burgers. While this is a very worthwhile use of our time, there have also been more academically-inclined interactions within our cohort. It’s pretty much indisputable that the 2019s now own the sunroom in Scholars House (and while other Scholars are obviously welcome there, they should keep in mind whose turf, or monitors, they’re on). The people, snacks, chats, deadlines, and good and bad times at Scholars House have been constant highlights during our time in the program, as have the annual bell-ringing ceremony, and the general hilarity at academic dinners, cohort meetups, and other events.

But the impact of the 2019s hasn’t only been felt within the Tuckwell community; we have also been taking the ANU and ACT by storm. Some of us have been part of pastoral care teams and residents’

committees in our colleges; some have completed research projects and submitted research papers; some have run IB with very little previous running experience; some have been involved in student activism and representation. We’ve attended Queer* Department meetings, been involved in alumni events for our colleges, and had a widespread presence across Canberra and college sport. We have given back to our respective communities, and we have a lot to be proud of.

When asked to succinctly summarise their experiences, 2019 Scholars had this to say:

‘An experience of excitement, academia, late nights at scholars, and friendship.’

‘Refreshingly different, a privilege to meet unique/driven people from all around Australia.’

‘People met + money given = unforgettable experience.’

‘What does the dress code mean?’

We are a resilient, intelligent, friendly, and humble group with a strangely high average height. Could it be that the Tuckwell Scholarship peaked too early with the 2019 cohort? Maybe. The only thing we can say for sure is that the 2019s will continue to do awesome things and look good doing them.

The future is bright.

2018 Reflections

Jacob Ellis (2018) and Ben Durkin (2018)



It has been an exceptional year for the 2018 cohort. Spread from Texas, to Scotland, to leafy O'Connor, we have been busy studying, working, travelling, and preparing for the next big thing.

However, for most of us, this year also marks the end of a five-year journey that began in the dead of winter at Interview Weekend in 2018, and ends now with graduations, pancakes, exciting new work, travel and further study. It is a journey that has spanned 5 years, a global pandemic, countless lockdowns, elections, fires and floods. However, it is memories of events that happened on a far smaller scale that we will treasure from our time at ANU. Late nights in Scholars House, sunrises on Black Mountain, moving walkways, coffees with fellows, dumpling dinners, dips in Sully's, Kioloa camps, drinks at Badger and most of all the fellowship our cohort have left an indelible imprint on us all.

The year began with a jarring return to post-COVID normality. Suddenly, Scholar's House reopened, classes came back in person and we emerged to find ourselves no longer the fresh-faced children of the program but instead the "wise" elders, supposedly with our lives figured out. As the fifth cohort of Scholars, we were privileged to be the first group to round out the Program, to learn from the first cohort, and to witness the evolution of the Scholarship.

For many, it was a year of catching up on lost time, with several of us finally going on exchange or embarking on long overdue overseas travel.

Others found their way back to their old colleges to help resurrect lost traditions, maintaining the strong communities that were so important to us when we first arrived in Canberra.

The experiences of our time at ANU laid the foundation that allowed us to face the new challenges this year brought. For some of us that meant tackling Honours theses, final year courses and other terrifyingly adult tasks. Many of our cohort had to finally come to terms with the careers we wanted to pursue next year and completed the arduous process of applying for graduate employment. As a result, next year will see the 2018's spreading themselves out across the country or even further abroad.

These changes mark the beginning of an unfamiliar chapter in our time as part of the Tuckwell program. As newly minted Tuckwell alumni, there are boundless opportunities to continue contributing to the scholarship and the incredible community it represents. Looking to the future, it is exciting to begin to think about what the scholarship's mission of giving back to Australia means to each of us and how we can begin to achieve it.

Our lives changed because we had the opportunity to live and learn at ANU. It was with great excitement that we became Tuckwell Scholars, and it is with immense gratitude that we now journey onwards.

There is much to look forward to.

Academic Dinner Reflection

Abby Kidston (2022 Scholar)

Academic dinner saw all of us inviting an academic from ANU to

Come with us and dine on some delicious food

And listen to inspiring speeches from current Scholar Clare McBride-Kelly, and

Dr Brad Tucker, an amusing astrophysicist.

Everyone enjoyed chatting to their guests at the gorgeous National

Museum.

I apologise for the awful acrostic poem but

Certainly some of the highlights were:

Dinosaur (not sure what type it is, but it's quite big and cool);

Interesting conversations with our favourite ANU academics;

(k)Nowingly following the table etiquette rules with supreme politeness, and my inner

Nerdiness got to celebrate as I chatted to my guest, Lara Malins, an organic chemist.

Ebullient: a word I just learnt that describes the evening very well, and

Rambunctiously it finished with an evening of pub crawling.



A/. Prof. Ryan Goss addressing the room



ANU Academics and Tuckwell Scholars enjoying dinner

Interview Weekend Reflection

Sami Atherton (2022 Scholar) and Harrison Clubb (2022 Scholar)

This is an article about the one weekend every year when fifty self-disciplined, humble, selfless, resilient, constant, and of course, refreshingly different young year twelve students from all over Australia come to socialise and get put to the test.

Interview weekend was particularly special this year, as it was finally able to be held in-person for the first time in three years. That is, with COVID somewhat out of the way, potential new Tuckwell scholars were able to fully experience a true interview weekend.

Regardless of whether they disembarked from planes or alighted from buses, what all fifty of them had in common was a discernible aura of nervous excitement. After all, it's not every day that you get to travel to a new city, let alone have the chance to receive a Tuckwell scholarship.

Once everyone had settled into their accommodation, we got straight down to business. And by business, we obviously mean playing a range of intense card games, board games, and icebreakers. This helped to bring out their true friendly personalities, replacing their initial feelings of worry and unease. Subsequent days were filled with numerous activities and events, such as bus tours of Canberra, college tours, movie nights, and a trivia night. The current first year Tuckwell scholars were put to shame when they lost substantially in trivia, despite having a considerable advantage in the many sections based around ANU life and the Tuckwell scholarship. However, from an extremely unbiased perspective, we – the first-year team that we definitely were not a part of – deserved significantly more points for humour.

If the name wasn't obvious enough, the most integral part of interview weekend was, well, the interview! While the interview questions themselves are confidential, it goes without saying that this is no ordinary interview (after all, it is no ordinary scholarship either). Based on our interactions with all the candidates, there is no doubt that they would have been able to respond to these unpredictable questions with insightful and discerning answers.

We must thank Graham and Louise Tuckwell for making this entire scholarship possible. Thank you also to all the other interview panellists, Team Tuckwell, ANU staff, and current Tuckwell scholars who contributed to the smooth running of this incredible weekend.

We can't wait to get to know the incoming cohort more, and know that they will bring so much to the Tuckwell culture next year.

...

"Sorry, that's the wrong answer. Try again.

Do you know what this is?"

"Yes."



2022 scholars in front of Parliament House



Tuckwell Scholar volunteers

Camp Reflection

Guy Archibald (2022 Scholar) and Shanni Yehuda (2022 Scholar)



The finish line, School of Arts Building

As 2022s we arrived at Scholar's House bombarded with introductions from all the 21s; Chris Jackson's beaming grin and Oscar's man bun included. Interrogations about who we are, where we came from and what we were about to start studying were just the beginning.

It was destined to be a different experience, having originally been planned at Birrigai Outdoor School, but we were grateful for the opportunity to have an 'on-campus Camp'. Nonetheless, Tuckwell Camp proved to be less about the place and more about the people.

So it began, opening with the annual tug-of-war match-up that began with a promising opening set to the 2022s, eventually overcome by older scholars with 12 months of ANU sport under their belt. Tug-of-war was followed by a soccer match that birthed a rivalry which still persists to this day.

The 22s took glory, goal after goal as we witnessed a generational talent emerge in Mr Jordan King (otherwise known as Jornaldo). After a brief hiccup by the 22s during the regular 6-a-side season in Semester 2, the deciding title for 2022 is to be settled imminently at the Spring BBQ.

The rest of the day was spent meeting the Tuckwell Fellows, taking well needed financial advice from Oli, hearing from Grace about exchange and enjoying the unexpectedly hot weather of Canberra.

Day 2 was the time for Tuckwell to fulfil its commitment to acknowledging the Indigenous land upon which all of us have the privilege to live and learn. Uncle Wally Bell welcomed us to Ngunnawal and Ngambri land with a smoking ceremony, which demonstrated his deep respect and spiritual connection with his ancestors.



Scholars conducting an experiment with Coke and Mentos



Handstands in front of Menzies Library



Celebrations on Fellows Oval



Scholars striking a 'buddy pose' under the willow trees

We were then introduced to our next challenge, an “Amazing Race” across ANU that involved science experiments, puzzles, and drawing. Team Lime Time, with some late additions, took victory and placed their cup and precious lime on the shelf outside Scholar’s House (Note: “Not a Café”).

After lunch (from our new favourite “What the Pho”), we went to the Law Courtyard – not to admire Ryan or Esme’s office – but to rank our feelings towards the Tuckwell values. It is truly fascinating to see the diverse and evolving attitudes towards the values that we were all brought together to represent.

Camp ended on the lawns behind Scholars, doing what makes this program special; having a conversation over a bite to eat.

Camp 2022 began with a welcome to Canberra, a welcome to Tuckwell, and a Welcome to Country but really, it felt like a welcome home.

From the Bell Ringer

Mariane Johnstone (2021 Scholar)



Mariane delivering her speech at the Bell Ringing Ceremony

“To a refreshingly different year!”

I’m quoting both Ellie’s 2020 speech, and Isaac’s speech at the beginning of 2021.

In some ways he was wrong and, in some ways, so incredibly, beautifully right. We started 2021 with a dogged hope that perhaps our year wouldn’t be plagued by COVID, and oh it feels laughable now... border closures and intense lockdowns certainly mark the year.

However, whilst I can’t speak for everyone, I think I can say that for my cohort, 2021 was so much more. We all moved to Canberra and gosh we learnt a lot. Learning about each other, from each other, learning what college was right for us, learning that Haig Park and BMP can simultaneously make everything better and everything worse, learning that the routines and habits we had in high school are of things of the past. In with the 8-hour study sessions consisting of only 25% work and 75% chats, and out with the 6am wake up, 2 practice exams a day. And obviously, we learnt from our courses, uni. The reason we’re here. I fell dizzyingly in love with my life in Canberra and with my cohort. I really could give you a list of things that I admire and love about all 24 of them.

Then came 2022, and the 2022’s. The year began with a resurgence in cases, and commencement was postponed. Instead of standing here to ring in the 2022’s and provide some of my insight from the beginning of my ANU journey, I stand here in October, where we’ve all survived another Canberra winter and the 2022’s have well and truly experienced their first year for themselves. So, tonight is refreshingly different. The news has almost forgotten about covid-19, rather we hear about heart-wrenching conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the climate crisis, the passing of the Queen and the whirlwind relationship between Pete Davidson and Kim Kardashian.

So, I ask you all to join me in really, truly taking this in. After an incredibly tumultuous few years, we get to be here. We’re a group of people brought together thanks to the shared vision of Graham and Louise Tuckwell, passed on to the Selection Panel, and then brought to life by our program directors, Fellows, and Staff.

I look around and see the scholars in the years above me, who guided me and my cohort into this program with the paths they paved. I see my cohort, whom I have learnt to love and admire so much it makes my heart hurt. I see the newly rung-in cohort who I've come to adore chatting with in scholars, reading their funny notes on the whiteboard and being oh-so humbled when we play soccer.

Being here today is an extraordinary privilege that I want to acknowledge, especially during a lot of instability across the world right now. However, I don't believe anyone here takes the Tuckwell program lightly—the sheer emotion that people describe when talking about the moment they received the call from Graham and Louise would just indicate that. I received the call the afternoon of the day after my interview. I wasn't expecting a call for at least two days, so I was completely caught off-guard. I was on my way to meet a friend for a hike when suddenly my new Bluetooth connector in my car started talking to me and freaked me out. I pulled over, realised my phone was ringing. “Hello, its Louise. Louise Tuckwell.” “And Graham!” I heard another voice pipe in.

The rest is a bit fuzzy, but distinctly marked with an overwhelming cocktail of emotions. Gratitude, excitement, disbelief, and doubt.

I only applied for my degree, and for Tuckwell, because I'd stumbled across it during a latenight year 12 crisis, the night before it was due. I initially knew nothing about Canberra except what my customers (I was a cashier) would say. They said it was boring, uneventful, plain and that the people were just the same. I thought to myself, ‘people say similar things about Adelaide, which is where I'm from, and yet it's far from the truth...’

So I decided to commit. Having the All-Rounder, I decided I'd make it work. I wasn't factoring in Tuckwell. I thought I had no chance. A common story among Tuckwell scholars is the struggle with self-doubt and imposter syndrome. So naturally, getting Tuckwell was a shock. Then meeting everyone else here, was a shock.

I felt inept. I didn't feel like I knew enough about anything to be here. I didn't feel smart, I suck at maths, and I felt way behind when it came to history and politics, despite having decided to study International Relations, which is entirely founded upon history and politics. Oh, and then Brian Lee brought philosophy to the table, something that I'd only ever briefly heard of was now being passionately debated in front of me. Thankfully, time always helps, and the friendships and the memories I've made have absolutely helped.

I'd be lying if I didn't say that I still feel some of these things, so when I was told that.

I was voted Bellringer, I was so totally moved and so totally terrified.

Somewhat saved by the postponed nature of tonight, I get to stand here with an extra 7ish months of time at ANU and in Tuckwell. The combination of wonderful friends, influential mentors, a few conversations on internalised misogyny, daring to be wrong, daring to live a little more and study a little less, and time, can really take the edge off the imposter syndrome. I'm so grateful tonight has been possible, so grateful I'm here, and so grateful for this program.

So, to the 2022's, I hope your first year has held as many ‘forever memories’ as mine did, and I hope you've found a part of ANU that lights you up.

Thank you, and enjoy the rest of your evening.

Values into action

Clare McBride-Kelly (2017 Scholar)

Clare McBride-Kelly (2017 scholar) spoke at the Academic Dinner about the Refugee and Migrant Swimming Project, an initiative she started with a group of friends. Below is an excerpt from her speech:

Every four days a person who was born overseas dies by drowning in Australia. Between 2008 and 2018, over 800 people of refugee and migrant backgrounds have drowned in Australia. Adults represent 97% of all drowning incidents among migrants. Over the last 5 years, 5 people have died in Canberra's Cotter Bend swimming spot.

In November 2020, one of these people was my friend, Najeeb Raffae. He was 25.

Najeeb was an ANU student and he was of a refugee background. He fled Afghanistan and lived in Malaysia for 5 years before he was resettled in Australia. He had a gleeful zest for life, he was fun, he was an inspiration to me in the way he put actions around his values. Just before his death, he was awarded the ACT young citizen of the year award for his ongoing volunteer work with refugee and migrant support services.

He would run 100km on the weekend training for IB, then he would go to Indonesian class on a Monday morning ready to learn Bahasa, and spend the evening interpreting for his community.

After Najeeb's death, we discovered that Canberra was the only city in Australia without a specialist swimming program for refugees and migrants. Fuelled by the loss of Najeeb and in consultation with his family, My friends Annie Gao, Andrew Nolan and my brother Liam McBride Kelly and I decided to change this. We established the Refugee and Migrant Swimming Project (RMSP), providing free swimming and water safety lessons to refugees and migrants in Canberra.

We sent application forms to every peak refugee and migrant organisation in the ACT to distribute with their clients. Within a week we had over 200 people express interest in joining.

Surveying our 200 expressions of interest, we learned that the key motivators for people in joining this program was to develop skills to save their own lives and the lives of their children and to overcome a fear of the water. Applicants expressed that they had no access to swim programs in their country of origin, and were unable to afford adult swim programs in Australia.

To develop the Refugee and Migrant Swimming Project, we partnered with the UNHCR, the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Service, NAVITAS English, Companion House which is a local health service for refugees, Royal Life Saving Australia and the Gungahlin Leisure Centre.



Clare (second from left) accepting the 2022 ANU Student Volunteer of the Year (Undergraduate) award.

We made a call out for public donations, and we received over \$20,000 from the Canberra community. This money is being used to pay swimming instructors, lifeguards, pool hire and equipment usage at the Gungahlin Leisure Centre.

Before each swimming lesson, NAVITAS provided free English lessons to participants, to strengthen their vocabulary related to water activities.

We also organised for Royal Life Saving Australia to spend a day with our participants at the Pine Island swimming spot, where they taught our participants about how to identify hazards at fresh water sites and how to know when and where it is safe to swim. They also taught participants CPR skills.

So what are the lessons we have learnt so far in our program?

Servicing Communication

Firstly, we learnt the importance of being practically available to service the communication between our 6 partner organisations.

More than just about saving lives

We realised that activities surrounding the water are such a significant aspect of life in Australia.

There is a lack of safety infrastructure at freshwater sites in Canberra

At the location where Najeeb died, someone not familiar with water safety would not recognise how treacherous it is. There is no signage indicating the risks of swimming in the area.

Through seeking expressions of interest we very quickly realised that there was a profound need for this program, and through partnering with peak bodies we were able to confirm that no other program like this existed in the ACT.

After selecting our first 20 participants we undertook extensive community consultation with the participants, in which we got their input on how this program could be run in the most accessible and culturally-safe manner. This community consultation process helped us to understand what barriers people faced in accessing lessons, and how we could use our funding and people resources to overcome those barriers.



Clare (top row, far right) at a migrant swimming lesson.

We want to ensure this program lasts long after some of the co-founders leave Canberra. The RMSP team is actively working to hire a member of staff to maintain the administration of this program.

I am honoured to be a part of the Tuckwell program, in which people not only have values of community contribution, but they put their values into action.

From Chloe Harpley, who started Books for the Bush—distributing books and other equipment to bushfire affected communities. To Joe Negrine, Jack Miller and Brian Lee, who started a charity initiative called One for the Word. To the many scholars who quietly continue to volunteer at community legal centres, health centres and partake in mentoring programs.

To find out more about the Refugee and Migrant Swimming program or donate, you can visit our website or donate at:

<https://www.rmspanberra.com/>

The Art of Arguing

Dhruv Hariharan (2022)



It was 2am. In six hours, I would be on a bus back to Canberra to attend my MATH1116 workshop. For the past forty minutes I had been listening to students from around the globe debating the complexities of international courts, and patiently waiting for my turn. I know this sounds like a cruel form of torture, but I was enjoying every minute of it.

For the uninitiated, university debating involves two teams of three speakers, each delivering eight minute long speeches either in support of or against a particular topic. With only thirty minutes of preparation and intricate topics such as “The Latin American nations should form a political bloc” and “It is better to have loved and lost than never loved at all”, having a large amount of knowledge and being able to think quickly, is critical.

The novelty of debating at university and in Canberra brought me back to my first day of Debate Club in Year Seven - the fear of not being good enough, not knowing enough, and most significantly not being able to fit into the incredibly intelligent and vivacious community of debaters. At ANU, what would I have in common with the students five or six years older than me, who I was now expected to compete with and debate alongside?

Luckily for me this fear was unfounded, with the ANU debating society being one of the most warm and welcoming groups of people I have interacted with on campus.

Consisting of students with diverse experiences and from all walks of life, everyone was more than willing to make new friends and help the very lost first year find the correct room after thirty-minutes of searching (definitely not me!).

Of course, it helped that so many Tuckwell Scholars were representing ANU alongside me, all of whom achieved great success this year. At the Australian Championships in April, Josh Abelev (2022), Alex Bako (2022), Harrison Clubb (2022), Oliver Hervir (2018), Gypsy Polacheck (2022), Jonno Shiel-Dick (2021), Harry Tunks (2021) and I all proudly represented ANU. Particularly excitingly Alex and Oliver made it to the octofinals, and Gypsy and I to the quarterfinals. At the Australasian Championships, Oliver and I debated on the same team and had a fantastic time! Perhaps most impressively both Oliver and Harry debated at the World University Debating Championships, which occurred in both July 2022 and January 2023. Harry made it to the quarterfinals on the first occasion and the octofinals on the second, which is truly incredibly impressive!

One of my favourite things about the Tuckwell Program is the discussions I have with thoughtful and intelligent people, with different backgrounds, areas of study, and worldviews. Highlights from this year include passionate conversations about whether potatoes are vegetables, what the ultimate strategy is for the card game Codenames, and how we would respond to a range of philosophical thought experiments. In this way, both Tuckwell and debating have deepened my appreciation for new perspectives and forcing me to challenging my own opinions. If this is something that you also value, consider coming along and giving debating a try – it’s free pizza every Tuesday!

Tuckwells tackle Inward Bound

Chris Jackson (2021)

The infamous 'Inward Bound' competition was run once again in late October 2022, and in a shock to none, the Tuckwell community was well represented. This competition requires skills of navigation, ultra-marathon running endurance and mental fortitude, all whilst being placed in a crucible of pressure. The competitors run between 30 and 100 kms depending on which division they are in (Div 1 running approximately 100 km), after being driven around the NSW countryside for 6+ hours blindfolded. They are dropped in the bush with no navigational tools other than a compass and a map with the 'endpoint' marked onto it. We are all truly amazed, and endlessly proud of our fellow Tuckwells for completing this ridiculous feat of endurance.

Achievements

Competing for Burton and Garran Hall: Oliver Pulsford ran in Div 1, and Zoe Crook ran in Div 4.

Competing for Bruce Hall: Jacob Gome and Chloe Woodburn ran in Div 1; Hannah Price in Div 3; Alexandra Bako and Hadyn Tang ran in Div 6.

Competing for Fenner Hall: Ulrika Wild ran in Div 2.

Competing for Wright Hall: Wyatt Raynal ran in Div 5; Alex Mirrlees-Black ran in Div 7

Competing for Wamburun Hall: Kyle Cavanagh ran in Div 6.

Competing for Ursula Hall: Jordan King and Lizzy Mee ran in Div 5.



How to Win the Bell Prize: A reflection

Nic Mayrhofer (2021 Scholar)



The Tuckwell program is something like a magic pudding of elusive and notoriously difficult-to-win prizes. At first glance, an observer might think that being selected for the scholarship is an ambitious enough feat, what with the high bar of academic excellence, inspirational leadership potential, and devoted ‘commitment to the country’ (a requirement that continues to raise questions by applicants and recipients alike).

Peer under the surface, however, and you’ll find a seldom mentioned inner-circle of scholars who’ve won a Tuckwell prize more exclusive and prestigious than any other known to the community. No, I’m not talking about the yearly popularity contest for the most Tuckwellian Tuckwell (the ‘Bell Ringer’) – nor am I interested in whichever scholar replies to the Chime newsletter within 12 seconds because they googled the anticlimactic answer to a riddle. Rather, I’m interested in investigating the mystical ‘Bell Prize’, awarded each year by Louise Tuckwell to the author of her favourite piece in *The Bell*.

You’d be forgiven for failing to pick which Bell articles have previously been deemed worthy of the novelty prize – there are, of course, so many great articles that appear in the edition every year. During an extensive period of research (with many hours spent trawling through archives of first year reflections), I had the delight of reacquainting myself with iconic moments in Bell history – Lachlan Simpson’s perplexing examination of Sea Cows being a personal favourite.^[i] Having now emerged from this deep dive into reflections on community, sincere humble-brags into the winning of coveted internships, and the occasional thought-provoking examination of *Twilight*’s sexist underpinnings^[ii] – I can safely say I have cracked the code. Without further ado, I present to you a step-by-step, surefire method, to ensure your possession of a small, symbolic bell.

Step 1: write an article.

It seems like a given, but having spent a year on the editing team of this publication, I can attest to the difficulty, year after year, in harassing scholars to actually write their damn piece. Last year, there were 186 current or graduated scholars in our community, and only 34 took the time to submit any writing (around 18%). Maybe if Louise put the little bell in a glass cabinet at Scholars, more people would walk past and gain some inspiration to submit.

Step 2: make it a reflection.

They might as well rename this publication ‘The Reflection’. Yes, you can say that every piece in here is a ‘reflection’ one way or another, but if you look at the last three winners of the Bell Prize, you’ll see that they literally have ‘Reflection’ in their title. Whatever it is about camp ^[iii], lockdown ^[iv], commencement^[v], your first year in Canberra ^[vi] – they all reflect well in Louise’s taste of article. Personally, I think it’s a shame that Harry Tunks’ charming analysis of ‘Figran D’an and the Modal Nodes’ ^[vii] didn’t stand a better chance.

Step 3: be funny – Louise likes a laugh.

Step 4: be earnest – don't be too funny.

The Tuckwell program was an expensive investment, and I guess we need something sincere to show for it (besides the biannual sending of a letter to confirm the selection panel picked right).

Step 5: make it symbolic

it's pretty clear that Louise is into meaning and metaphor. Did anyone know that the eponymous bell itself is "crafted from molten metal into sound" to signify the transformation of budding Year 12 graduates (slabs of metal, I guess) into a sonorous journey of meaningful transformation?

Step 6: in all seriousness, ignore these steps.

To be frank, trying to compare different Bell articles for this piece has led me nowhere – except for thinking, on another level, about this idea of 'cracking' the secret of the Tuckwell program. You can't, and anyway – that's not the point.

We all know someone who we think could probably have been a great fit for the scholarship – and like the rest of us, I'm sure those who have won the Bell prize sometimes have their moments of self-doubt, having to grapple with the fact that they were chosen from a pool of candidates who are all deserving in one way or another. Like I advise any Year 12 student thinking about applying for Tuckwell, the only genuine advice I can honestly give is to put your hat in the ring and see what happens.

You might be in for a surprise.

[i] Lachlan Simpson, "Compulsory reading on sea cows," 2020.

[ii] Chloe Heiniger, "Women In History, Featuring Twilight," 2021.

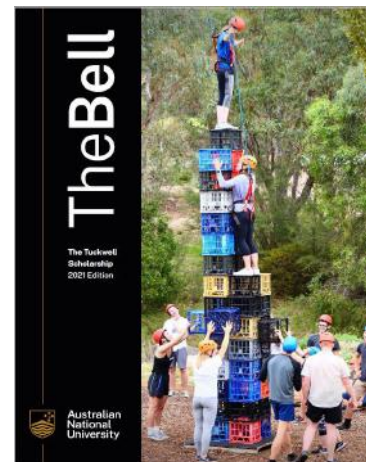
[iii] Oscar Pearce, "Camp Reflection," 2021.

[iv] Tom Dunbabin and Emily Davidson, "2018 reflections," 2020.

[v] Wyatt Raynal, "Commencement: Reflections of a 2019 Scholar," 2019.

[vi] Jocelyn Abbott, "Making Space," 2018.

[vii] Harry Tunks, "How Star Wars Created The Stories it Never Told," 2021.



The Bell (2021)



The Bell (2020)



The Bell (2019)

Identity and Intelligence: How does being “smart” define my self-perception and why does it matter?

Riley Guyatt (2020 Scholar)



When I was in high school, I had a five-step plan for world domination. The first step in this process, without which I often loudly claimed the rest would be pointless, was for me to get an OP1, the highest school-leaver’s score for Queensland students.

I cooked up this convoluted plan after a friend asked me why I was so determined to get an OP1 when it wasn’t required for my course at university, and I couldn’t think of any better answer. My friends laughed and moved the conversation on, but it stuck with me, even years later. Why did I want that grade so much? My whole life, people around me have told me that I am smart. This often came attached to an “objective” measure – a grade achieved, a problem completed, a competition won. In my mind, however, these affirmations also came as warnings.

If a grade or a competition proves that I am smart, and smart is who I am, then what happens when the grades slip, or the competition is lost?

When smart is the praise on everyone’s lips, then not-smart must be a condemnation, must signify a fall.

So if I just got an OP1, could I protect myself from falling? Could I be irrefutably, unquestionably smart?

Receiving the Tuckwell Scholarship was a strange awakening for me. Sure, it was another piece of proof for my identity, but I suddenly found myself surrounded by this group of people who are all equally, if not more, “smart”, accomplished, and exceptional than I had always been told I was.

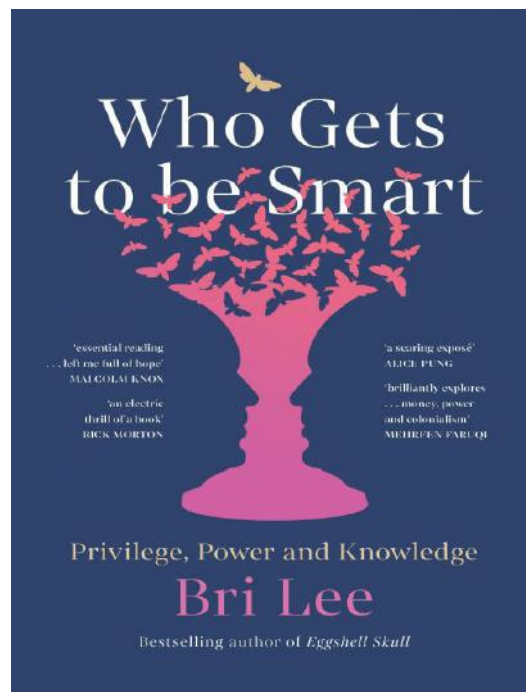
Every conversation I had with the other scholars – whether it was about their courses, their extracurricular activities, or something as menial as their holiday plans – made me feel like I wasn’t enough. After all, if I’m not the smartest person in a room, or at least everyone doesn’t think I am, then who am I, really? If I’m not the best, then why should I even bother?

It became clear through all this that being seen as smart holds a core place in my identity, in how I perceive myself and others around me. I started to really worry about it. Not only because it was making me a little bit miserable, but also because it messed up my priorities and limited my ability to focus on helping the people around me.

My journey of questioning how being “smart” shapes my life and self-perception led me to pick up Bri Lee’s book “Who Gets to Be Smart?” during lockdown last year. Reading it reaffirmed my conviction that our education system in Australia does not do all that it could, and certainly not all that it should, to equitably educate all students, and to decouple their self-perception from the subjective numerical valuations I had found myself caught up in.

Whilst reading this book, I became painfully aware of the way that my privilege has shaped my intelligence and the place that I hold in what is known as “the academy”. I am white, and English is my first language. I am from a dual-income, university-educated, upper-middle class family. Although they did not send me to a private school, they could afford to live in the catchment of a well-funded public high school and supported my education and extracurriculars with time, encouragement, and finances. Nobody in my family has any serious health issues, and our household is mostly free of conflict. In her book, Lee discusses all these factors, and how, to varying degrees, they contribute to privileging some people in the academic system whilst excluding others. You may disagree about the extent to which genetics and hard work may have contributed to my perceived intelligence, but it is undeniable that without all of these privileges, which I have absolutely no control over, I would never have received this scholarship. Without these lucky advantages, I would not be smart. Or perhaps it is more accurate to say that society would not let me be smart, that there would not be a place set for me at the table, even if I still have to step up and take it myself.

Reading Bri Lee’s book has given me deeper insight into how my own perceptions of what it means to be “smart” interact with every layer and type of privilege in the society and academic institutions around me. I know there is no objective measure of “smart”, and it has no impact on anyone’s intrinsic value. Nonetheless, as people who directly benefit from the dominant construction of intelligence, we should all continue to contemplate the questions raised by this book, so we can critique and dismantle the institutions that define “smart” and set it aside for the privileged few.



Who Gets to Be Smart: Privilege, Power and Knowledge
(Allen and Unwin, 2021) Bri Lee

From Bach to Billie Eilish: 'Classical' Music in the Modern Era

Rhys Nickerson (2022 Scholar)



When I say I like 90s music, I might be thinking of a different century to you. I respect your right to devour as much Backstreet Boys as you like, but personally I will be able to die peacefully when Mooseheads finally plays their remix of Stravinsky's Rite of Spring that I know they have been cooking up.

I am Rhys Nickerson, and I am a self-proclaimed classical musician and lover of classical music. My talent in the iconic Tuckwell Talent Quest was instantly playing any audience-requested song on violin. My tickets to Hilary Hahn (violinist) with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra cost more than my tickets to Billie Eilish.

To be clear, this is not an argument about classical music superiority. I think we can agree, however, that it is not normal to love classical music this much. This has led me to wonder: why does music have such an individualist feeling to it? Why is some music more popular than others? Why doesn't the world love classical music anymore?

To answer these questions, I will turn to answers posed throughout history. John Locke, writing during the Baroque era of music, presented an account of individualism centred around a religious premise. We are only free because God granted us this power, yet the government is the sole arbiter of justice in our usage of God's free will. In the context of music, this seems to argue that we choose our music taste because we can, so long as it is in line with societal norms. Coincidentally, Bach commenced writing of his Six Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin in the year of Locke's death (1704), and they remain a cornerstone of the violin repertoire and a fantastic insight into the religious norms of society at their time of composition and Locke's writing. They are also devilishly difficult (see what I did there?).

However, this theory on the relevance of music doesn't seem that relevant. For one, democracies with a separated church and state don't restrict what music we listen to. More importantly, it alludes to a deeper maxim that music was 'acceptable' if the rest of society deemed it so. Appeals ad populum do not appear to limit what music ought to be consumed by people in modern society. Whenever I hear 100 geecs, I wish it did though.

Unfortunately, Locke has not proven useful on my quest to discover why not enough people love classical music.

Unlike Locke's individualism theory, the theory of cultural relativism moves beyond the self and considers societal aspects. Cultural relativism purports that one's actions and beliefs ought to be based on their own culture and upbringing, rather than evaluating based on the culture of another person.

This is an incredibly necessary theory when globalisation is at an all-time high, but sadly may not be relevant to understandings of music taste. Classical music exists cross-culturally. Wynton Marsalis' Swing Symphony is a merging of Western classical traditions with deep jazz roots, and is an undying celebration of Black, African American music and culture. Performing this piece back in 2019 was one of my all-time favourite experiences, as was Australian composer's Kakadu for Didgeridoo and Symphony Orchestra, depicting the landscape of Kakadu National Park and the Indigenous community that inhabits it.

One does not have to look beyond the range of instruments in the world, from West Africa's djembe to the Japanese koto, to understand the universality of classical and historical music. I will never forget the time when I threw my bow into the audience at the end of Márquez's Danzon No. 2; it was accidental, but the Mexican piece deserved a flourish no less spectacular.

Adaptive Preference theory, again, gives a slightly different answer to my question. Adaptive preferences are desires that have been formed by people based on the life they lived, not on the life they could have lived if they had better conditions. Perhaps the reason why 'kids these days' fail to appreciate the classics (read: Ravel, Prokofiev) is because they were not raised in lifestyles conducive to appreciating classical music. This seems like a plausible theory, especially when classical is often misread as classist. Yet, classical music education is on the rise globally – especially in developed countries like Australia, classical music education seems more accessible than ever.

I began my music journey in the Queensland music curriculum in Grade 3 and was a menace at Hot Cross Buns. Mozart himself wrote thirteen whole symphonies while he was a child! Björk, cultural icon, launched her music career as a classical pianist and flautist from age six. If only you kept going with that plastic recorder in Grade 5!

Whilst an investigation through these theories has provided an insight into many of my interests, I have sadly failed to provide a logical, well-structured response to my initial question. We can say whatever we like about Gen Z's desire for inauthentic individualism regarding music taste, but I refuse to accept a world where this art form dies. I cannot tell you why I enjoy Bach Sonatas and swing music, but I will continue to enjoy them. Perhaps it does not matter how many people appreciate classical music; Mona Lisa is still beautiful when there is no audience in the Louvre, and Debussy's Clair de Lune still captures the universe when the concert hall is empty.



Portrait of John Locke in by Godfrey Knelle (1697)

Adventures in and out of the lab: Japan, a camel, and the importance of greetings

Elise Rawlinson (2020) and Bridget Lunn (2020)

“Yoroshiku onegaishimasu”-direct translation: please be nice to me; translation with context: nice to meet you. This was maybe the most important Japanese phrase we learnt during our four hours of Kyoto University Japanese lessons (or at least the only thing Elise can now remember) at the start of June. By this point we were at the start of our third day in Kyoto, having in these mere 48 hours navigated our way through Tokyo airport gawking like tourists at the vending machines and robots giving us directions, acquired scrumptious ramen as our first meal, offended the regular guests at our hotel’s breakfast buffet, gawked again at the range of food in the local 7/11, almost missed our bus onto campus, and arrived at our briefing late. It was a busy two days, and it would prove to be a similarly busy two months. The importance of this introductory phrase that we were taught is its role in greeting new people and establishing mutual respect. This was essential as we were entering a place where we were about to work and live for two months. Although most Japanese researchers speak at least some level of English (or luckily for Elise, are actually British), entering a new cultural context of course requires adjustment and humility on both sides. However, we didn’t always feel too far away from Canberra, with the Kyoto Tower which looks strikingly like our own Telstra Tower and a shopping mall called ‘Cube’ that brought back memories of home.

Why were we in this context? Well in January of this year, Bridget attended a talk given by undergraduate students at the Research School of Biology, which coincidentally included Elise, as she had undertaken a summer internship. We caught up after a long summer period of not seeing anyone else we knew around the uni, and began chatting about our year’s plans.

During this chat, we both resolved to apply for the Amgen Scholarship, which we had been emailed about a few months previously, and would facilitate a two month research trip to Kyoto, Japan. We were both lucky to be among the twenty three Scholars chosen from around the world to work in the broad area of biotechnology.

Without knowing it, we were even luckier to have chosen Kyoto, as whilst the Amgen Scholarship runs in 24 universities globally, including at the University of Melbourne, we were still in the era of COVID travel restrictions. Indeed, Japan was still not open to tourists, which presented us with a unique opportunity to explore Japan from both academic and sightseeing lenses.

On the academic side, our projects were quite different. Elise was working in a neuroscience lab that focusses on neurodegenerative disorders, with a specific subset of that lab who were focussing on chronic inflammation. Here, I was working on the development and testing of a drug for pain caused by inflammation by targeting neurons in the spinal cord. Although I couldn’t drink coffee for a solid month because I was performing tiny dissections every morning to culture these spinal neurons, I learnt so much about sensory processing in health and disease that I hope to take forward in my medical research and work.

Bridget worked in a lab that purely studies algae. Through a series of photosynthetic and DNA sequencing experiments, we uncovered an entirely new genus of algae, which had been isolated from Lake Biwa (the largest lake in Japan, and a great swimming spot!). Whilst I learned that I do not want to dedicate my career to the study of algae, it was still a great experience and one I will not soon forget.



At the top of Mount Fuji



In the bamboo



Elise at White Heron Castle

On a less scientific note, the lab environment taught us another important lesson about cultural differences - particularly stark was our mild horror upon discovery that in the lab, as opposed to wearing closed toed shoes, you were actually expected to wear sandals and no lab coats. I'm not sure Bridget has ever recovered (I haven't). Indeed, there were a lot of cultural differences that brought humour to our days, from our amazement at finding Yellowtail wine in the 7/11 to Bridget seeing all kinds of things on her morning runs, such as a meerkat on a leash or a giant salamander in the middle of the path.

And of course, we had many adventures. Our travels in and around Japan ranged from exploring a 42 degree desert with actual

camels, cruising over natural whirlpools, walking half an hour each way for souffle pancakes whenever we had the time (often for lunch), climbing Mt Fuji, and of course, exploring Kyoto top to bottom including the varying and impressive temples, restaurants, and shops selling anything you could ever want.

Elise's interest in history was satisfied by a solo trip to Hiroshima (and her love of otters by a dedicated otter cafe), whilst Bridget's interest in wildlife took her off to Okinawa for a week where she attempted to complete her goal of photographing every type of Japanese snake.

There was never a dull moment, and whilst our step count was high and our tan lines stark, our souls were satisfied.

Humans of Canberra: ANU elite athletes

Chris Jackson (2021)

Chris writes for the Humans of Canberra Facebook page, where he explores the everyday lives of our University's elite athletes. Here are some excerpts from his interviews with Tuckwell Scholars Milla Papallo (2022) and Caitlin McManus-Barrett (2021).



Milla Papallo (2022 Scholar)

Milla Papallo is a 19 year old netball star, who has landed a spot in the U19 Australian Netball Team. She balances her netball ambitions with a Bachelor of Medical Science at the ANU -residing at Wright Hall.

"It's good now in the offseason. I'm getting a bit more time to spend at Wright, so I'm still meeting new people from college. When I first moved here, it was really quite isolating because I was always going off to training and games in Sydney. I would stay in Sydney on Sunday night as well, so I was only in Canberra like four or five days a week. I still see people and am like 'Oh, have you been here the whole time?', which is kind of bad, but I mean they are probably saying the same thing about me.

"I'm currently playing netball for Manly Warringah, in the U23's and a bit in the opens as well. We compete in the NSW Premier league in Sydney, but playing professionally and eventually for the Australian Diamonds is absolutely my overall goal... It feels so scary to say that out loud! The next big step is to be a training partner for an SSN team. It gets really competitive at that level though, because it's such a small field of players compared to something like AFLW.

"Oh, we were looking into family heritage, looking for some sneaky opportunity to play in the Commonwealth Games. My grandma's actually an orphan, so we were like, "are you born in Ireland or England?". If she was born in Ireland, that could have given me the opportunity to play for Ireland, but unfortunately she was born in England. Not that I'm saying Ireland is bad at netball! They just have less players... I'll stop digging a hole now."

"We went to Hobart for the National Netball Championships. That's where I competed for the ACT, and was then selected in the Australian U19 team. I was over the moon! It was my first ever domestic flight, as the only other plane I'd been on was an international trip when I was 1. I didn't realise there was a weight restriction on luggage until I got to the airport, and I took all my uni books with me, so I ended up having to pay a \$50 fee for that. I didn't even end up touching them, so that was a waste of \$50 and put me back on my 'leccies' [lectures]."

"I miss my dog, that's it. No, I'm kidding. I miss my family heaps. I call mum every day, we chat about everything. Dad went through a phase of sending me some inspirational text messages each day. He's a tradie, so he gets up really early. Most of the time when I wake up, I'll have a message from a couple hours earlier to start my day. Here's one of them; "Rivers never go reverse, so try to live like a river. Forget your past, and focus on your future. Always be positive.". Apparently he listens to them on Triple J, and then he writes them down quickly. So if he reads this, I'm sorry for not responding to that one, I do appreciate your inspiration."

Caitlin McManus-Barrett (2021 Scholar)

Caitlin is a 20-year-old rower from Sydney, competing for Australia in the U21 Women's rowing team whilst studying PhB in Science and residing at Fenner Hall.

"I've been rowing since I was in year 7, so I picked it up in high school. It's one of those things I found myself progressively doing more and more, until suddenly you find yourself doing elite training, wondering where it started. So that's kind of what I've been doing for the past couple of years, managing uni and rowing."

"When I first found out I was moving into self-catered accommodation, Mum thought I was going to starve simply because I didn't know how to cook. It just wasn't something I was super used to doing, but as a rower, you go through food so quickly. It was a very steep learning curve — I remember my first meal being a can of tuna and rice. I undercooked the rice and couldn't even open the can of tuna because I bought one that needed a can opener, so it was a really bad day. But since then, I've definitely made some big strides in my cooking!"

"There was an Australian rower who ended up becoming an Olympian, but in the process of that, their coach took them to the pub and would not let them leave the table until they admitted that their end goal was to win at the Olympics. It makes sense, because it's so hard to say that that's your goal; so many people fail. There's this pressure and fear of disappointment if it doesn't turn out, but that would be nothing compared to the disappointment of not becoming an Olympian because you couldn't be honest with yourself about how much you wanted it. When I was in kindergarten, everyone got a little plastic gold medal for participating in Olympics day, and I still have mine hanging on my desk at home.

At the time it meant everything, and I've realised now it's not just because it was a gold medal, but because to me it was an Olympic gold medal, just made of plastic. So yeah, it's scary to say it, but the end goal has always been the Olympics."

"One of the reasons I have always loved rowing is that you can see the work you put in translate to visible progress. Consistency and putting your head down, even though sometimes it sounds awful, do get results in the end. I do 5 mornings on the water a week at 5:30 AM.

I'm on my little bike leaving Fenner at 5:05 AM, which means I'm up at 4:40 AM. Then in the afternoons, I have 3 days of weights at the AIS {Australian Institute of Sport}, and then Tuesday and Thursday is some form of cardio, and usually we're on the 'Ergs'. We do quite a bit of riding on Saturday afternoons as well, so essentially it's a full-time job."

"I had a course last semester that I had to do a deferred exam for because I was on a plane from Perth, but it wasn't deferred to the deferred exam block, but actually to a point during the holidays. I was overseas, in a Hostel room in Geneva in a completely different time zone, with my friend Imogen in the room. I had to find a laptop, and had to wake up at 3:30 in the morning, take the exam from 4:30 to 7:30 AM with the lights on as poor Imogen slept on the floor. When I finished the exam, I didn't know what to do because Imogen wouldn't wake up for a couple hours. I just went for a run around Geneva. Honestly, the strangest experience I've had in terms of exams."



GBR: Gorgeous, Brilliant, Remarkable: Great Barrier Reef

Lea Hartley (2022 Scholar)

10th to the 19th of April 2022 was the most breathtaking, marvellous, best week (and a bit) of my life. Although I am prone to over exaggeration, it definitely was a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget, and I think that qualifies it for the aforementioned superlatives.

Back in 2019, I saw an inconspicuous poster looking for applicants for a unique trip the following Easter and the rather arduous application was due in two days (an uncanny foreshadowing to my Tuckwell application process). After a mad rush chasing up many referees, figuring out how I could prove on paper that I could swim and writing what my mum recently told me was ‘the worst thing I have read’ (she is also prone to over exaggeration, I hope), I sent off my application to the Australian Museum for the inaugural NSW Government School Coral Reef Study Tour to the Lizard Island Research Station. With no thanks to the virus, it was only recently that I found myself on

a plane to Cairns and then an even smaller plane (it had 11 seats and the pilot thought it would be hilarious to let the plane drop every now and again – traumatising to say the least) to Lizard Island at the top of the Great Barrier Reef for the next 8 days.

Lizard Island is almost 10km² in size and is home to 3 things, an über fancy resort, the Australian Museum’s Research Station and a whole lot of lizards (yellow spotted monitors to be specific if you fancy yourself a herpetologist). Although our trip was funded and supported by the generosity of the Australian Museum and their research station served as base camp for the week, we were primarily under the guidance of Dr Andy Lewis and Dr Cristiana Damiano from the Coral Sea Foundation, an organisation that works with traditional owners of Australia and Melanesia, teaching proactive sustainable reef management and awareness of biodiversity, whilst also delivering humanitarian aid.



We had a packed schedule. Most days started bright and early in the classroom with a lecture on topics ranging from fish classification to reef ecology and sustainable conservation.

Later, flopping backwards into the water we snorkelled and free dived at the most insane reef spots in the world. Armed with a stinger suit (cause this is Queensland after all), high-tech waterproof paper and an average pencil we got the chance to play pretend at being marine scientists and make observations about reef recovery, fish types, coral abundance and much more. Proper sciencey stuff.

We would return cold and ravenous, inhale lunch and be back in the classroom for another lecture and admiring the photos we had taken, before launching ourselves into the ocean once again for another snorkel at another site. Evenings were spent playing a lot of card games, primarily Spoons, which we played so aggressively we severely deformed poor Sven the teaspoon. Alas.

Apart from having the time of my life it was highly educational, we were there, after all, to be inspired and indoctrinated into the cult that is earth and marine science. Personally, I will admit they were highly successful, and rest assured I will be labouring through my semesters of rocks to get back into the ocean at a later point in my uni career. Dr Lewis, in particular, had a major point that he wanted us to take home with us, and that is, that the Great Barrier Reef is recovering.



Battered by cyclones for several years in a row, then followed by floods of crown of thorn star fish, ever-increasing global warming causing mass bleaching events and human threats of pollution, overfishing, over tourism and many other tragedies, the coral reef could not catch a break. However, the reef is making significant strides in its recovery, with a significant observable increase in coral cover and diversity even over just the past 3 years.

As a consequence of the media focus, attention turned to innovating options to revitalise the reef, such as cultivating and replanting coral, man-made reefs and many more techy solutions. Unfortunately, these are band aid solutions, not only that but, they are often cost and time ineffective because, for example, coral cannot simply be planted, you cannot introduce coral willy nilly, (they are very fussy creatures) and artificial reefs are very very very hard to get right, risking more damage.

Furthermore, these innovations take away time, researchers, and money from working on addressing the root problems. On some fronts, the attention has also resulted in the Great Barrier Reef to be viewed as a lost cause, with research, conservation and funding efforts turning to other parts of the world, as well as governing bodies linked to the reef becoming lax on fishing or shark laws for example, leading to further damage and apathy among the public.

I feel incredibly lucky and honoured to have been chosen for this trip and be supported as the next generation to campaign for the wellbeing of the Great Barrier Reef. It was an unforgettable experience I will forever cherish, and I am thrilled that I get to share it with you! 11/10 would recommend the Great Barrier Reef.



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