



New College Communities Impact Report 2025

NEW



NEW COLLEGE
LECTURES



NEW COLLEGE



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

What does *the best in university living* look like?

For many, the answer is found in friendships, personal growth, vibrant community life, and academic excellence—hallmarks evident within New College today. Yet from its foundation, the College has been shaped by a vision for more. Our founders established a community not only for achievement, but as a living witness to Jesus Christ, welcoming students of all backgrounds into a culture marked by his compassion, wisdom and service.

University life is often a time of significant transition. For many students, moving away from home represents both opportunity and vulnerability. In this context, the role of New College is both distinctive and vital.

It has been one of the great privileges of my time as Chair to witness how intentionally our communities respond to this reality—offering care, inclusion, and welcome, particularly to those who may feel isolated or uncertain. These communities enable students to engage deeply with ideas, develop habits of service, and explore questions of faith and purpose. They are not only places of residence, but formative environments where character and leadership are shaped, and a broader vision of the 'good' of education is restored.

In reflecting on the achievements of 2025, I want to acknowledge the dedication of the Master and his staff who work tirelessly to ensure that every resident has the opportunity not only to succeed academically, but to grow in character and confidence for life beyond university.

In 2025, the Board prioritised strengthening staff culture and worked closely with the Master to overhaul the performance review framework. This ensures staff are supported, accountable,

and equipped to serve effectively, with clearer alignment between our mission, values and daily work.

The Board also maintained strong governance and careful stewardship of College assets to support student wellbeing and community life in line with our Christian mission. This disciplined approach delivered strong financial results in 2025, alongside oversight of risk, environmental sustainability and consideration of strategic opportunities that enhance long-term viability, while remaining responsive to the evolving needs of students and the higher education context.

We were pleased to welcome the Rev. Gavin Poole, Senior Minister at St. Mark's Anglican Church Malabar. With experience spanning marketing and ministry, Gavin brings valuable perspectives that strengthen the Board. I am grateful for the insights and contribution of each director and their shared commitment to the college's Christian vision and community life.

To our alumni and supporters, thank you for your continued interest and investment in the students and future leaders shaped at New College. There is deep satisfaction in helping set young people on a path of academic and personal flourishing, equipping them not only for success in their studies, but for a lifetime of meaningful contribution and service in their chosen field for the good of our world. This is the impact that continues to define the New College experience as *the best in university living*.

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





Message from the Master

2025 was a milestone year for the New College Communities.

For the first time, New College Postgraduate Village welcomed more than 50 doctoral students and 5 postdoctoral fellows in its resident community. If we include all students undertaking original research, more than one-fifth of the Postgraduate Village was engaged in specialist university studies during 2025. This is a remarkable achievement of excellence, one that establishes NCPV as a benchmark postgraduate college internationally, and is a testament to the boldness of Professor Trevor Cairney and the then Board in establishing such a specialist facility at UNSW.

Academic excellence does not just live at NCPV. It has always been a hallmark of New College, and 2025 saw it strengthened further. Under AJ Culp, as Dean of Studies, the training of our academic tutors now parallels our longstanding, specialist pastoral training given to our Resident Advisers (at New) and Senior Residents (at NCPV). Tutors now enter each academic year with a clear sense of mentoring in community. Sadly, we farewelled AJ and his family at the end of 2025, though we are delighted that Dr James Pietsch will return as Dean of Studies from July 2026. Approbation for James has been universal.

The achievements of both colleges reflect the dedication of every member of our community, past and present, in the pursuit of excellence.

It has been a particular joy to see the establishment of an endowment in 2025 for the benefit of generations of future students. Friends of Jared Pritchard have been faithful in their support, ensuring students passionate about the creative arts can contribute to and thrive in our community. Alumni

who were blessed by Dr Ian Walker as Dean of Residents have established a scholarship to honour him with a special focus on supporting students from rural areas who might not otherwise be able to come to New. I wish to thank those who were generous in supporting an ongoing prize in my late wife Ruth's honour for language learning.

Students were warmly welcomed from all over the nation and the world—another hallmark of New College from its earliest years. Student life in both colleges is vibrant under the watchful eyes of Jonathan Billingham and Edwina Hine as Deans of Residents. Both communities also continue to maintain the highest standards in pastoral care.

We live in a troubled world. From the outset, the ambition for these colleges was to be vibrant but safe communities, where incoming students could flourish during their time at university. It has been a great joy during 2025 to be able to welcome people—no matter where they come from and what they believe—to share the embodied friendship and fellowship of our colleges that, ultimately, finds its inspiration in the mercy of Jesus Christ. Please always feel welcome to visit and share this joy with me.

William L. Peirson





2025 Summary in Numbers



255

Number of
new residents
who joined our
communities
in 2025



50

Number of
PhD residents
in 2025



217

Total
postgraduate
students
in 2025



23

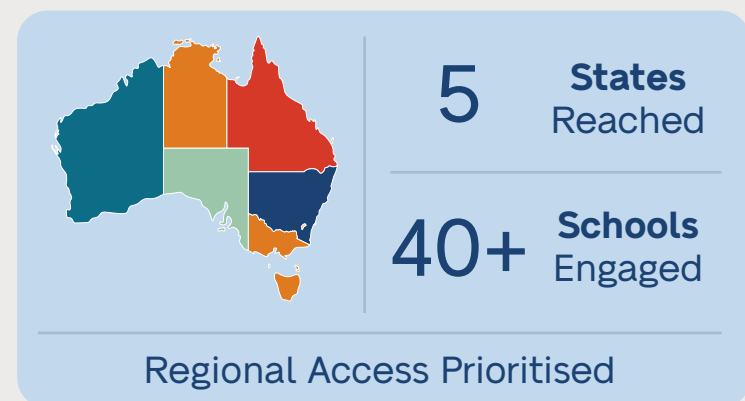
Number
of residents we
have supported
with scholarships
in 2025



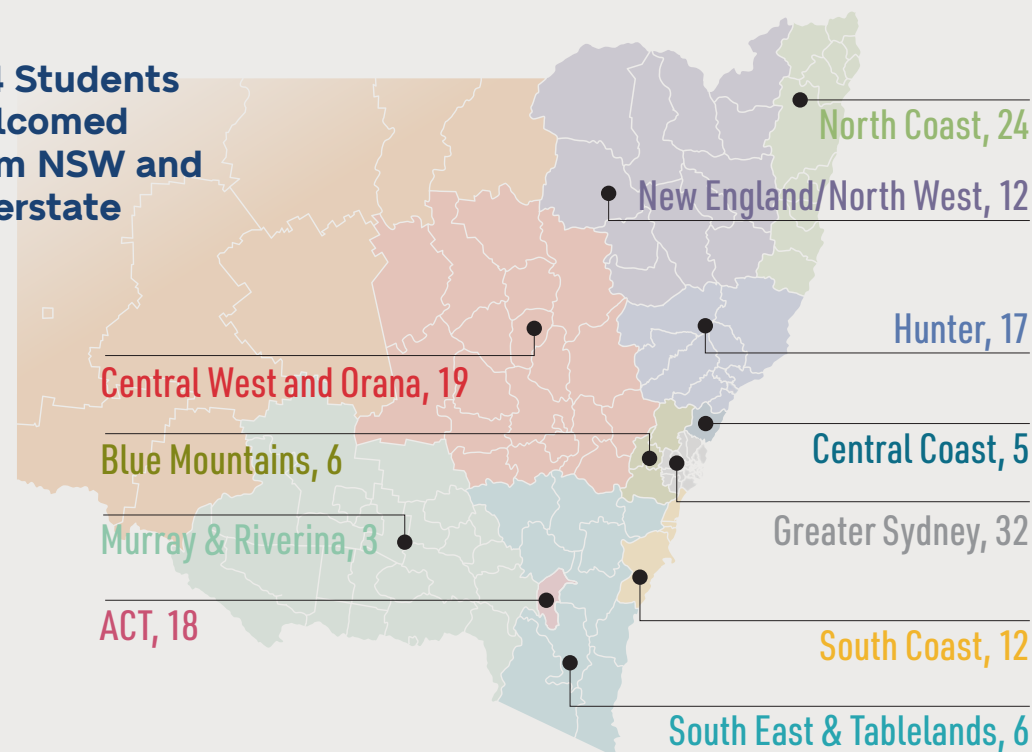
2025 Year in Review: Welcoming rural & regional students

In 2025, our outreach efforts reached students across five Australian states, while maintaining a strong commitment to regional and rural opportunities.

Schools engaged by state, 2025



154 Students welcomed from NSW and interstate



Access & equity

We believe every student should have the opportunity to experience the best of university living, regardless of background or circumstance. Through targeted outreach and scholarship support, we continue to widen participation and ensure College life remains accessible to students from a diverse range of communities.

Regional & rural commitment

Supporting students from regional, rural, and remote areas remains a core priority of our outreach efforts. New College remains deeply committed to serving regional and rural students by maintaining affordable costs and reducing barriers to access.

Beyond our borders ►

Our team are presently working with two international education agents, with continued collaboration being pivotal to strengthen global awareness of our New College Communities.



2025 Year in Review: Welcoming international students

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.

North America

6 students from 3 countries

Canada, Mexico, United States

Europe

11 students from 8 countries

Austria, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Russia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom

Asia

413 students from 20 countries

Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam

Africa

7 students from 3 countries

Egypt, Nigeria, Zimbabwe

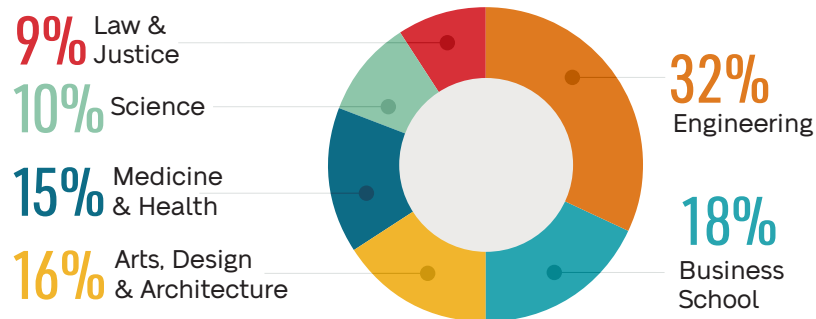
Oceania

204 students from 2 countries

Australia, New Zealand

Our students by faculty

(New College + New College Postgraduate Village)



Student members we welcomed from 36 countries



2025 Year in Review: Student life & community

At the heart of the New College communities is shared life and shared values. In 2025, students across New College and the New College Postgraduate Village formed friendships that shaped their university experience, through shared moments, traditions, and a strong sense of belonging.

Compassion

Friendships formed through compassion in everyday moments.



From O-Week welcomes to late night conversations, friendships formed naturally through living and learning together. Students built connections across faculties, cultures, and years, creating a compassionate community where many found a home away from home.

Collegiality

Striving for excellence in a vibrant community.



College life in 2025, in the pursuit of excellence, was vibrant and participatory. From New College Postgraduate Village lectures to the Masters Challenge and community dinners, traditions were matched by important creative projects, sporting events and informal gatherings, all in pursuit of that little bit more from College life.

Courage

Encouraging students to be creative and courageous in our community.



The quest for growth and learning is central to College life. Through Resident Advisors, have the opportunity to experience the best of university living, that allows students to feel supported and heard. Only then can they be courageous during university, facing academic pressures and personal challenges.



2025 Year in Review: Voice of student leaders

The New College Postgraduate Village continues to grow as a diverse, research-driven community where postgraduate students live, collaborate, and thrive alongside their academic pursuits.

“ I am Sercan Çetinkaya, and I have been living at NCPV with my spouse for over four years while completing my PhD in materials science and nuclear engineering at UNSW. What sets NCPV apart from other accommodations is its strong focus on being a research-driven community, where living alongside fellow researchers and students encourages knowledge sharing, continuous learning and personal growth. NCPV has provided a supportive, inclusive and vibrant environment, backed by a PhD scholarship and a strong sense of belonging, so it has become much more than accommodation – it has truly been a home. From whale-watching to winning the Masters Cup against New College, the memories and relationships I have gained here will stay with me for a lifetime. ”



Student leadership plays a vital role in shaping the culture and wellbeing of the New College Communities. In 2025, student leaders served with initiative, compassion, and responsibility, strengthening community life across academic, social, and spiritual activities.



“ New College has had a valuable impact on my life through the breadth of opportunities available, from sport and music to productions and leadership. Leading the NCSA Executive was especially meaningful, giving me practical experience in people management, decision-making, and adaptability in a rich and supportive College environment. ”

Matt Baines
NCSA President 2025



“ New College became my home, a place where I was able to make mistakes, learn, and grow. Through roles as Revue Director, O'Week Leader, and Assistant Dean, I was shaped by a community grounded in care and trust, and sought to lead with the same humility and generosity shown to me. ”

Ria D'souza
NC Assistant Dean 2025



“ Living in NCPV showed me the power of community beyond academics. Within a Christian college setting, I was shaped by the diversity of cultures, ideas, and faith journeys, and saw people grow deeply together through learning about life, belief, and unique individual stories. ”

Haydn St James
NCPV Campus Bible Study
Ministry Worker



2025 Year in Review: Alumni achievement

“New College prepares future generations of leaders and citizens to embrace diversity, love others, and lead with insight and humility.”

Emily Fitzsimons

New College Alumna
NCSA President (1995)
Principal of Overnewton
College, Geelong VIC

Coming from Bathurst, NSW, 1995 NCSA President Emily Fitzsimons quickly noticed how different her university experience was from that of

non-residential peers who left campus each day. At College, learning extended beyond lectures into shared study sessions, cross-faculty friendships, and a deep sense of belonging.

“My memory of New College is a tapestry of events, activities and moments,” Emily reflects. Hours in the courtyard, Revue and productions, Sydney outings, College Ball committees, Formal Dinners, and even long hours in the single computer room before personal laptops were common, shaped a generation through collaboration and shared endeavour.

As NCSA President, Emily’s leadership formation deepened as she guided her executive team in making decisions impacting fellow students. “I learned an enormous amount about what it means to lead within a diverse community,” she recalls.

“We cannot please everyone, but we can communicate with respect, kindness, and transparency. Leadership is mostly about service.”

For students considering New College, Emily describes it as “a warm and safe place to navigate the trials of university life. Learning is a social endeavour, and studying is richer when

you are not doing it alone.” Beyond academics, she says, students discover who they are and what matters to them, and gain lifelong skills.

Drawn to the Humanities and the transformative power of learning, Emily pursued a career in education. Now Principal of Overnewton College in Geelong, she has led initiatives in curriculum reform, wellbeing, neuroscience-informed teaching, and long-term strategy, reflecting both intellectual rigour and deep care for community.

“Education enables civilisations to advance,” she says. In an age of instant information, she believes the true goal of education should now be to push our intellectual boundaries and schools must cultivate character, resilience, belonging, and purpose alongside academic growth.

Reflecting on New College’s influence, Emily shares: “New College prepares future generations of leaders and citizens to embrace diversity, love others, and lead with insight and humility.”

From Bathurst to Sydney, from NCSA President to school Principal, Emily’s journey embodies the College’s aim to provide access, build community, form character, and equip leaders to contribute generously to society.





2025 Year in Review: Christian leadership impact

Rev Bruce Morrison – NC 1978-1979, Senior Minister at St John's Anglican Cathedral, Parramatta (since 2004), and former Chairman of the New College Board.

Alumnus Rev Bruce Morrison reflects on the lasting impact of his years at New College on his life, faith, and ministry. New College provided a unique community in which demanding work and study commitments gave way to deep relationships, a renewed engagement with Christian faith, and a vision for ministry that has shaped his leadership for nearly four decades.

"I had returned from a year's student exchange in Tokyo, was living with my parents in the Blue Mountains, working for QANTAS full time in the city and studying Commerce Economics with a three-quarter load at UNSW in the evenings. Something had to give. Halfway through the year I applied to New College. The Master, Stuart Barton Babbage, I believe took pity on me. As far as I'm aware I'm the only resident to have been working full time with part-time study. Of course that didn't last. I enjoyed college and university life so much that I took leave without pay to complete my studies full time."

At New College, Bruce discovered the rich value of community and the privilege of friendships with people from vastly different backgrounds. The common rooms and shared meals became the setting for countless conversations that formed deep and lasting relationships.

"The genuine and joyful community is beyond value."

The college community also presented a spiritual challenge. Surrounded by Christians who clearly took their faith seriously, he could no longer ignore his own unsettled church

background. A New College Fellowship weekend away, where he experienced genuine Christian love, proved formative for his faith.

Bruce has remained closely involved with New College, serving on the Board for 20 years, including a decade as Chairman, and contributing through the New College Life Fellowship and the 2019 New College Sermon. Given the privilege of his own experience, he counts it a joy to see new generations benefit from college life.

After completing his degree and time at QANTAS, Bruce trained at Moore Theological College and has now served 38 years in full-time Christian ministry, including 20 years as Senior Minister at St John's Anglican Cathedral, Parramatta. Leading eight congregations in four languages, with ministries among children, youth and immigrants, he continues to cultivate the kind of genuine and joyful Christian community he first encountered at New College.

One reflective piece of advice he offers future students is: *"Take the opportunity to explore Jesus Christ and take the opportunity to throw yourself into the community. You will never get this chance again."*





2025 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	19 Feb 2025	Professor Bronwyn Fox AO , Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Enterprise at the University of New South Wales
Easter	16 Apr 2025	Mr Michael Tidball , Secretary of the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, who also served as Chairman of NCSA at New College in 1983
Pentecost	4 June 2025	Ms Emily Fitzsimons , Principal of Overnewton Anglican Community College, alumna and President of NCSA at New College in 1995
Scientia	6 Aug 2025	H.E. Mr Gopal Baglay , High Commissioner of India to Australia
Foundation	17 Sept 2025	Mr Gaz Farrar , proud member of the Wiradjuri people and Director of Navig8 Aboriginal Corporation





2025 Flagship Activities



New College Lectures

► **'God and the Secular University'** by Professor Peter Harrison on 14-16 October 2025 at New College.

Peter traced the underlying objectives of universities and the tensions between them over the last 800 or so years. He observed the rewriting of the history of science that occurred in the second half of the 1800s and noted that the secularisation process has diminished the university today.



Book Launch

◀ **A Timeline of Origins** book launch on 5 March 2025 at New College Postgraduate Village.

Rev Michael Russell presented a thought-provoking exploration of how the biblical narrative of creation can align with modern scientific understanding, stimulating a fresh perspective for believers, seekers, and thinkers alike.



CASE

Case Quarterly 72 – Peace & Healing

In this edition we learn from the reconciliation process following the Rwandan genocide, and Australian Christians are called on to acknowledge the role that grave misreadings of the Bible played in the colonisation of Australia.

Case Quarterly 73 – Disconnection

Discusses the many forms of disconnection facing our society—from one another, from the natural world, from our past—all evidence of the ongoing disconnection from God that corrupts all areas of life.

Case Quarterly 74 – Power

Explores different facets of the use and abuse of power and leadership, sharply contrasting the radical biblical approach to that of this world.





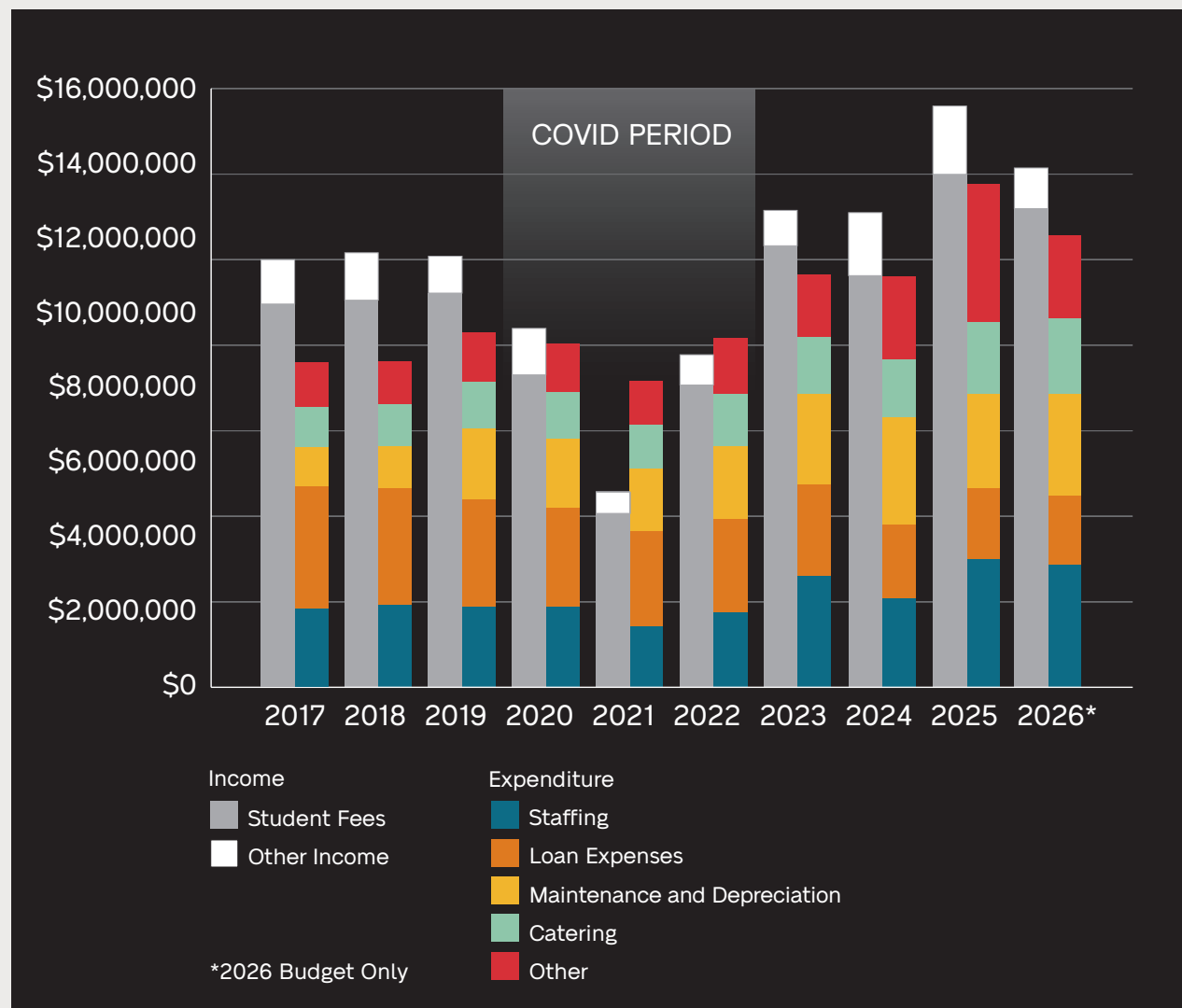
Financial Management

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.

Underpinning all of this is a deep Christian concern for the vulnerable. We are grateful for the growing number of generous donors who contribute to our scholarship program, and we are proud of the way we walk alongside students in times of financial hardship. As a result, the honouring of financial commitments has remained at a remarkably strong level.





Thank you for your support

“Receiving this scholarship brings me so much relief as I can be aided in the position of financial stability, having the confidence that New College cares for its residents and strives to support them in all of their needs, financially, emotionally and beyond!”

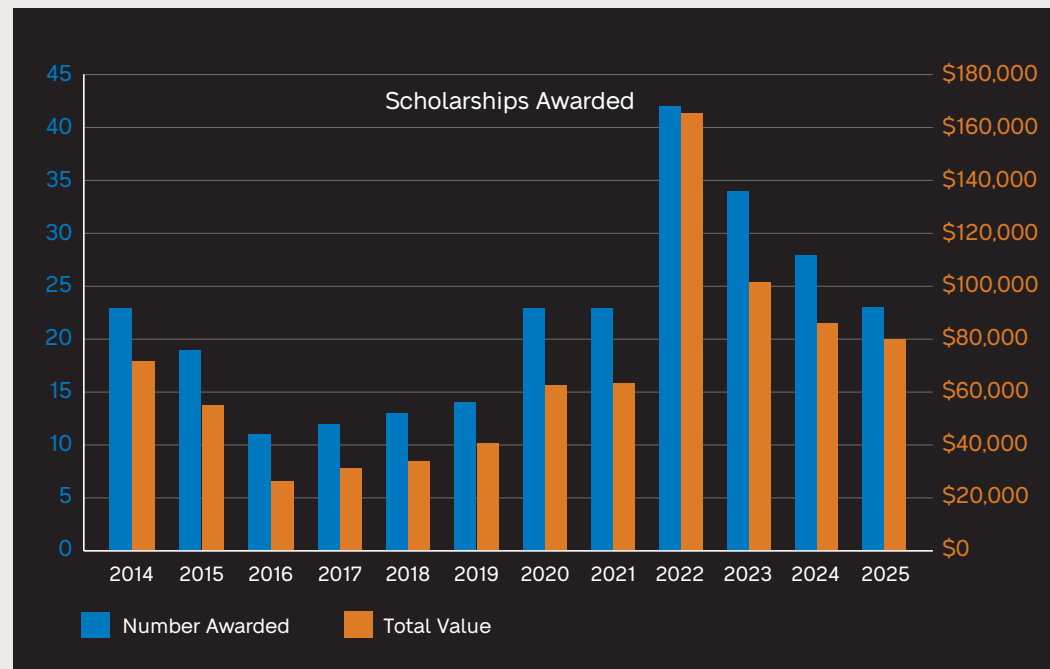
Chantelle Campion



Scholarship in action

It is a privilege to be entrusted to nurture the leaders of tomorrow through partnership with our generous supporters.

From Lake Cathie, **Chantelle Campion** received an **Access Scholarship** in 2025, enabling her to thrive at College throughout the year. She has since taken up a leadership role as a Residential Advisor for 2026, looking to contribute back to the vibrant community that previously welcomed her.



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