



New College Communities Impact Report 2024

NEW



NEW COLLEGE
LECTURES



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NEW COLLEGE
POSTGRADUATE VILLAGE



UNSW
SYDNEY

The Best In University Living

Mission

We cultivate outstanding university campus communities of academic excellence and pastoral care, shaped by Christian faith and values, where every student can flourish.





Message from the Board Chair

Serving as Board Chair of New College is a privilege, and I am continually humbled by the dedication of those around me who believe in our mission to cultivate outstanding residential communities. From Board members and the College team to our partners and supporters, each of you has played a vital role in the accomplishments of 2024. It is with deep gratitude that I share this year's reflections.

I begin by acknowledging the profound loss of the Master's beloved wife, Ruth, whose passing is deeply felt across our communities. Ruth was an active presence in College and a steadfast supporter of its mission. She is greatly missed, and our prayers remain with Bill and his family.

At Commencement Dinner, it was an honour to witness a presentation of the inaugural *Ruth Peirson Prize for Languages* to Yelyzaveta Andrych. I sincerely thank everyone who contributed to this worthy endowment. Yelyzaveta, an outstanding student at UNSW, joined our community from Ukraine. With her home directly impacted by the war, it continues to be our privilege to support her and all students who are so far from home in these challenging times.

Grief has a way of reminding us what truly matters—relationships, support, and faith. In this time of sorrow, our staff and residents have responded with tangible acts of care and steady trust in the goodness of God. This speaks to the heart of the New College Communities—where Christian ethos is actively lived out within these dynamic, supportive communities.

Students continue to achieve academic excellence in an environment that integrates pastoral care with academic progress and career preparation in a way that is unmatched nationwide. In 2024, the Board led a process to identify and embed the unique

culture that supports both academic and personal formation. Our core values of Compassion, Collegiality, and Courage—inspired by Christian truth—guide participation, standards, and behaviour for all who engage with the colleges.

A highlight of the year was the New College Lectures, which dovetailed with our work in building transformative communities. Rev. Canon Dr Antoine Rutayisire spoke powerfully about national reconciliation and healing, noting that beyond the physical, people seek love, belonging, and purpose. He affirmed that faith-based institutions—such as New College—play a crucial role in shaping lives. The Board is grateful for the innovative thinking within our wider team, ensuring residents flourish personally, academically, and professionally while being inspired to lift their eyes upwards and outwards in service.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to outgoing board members: The Reverend Andrew Bruce, The Hon. Justice Jane Paingakulam, and Mr Brian Street. Their wisdom and dedication have helped shape New College, and their influence will continue to be felt.

To our alumni, thank you for your continued support and prayers. Your involvement strengthens our community and propels us forward in our mission, where academic excellence and spiritual formation go hand in hand.

Mrs Janet Simpson, BSW, JP, MAICD
New College Alumna (1979-82)





Message from the Master

2024 was a challenging year for the New College Communities. In August, we lost my wife Ruth, who had been an enormous contributor to college life over the past almost 10 years. I take this opportunity to thank the Board, Deans, staff, students and friends of the colleges for their support of Ruth and me over the past five years and especially during 2024.

Ruth loved languages. She loved the vibrancy of college communities that embrace people from everywhere. During O'Week, she was a living expression of our colleges as she welcomed students and reassured parents of our collective aim to make college their home at university. We should recall that that welcome was established from the very earliest years of New College¹.

A beautiful aspect of 2024 has been the strong engagement and mutual support that characterised our communities throughout the year. One of my pet sayings is "If college is not fun, we are doing it wrong²". The levels of participation in all aspects of college life were the highest I have seen in my time here and are reflected in the pages of this Impact Report. This is a real tribute to Jonathan Billingham and Edwina Hine as Deans of Residents who each have their unique ways of building and sustaining community. They were supported by excellent 2024 Resident Adviser and Senior Resident teams.

The reframing of our colleges' tutoring programs continues apace. Under Dean of Studies, Rev. Dr. AJ Culp's leadership, our outstanding tutoring teams are giving more attention to

the key questions of the how and why of university study. Undergraduates, postgraduates and doctoral students all have unique learning needs. Each of us as individuals, has a particular learning style. 2024 was a year in which we made initial forays of exploration on how to do this well. I look forward to sharing some of the achievements with you next year.

As an engineer and computer scientist, I am increasingly reflecting on the modern tensions between technology and community that influence our lives. Many have reflected on the increasing loneliness that has accompanied greater modern connectedness. It has been a real privilege for me to guide these fine colleges which are bastions of community in which our conscious aim remains to reach out to everyone who finds their home with us.

The core of the Christian message is of God who reaches out to us in spite of our failures and weakness. This message is refreshing in a modern world presently focussed on security and financial performance through automation. Our communities prepare young men and women for future service and leadership, whatever their faith position. Our aspiration is for each to understand the intrinsic value of each person and learn from their college experience what it takes to form supportive communities. Such attributes are precious in this modern world.

As always, I love hearing from alumni, our friends and supporters, so please always feel welcome to contact me at b.peirson@newcollege.unsw.edu.au or drop in and say hello.

William L. Peirson

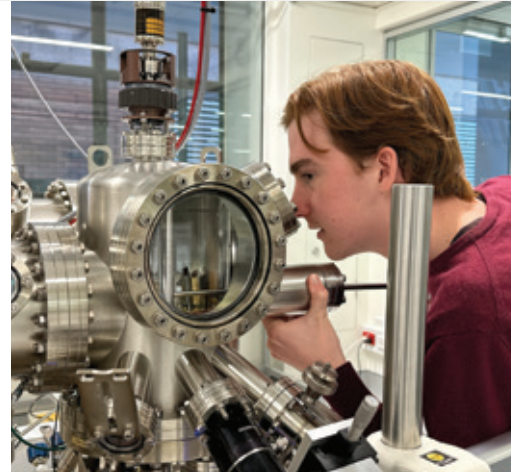


¹ *Something Borrowed, Something Blue*, p. 75ff

² With apologies to the grammarians.



2024 Summary in Numbers



329

Number of
new students
who joined our
communities
in 2024

3

Number of
University Medals
awarded to
collegians
in 2024

200

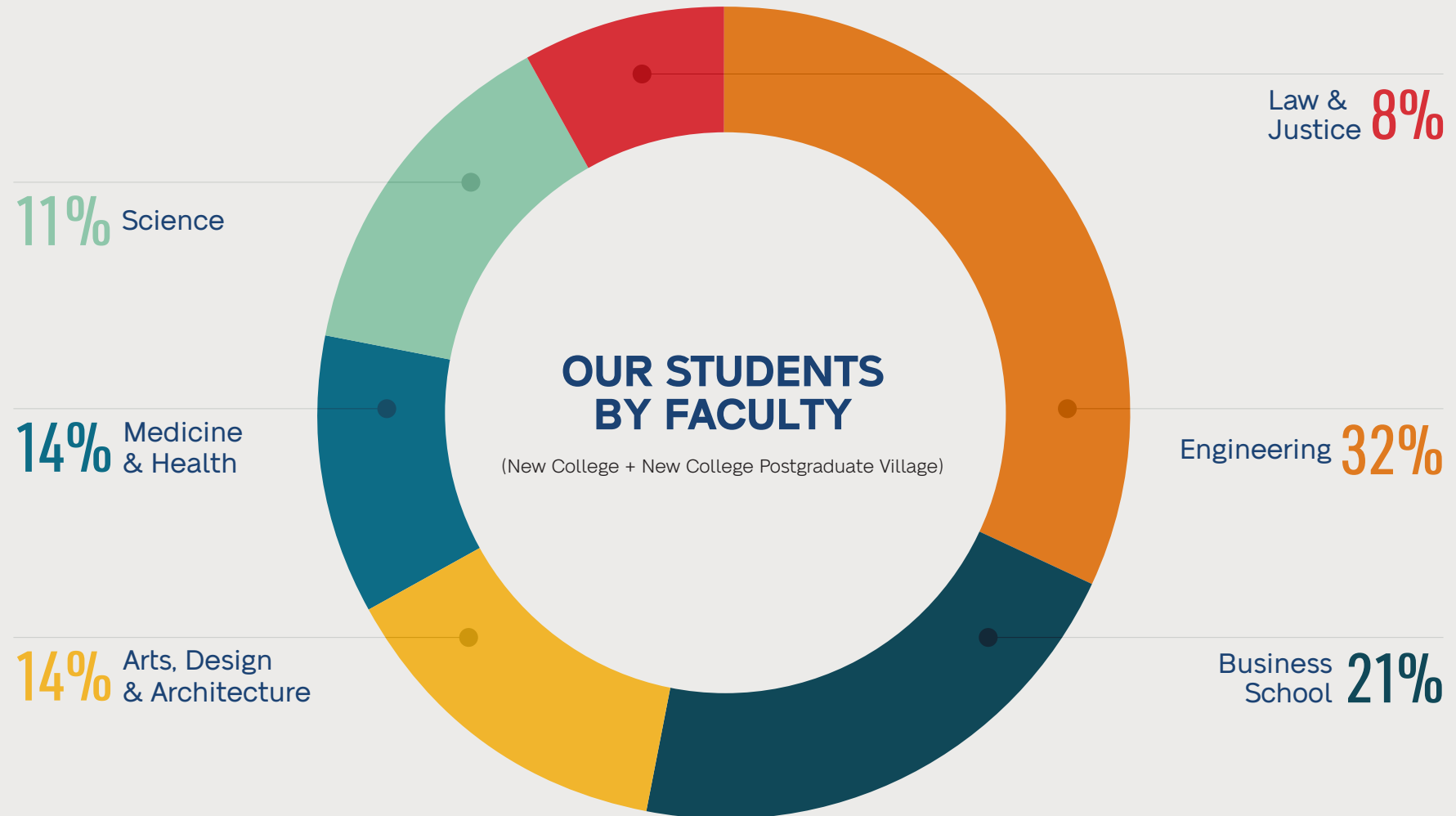
Number of
postgraduate
students
(Masters + PhD)
in 2024

34

Number
of collegians
supported with
scholarships
in 2024



2024 Summary in Numbers

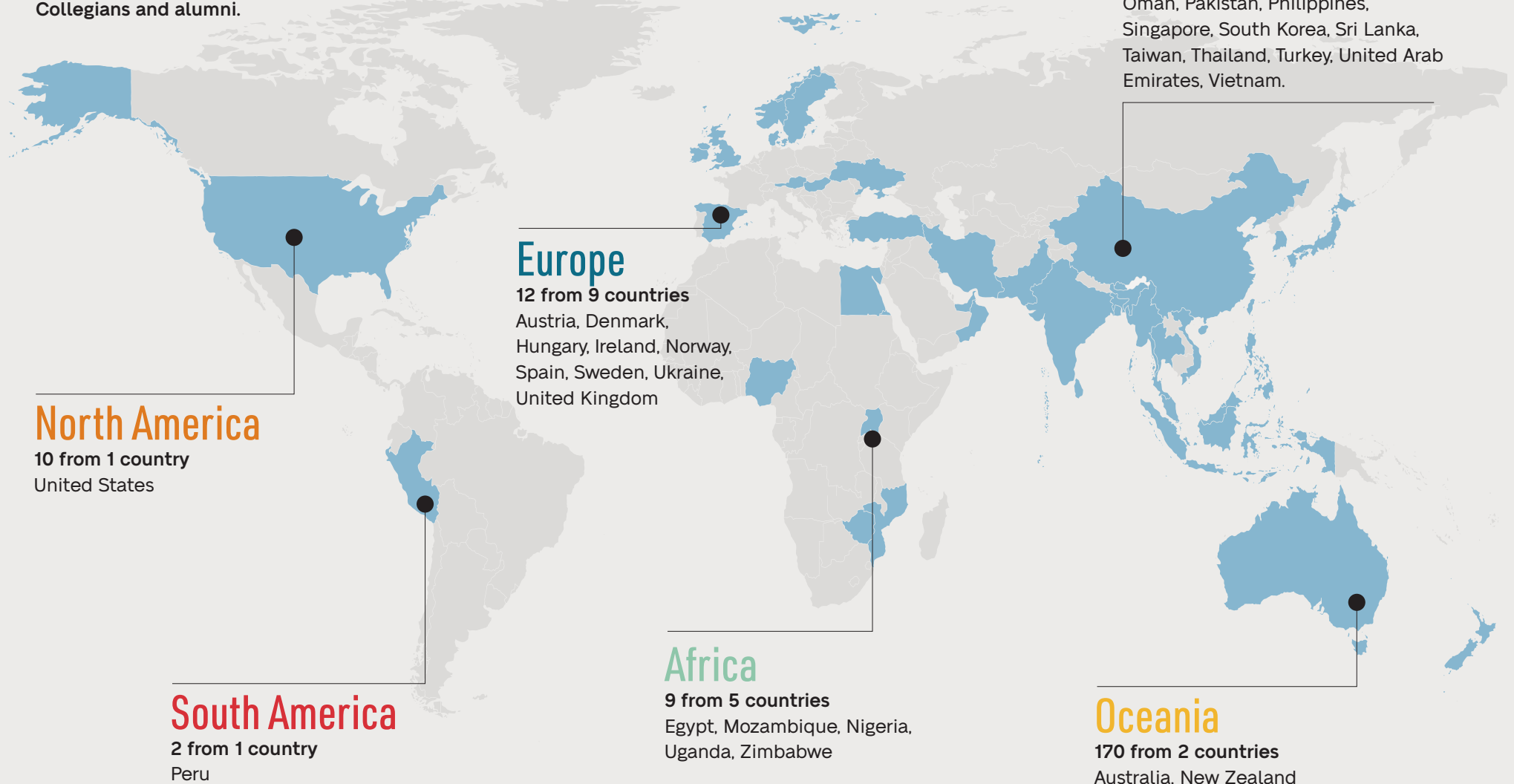


The New College Communities are committed to supporting and encouraging academic excellence and the highest academic standards at the University of New South Wales.



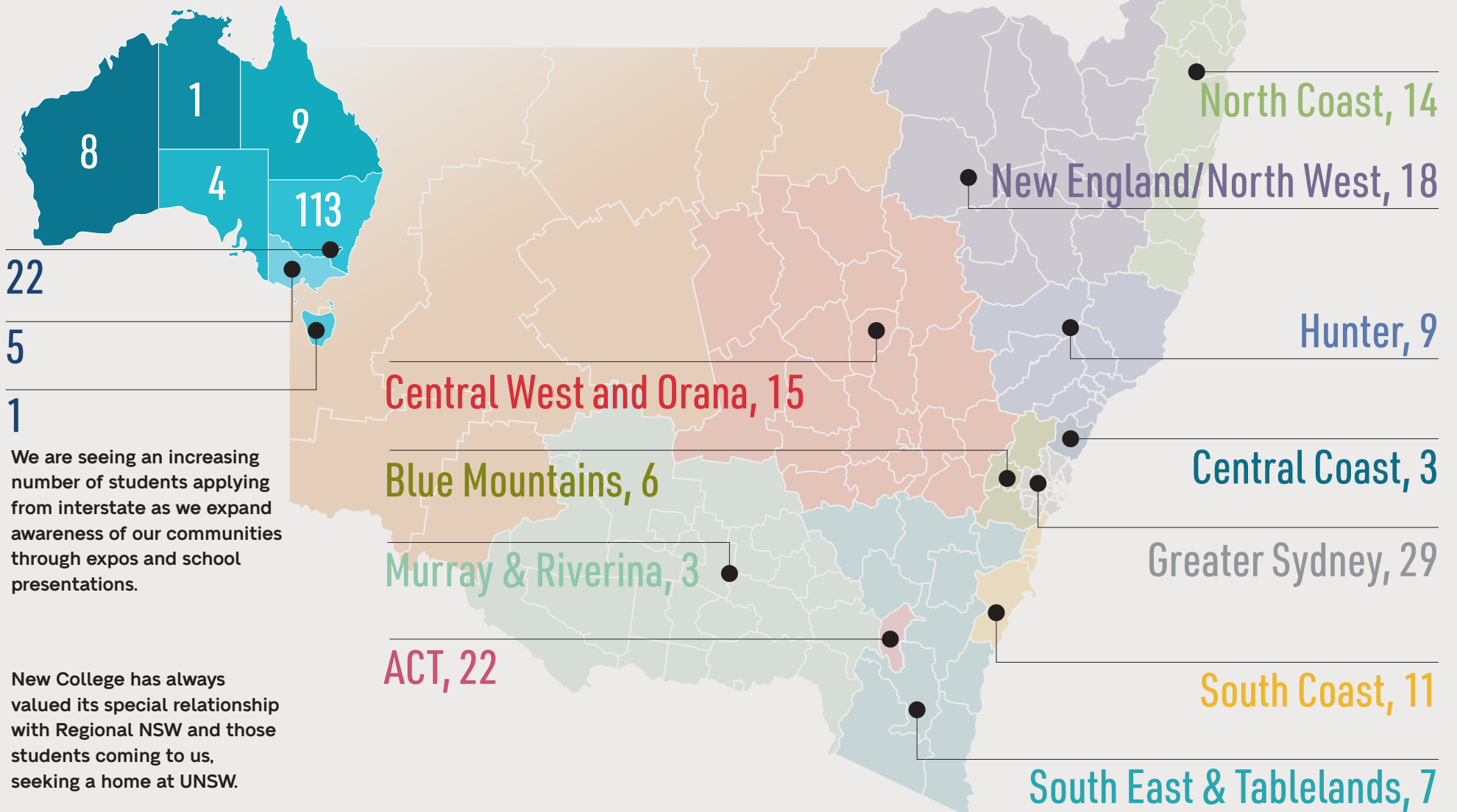
COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN 2024 WHO JOINED US FROM 41 COUNTRIES

As the world moves toward a global community, New College continues to evolve, expanding our reach and influence around the world through our Collegians and alumni.





COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN 2024 WHO JOINED US FROM NSW AND INTERSTATE





2024 Year in Review: Alumni Achievement

Michael Tidball, New College Alumnus 1980 – 1983, reflects on his journey from his early college days to his impactful leadership career. Initially reserved, he embraced the university's diverse community and soon became president of the New College Students Association in 1983. His time at New College fostered personal growth and deepened his understanding of community engagement, which he believes is crucial for both personal and professional development. He shared, "University does that... it opens up a whole new world. And college forces you to stare right into that diversity."

Michael's career path, though diverse, has been defined by his curiosity and drive. After beginning in social work, followed by further studies, he transitioned into law, becoming CEO of the Law Society of New South Wales, and later at the Law Council of Australia, where he led reforms and advocated for the rule of law. He noted, "I've always been driven by curiosity and interest, and great things have followed". In 2022, he took on the role of Secretary for the Department of Communities and Justice in New South Wales, overseeing a vast range of services, including child protection, courts, corrective services, social housing and the justice system.

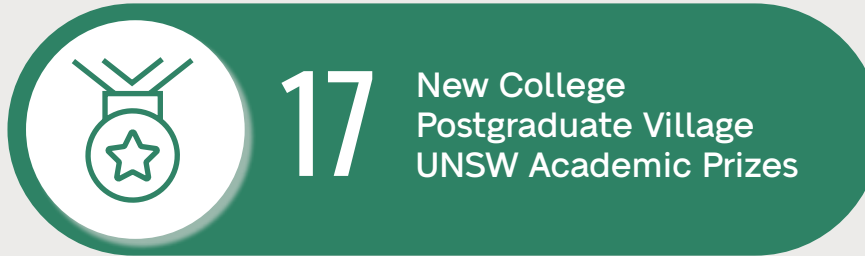
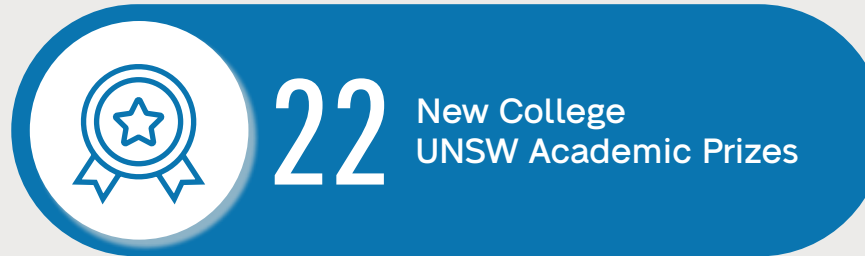
Michael's leadership is driven by a deep commitment to addressing trauma in vulnerable communities. He explained, "The artery that runs right through this is trauma... it's about the people who inhabit these systems. How do we break that cycle?" His work in transforming justice and child protection systems, particularly for Indigenous communities, reflects his dedication to creating meaningful change. His career serves as a reminder of the power of curiosity, openness, and leadership in driving reform.

“It was a privilege to be a part of New College. It shaped who I am today, and I will always be grateful for the opportunities and the community it gave me.”





2024 Year in Review – Academic Achievement



In his second year as Dean of Studies, Rev Dr A.J. Culp has continued to strengthen the intellectual life of the college through his leadership of the academic tutoring teams, the New College Lectures, and The Centre for Christian Apologetics, Scholarship and Education (CASE).

The NCPV Community Scholars Award honours those PhD students who not only achieve academic excellence, but who also invest in the research community through consistent contributions and participation. This year we recognised ten such individuals, some of whom are pictured here.





2024 Year in Review – Christian Leadership Impact

Peter Sholl's journey, from a 17-year-old student in Armidale, New South Wales, to his current role as International Director of CMS Australia, highlights the power of Christian community and leadership.

Reflecting on his time at New College, Peter emphasizes the deep friendships and spiritual growth that shaped his faith: "New College was where I formed deep friendships that still shape my life today. It was also a place where my faith grew, and I was encouraged to take my walk with God seriously." He also has fond memories, such as his participation in the College Revue, that continues to bring him joy.

After New College and having worked as an engineer, Peter pursued studies at Moore College, aiming to prepare himself for full-time ministry. "Moore College gave me the solid theological foundation I needed to serve both here and overseas," he says. His experience in Mexico serving with CMS further expanded his worldview, teaching him about different cultures and people. Living there, learning Spanish, and adapting to a new culture helped him grow in empathy and humility, valuable traits that have enriched his ministry. "Learning a new language and culture is one of the hardest things I've ever done, but it taught me humility and the importance of listening," Peter shared.

Today, as International Director of CMS Australia, Peter leads a team supporting missionaries in 45 countries, helping them navigate diverse cultural landscapes to effectively share the gospel. "Seeing our missionaries grow in their ability to engage with new cultures and share the gospel is one of the most rewarding parts of my role," he says.

Peter's time in Mexico directly influences his leadership at CMS, as his experience with cross-cultural ministry allows him to offer genuine, compassionate support to missionaries facing similar challenges. "I've been in the shoes of our missionaries, feeling out of my depth and trying to navigate an unfamiliar culture."

At CMS, Peter is committed to identifying, preparing, and supporting long-term cross-cultural gospel workers. He emphasizes that CMS is not just sending people overseas, but raising leaders who build relationships, minister to local communities, and share the gospel in culturally relevant ways. His role involves interviewing prospective missionaries, equipping them for ministry, and providing ongoing support once they are on location.

Peter also visits missionaries to strengthen relationships and better understand their needs and challenges. "Visiting our workers in their context is crucial. It helps us understand their needs and challenges and reinforces the bond between CMS and the local communities where they serve," he explains.

Peter's leadership is rooted in his personal experiences of growth and transformation. He encourages others to be faithful, trusting that God will equip them for their journey. "My journey has been one of learning, growth, and transformation. I want to encourage others to take that step, trusting that God will equip them for whatever lies ahead," he says.

Through his role at CMS, Peter continues to make a significant impact on the global Church and the communities CMS serves, demonstrating the importance of faith-driven leadership and cross-cultural ministry.

“New College was where I formed deep friendships that still shape my life today. It was also a place where my faith grew, and I was encouraged to take my walk with God seriously.”





2024 Year in Review – Formal Dinners

We welcomed inspiring guests to encourage our young people to engage with issues that will be significant for their future leadership roles.

	Date	Speaker
Commencement	14 February	Dr Ian Walker, CSC, past President and Life Member of University Colleges Australia, who served as the Dean of Residents at New College from 1994 to 2002
Lent	13 March	Mr Shuichi Tokuda, Consul-General of Japan in Sydney
Easter	17 April	Scott Parlett, alumnus of both colleges and incoming Director, Nura Gili Centre for Indigenous Programs, UNSW
Pentecost	29 May	Dr Greg Clarke, New College 1987-1989 and Director of the Centre for Christian Apologetics, Scholarship and Education (CASE) 2003-2007, and CEO of The Leprosy Mission Australia
Scientia	31 July	The Hon. John Anderson AC FTSE, former Leader of the National Party and Deputy Prime Minister as a member of the government led by John Howard
Foundation	11 September	Professor Sarah Maddison, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education and Student Experience at the University of New South Wales
Michaelmas	9 October	The Hon. Robert Stokes, former New South Wales Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

▼ Mr Ryan Gilpin (Founder of The Australian Christian Orchestra), The Hon. John Anderson AC FTSE, Mrs Linda Billingham and Mr Jonathan Billingham (Dean of Residents, New College)



▼ Ms Edwina Hine NCPV Dean (right hand side) with Ms Misako Morita, NCPV Assistant Dean, Jin Shan Ho and Chandler Corrigan, NCPV residents.





2024 Flagship Activities

Book Launch

► *Coming To Faith Through Dawkins* book launch on 22 February 2024 at New College

We had a wonderful time last week at the Sydney launch of Alister McGrath and Denis Alexander's (eds.) *Coming to Faith Through Dawkins* - an engaging collection of stories about the role the New Atheists played in the conversion to Christianity of twelve diverse individuals. Prof McGrath spoke about the origins of the book and the impact it's having on readers around the world, before contributor A/Prof Sarah Irving-Stonebraker shared her own experience of transition from atheism to Christianity.



CASE

Case Quarterly 69 – Body

In this edition we look at some attempts to sidestep the God-given purposes of our bodies in the name of convenience, how different technologies have facilitated this, and the consequences that follow.

Case Quarterly 70 – Progress

This edition does not have a simple take-home message. It leaves us with questions and challenges about our multifaceted relationship with technology, as it enhances our ability to do good, and our capacity for evil. We can, in turn, rightly express joy, admiration, thankfulness, caution, frustration, fear, and horror at where our ingenuity can take us.

Case Quarterly 71 –Living with technology

We live with technology, but we do not live in a morally neutral world. How we create, use, and take responsibility for technology matters. The command of the Bible is that even the smallest things are to be done to the glory of God.



NCL Lectures

◀ New College Lectures “Towards Peace & Healing” by Rev. Canon Dr. Antoine Rutayisire on 24-26 September at New College

Against the traumatic background of the Rwandan genocide, Rev. Canon Dr Antoine Rutayisire spoke of the gospel's power to bring about genuine forgiveness and reconciliation in one of the most deeply moving lecture series we've ever experienced.

◀ New College partnered with ISCAST to present the COSAC Conference on “Humanity 2.0? God, Technology, and the Future of Being Human” on 29 November – 1 December at New College





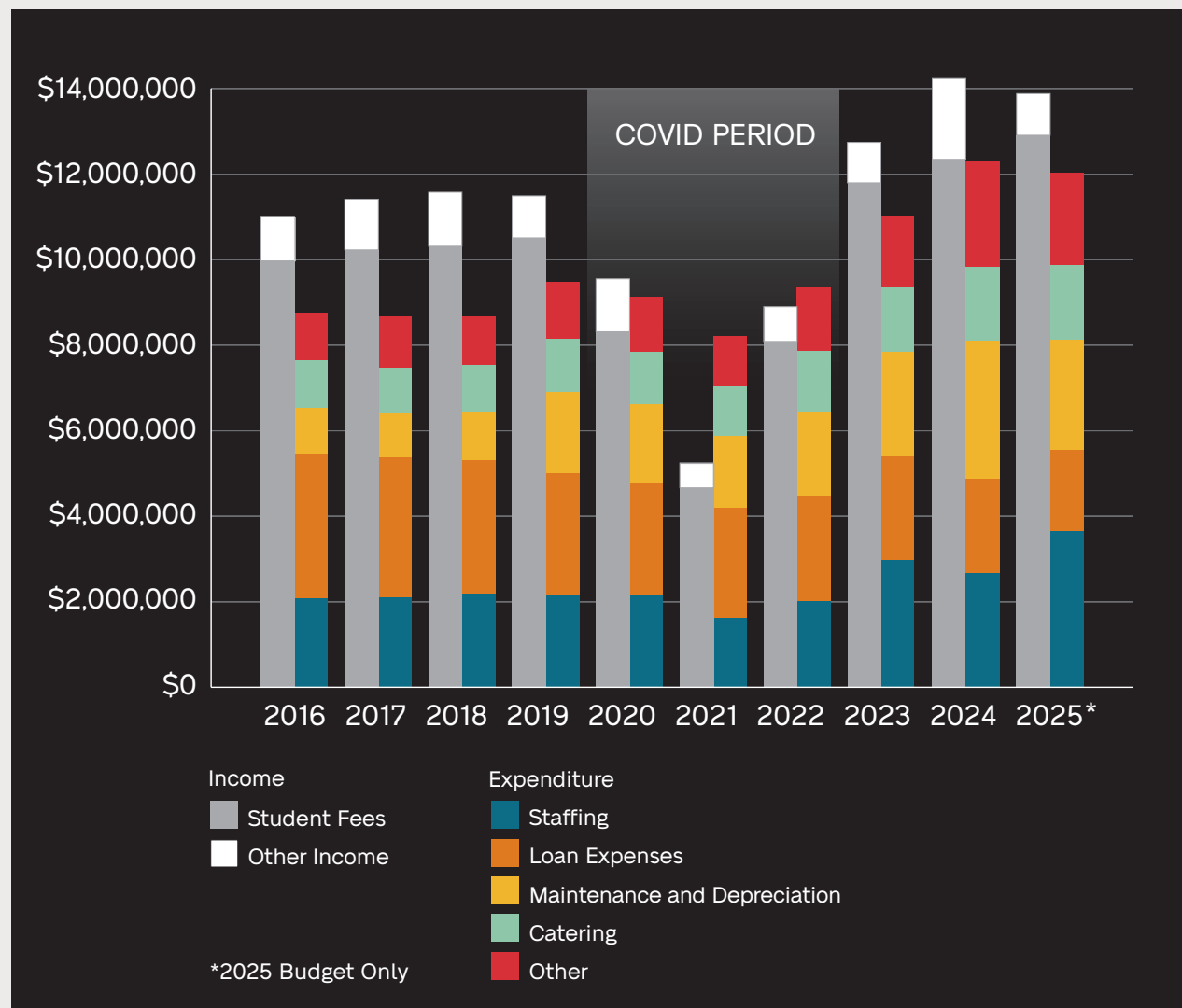
Financial Management

Our approach to financial management has been developed over 55 years and especially the last 20 as we have significantly expanded our operations.

Our overall objective is to ensure that our key stakeholders (students, their families, financial supporters, UNSW) all receive best value for their investment. Our approach is founded on three pillars:

1. Rigour in all of our accounting practices.
2. Transparency in all of our undertakings with our suppliers and clients.
3. A community ownership approach to the management of our services and facilities.

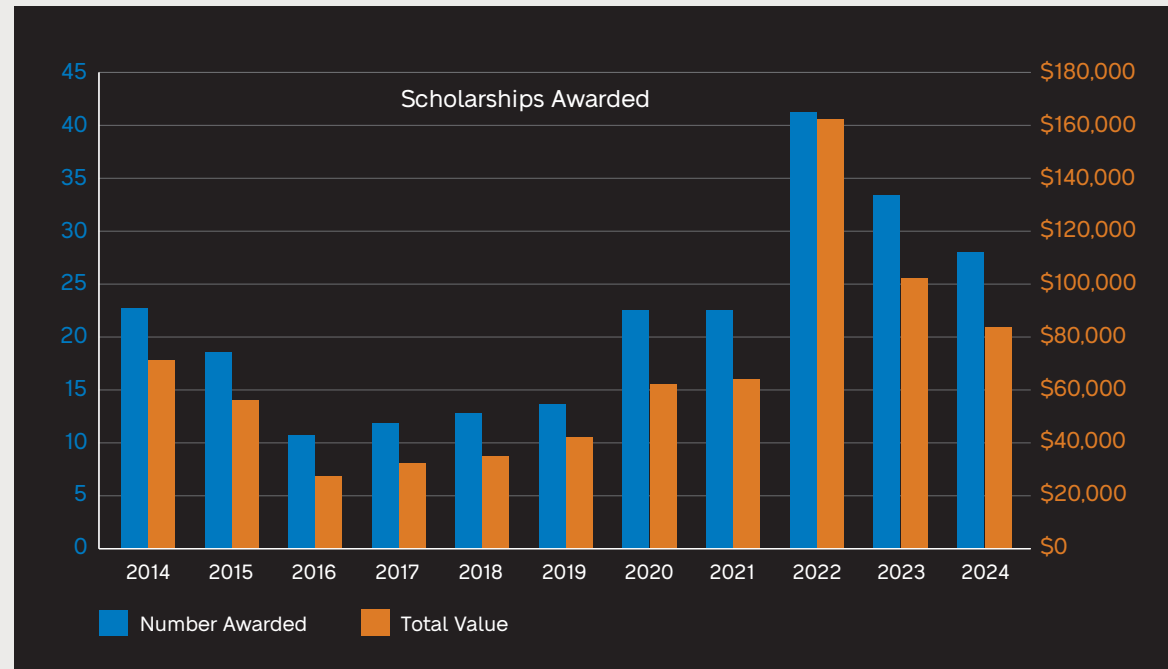
At the heart of this is a Christian concern for the most vulnerable. Amongst our supporters are generous donors towards a developing scholarship program. Also, by gently dealing with people in times of financial difficulty, dishonour of contract financial obligations have continued to remain at a remarkably low level. Partnership with our financial supporters during COVID yielded remarkable financial performance and subsequent recovery.





Thank you for your support

“New College is a place that supports academic, spiritual, and emotional growth and has programs and events in place to facilitate this, which is something I doubt I would find at many other places. It is a blessing and a privilege, and so I am very grateful for this scholarship, which will help me pay for my college fees and will take some of the pressure off, allowing me to dedicate more time to studying, and to making the most of my time here at New College.” Malachi



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