

The Bell

The Tuckwell
Scholarship
2024 Edition



Australian
National
University



TUCKWELL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

TheBell

The annual magazine for the Tuckwell Scholarship Program
Celebrating 10 years of Tuckwell





Welcome to the 2024 edition of *The Bell Magazine*

This publication takes its name from the Tuckwell Handbell, commissioned by Drs Graham and Louise Tuckwell AO 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 2024 edition of The Bell!

The Bell, like camp, biscuits, Commencement, ringing-in, and Academic Dinner, has become something of a Tuckwell institution. It serves as the chronicle of the year; something which, well-after we have all left, we can look back on to reminisce, and something which future Scholars can look to as a definitive historical account.

It was Edward Gibbon in his seven volume History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire who said that history is but the 'register of crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind.' Putting this book together is accordingly not a responsibility we have taken lightly. Whether it be the documentation of excessive biscuit-thievery, leaving the dishwasher unpacked, or Sydney Bao's repeated falls into Sullivan's Creek, we hope this record of history does justice to not only the crimes, follies, and misfortunes, but also the beauty and triumphs of the current Scholars.

This year has been a significant milestone for the life of the program. The ten-year celebration saw viceroys charmed, trees finding new homes on the banks of Sully's Creek, and many a brunch devoured. We have welcomed Associate Professor Michelle Barrett as the Head of Scholars House, fresh faces in the Fellows program, and a podcast series featuring our brilliant Scholars.

Just like our vibrant and diverse community, these pages are filled with unique pieces that capture the essence of a Tuckwell Scholar.

You'll find curious travel writings, reflections on the Canberra food scene, an interdisciplinary analysis of the Scholars House dishwasher, and tales of the aggressive campus ducks. Across all articles, it is without a doubt that you will find them refreshingly different.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who has made the 2024 edition of The Bell possible. To the Scholars House team, especially Lois and Gita, we extend our gratitude for all of the effort you have invested and for taking the time to help our ideas for this edition materialise.

We thank all of our talented writers who have thoughtfully shared their creative stories, memories, and experiences with us throughout these pages. Your beautifully crafted words have made us smile and laugh a lot! To all members in our community, we hope you find this edition a wonderful snapshot capturing moments and memories from this year. We have thoroughly enjoyed being the custodians of this year's publication and hope you enjoy the articles. Happy reading!

From your editors,
Max, Hannah and Sophie



From Graham and Louise Tuckwell

10 years of Tuckwell

Undoubtedly the highlight of 2024 was Celebrating 10 Years of Tuckwell at and around Commencement this year. The four-day program was masterfully organised by the team at Scholars House and chronicled in detail in a special commemorative book which documents the journey of the Tuckwell Scholarship Program, to which so many people have contributed.

The Tree Planting Ceremony on the Friday was a brilliant idea and wonderfully staged. We particularly loved the following words from Jasmine Pearson (2020 Scholar), who spoke on behalf of all scholars: “These trees, like our commencing Scholars, start as saplings but have the potential to grow into towering figures, providing shade, shelter, and wisdom to those who come after”. The Gala Commencement Dinner on the Saturday was truly spectacular and clearly reflected months of thoughtful and fastidious planning, from which all in attendance benefitted. No doubt it would exhaust the Scholars House team to ask them to put on such an event more than once every ten years.

Finally, on the Monday evening, we had the honour of attending a reception at Government House to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the scholarship program, hosted by His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley. We were astonished and touched when Her Excellency sang us all a song she had written specially to mark the occasion. Her original work now sits proudly and securely in the glass cabinet at Scholars House.

We referred in our Commencement speech this year to the growing importance of Alumni to the future of the program, and that it was time to start handing over the baton gradually. In this connection we are excited to announce that, as of Interview Weekend this year, the Selection Panel of eight persons will include two Alumni positions. We anticipate that, as the years go by, the proportion of Alumni on the panel will increase slightly as their ongoing role becomes more and more important. Since our current Alumni are so busy with their early careers, each Alumni spot will be shared between two people, thus halving the workload and (not incidentally) giving more Alumni a chance to take part.



Our photo this year is in fact a portrait of us. It was commissioned specially by Dr. Fiona Scotney, as Director of Scholars House, to mark the first ten years of the program.

We deeply appreciate this gesture and the effort put into it.

From the Staff



**Associate Professor
Michelle Barrett
Head of Scholars House**

The 21st Of December -Gravy Day

Dear Scholars,

As December 2024 closes in I am imagining you at home with your families, bathing in the glory of your academic achievements and getting ready for Christmas. Perhaps singing along to the iconic song, penned and made famous by Paul Kelly, “How to make gravy”. My family are gathering, all about to descend, our version of : “Stella is flying in from the coast...the brothers are coming down from Queensland..”

The enormity of gathering together as a family cannot be underestimated. Tonight I write this with the sheer relief of having all my people home. As a Tuckwell community we did this on a Grand Scale in 2024 for the 10 year anniversary celebrations and now as you read this at the beginning of 2025 during Commencement weekend we are gathering together this other, significant family/ cohort/community/home. You will be reading this having hopefully had a restorative summer. December and January are transformative times in Australia. This is the time your mind gets to wander and is invariably the time that new opportunities and completely new directions suddenly become obvious. Think of the chrysalis January you had before starting at ANU, knowing a brave new world awaited.

This time of reflection and future thinking brings me straight to being grateful. I have loved my first year as Head of Scholars House and am thankful to you, the Scholars, for welcoming me so generously, particularly those of you who had the privilege of A/Prof Ryan Goss’ tenure as HoSH.

In 2024 I have discussed with Scholars, subjects ranging from the plight of Elizabethan heroines, traversing the 12 miles between Bath and Bristol to the challenges of advising would be parents about the reality of genetic manipulation today. I have had the US political system explained to me, and wondered at the engineering feats of solar car racing across the continent. I have become better informed about the legal and medical challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. I laughed a lot and cheered a lot at the soccer games (pretty fabulous having a team named after me).

The Scholars continue to amaze with record GPA scores this year, including 2 University Medals. Among our graduates we have 2 John Monash Scholarships who will complete doctorates at Oxford, and another about to start his PhD in Lausanne –expanding our international footprint. I am grateful to our benefactors, Drs Graham and Louise Tuckwell for providing me with an inspiring experience at ANU as I delight in our Scholars and Alumni.

During the course of 2024 we farewelled A/Prof Richard Burns after 4 years of service. A/Prof Brett Scholz has to move on at the end of 2024 because of competing commitments at the School of Medicine and Psychology. Dr Iain Henry will finish in January having been one of our longest serving Fellows –5 years. Dr Maryna Bilkour will stay on. A/Prof Mark Ellison, A/Prof Emma Aisbett and Dr Asilata Bapat will join us in 2025 –all bringing a wealth of knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm to the role of Fellow.

Also during 2024, I have been grateful for Professor Grady Venville’s active and insightful understanding of the Program, she meets regularly with me to keep abreast of Tuckwell activities/ initiatives/possible problems and is immediately responsive to my requests for guidance. Vice Chancellor Bell has an acute understanding of the Program’s strategic goals and enthusiastically joined us for the Parents Lunch, the Academic Dinner and the Graduation Pancakes, providing inspiration at each step.

The year has been a steep learning curve for me. A/Prof Ryan Goss was always on hand for graceful advice, but I am particularly indebted to our Director, Dr Fiona Scotney and her staff; Lois Carlton, Gita Raikar and recently Kate Hutchison. Fiona is the longest running Director of our program and thus has been able to guide me through the ‘seasons’ of Tuckwell life- of Commencement and Camp, of The Networking event and The Letters; The Selection weekend and The Alumni reception, The Academic Dinner...

In the following pages you will hear from your editors who have carefully archived this collection of your lives. For the incoming Scholars, you will wonder what all the fuss of turning ‘10’ was about –for you the Tuckwell Scholarship Program is an entrenched ANU flagship. A known shining star. And it is.

But for now, give my regards to your parents: they did a good job.

Kindest regards,
Michelle.



From the Staff



Dr Fiona Scotney
Program Director

As we end one of our biggest years to date, where we celebrated the first 10 years of Tuckwell, it seems appropriate to reflect on traditions.

Traditions can seem old fashioned, at times they risk perhaps being out of touch, outdated, or obsolete—like dusty old furniture that doesn't quite fit with everything else that's new and modern. However, traditions can also be the threads that bind us, the touch points that connect us to the past and the future, the events and opportunities that demonstrate that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. What I've learnt of traditions, is that they need to be held lightly enough that they are

able to shift and move in a way that keeps them relevant, but they also need to be embedded in the structure of what we do so they become part of the DNA, and in so doing they become enduring and lasting legacies. It is more than a balance of the old and new—traditions can be the best of both. The dusty chair can be recovered and given new life and pride of place.

Reflecting on our Tuckwell traditions, from the Bell ringer selected by their cohort as the Scholar who most embodies the Tuckwell values ringing the handbell as the new Scholars are rung in at Commencement, to the end of year pancakes as we celebrate and bid farewell to graduating Scholars, we have traditions that can be at once fresh and enduring.

I hope you, as Scholars, can appreciate that you are part of Graham and Louise's vision and the program's legacy. You will participate and build on what has come before and be guides for those who come after you. In a way, it is a responsibility that your 17-year-old self may not have considered when accepting the Scholarship, but one which I've seen cohort after cohort embrace and enthusiastically contribute to.

One of the key ways to do this into the future is to stay connected with the program and continue to be a mentor and wayfinder once you've graduated. You will always be a Tuckwell, and always be connected to the vision, the legacy and the traditions.

Make the most of this gift.



Dr Maryna Bilokur Tuckwell Fellow

This year as a Tuckwell Fellow has been an enriching and rewarding experience. Working closely with the Tuckwell team and Scholars, I have gained a deeper appreciation of their dedication, ambition, and resilience. Witnessing their achievements and aspirations, as well as their desire to learn more and contribute to a community through mentorship roles, teaching, training, and research on environmental issues, has reinforced my admiration for this unique Tuckwell community.

Tuckwell Scholars continue to demonstrate perseverance, overcoming personal and academic challenges while striving for excellence. Many have pursued professional and personal growth through internships in Germany, Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, Vietnam, and China, discovering the diversity of the world, while others have explored growth pathways through scientific research, residential mentorship, and employment as lab demonstrators, clerks, or paralegals — gaining invaluable experience that will shape their futures.

Reflecting on this year, I am grateful to be part of a community that values academic excellence, resilience, and leadership. The experiences and aspirations of Tuckwell Scholars continue to inspire, and I look forward to seeing the remarkable paths they will forge in the future.



Dr Iain Henry Tuckwell Fellow

Though each year of my five years as a Tuckwell Fellow has featured specific challenges and highlights, several aspects have remained remarkably consistent: the infectious enthusiasm of our scholars, their determination and dedication, and the inspiring things that happen when a group of bright and diverse people are brought together not just as a team, but as a community.

This community aspect has developed significantly in recent years, and is worthy of special note and recognition. Yearly cohorts are now more cohesive, bonded together but not to the exclusion of other friendships. Senior scholars more frequently look to assist and guide their younger peers. Our Alumni increasingly think about how they can make special and unique contributions. A virtuous circle exists, and is strong grounds for optimism about the Program's future. Sadly this is my last contribution to the Bell, as it is time for me to move on to other responsibilities. But I will always be very proud and honoured to have played a small supporting role in the remarkable Tuckwell Program.

Associate Professor Richard Burns Tuckwell Fellow

As my time with the Tuckwell Program wrapped up in mid-2024, I found myself reflecting on the experience. I felt a mix of gratitude, nostalgia, and the mild panic of realising I no longer had an excuse to attend scholar events for the free snacks; nor to sample Iain's excellent scotch at the camp (was barely a snifter, purely ceremonial).

Watching the next generation of scholars grow into thoughtful, engaged leaders has been inspiring — though slightly concerning when they start achieving more by their early 20s than I did in my entire 20s.

The program's emphasis on curiosity, service, and integrity has reinforced my own values (and occasionally made me question if I should be doing more with my life). While my direct involvement is now ended, I know the Program will continue to thrive, shaping future leaders — some of whom will no doubt change the world, while others, like me, will just try to keep plodding along. It's been a privilege.



Associate Professor Brett Scholz Tuckwell Fellow

I'm writing this the day before Tét after a big family feast (just one of many over the coming days). Celebrating two New Years in a row sometimes feels a bit indulgent — but this year I need the double celebration to give myself enough time to reflect on and digest last year, and plan for the next.

One of my reflections from my time as a Tuckwell Fellow is about how much I've enjoyed so many great conversations, laughs, and thought-provoking insights with Tuckwell Scholars and staff. In a year that has been quite stressful in many other ways, these moments with you all have been a really relaxing and energising part of the year!

I'm about to go and think about what I want 2025 to be like (with a last Iced Matcha before the Year of the Snake starts), but part of what I want to 'pay forward' is the sense of camaraderie within the Tuckwell community.



2024 Graduating Scholars

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 Scholars House and welcome them to the growing Tuckwell Alumni community.

Name	Degree
Lachlan Campbell (2016)	Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
Thomas La (2018)	Doctor of Medicine and Surgery
Charlie O'Neill (2019)	Bachelor of Laws (Hons)/Bachelor of Arts
Bas Braham (2020)	Bachelor of Laws (Hons)/Bachelor of Arts
Jasmine Pearson (2020)	Master of Public Health (Advanced) (with Commendation)
Sam Barton (2020)	Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (Psychology)
Sam Gollings (2020)	Bachelor of Actuarial Studies/Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Matt Foster (2020)	Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Commerce
Isaac Martin (2020)	Bachelor of Engineering (Research & Development)
Lachlan Anderson (2020)	Bachelor of Science (Advanced) (Honours)
Nina Gannon (2020)	Bachelor of Laws (Honours)/Bachelor of Arts
Henry Palmerlee (2020)	Bachelor of Laws (Honours)/Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Lara Young (2020)	Bachelor of Science (Honours)
Brian Lee (2021)	Bachelor of Science
Nic Mayrhofer (2021)	Bachelor of International relations/Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics

Patrick O'Connor (2021)	Bachelor of Science (Advanced) (Honours)
Zoe Crooke (2021)	Bachelor of Philosophy (Science) (Honours)
Ella Wishart (2021)	Bachelor of Environment & Sustainability/Bachelor of Science
Seb Viner (2021)	Bachelor of Environment & Sustainability/Bachelor of Science
Jack Miller (2021)	Bachelor of Philosophy (Science)
Jacob Gome (2021)	Bachelor of Philosophy (Science)
Milla Papallo (2022)	Bachelor of Medical Science
Samantha Atherton (2022)	Bachelor of Health Science
Guy Archibald (2022)	Bachelor of Science
Kyle Cavanagh (2022)	Bachelor of Science
Josh Abelev (2022)	Bachelor of Science
Lea Hartley (2022)	Bachelor of Science
Ulrika Wild (2022)	Bachelor of Medical Science
Zac Steyn (2019)	Bachelor of Science (1st Class Honours)
Sophie Allister(2020)	Bachelor of Arts
Katja Curtin (2021)	Bachelor of International Relations/Bachelor of Science



Scholar Achievements

This year our Scholars and Alumni celebrated many amazing achievements in the Tuckwell community. This page reflects just a selection of those achievements from 2024.

- Charlie O'Neil (2019) awarded Commonwealth Bank John Monash Scholarship to complete a DPhil in Computer Science at Oxford.
- Sam Cass (2017) awarded John and Anna Belfer Trust, John Monash Scholarship to complete a MPhil/DPhil in Law at Oxford.
- Jye Beardow (2017) awarded 2024 Ramsay Postgraduate Scholarship to complete a Bachelor of Civil Law at Oxford.
- Jasmine Pearson (2020) awarded Postgraduate Medal of Academic Excellence for Master of Public Health.
- Lachlan Arthur (2015) completes Rhodes Scholarship with a DPhil from Oxford, conferred June 2024.
- Abi Rajkumar (2014) completes 2023 Rio Tinto John Monash Scholarship at Harvard Kennedy School.
- Carina Stone (2017) awarded 2024 R.G Menzies Scholarship to complete Master in Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School.
- Margot Harris (2023), Max Thomas (2024) and Liam Rees (2024) competed in ANU Australasian Interschool Debate Championships held in Jakarta, with Oliver Hervir (2019) winning his event.
- Riley Guyatt (2020) awarded 2023 Tilyard prize (for student contribution) and 2023 Charles D Jubb (for thesis with the Fenner School).
- Ella Wishart ((2021) 2023 LD Pryor Prize for highest mark in Zoology, Botany or Ecology.
- Chi Chi Zhao (2023) awarded 2023 IG Ross prize (highest aggregate mark in first year chemistry) and selected to participate in the Amgen Scholars Program (Oceania Region).
- Nikita Nunn (2021) awarded 2023 Myint Zan Prize for Philosophy of Science.
- Kate Snashall (2023) awarded 2023 Janet Wilkie Memorial prize.
- Luke McNamara (2023) published in ANU Undergraduate Research Journal.
- Gypsy Polacheck (2022) awarded 2023 Myint Zan prize for Law studies.
- Jacob Gome (2021) awarded 2023 Royal Australian Chemical Institute prize.
- Lachlan Anderson (2020) awarded 2023 Edward Irving prize for Geophysics.
- Angus Atkinson (2020), Wyatt Raynall (2019), and Grace Underhill (2019) awarded University Medals.
- Guy Leckenby (2014) published in International journal, Nature.
- Henry Palmerlee (2020) awarded 2023 David Healey Solicitors Prize for Litigation and Dispute Management and the 2024 ANU Tilyard Prize.
- Caitlin McManus-Barrett (2021) Bronze medalist in the Women's Four at the 2024 World Rowing under 23 Championships.
- Oscar Waring (2024) awarded ANU Ethel Tory Language Scholarship.



University medalist, Jasmine Pearson (2020)



Bronze medalist, Caitlin McManus-Barrett (2021)



Debaters Liam Rees (2024), Max Thomas (2024), Oliver Hervir (2019) and Margot Harris (2023)

2024 Scholars House Committee

- Max Thomas (2024)
- Mariane Johnstone (2021)
- Jade Cross (2023)
- Jaison Krutik (2023)
- Henry Palmerlee (2020)
- Harrison Clubb (2022)
- Guy Archibald (2022)
- Mehvish Mehboob (2024)
- Olivia Bunter (2020)

2024 Reflections

Max Thomas & Mehvish Mehboob



Hello from the new kids on the block. From (safely) racing around Canberra in an intense scavenger hunt to stalking each other around campus during the inaugural ‘Peg Week,’ the 2024 cohort has had its fair share of first-year mischief (FYM).

Our journey began with camp which, although technically our second introduction to each other, felt like a first for those of us with hazy memories of interview weekend. Rafts were built, marshmallows toasted, and trees planted. Immediately after camp, we were thrown into the whirlwind of the Tuckwell Scholarship Program’s 10th Anniversary events. Donning our finest dresses and bow ties, the bell was rung and we were all officially welcomed to the Scholars House family.

Throughout the year, we have grown closer as a cohort, in the first instance thanks to First Year Experience (FYE). Beyond the weekly free

Brodburgers or kebabs, FYE brought us together for meaningful ‘deep dives’, mini-TED talks, and chats at Scholars House. We thank FYE Coordinators Blaize, Caitlyn, Narryna and Will for organising so many unforgettable activities for our cohort.

Outside of FYE, the 2024s bonded over various activities - a suspicious number involving shooting. Playing paintball was one of the first unofficial events attended by both the 2024 and 2023 cohorts, and was offered an excellent opportunity to legally fire at each other. In the second semester, the lonely Tuesday nights without FYE saw the birth of First Year Shenanigans (FYS), with the highlight being the aforementioned Peg Week. Aim: place a peg on your assigned target. The plots and stakeouts (plus the added stress for Fenner residents also partaking in murder week) led to a week full of backstabbing and betrayals. Our official cohort event was laser tag which further drew out

our competitive spirit, particularly regarding residential college, evident in the division of teams into “Bruce,” “Wright” and “Other.”

Food became another unifying factor for our cohort. Impromptu dinners at catered colleges became a staple, with some scholars so familiar with Bruce and Wright dining halls that others were shocked to discover they weren’t residents.

From drinks and dinners at Badger, poke bowls at Baby Su, the infamous chicken katsu curry from Multi Yummy, and pizza nights at Fenner, our cohort has never failed to come together over a meal.

Despite coming from all over Australia and living in 5 different residential colleges, Scholars House has been a true point of connection for all of us. Whether playing ‘subjective Guess Who’ or Just Dance or watching romance shows on Netflix when we most definitely should have been studying, the house has been well-loved by the 2024s. In fact, in true 2024 fashion, we ended the year with a movie night at Scholars House, scoffing down more biscuits. We eagerly await the first Arnott’s delivery of the New Year!



2023 Reflections

Jaison Krutik & Jade Cross



It has been an exciting (and busy!) second year at university for the 2023 cohort. In this article, we will walk back through the year that was, and take a look at everyone's highlights! Clearly Luke hasn't had a great year, as his 2024 highlight came in December 2023. Luke attended the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai – what a great way (and place!) to ring in the new year. Liana also had a big start to 2024, travelling to Western Australia with her best friends from college.

Fun fact: this was the furthest Liana had EVER been from her hometown of Clunes, Victoria. In the meantime, Chi was moving off-campus into a share house in Gungahlin, and he's really enjoyed the freedom of having his own home. Tuckwell Camp in early February is always a fan favourite (and was particularly so for Chi Chi and Hannah!). This year, we relocated to Outward Bound's Tharwa camp, and enjoyed a raft-building on the lazy river, tree planting and

a campfire. Meeting the new 2024 scholars was a highlight for many ("they're such legends" – Margot).

2024 marked 10 years of Tuckwell.

To celebrate, there were a multitude of events, including a tree planting ceremony, welcoming the new Head of Scholars House, Associate Professor Michelle Barrett, and an event at the Governor General's estate where Jaison discussed his experiences throughout the program. The 2024 Commencement Gala Dinner came shortly after. The special 10-year celebration was especially memorable for Matt, Rosie, Will C and Will M, who was fond of the "food opportunities and alcohol".

We cannot forget Chi Chi, our cohort's Bell Ringer, who delivered an amazing speech reflecting on the past 10 years of the Tuckwell Program. This year, the 2024 cohort was lucky enough to have four FYE coordinators,

in Narynna, Caitlin, Will M and Blaize. The coordinators had a great time working together, and organised many events such as the Amazing Race.

After a full-on exam period, we arrived at the Semester Break. But, the work didn't stop for Finn, Jack or Kate. Finn travelled to Mongolia to participate in the Modern Mongolia – Challenges to the Environment, Economy and Empire Study Tour, and Jack stayed at East China Normal University for a month on a New Columbo Plan.

Whilst a little closer to home, Kate interned at both STATION Gallery and Sydney Contemporary, Australasia's largest art fair. Everyone returned relaxed and refreshed after the Semester Break (except for Chi Chi, who moved to the National University of Singapore to study neuroscience, health and bioinformatics for a Semester!). Term 3 was a busy one for Caitlyn, who co-directed YKB x Fenner Hall's "Legally Blonde the Musical". How perfect that Caitlyn herself is a blonde law student! Lizzy spent the term preparing for UniGames, and participated in the hockey competition (they came 4th or 5th).

It was great for Lizzy to be able to see some of her friends from Perth who were also playing in the tournament. At the end of Term 3, Georgia went to Queenstown to snowboard and travel the South Island – she even went skydiving over Lake Wakatipu! The fun didn't stop in Term 4. It started with Academic Dinner, another prominent feature on the Tuckwell calendar. Yuliana and Will R loved catching up with everyone at the Academic Dinner. Will R invited Associate Professor Joan Licata from the Mathematical Sciences Institute, and enjoyed hearing about her day-to-day duties as a researcher and university lecturer.

In Week 10 of Term 4, it was time for ANU's annual Inward Bound competition. We had three participants from the 2023 cohort: Blaize (Division 2), Jade (Division 6) and Hannah (Division 7). All three made it to the finish line, with Blaize's team the first to return at around 12.30pm! Hannah's race was equally as impressive, with her team running a sub-5-minute kilometre to make it to the finish line at 4.59pm (just before the 5.00pm cut-off!). And that brings us to the end of 2024.

Over the Summer, Jaison looks forward to interning at JP Morgan in their FX Division in Sydney, but he's not the only one! Will R will be working as a Trading Intern at IMC, Jade will be interning with the Private Equity team at Goldman Sachs, Blaize will be interning at HoustonKemp, an economic consulting firm and Rosie will be interning with Frontier Economics, a specialist economic consulting firm similar to HoustonKemp. The 2023 cohort looks forward to an even bigger and better 2025!



2022 Reflections

Guy Archibald



2024 was the season of exchange. Last year Sami and Bo wrote about wisdom acquired with age, I postulate that our wisdom is fertilised by a growing number of exchanges.

The year began with the return of peers from Denmark, and Scotland. Unfortunately, as reflected by our 'Ten Years of Tuckwell Gala' photo, many of our cohort's Scholars took the opportunity to exchange in Switzerland, Denmark, Germany, Holland, and Japan throughout the year.

Given the considerable difficulty of travelling internationally in recent years, exchange has been on the back burner, but the introduction of Global Programs seminars at Scholar's House has certainly been a successful marketing scheme. On their return, Scholar's recounted challenging courses of study including surgery on mice and spoken exams, missed flights, Australian dinners, love stories, Dutch cookies, freezing swims, bus accidents, split-toe shoes, and Japanese immigration detention.

Future cohorts should be warned that after first year, your complete cohort will likely never find themselves all studying in the same place again. Indeed, this did not stop Scholar's meeting all over Australia and the world to travel and learn.

In the absence of shared adventures, there was a compelling exchange of humorous, scary, and fantastical stories over delicious pizza in early August.

Though some of us did not go on international exchange, many took up exchange in the university-sense. If you went on a tour of campus, particularly in O-week, you would have found many 2022 Tuckwell's as senior residents, community coordinators (one even making a stunning move to a rival college), presidents and representatives all over campus. Scholars continued to contribute to student organisations like DebateSoc, LSS and ANUSA. Here, we exchanged experiences to facilitate a flourishing, safe, and vibrant campus for all ANU students.

In the community, our cohort contributed to parliamentary submissions, interned at Embassy's and various government departments, spent hours imaging parrot brains, contributed to synthetic biology projects, medical research, and the climate sciences. Scholars continued to excel in sporting events with strong representation in Netball from Milla, Kyle upgrading from half-iron to Iron Man, numerous IB runners, local footy, and swimming. moving back into home next year!).

The era of 21st birthdays dawned, and we had the opportunity to meet with parents, families and close friends from home who came to exchange celebrations and childhood stories. Having missed the chance to meet with Scholar's parents and family in our commencing year, this has been a special opportunity. The end of the year brought valedictory exchanges, with the first members of our cohort treated to pancakes with the VC.

Kyle, Lea, Josh, Guy, Ulrika, Milla and Sami graduated from Bachelor's degrees in Science, Medical Science and Health Science respectively. While most 2022's are continuing with their current program, honours years, or beginning postgraduate medicine (as Tuckwell Alumni), we are sadly bidding farewell to Milla. Milla has been a diligent, outgoing, kind, fun and engaged Scholar.

We are going to miss her company dearly and wish her every success in the future (particularly moving back into home next year!).



2021 Reflections

Mariane Johnstone & Chloe Heiniger



In a shocking, yet entirely predictable and normal turn of events, the 2021s this year found themselves realising that we were now fourth years. Some of us have graduated. Ah! Some of us are doing honours. Ah! Some of us haven't seen each other in a year. Ah! I (Mariane) felt fine about it until a first-year Tuckwell and I were chatting, and she suddenly asked me if I felt old... AH! Honestly, I don't, but looking back at Liv and I's reflection that we wrote in 2021 makes me realise just how much has happened, how much has been learnt, and how much has been achieved within our cohort.

Now, most of us are living off campus. Some of us have graduated. Some of us have moved overseas, or are doing so imminently. Adulthood feels well and truly upon us now. Gone are the days where we hang in Haig Park because we're too young for clubbing... It's incredibly exciting seeing what everyone is getting up to! Before writing this, I looked at the cohort photos from each year since 2021, and it's so clear how much we've all grown into ourselves.

Events like Commencement and Academic Dinner were such a joy this year, as they gave us all a

chance to connect and catch up on what we'd all been up to. And what we've been up to is perhaps unsurprisingly quite a lot, and quite diverse.

Beyond our studies, the 2021s have been busily producing for radio and podcasts, working in cyber security, being paralegals, competing and placing in World Rowing Championships, getting clerkships, moving overseas, travelling, beginning postgraduate medicine, running ultramarathons, delving into research, presenting at international conferences... I could go on. We're constantly in awe of our 2021 peers, and so excited to see what the next year holds!

Though we don't have the structured frequent interactions that we had in first year, our cohort continues to connect. This year some of us dabbled in Pub Golf with the younger scholars, and recently caught up over dumplings and drinks! We've had many study break chats in Scholars (with many biscuits of course), shared thoughts (and tissues – thank you Katja) in tutorials, caught up at birthday barbeques, competed somewhat aggressively in tennis tournaments (best wishes to Jonno and his broken arm), and soccer games (Chris broke his leg).

Next year is likely to be another big year of change for the 2021s, with many graduations ahead (and having to call ourselves fifth years – eek!). But for every event next year that we will be calling our 'last', there is an endless stream of 'firsts' that will swiftly follow in their wake.

2020 Reflections

Olivia Bunter



With a quarter of our cohort already graduated, there were fewer familiar faces at Scholars in 2024. Fortunately, the 10 Years of Tuckwell celebration weekend brought us all together again. The weekend was filled with memorable moments: Jasmine delivered the Scholar Speech at the Tree Planting Ceremony on behalf of all current and Alumni Scholars, while Hannah gave the Scholar Speech at the Governor-General's Government House Reception. Our first semester cohort catch-up took place over brunch at Gang Gang Café just before Commencement dinner, and our recent graduates received their pins from Graham and Louise at the Alumni Brunch.

Other highlights of 2024 included the Senior Scholars Symposium at Mt Stromlo where older Scholars gathered to discuss our transition into further study and the workplace. Early in semester 2, Alumni and soon-to-be-Alumni attended the Alumni reception at the ANU School of Art and Design, and in week 11 we held our semester 2 cohort catch-up at Brodburger where we enjoyed lunch on a beautiful spring day with a great turnout.

Amid all these wonderful events, our cohort kept in touch with each other and the rest of the Tuckwell community through plenty of conversations at

Scholars House. Whether it was discussions about academics, travel, work or future plans, mingling with the younger cohorts, or asking Fiona, Lois and Gita for help, these conversations kept us connected.

As 2024 draws to a close, many of us are preparing to submit thesis' and take their final university exams before graduating at the end of 2024. Some have grad jobs lined up, some are moving on to further study, and some have amazing travel plans lined up.

They'll also receive their graduation pins at the Tuckwell Commencement early in 2025 and become official members of the Tuckwell Alumni cohort.

For those who will still be studying in 2025 (medicine and those with extended study plans) our numbers may be dwindling but I am sure we will all see each other around Scholars for many more chats. Those who have already flown the nest to new jobs and new cities in 2024 have been achieving some amazing things and we cannot wait to see you all again at future cohort catchups, Scholars House, and Alumni events!

We are incredibly excited to follow the journeys of these 24 amazing young people from around the country as they transition out of the program and continue to achieve new and incredible things in their own Refreshingly Different ways!

Interview Weekend Reflection

Guy Archibald (2022) & Liana Henderson-Drife (2023)



The second weekend of July premiered the 2024 season of the ANU knock-off edition of Shark Tank, otherwise known as Tuckwell Interview Weekend.

51 of Australia's brightest year twelves arrived to pitch their case to win a life-changing investment in their tertiary education off the back of their all-expenses-paid trip to the Bush Capital (and once-in-a-lifetime chance to stay at the Canberra Accommodation Centre).

Despite 11 seasons gone by, the Sharks never fail to deliver insightful and curious new questions to interrogate the candidates' honest character. While a polished entrepreneurial pitch might curry favour with some selection panel members, it was fascinating to witness the diversity of approaches by the 2025 candidates.

Meanwhile, current Scholars attempted multi-level marketing pitches. We did our best to show off what life at ANU could look like for the candidates, with campus and residence tours, bus trips around Canberra and time spent relaxing at Scholar's House. The authentic community spirit

of Tuckwell needed no smoke or mirrors though, and by the end of the weekend, we could even see the foundations of this emerging among the prospective candidates. In an unusual twist, the volunteers became the Sharks, dropping the veil and revealing their own criteria for hopeful Scholars. Though united by a common set of values, each cohort seems to adopt its own identity. These values being intangible, the current Scholars focussed on useful pursuits, and so began their trials. First, their Matilda-level talent, tested by the Scholar v Candidate soccer match. Though star recruits have been handy in the past, effort and engagement are always prized traits on display. Second, their poker face, gauged with rigorous card games played mercilessly. Third, their willingness to gain maximum value out of the program, where top performers were frequently sighted on coffee trips, with their paws in the biscuit basket, and at all meals (even the unbearably early ones). We surmise that they are a good bunch.

With the weekend completed, the real Sharks re-emerged to wish the candidates bon voyage (some without their luggage, but all with bated breath). While entrepreneurs on Shark Tank are given the luxury of live feedback, the candidates were not so lucky, but no doubt their phone calls will feature on Tuckwell Talks in the near future. We are very excited to welcome the newest cohort of Scholars to the program in February 2025.



Academic Dinner Reflection

Audrey Smart (2024)

Through experiencing our first Academic Dinner held at the National Museum in September, as first-years we got to once again see an event or tradition for the first time that absolutely scintillates with everything that makes the Tuckwell Scholarship Program so special.

Each bringing an academic that we invited to the evening, the nerves before hosting someone who we have identified with research and work that makes them a personal role model, the time shared with our academics, but also with other Scholars and their academics, and the marked buzz and glow from each Scholar after this enriching and inspiring opportunity was something I will never forget.

“The dinner was a wonderful experience to get to meet different academics, and humanised them, giving me confidence to talk to others in the future”
Josh Herridge (2024)

What made the evening so special was, along with learning more about many of the academics' fascinating research, as Scholars we got to learn more about, and see them, as people. I know that personally, the conversations had across the evening with my academic extended from research to family to our favourite meals to cook at home (after both being excited to learn we are both vegetarians).

In this way, I feel that the Academic Dinner represents part of the essence of what has made our first year at university as Scholars so enriching;

these conversations about shared experiences, values and ideas that span both individual's past, present and future.

Though the significance of these conversations being with experts in their field, held in as special a location as the National Museum of Australia cannot be ignored, what made these conversations from the evening so special is that, at their core, they were all just between people.

Commencing the first year at university is daunting, being surrounded by new faces, places, ideas, and expectations, it can be all too easy to get lost in this new, somewhat alien but exciting world. However, what made Academic Dinner so special, and what makes the Tuckwell community, and the ANU community as a whole, so beautiful and exciting as a first-year student is that we've been shown that it is really a place of people just like us, who we are invited to share ideas, passions, conversations and meals with. I know that I speak for the rest of the 2024 Scholars, and you can hear some thoughts and anecdotes from them below, when I say that I am so grateful to have experienced our first Academic Dinner this year. It is truly an experience I will never forget.

“This year's Academic Dinner was a wonderful opportunity to make new connections, discuss fascinating topics, and explore the landscape of future careers, all in a pleasant and welcoming setting.” Douglas Joshi (2024).



“The Academic Dinner proved to be an invaluable opportunity to network not only with our academic, but also the many other staff members fellow Tuckwell Scholars invited.

It was an evening full of networking, amusing anecdotes and opportunities for further collaboration, and I left feeling grateful to so easily connect with people who had a wealth of knowledge and experience to share.”

Hannah Wang (2024)

“Academic dinner was one of my favourite events on the Tuckwell calendar. My academic was unfortunately unable to make it but that didn’t stop the event from being incredibly enjoyable. I spent my time wandering about and meeting truly passionate people from a whole range of fields from international relations to biology, physics to finance. I feel like I learned something new from each person I spoke to, about their work or their life. I can’t wait to meet more people next year!”

Rory MacLennan (2024).



Lachlan Arthur (2015) delivering his speech



Isaac Martin (2021) with his academic guest, Vice-Chancellor and President Genevieve Bell

Academic Dinner Speech

Lachlan Arthur (2015) spoke at the Academic Dinner this year.

Good evening to our Vice Chancellor, special guests, academics, scholars, and especially the incredible Scholars House team that has made this event possible. I was at the first ever Tuckwell Academic Dinner in 2015, which had an attendance about a third of this size and was held over in the Common Room at University House.

I left Canberra during the pandemic, making this my first full-scale Tuckwell event since 2019. So it is amazing to see the scale this event has risen to and an honour to speak to you tonight.

For those of you who don't know me, I am Lachie, a 2015 Tuckwell Scholar. This means I have the fortunate, and perhaps unenviable honour, of being the first 10th year Tuckwell Scholar. I was asked 10 years ago in my Tuckwell interview where I saw myself in 10 years. I can't remember exactly what I answered, but I am pretty sure it wasn't "still studying at ANU". Graham and Louise might have had second thoughts if they knew I would still be on the books in 2024.

Tonight, I have been asked to reflect on my academic journey over those 10 years. After an undergraduate degree in medical research, a doctorate in orthopaedics, and three quarters of a medical degree, my most important reflection is that my most transformative experiences at University haven't been strictly academic at all. I have a very vague memory of the many thousands of lectures, learning objectives, and exams I have been subject to. But the memories and connections I have made with the people I studied alongside

of, lived with, and played sport with will last me a lifetime. In particular, my sporting experiences have given me the strength to persist and confidence to succeed academically. I have been fortunate to study at two great universities, the ANU and Oxford, but like many of you, arrived at both institutions with the weight of expectations that comes with a prestigious scholarship, the dreaded imposter syndrome, and initially a feeling of just needed to survive before I could thrive. At both universities, it was sport that helped me find my feet and establish my network. At ANU it was Inward Bound and in Oxford it was college rowing.

There are many similarities between the two sports. They are both the eminent inter-college sport at each university, they bring together people that had little experience in the sport prior, and they both offer a challenge with a bit of danger and uncertainty. These experiences gave me the confidence that if I could overcome the mammoth challenge of completing IB, or learning to row, then success in my degrees could surely be possible.

I have found that rowing is an excellent metaphor for finding enjoyment and success in an academic journey. So if you will indulge me in a trip down memory lane, tonight I would like to share some of the lessons I learned from rowing that are transferable to academic life. The 1st lesson I learned is that even though you can't always see the finish line, you are always moving towards it. In rowing, you can never see where you are going, you are always looking behind.

You have to have faith that the effort you and your team around you are making progress towards the finish. Much like life in university, especially at the start, it is hard to envisage the end goal. When studying a degree that last 3, 4, 5 or more years it is easy to lose sight of your direction. This was especially true for me during my DPhil at Oxford, a degree with no timeline and completely self-directed. At the start I was lost and felt like I was making no progress. In those early months the constructive feedback I received from my rowing coach and my supervisors, and the feeling of improving as a rower, built my confidence and acted as a springboard for progress with my research.

That's why Lesson 2 is so crucial. You need to gather your team, know their importance, and find a good cox to navigate your path. The boats you see on the screen are known as 8s, because they have 8 rowers. Without every seat filled the boat can't go out. If all eight aren't working together and in time, the boat will lose speed. Your team at university can vary from the classmates you study with, friends and family that support you, and academics who teach you. Collaborating with them and being in sync will keep your study moving even if you can't see the finish line. But these boats really should be called 9s to account for the most important crew member of all, the cox. They are the only person looking forward, steering the path, and motivating the crew to the finish. At university, you can think of the cox as your supervisors or mentors, the person who has the oversight to offer you advice and help you reach your goals, and see the light at the end of the tunnel. Through the Tuckwell Program, I have been fortunate to have Fellows and other Scholars who were there to help me navigate my academic path. I have also been fortunate to have great supervisors who have supported my goals within and outside academia.

Despite the best efforts of you and your team, academic life has many ups and downs and you may hit choppy water. Lesson 3 is to have a short memory for the hiccups that happen in university

life. In rowing it is talked about the boat needing to have a 1 stroke memory. No matter how bad the last stroke was, you can make up for it on the next one. Even if on that stroke you catch a crab—an unfortunate event where the rowing blade digs into the water and swings back to collect you with great velocity—your teammates will be there and the cox will keep you on a straight path. In my University experience, despite having an overall great time, I have had my share of setbacks. One of the larger ones at the time was being rejected from the Rhodes Scholarship the first time I applied. Had it not been for my Tuckwell Fellow at the time, I don't think I would have had the resilience or persistence to reapply, and it goes without saying that in hindsight I am incredibly glad I did.

The 4th and final lesson is to celebrate the successes, and celebrate them with your team. When you do get to the finish, or reach your goal, of whatever academic journey you are on, think about who was in your boat along the way. Despite what you may be told about a university education being a path to becoming an independent learner, it takes a team to complete an academic journey. On the screen is a photo after my only external regatta win, and it meant so much to win alongside those who I'd learned to row with. Academically, some of you in the room have been a part of my 10-year adventure, some for a short time and some for many years. For me it is a win just as much to have had your support, for which I am forever grateful.

So Scholars, embrace the discussions you have tonight and take the opportunity to meet a Scholar or academic you never have before. You never know, they might be the newest member of your team. And to the academics who are attending tonight, given our program is so young, if we do something once it is automatically a tradition. I think the same goes for your involvement in the Program, whether this is your first or 30th Tuckwell event, you are part of the Tuckwell team and on behalf of all Scholars, we appreciate you being here.

Inward Bound

Jacob Gome (2021)

Why do I run: A reflection on running, Inward Bound, and the importance of community.

I don't remember the first time I labelled myself as a runner. It certainly wasn't during school. I was never quite fast enough to make it into the cross country team and so running remained something I would only do whilst playing sport but not on its own. During the 2020 COVID lockdowns, I started running like so many others as a way to get outside and stay sane. But I wasn't a runner.

Within my first week at ANU, something changed. During Tuckwell camp at Birrigai, surrounded by the peaks of Tidbinbilla, a group of 4 of us went for a run. A photograph of this time is one of my favourites and put me on a journey to becoming a runner.

Soon Saturday morning Parkrun became a fixture for a group of the 2021 cohort. We would drive to the start line, run our 5 kms and then head to a café of Mariane's choosing for brunch. This weekly ritual was not about the run itself but about the chance to spend time with friends, get off campus and explore Canberra. The community and social aspect got me hooked and before I knew it, I was out with friends on the trails most days. I was becoming a runner.

Now if you're an ANU student who likes to run, you inevitably become involved in Inward Bound (IB). For those of you who are blissfully ignorant of the event, IB is an annual competition between the ANU colleges where teams of 4 students are blindfolded, driven around for hours and then dropped off in the bush at night. They then must work out where they are before running and navigating to a finish line (the Endpoint).

Tuckwell IB Results 2024

Bruce Hall

Jacob Gome (2021) -Div 2
Blaize Steel (2023) -Div 2
Max Thomas (2024) -Div 3
Stephanie Baré (2024) -Div 4
Georgia Borschmann (2024) -Div 5
Jade Cross (2023) -Div 6
Hannah Stewart (2023) -Div 7

Fenner Hall

Patrick O'Connor (2021) -Div 1
Ulrika Wild (2022) -Div 2

Griffin Hall

Marissa Ellis (2020) -Div 7
Bridgett Lunn (2020) Div 7

Wamburun

Remy Williams-McConnell (2024) -Div 7

Wright Hall

Guy Archibald (2022) -Div 5
Alex Mirrlees-Black (2022) -Div 6

Yukeembruk

Alex Bako (2022) -Div 7

Did not compete for a college:

Chloe Woodburn (2020) -Div X

I was instantly drawn to the idea of IB. Maybe it was my competitiveness, maybe it was the grandeur of a 100 km adventure, or maybe it was just something else to try out as a fresh-faced first year. From the first training run, I was addicted. Exploring the trails of Black Mountain, learning how to navigate and most importantly, becoming part of a community within Bruce Hall, it became my new favourite thing.

It is often joked that IB is a cult, a group of people who all share some strange desire to put their body through immense physical pain, for no apparent reason. While I sympathise with this view, I prefer to put a more positive spin on it, less of a cult, more of a club. IB is about running yes, but it's also about so much more: friendships that last beyond university; old stories passed down through the years; and a shared history of the generations of runners who have come before you.

In 2022, Bruce Hall's slogan was "60 years of running up that hill", a nod to Kate Bush (recently repopularised through Stranger Things) but also an homage to the 60 years of Bruce IB runners. Whenever I am racing, I like to wear my Bruce shirts as they remind me of the community that I am privileged to have been even just a small part of.

I have run other races during my time at ANU but nothing compares to the teamwork and camaraderie of IB. When you're dehydrated and your legs are red raw from chafing (TMI, sorry), your team slows down for you. When you've fallen into the icy Murrumbidgee river at 2am your team helps to warm you up. When your teammate is throwing up anything they try and eat, you offer them some of your mashed potato in a bag (I hear

it's Blaize Steele's new favourite food). IB is the ultimate team sport, when you're out in the bush, in the middle of the night, you have to rely upon and trust each other completely.

Almost 4 years after that group run in Birrigai, I now definitely consider myself a runner. As I graduate this year and move on from ANU, I know IB will always hold a special place in my heart. It would not be hyperbole to say that it has dominated my thoughts, occupied too much of my time and truly shaped me into who I am today. The many memories and friends I have made along the way will stay with me forever. I am so grateful to the whole IB community who all contribute to make the event so spectacular. At the end of the day, the community and camaraderie is the key reason of why I run and why I can happily call myself a runner.



Camp Reflection

Bailey Mularczyk (2024)

In 1861, Frederick and Abigail Gunn embarked upon an adventure with their entire homeschool based in Washington, Connecticut, where they hiked and camped out for 2 weeks at their destination. Since then, camps have been the standard protocol for facilitating bonding between a cohort, and for good reason – what better way to force a group of 25 likeminded people from all over the country with unique lived experiences to become a family, than to chuck them in cabins together, jam-pack their schedules, offer them very average food and provide them with heavily under-utilised showers? On the 8th and 9th of February this year, we – the 2024 cohort – embarked on an adventure of our own to Outward Bound Tharwa.

It was an amazing couple of days with an amazing group of people, as we were joined by the 2023 cohort, the Tuckwell staff, and a few older Scholars. Camp commenced the day succeeding our amazing Scholar’s orientation (a day of punctuality and waking up promptly to alarms) with the bus ride to the venue, full of dreary-eyed and ecstatic students.

Now the older Scholars may have been filled with a bit less excitement of the unknown, but I suspect I can speak for the majority of my cohort when I say we were buzzing with anticipation for the start of the year and meeting the other Scholars. Writing this 10 months retrospectively is giving me an appreciation for how quickly my memories dissipate and my feelings and connections grow stronger. In saying that, I’ll do my best to recall some of the activities and explicit memories with zero chronological authenticity. One activity, which I have fondly reminisced of, was a team-based race.

The goal was to have the entire team of 16-odd Scholars make it over a 2m wooden fence in the quickest time possible. It was insightful to observe how quickly the team could improve their overall performance by implementing planning, perseverance and effective communication methods to play to the strengths of each individual.





Additionally, the light-hearted and fast-paced atmosphere facilitated the development of friendships in a low-pressure environment. This activity was immediately followed by the giant ladder, which again was a fantastic team activity, instead focusing on communication and building teamwork in a smaller group. I won't name my partner, but their torn ACL presented a unique challenge for the activity. Another highlight of the camp was a Tuckwell classic—the trivia night. Trivia night was another great opportunity to meet more of the Scholars across all cohorts, as we expanded outside our initial group of friends. I'm once again relying on heuristics to make a blanket statement on behalf of our cohort, with my belief that the final night of camp—campfire night—was the overall favourite. Conversations between us all became more meaningful, and we broached a degree of personability which we hadn't previously.



There was something about the dark night and luminescent fire which allowed connections to grow more between people, leading to an undeniably wholesome night.

I'll revoke my earlier statement about the food—it was very enjoyable, I particularly enjoyed cooking the barbecue alongside my mates, and what I believe to be a camp-first of a cheese platter for afternoon tea. Camp was the perfect precursor to the greatest year of my life. I was introduced to the people who I now consider my family, the people who I feel very lost not seeing every day over the summer, the people who I turn to when I most need, and the people who I have the privilege of spending the next four years with.

From the Bell Ringer

Chi Chi Zhao (2023)



Doctors Graham and Louise Tuckwell, distinguished guests, Fellows, and Tuckwell Scholars—both current and Alumni; it is my honour to address you all tonight, at the 2024 Tuckwell Commencement Dinner.

As you all know, tonight's Commencement marks a decade of the Tuckwell Scholarship program, making it an extra-special night indeed. Now, depending on how you think about it, a decade can feel like both an extremely long and surprising short amount of time. When you think about these 10 years in terms of the sheer number of times the Tuckwell bell has rung (260 if you were wondering), of random conversations at Scholars House, of meetings with our Fellows, and of friendships made, 10 years really does feel like an incredibly long time.

However, if we think to the future, and imagine the day when the Tuckwell Program turns, let's say, a hundred years old, then these first 10 years will be thought of as just the beginning. And so, if we think of how many times the Tuckwell bell will continue to ring, 10 years seems quite short, doesn't it.

Now, on the topic of the iconic Tuckwell handbell and the program's rich history, I wanted to briefly touch on traditions, in particular, all the traditions that make the program what it is. Some that immediately come to mind are, of course, the ringing in ceremony, FYE, Camp, Graduation Pancakes, just to name a few.

However, in addition to these treasured traditions, I wanted to draw your attention to traditions of a different type, those of which that are a bit less formalised, but nonetheless, contribute just as much to the Program.

Last year, to help me with writing this speech, Kate very kindly sent me all the past Commencement speeches from the previous Bell Ringers. Interestingly, despite their many differences, something that they all had in common, was how they all included their own stories, of unique new "traditions", in a way, that they'd made with their cohorts.

Now, I just wanted to highlight some of my favourite pieces of Tuckwell "lore" and traditions, that I had the pleasure of reading or even experiencing for the more recent ones. I hope some of these ring a bell for the older Scholars in the crowd tonight.

Firstly, I read about the humble beginnings of Scholars House, of how it was transformed from the old Peppercorn Café, and of the creation of a simple, but somehow complex milk roster.

I read of a major conflict between the 2014 and 15 cohorts at camp, termed later as a “traumatic experience” for the 2016 cohort and somehow, I still don’t really understand this, but even a pool party at Scholars?

There were hungover pancake breakfasts, spontaneous picnics on Sullies, a nameless scholar falling into Sullies, and clumsy meet-ups at Mooseheads. New Tuckwell traditions were forged during COVID, with virtual Pictionary and cooking classes over zoom. There were descriptions of Tuckwell soccer, unproductive study sessions, Badger catch-ups and meaningful conversations by the lake. From more recent times, there’s been the tradition of Geoguesser games in the groupchat and also horrifically questionable statements during Calling All My Neighbours at camp.

Now, I think, that it’s these stories and *home-made* traditions that really highlight our 10 year legacy, as not just a scholarship program, but as a community. The feeling that I’m trying to describe is almost like, when you move into a new house, and at first, it’s just a place. But then as you decorate it, make new memories, and really make it yours, it gradually becomes a home. And I think, that’s what the Tuckwell community has done as well. From talking with other Scholars, I know that I’m not alone when I say that the Tuckwell Program really does carry that sense of home, and I’m so excited for the new cohort to experience it as well.

And, whilst the traditions I’ve mentioned, and traditions in general, do come and go, the stories, memories, and most importantly, the connections we build will stay, and I’m sure that they will stay with us for the rest our lives.

So, before I start to wrap up, I’d like to thank all those who have made the Tuckwell Program what it is today and say thank you, on behalf of my cohort and all the Scholars.

Firstly, to Louise and Graham, thank you for your incredible kindness and generosity and for your dedication to an inspiring vision that has built a community that is truly one of a kind, in the best of ways. This thank you must be extended to the Selection Panel, for their passion and commitment to the Program, for their kind mentorship and for believing in us and bringing us all together. To Ryan, Michelle, the Fellows and the Tuckwell Team thank you for your endless patience, your wise advice, and for always being there for us. You really are what makes Scholar’s House feel like a home, and the community feel like a second family. A special shout-out must go to Ryan in acknowledgement for his unwavering commitment to the Program –thank you for all of your hard work, and for inspiring so many years of Scholars.

Thank you to the older Scholars, for being an unwavering source of guidance, support, and most importantly of all, genuine friendship. Thank you for being so generous with both your time and advice, for all the coffee catch-ups, and for always being a warm presence in the sunroom –whether it’s 8am in the morning or 1am at night. Special shout-out to the 2022’s, for always looking out for us and making our first year so warm and welcoming.

To the 2023 cohort, thank you for an unforgettable first year. I feel so lucky to have gotten the chance to be part of such a genuine and refreshingly different (in a good way) group of people. I’ve loved every minute that I’ve spent with you guys, and I can’t wait to continue to get to know you all even better.

And finally, as it has become tradition by now, to the first years being rung in tonight, I’d like to offer some words of advice. Upon becoming a Tuckwell Scholar and receiving this incredibly generous opportunity, it’s quite normal to feel an immense pressure to match extremely

high expectations from both others, and yourself. However, I think it's really important to understand, that being chosen as a Tuckwell is not in any way, an expectation. Instead, it is a recognition of your passion and drive to make a genuine difference.

Every single Tuckwell Scholar in this room is so different – in both their strengths, their passions, and their story, and I know it's a little cliché, but I think what ties us all together is a shared spark – that desire to give back and leave a positive mark on the world. I see that spark in every Scholar that I meet, and I'm constantly inspired by it, and so, I think the most powerful thing that you can do right now, at the very beginning of your journey, is not to worry about immediately succeeding or doing everything perfectly, but instead, to keep that spark alive, despite all the hurdles, challenges, and distractions that are inevitable at Uni.

Despite all these things, if you continue to hold on to that spark and continue to remember what truly drives *you as a person*, then I think that is the most incredible success of all.

And so, here is to 10 years of the Tuckwell Program – to 10 years of incredible generosity, 10 years of creating a vibrant and close-knit community, and 10 years of passing on Tuckwell traditions.

Here is to all the years that follow – to giving back what we have generously been given, to continuing to strengthen our community, and to creating new Tuckwell traditions, stories, and unforgettable memories.

Finally, I can't talk about traditions without upholding them myself, so as it has become customary to say, here is to 2024 and may it be refreshingly different!





First Year Experience (FYE)

Sophie Fleming (2024)

If you had to guess who reflects fondly on FYE, look no further than the 2024 cohort.

During the first year at ANU as a Tuckwell Scholar, an integral part of joining the community is First Year Experience (FYE) — essentially dinner and activities as a cohort each Tuesday evening.

It's a time of fun, laughter, in-depth discussions and often a little adventure that bonds the first years with memories and experiences that we cherish. And what stories we have to tell from all the mischief we got up to this year!

From deep dives to amazing races, gingerbread competitions and board game nights, FYE was always a pleasure to attend throughout 2024. We began our FYE, led by the second years in Semester 1, with getting to know one another.

We presented our lives in two-minute slide show presentations, known lovingly as 'Pecha Kuchas', and worked in teams to deliver 'Deep Dive' talks, with discussions on everything from the impact of fast fashion, to the influence of AI, and even political snakes and ladders.

It wasn't long until activities such as dressing up a model in butcher's paper for a fashion runway, or dashing around campus on an amazing race began. And what a race it was! We had to photograph our teams completing chaotic challenges such as recreating sculptures around ANU, doing a team dance on the Kambri lawns and finding a library book that Louise would love. We even got to pet some cute dogs along the way!

The amazing race went down in our cohort history as a huge triumph; one of the first events that truly connected us together as a group. FYE for

Semester 1 ended with a beautiful bonfire under the stars, where we reflected on our first months at uni, listened to some 10/10 country tunes and chased a pesky possum away from the pizza! Semester 2, while undoubtedly busier than our first semester, was just as much of a success as our previous FYE's. We undertook round two of the amazing race, this time with a bigger playing field across the ACT and Queanbeyan.

We are eager to foster a lovely environment for our 2025s to enjoy their FYE evenings just as all our 2024 coordinators, Caitlyn, Narryna, Blaize, Will, Mehvish and Max, have done for us.

For me, FYE was my favourite night of the week. Walking into a jam-packed Scholars House on a Tuesday evening filled me with such joy.

It felt like one big family dinner, where we would take the time out of our busy schedules to check in with each other over a great feed and an engaging activity. It was no surprise that soon FYE's turned into our own planned events — from pizza nights in the Fenner kitchens, to Badge birthday dinners, games on South oval and movie nights consisting of humour, cosiness and hot chocolates supplied by yours truly, Scholars House.

We even got slightly competitive in organised paintball and laser tag excursions! What a delight and what a privilege it is to have a group of people who make the effort to spend time together with love and laughter. A big part of this stems from FYE, and so we are looking forward to sharing the FYE experience with the 2025 cohort in the coming year. We know they will love it just as much as we have.



Sailing from Cairns to Darwin

Rosie Sewell (2023)



I am currently in Darwin Airport. It is midnight, and my flight is at the ungodly hour of 1:20am, but I thought this would be the perfect time for reflection since I have just sailed 1500 nautical miles from Cairns to Darwin. It was quite a unique experience, but that was the exact reason I choose to do it. The opportunity arose because Nick, my dad's best friend, was sailing around the world as part of the Oyster World Rally and needed extra crew for this part of the journey. At first, I was hesitant to accept the offer – I would miss a week of university, a 15% redeemable exam, and most importantly I would be boat bound for a week!

However, after seeing photos of their previous journeys – Fiji, Vanuatu, French Polynesia, Panama Canal – and of their gorgeous yacht (named 'Rock Lobster IV'), I couldn't say no. Having only sailed dinghies, I was in awe of the countless ropes, sails, and size of this 58 ft yacht. For one, the trim of most sails could be controlled with a button and the boat was much harder to manoeuvre, taking 30 minutes to gybe instead of 3 seconds. Additionally, navigation was much more important – there were many reefs, cargo ships, and complicated currents in the passage that made sailing difficult, especially at night with 40 knots of wind!

We made multiple stops, anchoring at Lizard Island, Margaret Bay, and Possession Island. These

anchorage were welcomed breaks from the strong winds, bumpy waves, and ruthless night watches – waking up at 2am was no easy feat, especially for a teenager; I feel sorry for the rest of the crew who endured my grump in the morning! Despite these abnormal sleeping patterns, I was able to witness the most beautiful sunrises and sunsets. It was at these times that we were most successful at fishing – we would be busy preparing dinner or changing a sail when suddenly the line would start clicking. Devastatingly, the first fish we caught wiggled off the boat and back into the sea as we were exceptionally unprepared. That evening, despair hung in the air, our taste buds deprived. This only heightened our determination, and sure enough the next morning we caught a Spanish Mackerel! Despite being a novice, I had the privilege of gutting the fish, which was a complicated, bloody and not to mention smelly process.

As the journey progressed, the hours blurred together, and the days flew by despite the minutes progressing at a snail's pace. To pass the time, I completed an excessive number of sudokus, listened to podcasts, and attempted some exercise. Fortunately, Rock Lobster was equipped with one of Elon Musk's Starlinks, so I was even able to do some university work! Although not a race, Nick is quite competitive and was always trimming or changing sails to overtake the 29 other Oyster boats completing the rally. We were the third boat into Darwin, and although usually insignificant, this positioning caused a huge palaver as there was no room for us on the customs dock. We had to anchor for another day before reaching land! However, this didn't stop us from celebrating, and we had a boozy night with other boats from the rally. I don't know if it was the absence of a shot glass on board or my embarrassing low

tolerance for alcohol, but I was stumbling around the deck by the end of the night – not a good idea when there are crocs in the water!

Despite the cracking headache the next morning, I thoroughly enjoyed the night as it was incredible to hear the stories and experiences of the other crew. Surprisingly all said Australia was their favourite place yet on the rally, a factor of the beautiful wildlife, jolly people, and the supermarkets! I feel incredibly privileged to have seen such a beautiful part of Australia

with such great people. There were times were I desperately missed my friends and missed the luxury of stable dry land, however, the good humour of Nick and my dad certainly made things easier. It also seems that I was a valuable crew member considering I've been invited to sail across the Atlantic from Cape Town to Brazil in January. I will need to think harder on that one!

Tuckwell Book Club

Mehvish Mehboob (2024)

Tuckwell Scholars have a myriad of weird and wonderful hobbies from underwater hockey to boiling peanuts. However, I would argue that there's one shared pastime that connects us: reading. Whether it's flipping through a monthly magazine or immersing ourselves in a novel, the Scholars House library stands testament to the fact that Tuckwells are a well-read group.

For some, however, reading goes beyond a simple hobby. By reading we find an escape from reality or perhaps begin to question its very nature. Books have the power to move us, become places of solace and transform our lives in ways we never thought possible.

From this love of literature came the idea of starting the Tuckwell Book Club. And so a group of us found time on a Sunday afternoon to come together on the veranda and talk about books. Instead of following the traditional model where everyone reads the same book, I thought it would be more valuable to simply discuss books we had recently read or found interesting.

From Ancient Greek philosophy to Russian history, Australian classics to fantasy epics, the diversity of books we read reflects how unique we are as scholars.

Our conversations also drifted beyond books towards our travels, studies and all aspects of our lives as we gained an insight into the experiences of scholars across different cohorts. And of course, the club wouldn't have started running without the alluring promise of food.

As part of my mission to find the most delectable pastries in Canberra, our meetings have featured: buttery pain au chocolat, flaky Portuguese tarts, freshly baked kouign amann, creamy chocolate-filled eclairs ...the list goes on. What fun is reading if you don't have a treat and a warm drink to accompany you?

I've had a wonderful time organising the book club, and I'm excited to continue in 2025 with hopefully more scholars. I promise the baked goods and banter are worth it!



Reflections from a first-year medical student

Stephanie Lunn (2021)

Before I started medical school, it's pretty safe to say that I was terrified. There are no doctors in my family, and it seemed that every inquiry I made of current medical students, and various doctors, yielded the same bleak result; the next four years are going to suck. Medicine will become your life and open the doors to a frantic life where work-life balance is but a fantasy if you want to be a specialist or halfway to decent at your job. So, needless to say, I spent my last holidays before starting for the year savouring what I viewed as my last proper chance at freedom.

To be honest, the first week of medical school was my worst, and seemed to solidify in my mind that I had made some grave mistake and entered into something soul-crushing, but then things started to look up very, very quickly. We, as a cohort of first-year medical students, started being introduced to a host of doctors who shared a passion and love for the work they do, and who were not only excited and enthusiastic for us all, but who offered us their support if ever we should need it.

There is no denying that the contact hours, and the sheer volume of what we are expected to learn, is a lot, but as the classes began I realised that, for the first time since starting uni, I really did have a cohort of people who would be going through the same things I was, every step of the way. I have been incredibly lucky that my cohort is full of brilliant students who prioritise their health, hobbies and general wellbeing above all else, and who go out of their way to help lift each other up wherever they can.

When I do the things I love, such as running and swimming, they aren't tainted by the guilt that I should be studying instead, which always seemed to linger over me in undergrad. In the same vein, this year has seen the most weekend trips to the coast, the mountains or Sydney for various events or hikes, and it seemed like most people in my cohort were doing the same. Perhaps it is just because I have finally realised that there will always be something coming up, and you have to live life, rather than just living life in waiting mode.

I can safely say that this year has been the best I have had since starting university four years ago, and while it has been the hardest I have worked, it has also been the most fulfilling too. I can only speak to what I know, which is just one year down the long road to becoming a doctor, but very few people were able to offer glimpses of light when I was so desperately looking for it this time last year. This pathway certainly might not be for everyone, but I consider myself very lucky that it is looking like it has been the right choice for me.



Looking for Cannonball Moments

Liam Rees (2024)



Íñigo Lopez was the son of minor nobility hailing from the Basque country of northern Spain. A brash and arrogant young man, Íñigo became a soldier. At the Battle of Pamplona, he was struck with a cannonball, leaving him bedridden for nine months and with a limp for the rest of his life. He was 29 years old. Íñigo then left his life of wealth, traveled to the Holy Land, and later established the Jesuits. I could say many things about my 2024, but an interaction with the divine and joining the priesthood cannot be said to be one of them. However, the idea of a singular moment uprooting all you know has always fascinated me. This fascination, I think, can be attributed to my mother moving to Australia on a whim after meeting my father here. Sometimes it is serendipitous, like my parents, but sometimes it is tragic, like Íñigo's cannonball. Either way, by the end of high school, I was resolute not to leave it up to chance and insisted on taking more risks to find my cannonball moment.

Encouraged by the promise of warmer weather, I decided on Latin America for my post-HSC break. Unfortunately for me, Latin America was experiencing a seismic political upheaval as the tides of the 'Pink Wave' were slowly unraveling, revealing the often-violent underbelly of the continent. From the Marxist guerrilla group ELN in Colombia's northeast to the election of Javier Milei in Argentina to Quechan farmers yelling about the ousting of their first 'real' President, Pedro Castillo, I witnessed the length and breadth of what inequality and injustice can look like. And yet, I look back fondly on these often turbulent chapters of my travels. While away, I attempted to learn Spanish, considered becoming a missionary, got Dengue Fever (twice), grew what I had at the time called a 'beard' (see photo), learned to dance the Tango, briefly turned yellow, protested, sang, and cried much more often than I am willing to admit. A Nietzschean adage often goes, 'what doesn't kill you makes you stronger,' but what this doesn't stress is that it nearly kills you. In a very real sense, all I was really left with in 2024 was a bruised ego and the liver function of an '80-year-old.'

The cannonballs of life — but especially college — are often stress-inducing nightmares. Yet, reflecting on Íñigo's legacy, I have always tried to reframe these 'setbacks' as 'cannonballs,' not knowing exactly what or where they will get me. So, whether it's love, adventure, or a good story for why you can't drink anymore, here's to the cannonballs of 2025. Let's hope they make us stronger.

The Tuckwell Teal Takeover

Will Jones (2024)

Australians are fed up with traditional party politics. As journalist George Megalogenis put in his latest Quarterly Essay, the old 40–40–20 rule—whereby the duopoly typically garnered at least 80 per cent of first-preference votes between them—belongs to a foregone political era. We now find ourselves in the epoch of the crossbench. You might have noticed the ‘Teal Wave’ that has recently arisen around the country. It has surged across Sydney’s northern suburbs, swept through Melbourne’s beachside and down the Yarra River to Toorak, and reached as far as Perth’s shores on the Indian Ocean. In my own electorate, Warringah, the colour teal began appearing on campaign posters during the 2019 federal election and five years later, I find myself in the nation’s capital interning for Zali Steggall MP. As a PPE student, it seemed logical to take advantage of ANU’s proximity to the executive organs of government and see how it all ‘really works’. However, I am by no means the first to do so. Maddy Sloan (2021) has worked with Allegra Spender of Wentworth, Will Cassell (2023) with Sophie Scamps in Mackellar and just this semester Max Thomas and Liam Rees (both 2024) have begun with Zoe Daniel (Goldstein) and David Pocock (Senator for the ACT) respectively. I do not see this as a reflection of the Tuckwell program’s political position but rather the youth’s genuine desire for local representation, change and breaking the deadlock created by a Labour-Liberal duopoly. The program invariably brings together interested people who, to quote from the website, want to give back to Australia. Many of the independent members of parliament share this vision. It is against the swell of global democratic backsliding that the Teal Wave has

crested Down Under. Whilst we have (thankfully) not yet faced marches on the capital or a fascist resurgence, populism and abuse of parliamentary procedure remain problems. To prove this point, all you need to do is tune into Question Time at 2pm on any sitting day. What should be the cornerstone of deliberative democracy has descended into a mess of ad hominem attacks. Treasurer Jim Chalmers repeats the same inflation statistics he has all year. Anthony Albanese and Peter Dutton yell over each other to be heard above the noise of the chamber. Further, the consistent abuse of parliamentary process is starting to border on farce with Labour pushing 31 bills through the Senate on the last sitting day of 2024. This leaves an average of 15 minutes of debate each, and 4 minutes of speaking time for each member. Labour and the Coalition may have gained some political ammunition by ramming through their legislation, but the degradation of public trust is irreparable. Increasingly, they prefer to play the ‘political game’ for quick wins rather than properly consider how the rulings of parliament will affect the people they are elected to represent. Although these recent examples of dysfunction in our government are particularly striking, the origins of the Teal movement are part of a much deeper current. At the 2016 federal election, just over a quarter of Australians voted for minor parties or independents in the Senate. Diagnosing ‘a crisis of trust’ detailing the rise of an ‘anyone but them’ vote against the major.

In 2018, the Grattan Institute published a report diagnosing ‘a crisis of trust’ detailing the rise of an ‘anyone but them’ vote against the major. Critically, over 70% of Australians surveyed believed that Australia’s system of government needed reform.

Despite growing support, the Teals have faced opposition like any new phenomenon in the public sphere. Chris Kenny of Sky News described the independent movement as ‘the most fraudulent political movement ever foisted upon this country,’ and John Howard, former Liberal PM, labelled them as mere ‘anti-liberal groupies’.

However, it is their very nature as disruptors that means independent candidates are so attractive to the average voter. The first domino had fallen after Sarah McGowan led the severely disenfranchised ‘Voices for Indi’ movement to win the rural Victorian seat. Since then, the trend has continued with

mostly progressive female candidates running on climate-conscious, local-issue based policies to oust long standing Liberal candidates deemed out of touch with their communities. In my own electorate, former PM Tony Abbott lost his place at the parliamentary table because his

values did not align with those of the people he was tasked to represent – famously labelling climate science as ‘crap’ and denouncing the 2017 same sex marriage plebiscite in a famously ‘small-l liberal’ and wealthy electorate. When local communities grow increasingly frustrated with their partisan members, Teal candidates offer an appealing, refreshing blend of socially-progressive but fiscally-conservative values.

On a more personal note, interning at parliament has proved to be an invaluable experience. The independent MPs do not have extensive teams to review bills, respond to local concerns or design policy platforms instead relying on grassroots, local support and volunteers in Canberra. This work often

falls to the interns. From meeting ambassadors to trawling through proposed legislation and answering (often incensed) calls from constituents, working in parliament thrusts you onto the front line. The other Tuckwell Teals recount similar experiences...

“The best part about interning at Parliament was being in the room where it happens! You both lose and gain faith in our democracy by seeing up close how much work has to go into incremental change, but also how hard people are fighting to make it happen. It is a wonderful opportunity to make the most of being in Canberra!” Maddy Sloan.



“Walking into Parliament to work for Dr Sophie Scamps MP had me running around to different meetings about some of the most pressing issues facing Australia. I always felt out-of-place attending briefings and preparing policy for a politician. It drove home the fact that they all really are humans.” Will Cassell.

No matter where you stand, increased accountability from those in the halls of power and local representation improves the parliamentary process and, by extension, the lives of Australians. The ripples of the Teal Wave are felt around the country, but it is not the first grassroots movement to demand responsibility from our political institutions. Nor will it be the last. The hallmark of a healthy democracy is its ability to weather the storms of change and continue representing the will of the people. The Teals are undoubtedly a step in the right direction.

Parallel Teachings from Graham Tuckwell and Eric the cat

Lachlan Anderson (2020)

At first glance, there seems to be little in common between cofounder of the Tuckwell Scholarship, Dr. Graham Tuckwell, and Eric the Cat, who is a long-term resident of my South Canberra share house. One—a successful businessman and philanthropist. The other—a hefty tabby cat with a passion for barbecue chicken, afternoon naps in the sunshine, and passionately licking his own...

Since Eric arrived at the share house, I have spent a great deal of time watching his comings and goings. Sometimes he is a source of joy—for example, when he steals someone else’s grilled cheese sandwich, and then wobbles away at great speed. Sometimes he is a source of sorrow and anger—for example, when he steals my grilled cheese sandwich, and then wobbles away at great speed. Once, he was a source of profound unease. Relaxing in a lawn chair in the courtyard, I looked up to see him defecating in the bushes. His beady little eyes locked onto mine, and I felt the desperate intensity of his gaze; a moment of intense discomfort which has never truly left me.

From my studies of Eric, I have deduced that no creature truly embodies the teachings of Graham Tuckwell more than he. As many older scholars will no doubt attest, Graham’s advice over the years has oft-times been hit or miss. Like the Bible, one moment it’s all respect and love for your fellow human, the next its claiming that lobster thermidor is the work of the devil. However, I think three pieces of advice from Graham really encapsulate the flavour of this wisdom; and I believe that Eric the Cat embodies each of these pieces of advice in his day-to-day existence.

1. Ps get degrees (focus on the important things)

Like we all should, Eric carefully weighs up what he values and doesn’t value and assigns effort accordingly. In his mind exercise is a schmuck’s game. So, when we tried to take him for a walk around the neighbourhood in a harness, he walked four steps from the front door and then fell to the ground like a sack of potatoes. Indeed, he even refused to retrace those four faltering steps—instead waiting impotently to be hoisted into the air and returned by hand to the couch in front of the TV. However, eating cat biscuits is “the shizzle” to Eric, so it is a task to which he applies all his considerable energy.

2. Once you come to ANU you shouldn't call your parents for the next 5 years (enjoy your independence)

While my mother, who was in attendance to hear these words, was deeply unimpressed, Eric makes his desire for increased independence abundantly clear by his frequent attempts to dart through the front door and escape to a life of freedom. However, his inability to feed, protect and care for himself –reminiscent of the helplessness of many first years leaving home for the first time–reminds us of the folly of abandoning our support networks.

3. Don't make the soup, own the soup kitchen (?)

To be honest, whilst I recall this phrase being spoken while I was in the audience, I believe I spent most of time before and after it was uttered staring blankly into the middle distance and wondering what the canapés would be. I do not recall what the intended lesson was.

However, I do know that Eric steadfastly refuses to make soup under any conditions, even if all the ingredients and equipment are placed before him and detailed instructions are given. So, he basically has this directive covered.

Maybe we would all be a little happier, if like Eric, if we took Graham's advice to focus on the important things, enjoy the transition to independence, and told soup kitchens to get stuffed.



Yes, this whole article was an excuse to crudely lever my cat into this magazine and then show everyone this picture of his birthday party.

PPE Integration 4: The Scholars House Dishwasher

Joe Negrine and Henry Palmerlee (2020)

Here we are, elbow-deep in the Scholars' House sink, working away at the caked Milo powder clinging onto the side of the mug like John Henry battling the steam drill. Another Monday. Lois comes by in equal parts relief and dismay — glad to see that someone else is taking the initiative to clean up after others, disappointed that it ever had to come to this. We joke about entitlement. If you don't laugh, you'll cry.

Sometimes we discuss whether things would be different had Graham never advised against 'holding the ladle'. Whether, perhaps, the Scholars would see that nobody — no matter their GPA or their positions of leadership or certainly not their scholarship — is above cleaning up after themselves.

The *Communist Manifesto* begins: 'A spectre is haunting Europe — the spectre of communism.' As we go to press, the Scholars' House dishwasher is haunted by its own spectre — the free rider problem. Rather than wash one's own dishes, a 'malfeasant agent' (of which the authors suspect there are several) can dump their dirty belongings with reasonable certainty that someone, eventually, will clean them. Anecdotal evidence indicates it takes about 10 seconds to dutifully clean up after oneself. Our mathematical inquiries find that, while washing time and aggregate dishes follow a linear relationship, the disappointment in the community grows exponentially to the aggregate dishes. The proof is trivial.

As Ostrom (2016) puts it:

Individual maximization of short-term benefits to self leads individuals to take actions that generate lower joint outcomes than could have been achieved. The socially optimal outcome could be achieved if most of those involved "cooperated," but no one is independently motivated to change his choice, given the predicted choices that others will make.

Here, we briefly consider five solutions to the identified problem.

First is **top-down regulation**. A quasi-government (Fiona) could declare it unlawful to act selfishly and require individuals to cooperate. In Hobbesian terms, Scholars would sacrifice their natural freedoms to the 'Fionathan' in exchange for the enforcement of social norms (Hobbes, 1651). Operationalising such a model may require a state religion by which the sovereign's authority is granted by the supreme deity (Louise and Graham). Use of symbolic ceremonial regalia (see, eg, the Tuckwell Bell) may assist in this regard. However, effective as this may be, it would neither be fair to Fiona (who has more important problems to deal with) nor possible during weekends or late hours.

Next is **private ownership**. If someone owned the kitchen area, they could restrict access to it, and it would be in their interest to prevent such squalor. Access to Scholars House is already restricted; and the 'owners', our blessed benefactors, have largely delegated this oversight to the Tuckwell team in Canberra.

This situation returns us to solution one above.

Top-down solutions are imperfect. Inspired by Foucault, the authors consider **individual discipline** as a third solution. A panopticon-style surveillance system over the sink area could regulate individual behaviour. The ‘automatic functioning’ of state power would discipline Scholars to police their own conduct, with little need for actual surveillance from an external agent (Foucault, 1995, 201). Due to security constraints, this solution — regrettably — appears infeasible.


Another option is **selective incentives and small-group advantage**. Olson (1971) observes that smaller groups are better able to monitor and enforce contributions because they can more easily recognise and punish free riders. The authors wonder whether this principle could be coupled with selective incentives — the allocation of benefits contingent on participation in the public good — by cutting the payments of offending Scholars. Australia’s lack of constitutional due process protection would allow this process to proceed efficiently. However, the soft spot which Louise and Graham have developed for Scholars (even the free-riding reprobates) would likely prevent this option from being pursued.

Finally is **community self-organisation**. Scholars can work together to foster cooperation, establishing norms of ‘basic decency’ that supplant the free-rider motive. Whether through personal guilt or community-led moral sanction, these norms can alter the payoff structure giving rise to the free rider problem.

While Scholars, just like other ANU students, lead busy lives, all agents can assume personal responsibility for keeping shared spaces clean.

In Plato’s Republic, Glaucon doubts whether Socrates’ vision of an ideal society is practical and realisable. Socrates responds that we would not criticise an artist who paints the most beautiful man imaginable simply because no one in real life fully embodies this ideal. While the authors might likewise be dismissed as hopeless dreamers, we nevertheless submit that the budget for the new Scholars House be amended to include a central observation tower with mirrored windows (staffing requirements: 0 FTE). However, given the practical and legal constraints, we would support the community norms solution as an interim compromise. After a combined decade in the Tuckwell Scholarship program, the authors are of the view that, while it is good to be an important person, it is more important to be a good person.



 **Tuckwell Scholars House**
Henry Palmerlee · 16 August 2024 · 🌐

Scholars try not to act entitled challenge: impossible difficulty

Seriously, though, this issue has gotten really bad this year. I'm certain that everyone in this community has the basic level of social skills required to understand that it's not someone else's job to wash your dishes. Fiona et al aren't your parents - they are professionals who very graciously take it upon themselves to clean up after scholars who are too lazy to do it themselves.

Waterfowl Weekly

Column by Dr Grassifer Flappyfoot, Academic and editor of the Australian Journal of Ornithology AKA Remy Williams-McConnell (2024)

HOMO SAPIENS – A new perspective on our beakless brethren

After a lifetime spent addressing seminars and authoring reports on the dangers of Homo sapiens, my convictions have recently shifted. I acknowledge that my controversial stance may ruffle some feathers, but what is the point of a beak, if not to quack? So, fellow waterfowl, let me pose this question:

What if humans are intelligent beings?

For moons, my studies on duck-human interspecies hazards shaped a purely security-based view of humans. I saw Canberra as a habitat for birds, and humans as nothing more than threats or nuisances. The notion that humans might possess traits defining what it means to be “duckian” – social bonds, sentience/cognisance, and hard work – seemed absurd. Yet, one cycle of seasons changed everything. One day, perched atop my office on 182 Sullivan’s Creek (Park Bench 1), I was jolted out of my studies by a screeching sound. A human female was emitting these alien, rhythmic noises while grasping the sides of her stomach. At her side, another female doubled over and echoed the same peculiar sounds. I had witnessed ‘laughter’ before but dismissed it as a mechanical quirk of their biology, much like a kookaburra chuckling at random.

Curiosity piqued, I set aside my work on the implications of toxic algae spread and did what I had never done before: observed them without judgment or fear. Could this be evidence of

intelligence? Surely, to generate and share such a mysterious form of communication – one that clearly united them – required some level of higher thought.

They weren’t just expressing amusement; they were building bonds. I began to wonder if my early dismissal of human “society” was shortsighted. Next came the students. I noticed that humans of an awkward age were the main demographic near Sullivan’s Creek, and many of them would often trudge along in packs or hunched over books in clusters beneath the trees. I started to wonder: was my creek some kind of human learning hotspot – even school? I realised that I was witnessing extraordinary academic discipline. They would sit for hours, staring at cryptic scribbles or tapping furiously on silver boxes, often with expressions of intense concentration. Even the most diligent duck rarely spends such uninterrupted time on a single task. Their dedication to learning – be it for survival or the pursuit of some greater understanding – was undeniable. I marvelled at their hard work, even if I did not fully comprehend its purpose.

However, my most compelling revelation came in witnessing H. sapiens love and sacrifice. As the leaves turned golden, I noticed tender gestures between them; a hand on a shoulder, a synchronised stroll, friends embracing on the bridge. Then, on one particularly chilly day, I witnessed something extraordinary.

A car barrelled toward a distracted human. Before my feathers could raise, another human sprinted to the rescue, pulling the loitering one to safety just in time.

The selflessness of this act struck me deeply, reminding me of my own instinct to protect my kind. Once, I defended my family from a curly-haired human female who ventured too close to my 15 ducklings. In that moment, I would have gladly died for them. To me, it was undeniable.

They love, just like us.

Love is the pinnacle of intelligence, the defining trait of all beings who deserve to be called “duckian.” It transcends mere instinct, extending

into the realm of choice and sacrifice. And so, while I remain cautious of humans’ less-desirable traits, I must admit: they are capable of the most noble of acts.

To all of duckkind, I humbly suggest that we reconsider our stance. The beakless ones may yet surprise us.



House in The House: Roadmap to Reality

Chloe Heiniger (2021) and Rhys Nickerson (2022)

Roadmap to Reality

Disclaimer: The following article is based on true events from Weeks 10 to 12 of Semester 2, 2024 but has been fictionalised for dramatic purposes.

Like many good ideas, ours originally began as a whispered fantasy. Idealistic murmurings spoken in between sips of iced matcha in the sparsely-populated 'As You Like It' café, at the pointy end of University Avenue. Upon reflection, perhaps that's why we chose As You Like It. Enclosed by the red walls and red floors, in the dim lighting, with so few people around, our meeting almost felt clandestine. To be frank, the clandestinity of our rendezvous was simply for gossips sake, but it is often in these base socialisations that the most fortuitous outcomes manifest:

Rhys: *What if we hosted a DJ night in Scholars?*

Chloe: *[audible gasp, eyes sweeping the room]. An EDM (Electronic Dance Music) christening of sorts?*

Rhys: *[nodding]. We could call it...House in the House.*

Chloe: *If only...[sighs]...they'd never allow it.*

And so, the air of As You Like It hung heavy with the weight of our secret. But secrets have a habit of rising to the surface. Especially when their authors refuse to stop talking about themselves.

***In all seriousness, we did think that the idea was impossible. The sacred studious sanctity of Scholars House had been so well-preserved over the years. And we feared that some might

view the concept as a deceptive guise for a party (what?!).

It all came to a head one fateful day in Scholars when, with trepidation, we courageously put forward our idea...to receive complete and utter approval.

Revelling in ecstatic shock, plans quickly began to fall into place. Using the Tuckwell Scholars House Facebook page as our own personal playground? Check. Wondering if it was appropriate to acquire a strobe light? Check (it was). Overestimating the excitement for an event that was mostly for ourselves? Check (we only got one official sign up).

And just like that, it was upon us. The day of the inaugural House in the House.

It's the early afternoon.

The little blue-and-white building on Fellows Lane is perched rather inconspicuously. The afternoon sun slants into the sunroom, fingers furiously moving over keyboards in the height of exam fury. Outside, rainbow lorikeets suddenly take flight – have they heard something? Oh yes. The throbbing pulse of deep bass emerges from that little blue-and-white building. Testing, testing, one two three.

It's the late afternoon.

The walk to collect the pizzas almost breaks us. The adrenalin of the past few weeks has worn off, and we are face to face with reality.

Chloe: *I don't think many people are coming. Why did we think we could pull this off?*

Rhys: *I suppose inter cohort culture really is dead.*

Chloe: *Maybe this is what it's like – starting a new tradition.*

Rhys: *At least we tried.*

After we arrange the pizzas in Scholars, we stand and peruse the mostly empty room. Fairy lights strewn everywhere, standing desk converted into DJ booth, Oscar Pearce's sympathetic smile. And then the floodgates open. Jubilant first, second, third, fourth, and even fifth (Joe Negrine!) years pour in.

The night was undoubtedly a hit. Not only did three Scholars perform their own thirty-minute DJ sets, but countless others participated in our amateur DJ competition.

In the amateur DJ competition, participants received a five-minute lesson from Rhys on how to use the decks, before selecting their songs, and attempting to create transitions. It was a hallmark of the night. It emphatically struck down any feelings of imposter syndrome. Everyone was trying and succeeding and failing all at once. And everyone else was applauding and laughing and dancing at the same time. In that moment, we were all united by a sense of frenzied fun on the cusp of a desire to do well in our upcoming exams. Safe to say, there was both no winners and all winners.



In our planning process, we'd often been asked – why not just have it at someone's house? But the location had to be Scholars. Every Scholar feels some level of pride and connection to Scholars House. Taking part in such an unusual event in a place which is emblematic of our ANU experience felt surreal. It was almost like a celebration of our collective accomplishments.

And collective was the word which encapsulated the night. As older students, we got to hear about first years' recollections of their Tuckwell experiences so far – what was Commencement like for you? Are you enjoying FYE? And the other way round: first years asking fifth years about their soon-to-be title of graduates.

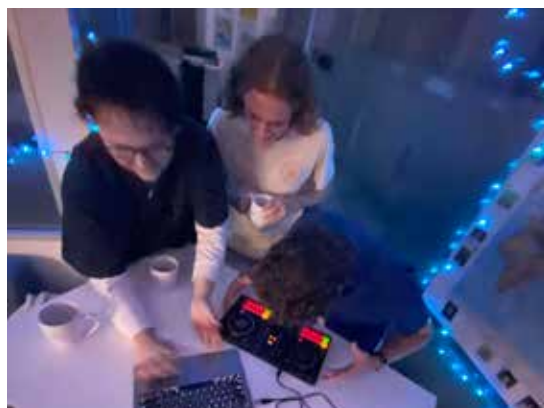
Some might call it a party (we did plan it that way). But we like to think it was a bit more than that.

We returned the next day, bleary-eyed and feeling a little worse for wear. We embarked on the clean-up.

Whilst scrubbing the benchtops, Chloe noticed a small, lonely scrap of paper sitting in the Suggestions Box. Removing her yellow gloves with a clean thwack, she reached inside.

Unfurling the paper, five words were written down: More House in the House.

And with that, a new tradition has begun.



The Heart is in The House

Hannah Wang (2024)

Nestled behind the ANU Law buildings, Scholars House stands quietly among the foliage, quaint and entirely unassuming. To a passerby, this cottage-like building might be worth a glance or two. Some are curious, hoping perhaps to have stumbled upon a hidden coffee haven. But, despite appearances, Scholars House is most definitely NOT a café. Though, if you're ever in need of a late-night caffeine boost, just ask Max to make you his "energy drink" — a wild concoction of Milo, sugar, hot chocolate and instant coffee sachets.

Affectionately known as 'The Crib', 'Scholars' or more cryptically, 'The House', Scholars House is more than just a cosy nook where we can study, nap, meet with staff, or catch up over a game of "Guess Who?". On any given day, you might find Daniel, Anneke, or Bailey convincing you to play "just one game" of soccer or tennis (yes, we scholars love our sports — go Gosses and Barretts!!). Or you'll walk in and be greeted by terrifying equations scrawled all over the five whiteboards, courtesy of some of our loyal MATH1115 soldiers — Josh, Rishita, and Rory. Equipped with cooking facilities, you might be lucky to catch Mehvish, Stephie, or Remy baking up a storm. If you see Sophie, make sure to try a boiled peanut when she offers them. Trust me, they are quite delectable! For some, Scholars is a second home, a place where hours slip by unnoticed. If you're ever looking for Kelso, Douglas, or Oscar, check Scholars first. You're welcome in advance.

Scholars House has become a symbol of the community which the Tuckwell Scholarship has so successfully created, nurtured, and

grown. It was here that I first met many of the 2024 scholars, in a space where meaningful conversations and friendships flourished. It's also where we held FYE — regular gatherings of first-years to nurture our "presumptive friendships." Whether it be through cheering for Georgia, Steph and Molly in the Bruce play, fighting for our lives as passengers in Will's car, or watching Aidan try to devour a piece of bread in 20 seconds (spoiler alert: he took two minutes), our bond as a cohort grew stronger.

After semester breaks, the buzz at Scholars is palpable. We share stories of where we adventured during the holidays, and where we plan to go next (and no, Liam, we're not going to Columbia with you — sorry!). During exam season, the House is once again buzzing with activity. You'll find us everywhere — doing group study inside or out on the veranda, or sneaking off to the sunroom for some solitary focus. You might even spot Sydney traversing the stepping stones leading to the House on the way to an exam! Else, on a study break, feel free to chat with Kiana about anything stupol-related, or corner Audrey with burning questions about her recent research projects (also, #welovesocialjustice).



Looking back, I think I speak for us all when I say conversations at the House have been some of the most enlightening, bizarre and downright hilarious interactions-including proposals for outlandish facilities for our new Scholars House such as a lecture theatre and a waterslide leading into a pool! Whether or not our dream Scholars House becomes a reality remains to be seen, but we can't wait to make the new House our new Home.

And now, as I write this on the plane back home, I look out and see the sprawling Sydney landscape. I see countless trees, rivers winding, and the occasional stretch of pasture. But most of all, I see houses. Thousands dotted across the landscape-some red, some beige, some black. It reminds me of Canberra, and of a very special House — our house. It's the site of fond memories, dozens of cups of peppermint tea and Arnott's biscuits, and endlessly exciting conversations. And I know, when we return after the long summer break, the House will still be there, waiting for us. Because no matter where we go, or how far we wander, it will always be the beating heart of our community.



The Land of the Eternal Blue Sky

Finn Currie (2023)



Over the winter break this year, I found myself in the world's emptiest country (by population density), Mongolia. I was lucky enough to have been given a New Colombo Plan Mobility Grant to fund the annual "Modern Mongolia - Challenges to the Environment, Economy and Empire" study tour run by ANU. The trip was two weeks long; one week in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, and one week in the countryside.

I flew in from South Korea, on a plane that left Seoul at 12.05 am and was scheduled to land early in the morning in Ulaanbaatar. I was very much anticipating having an empty flight and being able to lie down and get some rest. However, I couldn't have been more wrong. The flight was entirely full. A few hours after landing at the Chinggis-Khaan International Airport, the sun began to rise, and the sweeping plains of the Mongolian steppe were in full view.

Mongolia is a strange country in the way that private property is not a concept that extends to every piece of land and is largely only applicable

in urban areas. For context, the aforementioned airport, which services Ulaanbaatar, is around 50km away from the city. As we neared closer to Ulaanbaatar, pockets of houses were found, and it seemed as though these houses and the fences around them were arbitrarily placed in the middle of a field. A herd of horses trotted across the highway, with the traffic accommodating them. It was an interesting and peculiar introduction.

Over the first week of the study tour, we learnt extensively about Mongolian culture, history, language, environment, and economy. Mongolia transitioned from a communist country to a democracy in 1990. It was this Soviet communist rule that saw Mongolia utilise the Cyrillic alphabet which is continued today. However, there are efforts to reintegrate the traditional Mongolian script, which was initially borrowed from the Uyghurs, and is written vertically, back into Mongolian society.

Mongolia experiences harsh climatic conditions, with winter temperatures reaching up to -40 degrees Celsius. As you can imagine, these conditions can have devastating consequences on the large livestock population in Mongolia, which greatly contributes to their economy.

The Mongolians have coined a specific word to characterise harsh winter conditions that cause large quantities of livestock to die: Dzud. A dzud is an extreme weather event on the Mongolian steppe where cold temperatures, harsh winds, snow, and ice prohibit livestock from grazing, and subsequently dying from starvation.

It isn't just livestock that suffer from the extreme cold. Due to poor central heating and much of Ulaanbaatar's population living in Gers, the traditional Mongolian shelter, people burn raw coal inside for heating and cooking purposes. The burning of poor-quality fuel inside raises fine particle pollution levels to dangerous heights. As a result, over 1500 people are dying per year due to illnesses attributable to air pollution.

Now I've just written the past two paragraphs I realise I'm not particularly selling Mongolia. In the second week, we moved out into the countryside, making our way towards the Orkhon River Valley and the old capital city of the Mongol empire, Kharkhorin, or historically Karakoram.

Our first stop, however, was at Hustai National Park, 100km West of Ulaanbaatar. This is a conservation area for the Takhi or Przewalski's horse, a wild species that were once extinct before being reintroduced in the 1990s. They are identifiable by their short, spiky mane and stocky build. After a lovely meal at a small restaurant at the park entrance, we got driven in old Russian vans throughout the park where we were lucky enough to be surrounded by small herds of Takhi.

The following day, we departed early to reach the Orkhon River Valley. The drive was beautiful. We were on the road for a good few hours before entering the Orkhon Valley Natural and Historical Reserve, where we travelled through open fields before reaching our ger camp. The river was freezing and there were goats there to greet us.



One of the days, we rode horses up to the Tuvkhun Monastery and enjoyed spectacular views over the surrounding landscape. One of Mongolia's oldest monasteries, it survived the communist occupation of Mongolia. Zanabazar, the first Bogd Khan (leader of Buddhism in Mongolia) established the Monastery and spent much of his life there.

Lastly, we visited the Nadaam festival held in Kharkhorin. Nadaam is a summer festival in Mongolia where traditional activities and competitions take place. These include dancing, throat singing, wrestling, horse racing, and archery, with attendants wearing traditional Mongolian clothes. Although the main festival is held in the capital, attending a smaller version in Kharkhorin was a great cultural experience to top off an enlightening and educational trip.



First year dining

Aidan Velten (2024)

I am no avid food critic. Truth be told, I am not even a good cook. In fact, my reputation for cooking precedes me for all the wrong reasons. I do, however, love food. Even more so when it is shared with friends. So, whilst this review may make Martha Stewart cringe, this is more a culmination of the laughs and memories had over meals this year than anything gastronomically-inclined.

Baby Su

Perhaps the premier dining spot on this list (not exactly an achievement they will be hanging on their wall), Baby Su played host to the post-interview-weekend-debrief as well as several FYE dinners. Highly recommended by Jaison Krutik, former Wright Hall Food Committee Member and now our resident food connoisseur, Baby Su is conveniently located five minutes by car from campus — or a leisurely (barefoot?) 20-minute stroll through Canberra streets, if you're Bailey Mularczyk. The Chicken 'Bao-ger' is always a huge hit. I rather inauspiciously attempted to be different, opting for the pumpkin bowl. This, I do not recommend unless you really love pumpkin. Moral of the story, follow the crowd - or at least the credible recommendations of Jaison.

Multi Yummy

What began with Liam Rees saying that he 'knows a place', quickly transcended into almost weekly dinners throughout winter. Nestled in a quiet courtyard just off campus, Multi Yummy is not exactly the most visually appealing of buildings. An aged, bright-green banner drapes over the entrance, alongside a neon 'OPEN' sign that any young Actonian worth their salt knows stays lit until the early hours of the morning.

However, don't let the facade distract you from the delectable food inside. The 'Chicken mayo rice' proved a huge hit at just \$16, often being justified with some questionable maths of what an actual homemade meal would cost.

From here, my review becomes very confined as all 13 times I have been to multi yummy I have ordered the chicken and rice.



Nevertheless, I will take their word that the 'Century Egg Congee' is equally delicious.

Chartwells (“Charties”: the Bruce and Wright catering)

For this entry, I defer to Kelso Wentworth, a Chartwells (affectionately, “Charties”) aficionado and living legend despite not even living in a catered college. Think of Kelso like the Lebron James of Charties, a living legend within the hallowed walls of a Charties cafeteria. A man that knows their food inside out. All the more impressive considering he doesn’t even go to a catered college. Talk about an underdog!

Kelso: The best food in Canberra? It has to be Charties catering at Bruce and Wright Halls. In my time dining at Charties, I’ve come to expect the unexpected. Lunch could be quesadillas or medium-rare chicken. Dinner could be spag bol or something they’ve fished from the creek. Whatever it is, it’s better than anything I could ever make.



However, the real appeal of Charties is not that it saves me from burning a pot every time I want a meal. For me, and for all the other Scholars, Charties is where we catch up with our Tuckwell family.

Every Scholar has fond memories of sitting around a Charties table. That’s why Charties is the place to get a meal in Canberra. I’ll see you there in 2025!

Kingsley’s Chicken: ‘Unbelievable Chicken, Awesome Chips’

Kingsleys... where do I start. The place where you can eat dinner for approximately the same price as it cost in the 90s. Unfortunately, the place also boasts that their chicken contains a whopping 60% chicken. I guess you can’t win them all.



Perched near Lake Ginninderra, getting to Kingsley’s has occasionally been an adventure in itself, thanks to some questionable navigation skills. But it’s not just the food that makes it memorable.

Once we got there, it was often the big questions that were discussed; conversations that would rival the dialogues between Socrates and Thrasymachus in Plato’s Republic. Hours upon hours were spent debating the big topics, for instance -how fast can one person eat a piece of white bread with no water? The answer: 40 seconds if you’re Georgia Borschmann, and a whole 3 minutes for Daniel Fihrrer. Try it yourself, you’ll see what I mean.

Summary

So, while you may not be any closer to discovering Canberra’s next hidden gem — or, frankly, any meaningful insight into the quality of these restaurants — I hope you’ve gained an appreciation for how much I value the company. While the food may have been mediocre, it has nonetheless provided countless laughs, memories, and friendships that have made this year truly fulfilling.

No ordinary Scholarship



The Tuckwell Scholarship Program is like no other undergraduate scholarship program in Australia.

We award 25 Scholarships each year and offer talented and motivated students the opportunity to realise their potential by providing financial support, personal enrichment and development opportunities.

Most importantly, Tuckwell Scholars can connect with and learn from one another within our home on campus, our warm and welcoming, Scholars House.

Podcast

The *Tuckwell Talks - Conversations with Scholars* podcast series was successfully launched in 2024.

Founded and hosted by Head of Scholars House, Associate Professor Michelle Barrett and Program Director, Dr Fiona Scotney, our podcast features interviews with inspiring Scholars from across all disciplines, including Arts, Law, Science, Medicine, and Engineering.

The following 22 episodes were broadcast in 2024, with many more to come.

Chris Jackson -2021 Scholar	Hannah Price -2020 Scholar
Jacob Gome -2021 Scholar	Oscar Pearce -2021 Scholar
Sam Barton -2020 Scholar	Ellie Randall -2019 Scholar
Guy Archibald -2022 Scholar	Lachlan Anderson -2020 Scholar
Sebastian Viner -2021 Scholar	Ella Wishart -2021 Scholar
Mariane Johnstone -2021 Scholar	Milla Papallo -2022 Scholar
Isaac Martin -2020 Scholar	Olivia Bunter -2020 Scholar
Brian Lee -2021 Scholar	Stephanie Lunn -2021 Scholar
Marissa Ellis -2020 Scholar	Nina Gannon -2020 Scholar
Jasmine Pearson -2020 Scholar	Charles O'Neill -2019 Scholar
Harry Bowden -2022 Scholar	Reverse Podcast! -Head of Scholars House



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