



New'n'Old

2022 | The **Alumni Magazine** of New College and New College Postgraduate Village
The University of New South Wales



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NEW COLLEGE



NEW COLLEGE
POSTGRADUATE VILLAGE



UNSW
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The University of New South Wales
2022



UNSW
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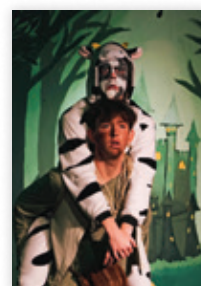
Photography in this issue

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We hope you enjoy reading *New 'n' Old* Magazine

New 'n' Old will continue to be available in print. However, we particularly encourage our international alumni to opt into receiving *New 'n' Old* electronically. If you would like to receive *New 'n' Old* electronically, please email alumni@newcollege.unsw.edu.au and this will help us to reduce our carbon footprint.

You can also keep up-to-date with news and upcoming events online at www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au



Cover photo

Oliver Anderson as Milky White and Jock Lander as Jack in *Into the Woods*, the 2022 New College Musical.

New 'n' Old is produced by the New College Communities at the University of New South Wales.

About the New College Communities

Founded in 1969, the New College Communities are actively involved in the life of the wider University of New South Wales community, and are enriched by the cultural diversity of staff and students. We welcome people of all faiths and philosophies.

We cultivate outstanding university campus communities of academic excellence and pastoral care, shaped by Christian faith and values, where every student can flourish. Our colleges are vibrant and close knit, and are strong in academic, sporting, cultural, social, and community service activities.

The College's main programs include:

- New College, our residential college for 247 undergraduate students.
- New College Postgraduate Village, our residential college for 315 postgraduate and senior undergraduate students.
- The Centre for Christian Apologetics, Scholarship and Education (CASE), a research group that carries out Christian apologetics—the activity of defending the Christian faith, engaging with other worldviews and attracting 'thinking' people to the message of the Christian faith.

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A Message from the Master



L-R: New College Dean of Residents Jonathan Billingham, Board Director Professor David Cohen, Master Adjunct Professor Bill Peirson, UNSW Vice-Chancellor Professor Attila Brungs, and Acting Dean of NCV Edwina Hine.

“If College is not fun, we are not doing it correctly”.

Although this edition of *New 'n' Old* has been delayed due to COVID, I hope that it clearly radiates the joy of living at New College or New College Postgraduate Village, our outstanding university communities.

I am immensely proud of both colleges as they have journeyed, with joy, through what have been, arguably, their most challenging years to date.

During early 2020, some were arguing that university residential communities were unsafe places to be with a pandemic on the loose. I resisted calls to close the colleges. The 2020 New College Students' Association President, Meagan Davis, put it most succinctly: “Bill, this is our home”.

I was also keenly conscious that this was a vulnerable time for our international student residents. For them and their families, ensuring that they had ongoing, excellent pastoral care was crucial when these families were separated by such great distances with borders closed.

Now that we are emerging from the chaos, I will briefly retrace key waypoints of the past 30 months.


Our colleges have been inspired and carried by student leaders in both communities. They have maintained commitment to vibrancy, kindness, and aspiration, undaunted by the challenges around.

Over the initial 22-month period, we developed an operating paradigm of looking after anyone with COVID-like symptoms: isolation, meals, communication (and medical attention, when necessary). Consequently, when the real wave spread (and our first infections emerged) in December 2021, our teams were already well-prepared, and we have managed our relatively low level of infections with ease.

I must acknowledge our entire staff team, especially as they bore the additional workload associated with isolated people. Special thanks to Jonathan Billingham as Dean of Residents at New College and Edwina Hine, who stepped up into the role of Acting Dean of New College Postgraduate Village. They have worked tirelessly. We must also note the departure of Adela Davis from the staff team. I have very much valued Adela's contribution over the past seven years that I have known her – five of these as a member of staff. Her aspirations for study in the UK bear her away and we wish her well.

Some from our communities have lost loved ones to COVID. I am appreciative of the prayers of many and am thankful to God for his care and protection of those in our colleges through these very complicated times.

It has been great to resume large-scale college events, such as our recent Scientia Formal Dinner. At the pre-dinner drinks, Moses Lo shared of his journey since leaving college some 12 years ago. The new Vice-Chancellor of UNSW Sydney, Professor Attila Brungs joined us as Guest of Honour and had a delightful time sharing his aspirations for UNSW and celebrating our college achievements. Professor Brungs has already won a special place at UNSW, calling me personally during O'Week 2022 to check on how our colleges were journeying into the new academic year.

I am excited by what lies ahead as our communities engage with university life with full vigour. I sincerely thank you for your support – especially the increased scholarship support – that we have received through these difficult times. Please always feel welcome to visit. We love catching up with friends old 'n' new. 

Adjunct Prof. William L. Peirson

Our New Rhodes Scholars

NANAK NARULLA

Established in 1902, the Rhodes Scholarship enables students from all over the world to study fully funded postgraduate degrees at the University of Oxford. In total, six New Collegians have been selected for this prestigious program, and two of them just in the last two years!

Nanak Narulla (NC 2012-2013)

Nanak is a 2021 Rhodes Scholar and has enrolled in an MSc in Environmental Change and Management, followed by a Bachelor of Civil Law. His professional background is in climate, environmental, human rights, and First Nations and native title law. Just prior to moving to Oxford, he was an Associate at Boston Consulting Group working in energy policy.

Nanak lived at New College for two years while completing a Bachelor of Arts/Law at UNSW. He says that the “instant community” he found at College helped him form friendships that “are some of the most important and enduring in [his] life”.

Why are you particularly interested in environmental law and climate justice?

I grew up in Hobart, Tasmania, surrounded by the unruly beauty of the Australian bush. My childhood instilled in me a lasting love of nature. My professional focus on environmental and climate issues developed over time, as the dangers and scale of climate change became increasingly hard to ignore.


What was the application process for the Rhodes Scholarship like?

Applications were very bizarre in my year, as the whole process was conducted online. Finding out I was selected was surreal. I was sitting in the same bedroom where I had spent lockdown, suddenly processing the fact that I would be moving to the UK. The excitement for the adventures ahead came later.

What are you enjoying about living and studying in Oxford?

Life in Oxford has been a delight. It's a privilege to be able to spend a couple of years studying degrees that are stimulating and useful in romantic and centuries-old libraries. But there's much more to life here than academics. There has been a real sense of collective relief and celebration as things have opened up after years of COVID-19 lockdowns. Attending talks from world leaders and leading academics, spying the occasional celebrity (including Timothée Chalamet), and playing football and cricket for Rhodes Trust have been highlights.

What do you hope to do in the future?

I think that law is a particularly powerful lever in driving climate action at this point in history. While we have seen encouraging Net Zero target setting over the past few years, we will need legal interventions to ensure that the policies of state and non-state actors reflect the ambition of their commitments. After my time in Oxford, I intend to return to Australia to either practice in public interest environmental litigation, or work in federal climate policy. 



Our New Rhodes Scholars

ROSIE KIRK



Rosie Kirk (NC 2015-2016)

Rosie is a 2022 Rhodes Scholar, and she will be undertaking a DPhil in Medical Sciences, focusing on genetic cardiovascular disease. She is currently a Junior Medical Officer at Westmead Hospital, a position she secured after graduating from Medicine at UNSW (with the University Medal!).

Rosie lived at New College for two years and is thankful for the friends she made during that time. In fact, all the people she celebrated with on the day she received the scholarship were from her first-year group.

Why are you particularly interested in genetic cardiovascular disease?

I find the medical, scientific and ethicolegal dimensions of genetic medicine equally fascinating. I explored this in my Honours year when I joined a team investigating genetic causes of birth defects and miscarriage at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. During my studies, I also undertook a month-long cardiology placement in Oxford and spent a lot of time seeing patients and families whose lives had been affected by genetic conditions.

Why did you apply for a Rhodes Scholarship?

When I first heard of the Rhodes Scholarship, it didn't seem like the kind of thing I could apply for. The name conjures an image of an impossible person who has somehow managed to achieve perfect grades, compete in the Olympics, and run a charity, all before the age of 25. However, I came to realise that, in reality, the person who gets the scholarship is the person who applies. Knowing that Oxford was the ultimate place to gain training for the future career I hope to have, and that I could gain a huge amount from the application process itself, I decided I may as well apply.

What was the application process like?


I really enjoyed the interviews. I got to meet young people who were doing exciting things in the world. I was pushed to think deeply about my ideas, my motivations, and the way I interact with the world. It was surreal to actually receive the scholarship. I felt incredibly grateful and excited, and had a sense that I needed to use this opportunity to return something to the broader community.



What excites you about living and studying in Oxford?

I'm looking forward to returning to the lab and learning from people who are leaders in their fields. I'm also excited to return to a college environment, joining a community of curious and interesting people who come from all over the world. I think this cross-disciplinary environment will be really valuable when I'm exploring the ethical dimension of my work, and I look forward to seeing how my perspectives change as a result.

What do you hope to do in the future?

I hope that by becoming a clinician-scientist in this field, I'm able to contribute to the ethical and equitable introduction of rapidly evolving genetic technologies.  (AD)

CHANGES TO THE NEW COLLEGE BOARD



Earlier this year, at the New College Board AGM, it was time to farewell one long-serving Board Director and welcome another.

Dr Andrew Boyton (NC 2004-2007) served on the New College Board for ten years, a commitment that was only made possible with the support of his wife, Chloe, and their four young children. At the AGM, Board Chair Janet Simpson expressed her thanks to Andrew for his enthusiasm for the College and for his contribution as a 'young' representative of the alumni community.

Andrew has been a zealous advocate for the New College Communities, and his keen eye for detail and thoughtful considerations around policy development have been greatly appreciated. We wish Andrew and his family well for the future, as he steps into increased responsibilities at work and church.


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This also means that we now welcome a new Director to the Board. Tegan Mitchell (née Owen, NC 1992-1993) is an alumna of New College and currently works as Manager of Major Transport Projects at the City of Sydney. At the moment, she is focusing on road user space allocation, making it easier for people to walk and cycle.



Tegan came to New College after moving from Canberra to study environmental engineering at UNSW. Since then, she has held a variety of strategy roles across the public service, she has led large teams and is a mentor of staff and technical expert within the transport sector. An early career highlight was working as an Advisor at the World Road Association in Paris. She was based at La Grande Arche and worked collaborating with road authorities across Europe. Tegan is married to an alumnus (Andrew, NC 1992-1994) and has three children.

Tegan has joined the board to support the Colleges work in providing an on-campus community environment that fosters academic excellence and pastoral care shaped by Christian values. Her personal experiences in supporting family and working in public and community service (through school and church organisations) throughout the Covid pandemic have highlighted how important it is to provide vibrant and caring environments for young people to meet together, share life and grow their faith.

Outside of work, Tegan is an advocate for climate change action by encouraging people to walk and ride bikes. She bought an e-cargo bike just before the pandemic and has ridden over ten thousand km in under 4 years! While riding for transport minimises impacts on the environment, Tegan says she loves her bike because "Riding is fun!" 

NCV ASA CARING COMMUNITY

Reflections from Maverick Wong



Maverick (centre) on his last day at NCV with fellow collegians Junning Woo (left) and Jeff Thng (right).

During the pandemic, the New College Communities have followed careful COVID isolation procedures, for the safety of our students and staff. As part of this, it has been vitally important to make sure that our residents are cared for and well supported during their time in isolation.

Maverick Wong (NCV 2020-22) is from Singapore and lived at New College Postgraduate Village while he studied Medicine at UNSW. New 'n' Old recently asked him some questions about his time at NCV and about his experience living in College during his COVID isolation.

Why did you choose to live at NCV?

As I was slightly older than the usual undergraduate, I was looking for on-campus self-catered

accommodation for mature students. NCV is targeted towards postgraduate students and so it offered the perfect combination of a college experience mixed with freedom and privacy. I also knew other older students who had lived at NCV, and so I had heard many good things about the College. This pushed me to apply and ultimately pick NCV as my place of accommodation.

Has living at NCV been what you expected it to be?

Yes, living at NCV has been what I expected. I wanted an experience that allows me to have my independence while also providing a supportive and inclusive community that I can turn to. In addition, living on campus has been quite convenient, as it is literally in the university compound near all the places that I would visit as a UNSW student.

How did the College support you during your COVID-19 isolation period?

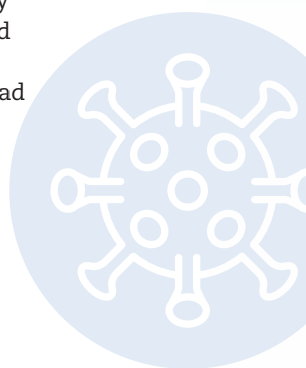
The College provided me three meals a day and frequently checked in on me. This was extremely helpful, and I did not feel so stranded. I imagined having to isolate while living off-campus, and I thought it would be a nightmare. I would have had to survive off instant or poorly cooked meals!

Did you feel safe and cared for during your isolation period?

Yes, definitely. It was reassuring that there was always someone I could turn to, whether the Dean, the Senior Resident, or even the neighbours on my level, if I needed emergency medical attention during my COVID-19 ordeal.

How do you find the community at NCV?

The NCV community is pretty easy-going and welcoming. Although we do not necessarily hang out all the time, simple greetings along the corridor really help foster inclusivity and a general welcoming feeling. For the more social ones, there is always an array of planned activities, and I really appreciate all the effort the College team puts in to organising these events. 🇵🇹 🇲🇲



Meet our NCV Assistant Deans CALEB CAMPION, LEGO MASTER



Earlier this year, New College alumnus and current NCV Assistant Dean, Caleb Champion (NC 2019-21, NCV 2022-present), and his teammate Alex, were awarded runners-up on LEGO Masters Australia Season 4!

From 18 April–16 May, there was much excitement in the New College Communities as residents and alumni watched Caleb and Alex's incredible performances each week through the screen. So, we asked Caleb some questions about his amazing journey on the show and his life at the New College Communities.

How long have you been enjoying LEGO? Do you remember your first creation?

LEGO was far and away my favourite toy as a child and I continued to play with it until I was about 15. I only got back into LEGO in the last two years. Some of my earliest memories were playing 'shops' with my brothers, where we would make little creations and sell them to each other in return for small, shiny LEGO crystals.

What do you like most about LEGO?

The infinite possibilities – I like that I can sit down and create a model of absolutely anything I wish. A lot of the satisfaction is the problem solving as well – LEGO pieces only connect properly in

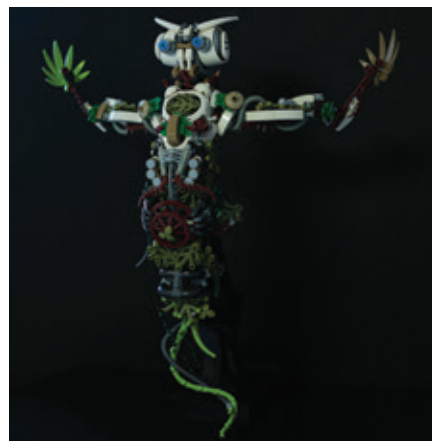
particular ways, and most of it comes down to their mathematical proportions to one another. It's just one big puzzle!

It can't have been easy to study at university while shooting a TV program. Can you share any tips for managing busyness?

Thankfully I was able to get program leave to shoot the show because we had 5am–7pm days, 6 days a week! But I would encourage anyone reading to know that life is not a race, and that life is more than work. Prioritise making time for friends, family, and hobbies. Balance is super important. I'm glad I had a break from textbooks for a while!

A scene from Caleb and Alex's 'Beginning, Middle & End' LEGO build, which told the story of two best friends who became pilots.





What did you learn from taking part in LEGO Masters Australia?

Quite simply, I learnt the importance of joy and perseverance. Having joy is really crucial in life because it means that when things get tough or go wrong, you're still able to smile and keep pushing through. For me, reflecting on the hope of eternal life I have in Jesus gave me a joy that meant I didn't feel too troubled by COVID restrictions, challenge failures, or production dramas.

Do you have any favourite memories from your time on the show? What was your proudest creation?

My favourite memories from the show were all the times I spent with the contestants – they are such wonderful friends of mine to this day, and I have so many memories of us just laughing all the time! My proudest creation was probably our “Gone Fishin’” build. It was a real challenge to have the fisherman convey a feeling of being ‘tired and fed up’.

What motivated you to become a Resident Adviser at New College and then Assistant Dean at NCV?

In recent years I've come to know that many people don't have friends or people in their life that they can rely on or confide in, so I felt compelled to put myself in a position where I could learn to provide support for students in need. Working at NCV, in particular, has been such a rewarding experience that has taught me how to empathise, and make friends with people of every kind of belief, background, and stage of life. Those kinds of



Caleb and Alex's “Gone Fishin’” build.

experiences are invaluable for growing and maturing as a person. It is a privilege to be a part of such a diverse community.

How do you find living at the New College Communities?

It's exciting and tight-knit but in the strangest ways. There is always so much to do, so many people to meet. Late-night karaoke? Check. Meaningful conversations at Maccas at 2 am? Check. Soccer matches in the rain? Check. I can't think of a better place to be while at university.

...

A huge congratulations to Caleb on his achievement – we are so proud of you! 🎉

Meet our NCV Assistant Deans

MISAKO MORITA



Misako Morita (NCV 2019-present) wears two hats in the New College Communities – she is both Assistant Dean of NCV and PR Assistant on the admin team. We found out how her three-year journey has been going since she arrived in Australia as an international student from Japan.

Can you tell us about your life before NCV?

After I completed my bachelor's degree (Law and Political Science/Media Communication) in 2009, I worked as an executive secretary in the largest law firm in Japan for 3.5 years. I would say that my fundamental skills as a businessperson – such as time management, keeping confidentiality, organising information and documents – were developed there.

Then I changed my career to the higher education sector where I have been working for over 9 years. I especially enjoyed enhancing international collaboration between my previous workplace (Tokyo Tech) and universities abroad. I arranged around 70 courtesy visits from over 40 countries. It was so fun to welcome people from all over the world!

Were there advantages to living in a postgraduate community while working on your master's degree during the pandemic?

The COVID-19 outbreak happened just a few months after I started my Master of Public Relations and Advertising at UNSW. It was a bit of a shame because I felt I lost vibrant interpersonal learning experiences on campus which I expected to have while studying abroad. And, of course, I was concerned about my physical and mental health living away from home during this uncertain situation.

But I was quite lucky as I was staying at NCV! Although it took me a bit of time to get used to online learning, I often studied with like-minded friends in the building in a COVID-safe environment. In 2020 and 2021, I was also in charge of delivering breakfast to people in isolation at 8am and was a member of the NCV Females Fitness Group – our sessions usually started at 7am in the MCR! These two things made me into a complete morning person, and I was able to keep a good study-life balance during the pandemic.

What motivated you to become a Senior Resident, Assistant Dean, and the PR Assistant?

As a typical introvert I was not sure whether I could do a good job on the leadership team. But I noticed that helping others through meal deliveries improved my mental wellbeing, and that it could be a positive thing that I prefer listening to talking. My motto for communication is 'putting myself in others' shoes' so I thought this would help to contribute to the community one way or another. I believe this mindset is important as a PR professional as well. We should always be mindful of how our message might be received by our audience.

What have you learnt while living at NCV?

Even though the language barrier sometimes gets you down, it is not impossible to be a trustworthy member of the community. People will see your attitude and efforts rather than your language skills. And every day's small step may lead you to another stage of life. I really did not imagine that I could start my new career in the College when I checked in to NCV in September 2019!

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Reading books, singing, and visiting museums are my long-time hobbies. I also found the joy and benefits of ballet exercise, walking, and meditation during the 'stay home' period, so I continue these regularly. And I love finding nice cafés in Sydney – no coffee, no life! ☕️

2021 New College LECTURES

NURTURE: CONFRONTING A CRISIS



With Sydney barely emerging from lockdown, it was another strange year for the New College Lectures. Dr Jenny Brown presented the first ever entirely livestreamed series.

Although it was a shame not to welcome our community into the building as usual, the three evenings were stimulating and well received by those who followed along online.

Dr Jenny Brown is Director Emeritus of the Family Systems Institute, which has been providing training and clinical services in Bowen family systems approaches since 2004. She has over 35 years' clinical experience in child, couple, and family mental health. In 2012, she authored the book *Growing Yourself Up* and in 2020 she released *Confident Parenting*. In 2018, Dr Brown received the Australian and New Zealand Family Therapy Journal award for distinguished contribution to the field. She continues to publish extensively and was awarded her doctorate by UNSW Sydney in 2017.

Across the three evenings, Dr Brown sought to answer the question, "What kind of help helps?" With an ever-growing demand for mental health care and services in Australia, how can we nurture people in a sustainable and effective way? Dr Brown presented an approach that values personal responsibility, views family as a resource, and embraces human failings with hope.

Her first lecture, 'Nurturing Yourself', drew attention to society's increasing tendency to 'medicalise' mental health. Dr Brown was careful to take seriously the debilitating effects of mental unwellness and to acknowledge the dedication and expertise of mental health practitioners. However, drawing on principles from the Bowen family systems theory, she also encouraged the audience to consider mental health treatment options




that promote agency, resilience and self-efficacy, and avoid fostering passivity, helplessness or dependency.

On the following night, 'The Nurturing Family' explored these ideas in the context of parenting. Dr Brown explained how over-nurturing children can result in a reduced capacity to manage life stressors and greater susceptibility to anxiety issues. Dr Brown articulated the importance of giving children breathing space to develop, of parents seeking to improve their own functioning rather than focusing on 'fixing' struggling children, and of maintaining connections with broader support networks.

In her final lecture, Dr Brown discussed 'Nurture in Community', especially in the context of churches. Acknowledging both the relational benefits and complexities of community life, she highlighted some of the less emotionally mature behaviour patterns that can emerge and asked listeners to reflect on where their own maturity gaps are and how they can address them.

It was a thought-provoking series. Dr Brown presented a compelling and compassionate case for slowing the impulse to outsource emotional health issues to mental health professionals, and for learning to access the growth potential of being ourselves in our real relationships.

If you would like to watch Dr Brown's lectures in full or read the corresponding article in *Case Quarterly*, you can go to www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au/lectures. 

ALEX DOWNES

Youth Leadership in Barbados



“My life in journalism, communications and activism has taught me well that words have power. I’ve always preferred to use that power to build a better world”.

So says Alex Downes (NCV 2019), the newly appointed Press Secretary to the Prime Minister of Barbados. However, if you had asked Alex about his future career during his undergraduate degree, this is probably not where he would have imagined himself. In his own words, he “wasted” his early college years. That is, until a last-minute nomination saw him elected to the Guild of Students Council. This transformational experience in student government persuaded him of the power of youth leadership.

Following graduation, the largest newspaper publisher in Barbados selected Alex for an “adrenaline-pumping” journalism program. After 3.5 years, he then turned his mind to further study. He sought a course that would combine his interests in law, media and international relations, and

so he settled on UNSW’s Masters of International Law. Moving to Australia seemed crazy to his family and friends but it was precisely the exciting challenge he wanted. During this year of study, Alex lived at NCV, and it was “the best decision [he] ever made”. Making friends from all over the world made him feel at home.

When a supposedly temporary visit to Barbados after graduation was

disrupted by COVID-19, Alex had to get creative with his career plans. It all started when a friend approached him with an idea to disseminate accessible political news to the Caribbean and diaspora on Twitter. KevzPolitics was the result. Most recently, they have had great success with ‘PoliSpaces’, an initiative whereby Caribbean Heads of State can interact live with young Barbadians on Twitter Spaces.


Then, Alex turned his attention to the Admiral Lord Nelson statue in the capital square of Bridgetown. Many Barbadians had long viewed this statue as a symbol of colonial oppression, and the government had periodically considered its removal. Alex, spurred on by the Black Lives Matter movement, decided it was time to push for action. He had witnessed successful petition-based activism in Australia and so started the ‘Nelson Must Go’ campaign. It “blew up overnight”. One month later, the government agreed to remove the statue, which they did on 18 November 2020.

From here on in, Alex’s leadership in Barbados has only grown. In 2021, he moderated the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) XV Youth Forum. Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley then invited him to deliver an address to the Secretaries-General of the United Nations, UNCTAD, the Commonwealth,

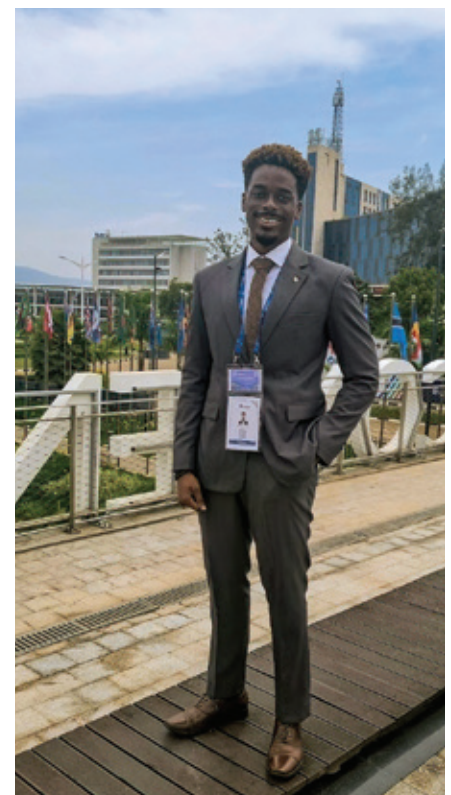
and Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Barbados became a republic on 30 November 2021 and Alex helped to advise the Republic Status Transition Advisory Committee. He was also hired as an independent consultant for FutureBARBADOS, focusing on developing youth mental health policies and projects.

Although Alex loves Australia and would return “in a heartbeat”, he now feels that he is exactly where he should be. There is so much need for his skills and determination in Barbados. He admits that he sometimes wishes it was easier to switch off, but he is pushed on by “a spirit inside him that means he has to address injustice”.

It’s easy to see why this Jane Goodall quote is one of Alex’s favourites: “What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make”. 

Alex Downes attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda as Press Secretary to the Prime Minister of Barbados.



CLAIRE WADE

Animal Genetics Expert



Professor Claire Wade with Dr Francis Collins.



Unnamed students with wombat.

Professor Claire Wade (NC 1982) is Chair of Computational Biology and Animal Genetics at the University of Sydney (USYD). We asked her a few questions to learn more about her life and career.

What brought you to New College? What are your favourite memories from your time as a resident?

I grew up on the North Coast of NSW. When I was accepted for a place at UNSW my parents thought that it would be safest for me to live in a college where everything that I needed for successful university life would be available. In New College, I met an amazing group of girls with whom I shared many adventures and fun times. The two most amazing things that I saw were a wombat in the bathroom (collected as a part of a very intricate treasure hunt) and an entire car reassembled inside someone's room. It was a fun environment to acclimatise to university life and I will always remember it very fondly.

What was your pathway to your current field of research?

At UNSW I studied Animal Science (Wool and Pastoral Sciences) and later did a PhD in the field of quantitative genetics on selective sheep breeding. I then worked for a short time with the Victorian Department of Agriculture before securing a lectureship at the University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science.

However, the field of quantitative genetics was quite mature at that time, and my relative inexperience made it difficult to attract research funding. I felt that I had missed the molecular genetics "boat", so I decided to reskill into the new world of genomics. I enrolled in a Research Masters program and then, when I was due for a sabbatical, I wrote to The Whitehead Institute at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (later The Broad Institute). My numeracy and computer coding skills along with my newfound understanding of genomics placed me in good stead in the emerging field of bioinformatics, and my request was accepted.

In my first six months at the Whitehead, I played a key role in the bioinformatics analysis for the Mouse Genome Project, and this resulted in a first-author publication in *Nature* along with a bit-part in the larger Mouse Genome Consortium paper. I stayed

there for seven years and in that time, I had major roles in several genome projects culminating in my leading the Equine Genome Project.

What are the highlights of your research career so far?

The mouse project was enormous and gained huge media attention. The dog sequencing project also made the news and so I met Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, and initiator of the Human Genome Project. It was a very exciting time in genomics, and it was wonderful to be in such an energetic upbeat research environment – I loved that positive energy and can-do attitude.

What brought you to your current position at USYD?

I eventually felt ready to gain some freedom to explore projects of interest to me, and I was also extremely homesick for Australia. So, I applied to USYD, secured my current role, and became the first female Professor in any Australian School of Veterinary Science. Since then, my research has focused on better understanding the relationship between phenotype and genotype and on creating genetic tests for inherited disorders in domestic animals. ■ (AD)

GHAIDA ALJUHANI

University Medallist



Ghaida Aljuhani lived at New College Postgraduate Village (NCV) from 2017-2019, having moved from Saudi Arabia to study a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Petroleum Engineering at UNSW.

In 2021, her outstanding academic performance saw her graduate with the University Medal. Now, she is working as a petroleum engineer combining her passion for STEM with her desire to contribute to her home country's primary industry.

What did you find most satisfying about studying petroleum engineering?

Contrary to popular belief, petroleum engineering is quite a diverse subject. The most satisfying part is learning the process of how we can provide energy to meet the world's needs. Many people do not see or notice all the work required to fuel the world. Being in a position to do so is a privilege.

What would you say to someone considering studying at UNSW?


The strength of UNSW lies within its incredible societal and educational diversity. There are

thousands of people to meet. The beauty of UNSW is that it provides a campus lifestyle while being in the heart of one of the world's most vibrant cities. If you are considering universities where you can attain a world-class education and live a top-tier life, UNSW is for you.

Why did you apply to live at NCV, and what have you gained from living in the community?

NCV provides a holistic and welcoming community – I gained an incredible sense of camaraderie there. Some of my best times were meeting people in College from all over the world. It truly is a global experience that will leave you with a greater sense of happiness and belonging.

What would you say to someone considering living at NCV?

NCV provides the perfect balance between campus living and independence. Its proximity to university ensures that students never miss out on events, but you can still maintain a high degree of independence if you prefer it. In other words, it provides the best of both worlds. 

ANDREW RINDFLEISH

Hits It Out of the Park



Andrew (centre) with his sons, Scott (left) and Adam (right) on the day he received his OAM.

An OAM for services to softball – it's an amazing achievement! Andrew Rindfleish shares how it happened.

Andrew came to New College in 1971 when he moved from Dubbo to study civil engineering at UNSW. After graduating in 1974, he took a cadetship at Sydney Water and also began studying a Master of Engineering Science. It was at this point that he “fell in love with water resources and hydrology”, fascinated by the mysterious and vital processes of rainfall. This set him on the path of a long and accomplished career in hydrology. A particular highlight was his time at the State Water Corporation looking after rivers in northern NSW.

Alongside Andrew's professional life has run another great passion: softball. After leaving College, Andrew married his wife, Sue. She was working as a primary school teacher in Oyster Bay, and she signed up to run the softball team. Soon after, she also

became involved with the local club. Andrew went along to games to help with scorekeeping and umpiring, and very quickly they were both captivated by the sport.

Andrew “took a real shine to umpiring”, which he went on to do at state, national and international levels. He looks back especially fondly on his four world championship events. He was NSW Umpire-in-Chief and Assessor from 1985-1991, National Umpire-in-Chief from 2004-2009, and NSW Deputy Director of Umpiring from 2010-2018.

However, Andrew's favourite softball memories are the ones related to his sons, Adam and Scott. As Andrew says, most parents follow their kids into sport, but it was the opposite in their family! The Rindfleishes couldn't wait to introduce their kids to softball, getting them started at ages 7 and 5. Adam played in the winning Australian team at the 1997 U19s Men's Softball World Championships and is now the NSW Director of Coaching. Scott is an accomplished umpire, having umpired 26 international events and serving as NSW Director of Umpiring since 2010. Andrew loved running umpire clinics

with Scott in Papua New Guinea in 1992 and 2008. Sue has her own Life Membership Award at Softball NSW and has been on the Boards of Softball Australia and NSW, as well as the President of Softball NSW.

Why softball? For Andrew, it's both about the game and the people. In his words, the sport is “not for the fainthearted” – the reaction times required are even faster than for baseball! Softball is also his community, and he credits it with giving him friends all over the world.

And why umpiring? Sue likes to remind Andrew that, at first, he felt drawn to umpiring because he thought it was ‘black and white’. Now he realises his naivety but finds that the reality is so much better. Umpiring is actually about making appropriate calls in complex, grey situations, and ensuring that you always look after the losing team.

It's obvious why Andrew was nominated in June 2020 for a Medal of the Order of Australia for services to softball. For him, this award was not so much about the number of tournaments he has umpired, but rather his proudest contribution to the sport – making umpiring more caring and inclusive. As his 2013 entry in the Softball Australia Hall of Fame says, “His selflessness, dedication and passion cannot be accurately articulated in words. Andrew's deeds have enriched our sport for the better and have touched the lives of many fortunate enough to share the journey”. 





TAWANDA MASANGO

Serving in Zimbabwe

Tawanda Masango was the Assistant Dean at New College Postgraduate Village in 2016. He took on this role while studying at Moore Theological College.

Tawanda and his family have since returned to Zimbabwe and are working in Christian ministry. He is also the founder of Honeyworld Zimbabwe, a social enterprise that empowers rural communities to establish beekeeping businesses to generate sustainable income and help conserve the environment.




Assistant Dean. I have very fond memories of the opportunities I had there to form relationships and share my faith with students from backgrounds where the gospel is restricted. Playing pool in the games room was also a highlight!

Since returning to Zimbabwe, what has your ministry involved? What are some of the joys and challenges?

I came back to Zimbabwe to serve in university ministry, and I have been doing that at one of the biggest universities in the country, The National University of Science and Technology (NUST). We are also now involved in a small church plant, and we have seen God growing these ministries in amazing ways. The challenge has been shortage of staff, especially of trained female workers. Working and living in a broken economy has been hard as well. After living in Australia for four years, the reverse culture shock was not easy.

Could you share a bit about your work with Honeyworld Zimbabwe?

Since 2014, I had a vision to set up a honey project and, thanks to Anglican Aid who partnered with us, we were able to establish Honeyworld in 2016 when I was still at Moore College. I am involved in leading the organisation, but we have full-time staff who carry out the day-to-day work. This involves training and equipping less resourced rural communities and helping them to start beekeeping. Then, at harvest, we buy honey from the farmers at a fair price, which we then package and sell under the Honeyworld brand. 



Tawanda and Shupi with their children, Amahle (left), Unathi (centre), and Sanele (right).

What led you to move to Sydney, study at Moore College, and pursue full-time ministry?

During my time at university, I was exposed to the prosperity gospel [teaching that claims God will make you healthy, wealthy, and happy], and I found it hard grappling with that without any proper guidance. Stemming from that difficult time, God gave me a deep desire to minister to university students. That led me to do a

one-year apprenticeship with Campus Bible Study at UNSW in 2010-2011. During that year, I was taught and trained by people who had studied at Moore College and their sound teaching and faithfulness to the gospel stood out to me. Four years later, in 2015, I came back to Australia with my wife Shupi to study at Moore College.

How did you come to be Assistant Dean at NCV? What are some highlights from your time there?

When we arrived in Sydney in 2015, we joined St John's Maroubra and that's where we met Susan Bazzana who was then the Dean of Residents at NCV. She invited me to consider serving as



PENNY VAN BERGEN

Passion for Education



Penny with her husband, Michael van Bergen (NC 2000-2004), and their daughter, Zoe.

Why do children lie?
Who are their favourite
teachers and why? Should
we make students do
exams? What do our
earliest memories say
about our family and our
culture?

Penny van Bergen (née Wareham, NC 1999-2001) loves being able to answer all these questions and more as an educational psychologist.

However, she actually stumbled across this passion by accident. When Penny first arrived at UNSW from Canberra she was enrolled in materials engineering, although it quickly became clear that this was not the course for her. She planned to study physiotherapy instead but while she was waiting for the course to start,


she took a psychology subject and was hooked. After finishing her honours degree in psychology, she knew that she wanted to continue doing memory research, particularly in the field of childhood development, and so she went straight into a PhD in Developmental Psychology.

In 2009, Penny landed a job as a Lecturer in the School of Education at Macquarie University. While educational psychology was a new field for her, it was still very much connected with her key interests. She continued looking into the memory development of children and adolescents, and began to investigate student-teacher

relationships and how students can best learn in the classroom. Penny also taught educational psychology to many pre-service teachers, for which she won two Australia-wide awards. Penny became an Associate Professor in 2019 and was the Associate Dean of Learning and Teaching from 2019-2020.

For Penny, one of the most stimulating and rewarding aspects of her work has been aligning her research with her practice in the classroom. She has also deeply appreciated the opportunities she has had to use her findings to help vulnerable children. During the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Penny's research was drawn upon to challenge the commonly held view that children's memory is inherently unreliable. This gave many children a vital voice. Government policy has also benefited from her research into how children with complex needs can build positive relationships with their teachers.

When speaking with Penny, it's obvious that she is still just as passionate about her work now as she was when she was an undergraduate student, imploring the New College psychology tutor to *really* explain memory to her – “But what actually is it?!” She even applies her expertise to her reflections on her time at New College. Memory researchers like Penny know that when older adults recollect the past, there is a ‘reminiscence bump’ around late adolescence and early adulthood. In other words, it's expected that adults will have more memories from their time in College than from other periods of their life! Penny is no exception and remembers College fondly, including the many different sports she turned her hand to (Penny was NCSA Sportswoman of the Year in 2000 and won the Basketball Sports Blue three years in a row), the diverse friendships she made, the exciting mix of freedom and responsibility she had, and the way College helped her to form her identity.

Three months ago, Penny began a new role as Head of the School of Education at the University of Wollongong. This is a change from the face-to-face classroom teaching she was doing, but she is excited to use her knowledge and experience to think strategically about the wellbeing of staff and students. ■ 

NEW WEDDINGS

Marriages



Timothy Guo & Keisha Low

Timothy Guo (NC 2015-2016) married Keisha Low (NC 2016-2018) on 18 June 2021 at The Coast Chapel in Little Bay. The ceremony was followed by a reception at Centennial Homestead. Timothy and Keisha feel very thankful that they were able to be married before the COVID lockdown, in the presence of God and their close family and friends.



Christopher Burnitt & Elise Newling

Chris Burnitt (NC 2014-2016) and Elise Newling were married on 17 April 2021 after a whirlwind 5-week engagement! However, this short time scale hides just how ready the couple were for the wedding day and their marriage. The small celebration at the Newling family home was just right for them. Chris and Elise are now enjoying life in the UK while Chris completes his MRes/ PhD in Economics at the University of Warwick.



Sourabh Dhouchak & Medha Gupta

Sourabh Dhouchak (NCV 2017-2019) and Medha Gupta (NCV 2018-2019) are a true NCV love story – they met at an NCV postgraduate event and quickly became friends. Fast forward to 26 December 2021, and they were tying the knot in Delhi, India, surrounded by the love of their family and friends. Sourabh and Medha cherish all the memories they created at NCV and look forward to exciting adventures ahead as husband and wife.



Sam Ellery & Hannah Dunn

Sam Ellery (NC 2018-2020) and Hannah Dunn (NC 2017-2020) said their vows on 22 January 2022 at Mittagong Anglican Church. Their reception took place at Hannah's beautiful family home in Berrima. Their bridal party featured many collegians, including Joey Ellery (NC 2021-present), Zephani Thambar (NC 2018-2019), Caleb Campion (NC 2019-2021, NCV present), Jessica Dunn (NC 2011-2013), Emma Dunn (NC 2014-2016), Alice Chapman (NC 2018-2021), Maggie Tugwell (NC 2016-2019), and Charis Guilfoyle (NC 2017-2018, 2020). For Sam and Hannah, the day was a joyful celebration and a wonderful reminder of God's grace.



Marco Alberto & Anneke Goud

Marco Alberto (NC 2017-2020) and Anneke Goud (NC 2020-2021) were married on 4 January 2022 ... three days earlier than they had planned! In tricky COVID circumstances, Marco and Anneke made the difficult call to upend their wedding plans at the last minute. This meant that only their best man, Matthew Chapman (NC 2019-2021), and maid of honour, Hannah Cheah (NC 2020-2021), could join them from their bridal party for the ceremony in Dubbo, and that their reception did not go ahead. However, Marco and Anneke are looking forward to celebrating with the rest of their family and friends another time and are thankful that they can trust in God's good plans.



Shan Tan & Huiwen Lee

After seven years of long-distance dating, Shan Tan (NC 2015-2016, NCV 2017-2021) and Huiwen Lee were delighted to be married on 8 January 2022 at St Andrew's Cathedral in Singapore.



Tim Fernando & Ebony Jolliffe

Tim Fernando (NC 2017-2020) and Ebony Jolliffe (NC 2018-2021) were married on 17 December 2021 at Wild Street Anglican Church, Maroubra, followed by a reception at Matraville Town Hall. The couple had a joyful time with family and friends, many of whom were fellow New Collegians. The bridal party alone included Alice Chapman (NC 2018-2021), Karina Stacey (NC 2019), Hannah Cheah (NC 2020-2021), Aaron Berthon (NC 2017-2020), Mitchell Roberts (NC 2017-2020), and Jacob Craig (NC 2018-2020)!



Dominic Bower & Genna Fertig

Dominic Bower (NC 2014-2015) married Genna Fertig (NC 2015-2016) on 2 April 2022 at the picturesque Tasmanian Food & Wine Conservatory. They were joined by ex-collegians Tom Fergusson (NC 2014-2015) as groomsman, Josephine Donnan (NC 2015-2016) as bridesmaid, and Jodie Cooper (NC 2014-2015) as MC. Dom and Genna had the most incredible day, filled with love and happiness, surrounded by their favourite people.



Emily Trigge & Matthew Goldman

Emily Trigge (NC 2013-2016) and Matt Goldman tied the knot on 19 March 2022 at St Michael's Cathedral, Wollongong. Evie Woodford (NC 2013-2016) and Andrew Marrett (NC 2010-2013) read the Bible and prayed for the couple, while previous NCV Assistant Dean Ben Staunton (2019-2020) MC'ed the reception at The Woolshed, Yallah. The mother of the groom, Louise Goldman (née Mackenzie, NC 1982-1984) is also an alumna! Em and Matt had a wonderful day celebrating with family and friends, ducking down to Bombo Headlands for some salty breeze and cliff climbing after their ceremony. They have enjoyed settling into life together in Kiama and have been warmly welcomed by their new church family at Bomaderry Anglican, where Matt is a student minister.

NEW FAMILIES



Latten

Erin (NC 2011-2013), Michael and Hannah (2) Latten are thankful for the gift of a little boy. Daniel Latten arrived in September 2021 and weighed in at 4.3kg.



Dickens

Jethro (NC 2013-2015) and Alice Dickens have a baby girl... and the Master has a granddaughter! Imogen Ruth Dickens was born on 23 October 2021, weighing in at 2.9kg.



Kingsland

Mitch (NC 2016-2018) and Hannah Kingsland are loving the new addition to their family, Elsie Joy Kingsland. Elsie was born on 18 August 2021, weighing 3.2kg.



Hicks

David (NC 2009-2011) and Rochelle Hicks (NC 2011-2012) were delighted to welcome Luke Michael Hicks on 2 November 2021, who weighed in at 2.8kg. He is bringing lots of joy to these new parents.



Smith

Felicity (NC 2009-2012) and Jeremy Smith welcomed Albert (Albie) Allen Wesley Smith on 12 December 2021, weighing 3.8kg.



Milham

Verity Sue Milham is a very cute new member of Kenan (NC 2013-2015) and Eleanor (NC 2012-2014) Milham's family. She arrived on 30 December 2021.



Billingham

The New College Dean, Jonathan Billingham (NC 2006-2009) and his wife, Linda, are thankful for the arrival of their third little one, James Silas Billingham, on 21 April 2022. Bethany (4) and Daniel (2) are loving their new brother!

COFFEE CHAT WITH BRIAN UDUGAMA

Coffee Chat is one of the most popular events at NCV! On Friday afternoons, collegians come along to enjoy relaxing conversations with delicious coffee and food to help them unwind after a busy week. Brian Udugama (NCV 2020-present) has been hosting this weekly event.

Could you briefly explain the history of the NCV Coffee Chat?

Dr Wah Guan Lim (NC 2002-06, NCV 2019-20), the former NCV Resident Fellow, was running an English Conversation Group for international students, and he wanted to complement the group with some outings and nice food. Going to restaurants regularly wasn't possible in 2020 so, instead, we started going to the New College Café where we could bring snacks and drink coffee. Our previous English Tutor, Jenny Chen (NCV 2020-21), and I participated and helped at the event. So, initially, the group was for improving English conversation skills, but it eventually became a fun, casual event for all residents to get together and have a chat in a relaxing and safe environment.

Baklava, bubble tea, cinnamon scrolls, doughnuts, gelato, Korean fried chicken, tiramisu ... NCV residents enjoy lots of food and drinks! What is your favourite?

From a statistical perspective, I would say that bubble tea is the best ... because when we have it, we get double the attendance! But I can't choose just one. I like everything sort of equally so I'm happy with anything!

Has Coffee Chat helped you during your busy life as a Computer Science PhD student?

I can have a break, and meet and talk to people, so it has definitely helped me to do something other than my research. I'd say this is probably the same for other residents as well.

How did you find moving to Australia from Sri Lanka?

This was my first time moving away from home and I didn't know how I was going to survive ... but it worked out well! I arrived in Sydney at the end of January 2020, so I was not sure whether I would be able to get the 'real experience' because of the pandemic. But, even with COVID, I experienced



more than what I expected. So, I am happy with how things worked in my favour.

What is life at NCV like for you?

On the Admin side, I feel very welcomed and supported without being restricted. The staff are friendly, and we have the amenities that we need. It has a very homely feeling. On the community side, we have a diverse population and a lot of people who are eager to talk. People approach you to say, "Would you like to play a game of something?", "Would you like to have a chat?" It's a very friendly community. When I was visiting Sri Lanka in May, I was happy to see my parents and be in my country again, but I was also missing my other home. While I was away, NCV people messaged me to see how I was doing, the same as my family does when I am in Sydney! For me, NCV is a home away from home.

By the way, what coffee do you like?

I go with mocha because it has chocolate and coffee, which I like together! ☕ (NM)



END-OF-YEAR COCKTAIL PARTY



On Saturday 13 November 2021, New College Postgraduate Village (NCV) marked the end of the academic calendar with a Cocktail Party.

Collegians had a fun time with delicious food catered by the New College kitchen, and a beautiful piano performance by Medicine Academic Tutor Sarah Stanaway (NCV 2020-2021). Attendees heard reflections from the Master, the Acting Dean, and Julia Wijaya (NC 1997-1998, NCV 2016-2021).

This was also an opportunity to acknowledge those who made special contributions to the College in 2021. This is what the Acting Dean of Residents, Edwina Hine, had to say about each of the award winners:

The NCV Award is presented to the resident who has made the greatest contribution to fostering NCV community life during the year.

Misako Morita has been very hard working all year. She came on board when we needed to find a Level 7 Senior Resident mid-year and committed to staying on even after graduation. She stepped out of her comfort zone to embrace the role. Level 7 residents appreciate the time she has taken to find out the activities they enjoy, and she has arranged many events to get to know them well.

Most weekday mornings during lockdown you could find her up early at breakfast checking in with residents. She also made sure to communicate College news to those who are not connected to social media.

The NCV Service Award is presented to residents who have made strong contributions in specific areas e.g. in music, sport, the arts, culture, or social life.

Aref Samadi is an enthusiastic resident. When the need arose, he ran one of our most consistent lockdown events, NCV Movie Nights. He also attended nearly all College events, and this helped those who were planning and running the activities to feel appreciated. Aref was particularly enthusiastic in finding residents to take part in the Master's Cup Challenge and made sure those who competed with him felt encouraged.

Chandler Corrigan is a quiet resident, but he went the extra mile in 2021. Sharing his love of mahjong, he hosted numerous events throughout the year, and he taught many of our residents the joys of the game. He is regularly found at College events, suppers, and weekday breakfasts, and encourages others to attend along with him. 🀄️



LIFE AT NCV



- A. Weekend Art Session in September 2021
- B. Foundation Formal Dinner in September 2021
- C. Chinese New Year dinner in February 2022
- D. Monthly birthday celebration supper
- E. Table Tennis Tournament in March 2022
- F. Persian New Year supper in March 2022
- G. Research Community PhD Panel Discussion in April 2022

2022 O'WEEK

O'Week

New College and NCV welcomed their new residents with lots of fun activities! It was a great time for collegians to build friendships and to familiarise themselves with a new place. Here are a few highlights from our O'Weeks. 📸 (MM)



WEEKEND...NEXT DOOR?

The centerpiece events of the New College Christian Fellowship (NCCF) calendar are the two Weekends Away that happen in Term 1 and Term 3 each academic year. These weekends are a great opportunity for residents from all faiths and none to deepen their understanding of Christianity. In Term 3 2021, with all the COVID restrictions, it was impossible to hold a Weekend Away. So, instead, from 15–17 October, the NCV community kindly allowed the NCCF to hold a ‘Weekend Next Door’ across the road!


After the relaxation of the NSW government restrictions in 2022, nearly 70 collegians were able to enjoy learning from the Bible and spending time together at Tahlee, Port Stephens from 25–27 February in Term 1. They had a great weekend that included Bible talks from John Batten, St John’s Maroubra Youth Pastor and Assistant Minister; time for reflection; fun activities; and great food. 🌱 (MH)





2021 REVUE: CAMP VILITAS

The tribe has spoken ... New College's 2021 Revue, *Camp Vilitas*, was a fantastic production! Each night from 28-30 October, audiences followed an eclectic and dysfunctional group of contestants as they competed to win \$100 million on a 'Survivor'-inspired reality TV show. The charismatic host, played by Josh Bramley (NC 2021-present), and his overworked assistant, played by Aidan Forrest (NC 2021-present), guided the jam-packed production through some odd surprises and unlikely

friendships. Other highlights of the program were the amazing dances, talented musicians, and hilarious skits. Particular congratulations to directors Audrey Varghese (NC 2021-present) and Andrew van Gelderen (NC 2021-present), and producers Katerina Traini (NC 2021-present) and Jonathan Ellery (NC 2021-present), but all cast and crew played an invaluable role in getting the production up and running – especially after being in lockdown for 4 months! 





2022 MUSICAL: INTO THE WOODS

From 30 June-2 July 2022, New College went on a journey 'Into the Woods'. The Stephen Sondheim musical is an enduring classic, with incredible song-writing and musical storytelling. It is also a notoriously challenging production in its detail and musical complexity. Putting on a musical with an amateur cast and band is already ambitious, but *Into the Woods* was a whole different beast. However, Joey Ellery, Aidan Forrest, and I (the directors) were ready to take on the challenge, with invaluable support from our producers, Charlie Lowe and Mia Schirmer.

After months of planning, many rehearsals and a few setbacks, the show came together. The final product was incredibly entertaining, with the cast giving their all to their characters. The band was also amazing, bringing the detailed musical score to life, and providing a strong foundation from which the cast could thrive.

Overall, *Into the Woods* was both a great showcase of talent and the culmination of months of hard work. From props to costumes to makeup, it took the combined effort of many collegians for the show to be ready. It was a one-of-a-kind experience, it taught me so much, and I'm sure it will be a special memory for everyone involved for years to come.

– Joshua Clift, Director & Conductor





MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



Jacob Karp (NC 2021–present) organised the New College Mental Health Week in Term 3 2021, and he has contributed this piece for *New 'n' Old*.

One of the things I love most about New College is its wonderful community filled with incredible, kind, thoughtful, respectful, and altogether decent people. New College readily encourages and facilitates the development of close personal connections between residents.

In this regard, Mental Health Week had a major focus on honesty and openness. Run from 18–24 October to coincide with the national initiative, New College's Mental Health Week

involved daily activities to promote awareness and acceptance of mental health, and to reduce the stigma of mental illness.

Aside from the many smaller activities such as yoga morning, dog day, movie night, and an art and tea session, the two headline events for the week were Testimony Night and Mental Health Discussion Groups. These were both aimed at encouraging collegians to be more candid about their mental wellbeing. At Testimony Night, three collegians courageously volunteered to share their personal experiences with mental health. Held in the courtyard, more than 60 people attended. While each reflection was quite different, all shared common themes of connection and the importance of community, which was very much in line with our College values.

A few days later, we held a Mental Health Discussion Group to continue thinking through the ideas raised by the three speakers. The round-table discussion was fruitful and extremely rewarding for all involved. Each participant contributed thoughtfully and respectfully as we considered questions of family, community, independence, and communication.


I found the multitude of perspectives to be enriching and I am very grateful for the opportunity to listen to so many well-formed opinions and thoughts. Most importantly, I felt immensely comfortable in the presence of the other participants. Despite the serious nature of the topics being discussed, everyone involved seemed at ease, open to sharing and asking honest questions. Following the discussion, we definitely felt closer to each other.

Overall, I believe Mental Health Week was successful in raising awareness of mental wellbeing. In the days following I heard numerous impromptu dinner table discussions about collegians' experiences with mental health. It genuinely appeared as though people felt more comfortable to talk candidly about the topic.

During the week, we presented students with a small challenge that I would like to extend to anyone reading this article. In the spirit of openness, I challenge you, when next asked how you're going, to pause and reflect for a moment before answering. Check in with yourself and answer authentically about how you're doing in that moment. If each person begins to answer this question honestly then we can slowly raise greater awareness of our own mental health, and the wellbeing of the community.

Keep thriving!  JK

2021 ACADEMIC PRIZES

It was fantastic to acknowledge all of our outstanding academic prize winners from 2021 at Scientia Formal Dinner in August this year. 

New College

UNSW Academic Prizes:

Name	Residency	Academic Prize
Moutaz Mohammad Alsoufi	2020-2021	The Reservoir Engineering Prize
Lorna Arkell	2018-2019	The Exercise Physiology Stage 4 Prize
Edie Bannerman	2018	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Joseph (Cheuk Hei) Chan	2017-2018	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Alice Chapman	2018-2021	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List The Margot and Neville Gruzman Award for Urban Design in Architecture Year 1 of the Master of Architecture Program
Alan Chen	2019-2020	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Aniket Chhillar	2018-2019	The Faculty of Science Dean's List
Meagan Davis	2019-2021	The Faculty of Science Dean's List The Faculty of Science Prize for 3rd Year Advanced Science The D I McCloskey Stage 3 Physiology Prize
Clare Faulkner	2017-2018	The Margaret Dance Memorial Award
Mirima Goldman	2018-2019	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Anneke Goud	2020-2021	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Beau Jesser	Current	The Faculty of Science Dean's List
Ella Kruger	2019	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Ahmad Khayyat	2017-2018	The Natural Gas Engineering Prize The Outstanding Year 4 Student Prize (Petroleum Engineering)
Deepan Kumar	2018-2019	The Faculty of Engineering Dean's Award
Cynthia Loh	2018-2019	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Alexandra MacDonald	2018-2019	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Isabella Notarpietro	2018-2019	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Kate Oastler	Current	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Brendan Pierotti	NCV 2020 NC 2021	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Samuel Pietsch	Current	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Nikki Rossendell	Current	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Paige Sedgwick	Current	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Christopher Seow	Current	The Outstanding Year 2 Student Prize (Petroleum Engineering)
Dominic Stirzaker	2020-2021	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Lachlan Thompson	2019-2020	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List

New College Academic Prizes:

Name	Residency	University Medal
Amy Hodder	Current	Business
Beau Jesser	Current	Science
Jacob Karp	Current	Law
Elisabeth Doran	Current	Arts, Design & Architecture
Samuel Pietsch	Current	Arts, Design & Architecture
Kate Stacey	Current	Medicine
Eric Zhou	Current	Engineering



Sam Pietsch
with UNSW
Vice-Chancellor
Professor Attila
Brungs.



New College Postgraduate Village

University Medals:

Name	Residency	University Medal
Ghaida Ahmed Aljuhani	2017-2019	Petroleum Engineering

PhDs Awarded:

Name	Residency	PhD Awarded
William Adamson	2017-2021	Chemistry
Ali Ahmed	2019	Manufacturing Engineering and Management
Matthew Bagg	2015-2020	Medicine
Heidi Foo	2020	Psychiatry
Joseph (Cong) Vu	2018-2019	Chemistry
Jane (Zhuangsi) Xu	2016-2019	Law
Mohammad-Ali Yaghough-Zadeh-Fard	2017-2020	Computer Science and Engineering
Bowen Zheng	2017-2020	Electrical Engineering



Erica Leong with Prof Brungs

UNSW Academic Prizes:

Name	Residency	Academic Prize
Adam (Zelong) Bi	Current	The Faculty of Science Dean's List
Jenny (Chu Ling) Chen	2020-2022	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Caroline (Ning Xin) Lee	2018-2019	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Erica Leong	Current	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Nicole (Tsz Yeung) Liu	2018-2019	The UNSW Business School Dean's Award
Perkins Lui	Current	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List The Faculty of Law Dean's List
Misako Morita	Current	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List
Percy (Yin Sang) Pang	2019-2020	The Faculty of Law Dean's List
Cassie (Chongxi) Zhuang	2020-2021	The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List

NCV Academic Prizes:

Name	Residency	NCV Academic Prize
Adam (Zelong) Bi	Current	Mathematics and Statistics
Chandler Corrigan	Current	Engineering and Mathematics
Erica Leong	Current	Architecture

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jazz Fellowship for Hilary Geddes



Hilary Geddes (NC 2013-2014), guitarist and composer, was named the recipient of the 2021 Freedman Jazz Fellowship. She has been using the \$21,000 grant to tour her band, the Hilary Geddes Quartet, around the Riverina region. They have been performing, recording new music, and conducting workshops with arts organisations, schools, and conservatoriums.

Nursing Award Winner Hayley Pollock



In the previous edition of *New 'n' Old* we congratulated Hayley Pollock (NC 2014-2016, NCV 2017-2018) on being selected as an Australian College of Nursing Emerging Nurse Leader. Now, she is a Registered Nurse and on completion of her studies she received a 2021 Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation (Victorian

Branch) student award. Swinburne University of Technology nominated Hayley for her strong results and her exemplary personal attributes.

Most Influential Asian-Australian



The 40 Under 40: Most Influential Asian-Australians Awards celebrate and promote the leadership contributions of Asian-Australians. In 2021, Frances Voon (NC 2000-2002) was named one of the Community & Advocacy/Not-For-Profit winners of this prestigious award. While a student at New College, Frances was Senior Academic Tutor (2002) and Play Director. She is currently the Executive Manager of the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW. She was a John Monash Scholar at the University of Oxford and has worked in refugee operations for the World Food Programme, UNHCR, and Jesuit Refugee Service. This award recognises her significant contributions to refugee rights advocacy, public policy, and scholarship.

Corporate Accountant of the Year



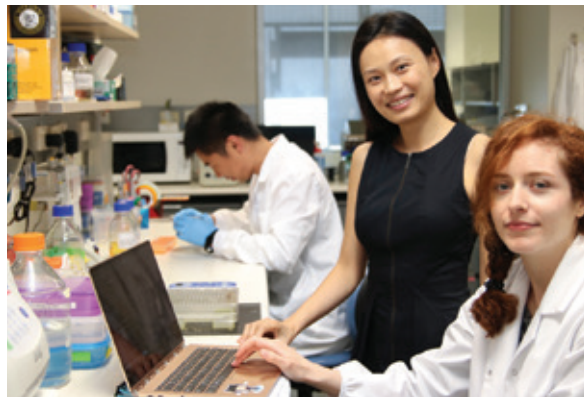
Congratulations to Shamila Vijayamanohar (NCV 2011-2014) who was named Corporate Accountant of the Year in the 2021 Australian Accounting Awards! Shamila is a former Senior Resident of NCV and is now a Corporate Senior Finance Analyst at Woodside Energy.

Fraser Hemphill Creates COVID Queue



Many of us will remember the chaos involved in trying to secure a COVID vaccination appointment when the main roll-out first began in 2021. Fraser Hemphill (NC 2012-2014) saw a need for a more efficient system and put his software engineering skills to good use. He created 'COVID Queue', a website that collated appointments available in real-time into one simple tool. He built the website in one weekend and, ultimately, 2.4 million people used it to book their vaccination appointments. Fraser is currently an Engineering Lead at Canva.

\$8 Million Fellowship for Heart Disease



victorchang.edu.au/women-in-science-emily-wong

Dr Emily Wong (NC 2000-2001) is a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Biotechnology and Biosciences at UNSW and Head of the Regulatory Systems Laboratory at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. Her work focuses on genomics and computational biology and, specifically, the "dark genome", which is involved in the expression of genes, including those linked to heart disease. Earlier this year she was awarded an \$8 million Snow Fellowship, which will allow her to advance this important research.

Breakthrough in Quantum Mechanics



Recently, UNSW researchers have been making leaps and bounds in the quantum mechanics field. As part of this exciting work, Dr Jarryd Pla (NC 2004-2006) and his team in the School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications have found the solution for a decades-old problem – how to control millions of spin qubits at the same time, as opposed to just a few. Their paper, published in August 2021, is another important step towards building a full-scale quantum computer.

New Role for Jason O'Neil



In late 2021, UNSW welcomed a new Director of Indigenous Legal Education, Jason O'Neil (NC 2013-2017, NCV 2018). Jason is a Wiradjuri man who studied a Bachelor of Arts/Law at UNSW while living at New College and NCV. He now wears many hats – in addition to this new role, he is undertaking a PhD in Australian Indigenous Studies, and is Executive Director of the Ngalaya Indigenous Corporation, the peak body for First Nations lawyers and law students. As Director of Indigenous Legal Education, Jason oversees academic and pastoral support for First Nations students in the Faculty of Law & Justice, and runs the Indigenous Pre-Law Program, among other responsibilities.



New Staff

Peter Tyas



Welcome to Peter Tyas, our Technical Support Officer, who began working at the New College Communities in September 2021. Peter does lots of helpful work keeping our database and other systems up and running. When he's not in

the office, Peter can be found studying Mechatronic Engineering and Physics at UNSW, playing board games, or doing taekwondo.

Daniel Zonneveld



Daniel is the newest addition to our maintenance team. Since arriving at the College in January 2022, he has been busy looking after day-to-day maintenance needs. Welcome, Daniel!

Catering Changes



Eurest, Scolarest, Chartwell's. Alumni will remember these as the subcontractors who looked after College food for many decades. Many will also remember Daniel Higgins and Moria Furby, who are now our longest serving staff at College. Well, as of this year, Daniel, Moria and the rest of the catering team are no longer subcontractors but official New College staff! We are excited about the change, and welcome our newest team members: Giancarlo, Denis, Steven, Agassi, Vincent, Cui, Satwika, and Elizabeth.

Air Con comes to New College

Anyone remember what it was like to live in a courtyard room (or, really, any college room) during summer? New students will never know the pain! Our lucky New College residents now have brand new air conditioning to enjoy in their rooms.

FROM THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

Welcome, Misako



The Public Relations Office has a new member! Misako Morita (NCV 2019 – present) came on board as Public Relations Assistant in October 2021 and has been doing an amazing job of staying up to date with the communities and improving the College's social media

presence. Misako loves coffee, art, and singing, and is also kept busy by her second role as NCV Assistant Dean.




New College Communities Instagram

We are on Instagram! Stay on top of all the College fun by checking out @newcollegcommunities.

Farewell from Adela Davis



After five years as Communications Officer and Anniversary Historian, and three years as a resident, it is time for me to say farewell to the New College Communities. In just a few short weeks, I will be moving to the UK to begin studying an MA

Public History at Royal Holloway, University of London. As a nervous fresher dressed in fluoro green, I never imagined that this community would become such a formative part of my life. I am so thankful for the deep friendships I've found at College, for the support and kindness shown me by the staff team, and for the unique professional opportunities I've been given. Although there will be much to miss, I'm excited for this new chapter and, of course, will be back to visit! 

2022 NEW COLLEGE BALL



2022 MASTER'S CHALLENGE



UNSW
SYDNEY

