



# New'n'Old

2021 Edition 1

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



ISSN 1447-8161



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY



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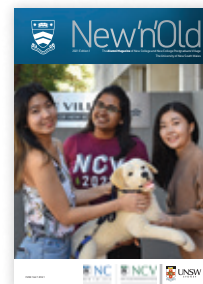
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#### We hope you enjoy reading *New 'n' Old* Magazine

*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](mailto: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](http://www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au)



#### Cover photo

Cathleen Lee, Shallet Maran, and Misako Morita with Kensi the dog outside NCV.

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

#### About New

Founded in 1969, the original New College is an Anglican residential college for students at the University of New South Wales. New College actively contributes to the life of the wider University and its main campus is set within University grounds. New College Postgraduate Village was opened in 2009 and is home for postgraduates and selected senior undergraduates. New welcomes people of all faiths and none. The College celebrates, and is enriched by, the diversity of backgrounds of its staff and students. The College pursues academic excellence, collegiality and service to society founded upon Christian faith and values.

The College's main programs include:

- New College, the residential college for 247 undergraduate students at the University of New South Wales
- New College Postgraduate Village, the residential village for 315 postgraduate and senior undergraduate students at the University of New South Wales.
- The Centre for Christian Apologetics, Scholarship and Education (CASE), a specialist centre which carries out Christian apologetics—the activity of defending the Christian faith, engaging with other world views and attracting 'thinking' people to the message of the Christian faith.

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# A Message from the Master

My opening remarks in the previous edition of *New 'n' Old* reflected our frenetic activities managing the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic. I now welcome you to our second COVID-19 edition of *New 'n' Old*, which is more reflective of the weight and duration of these challenging times.

In late 2019, the Minister of the Chinese Embassy in Australia, Wang Xining, kindly accepted my invitation to come and speak at the Term 3 Formal Dinner for New College Postgraduate Village. At the time, my invitation caused some controversy among collegians from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, who debated the merits of the Master giving such a senior Chinese official a platform to speak within College.

For me, a central revelation of Mr Wang's presentation was the confidence that the Chinese Communist Party has that they are able to lift large numbers of people out of poverty – as demonstrated in mainland China over the past four decades.

Last night, personal friends of mine, Annette and Mark Bennett addressed our Pentecost Formal Dinner, describing their experiences working for an NGO (Samaritan's Purse) on the front line in war-torn South Sudan. Mr Fuxiang (Lance) Xu (NC) respectfully asked Annette and Mark during question time why they did not focus more of their efforts on capacity building rather than giving aid.

These two events bookend the COVID-afflicted period described in this edition of *New 'n' Old*.

These two events also speak to the challenges that many of us have experienced over the past 18 months. Many residents and alumni have had close family and friends living in countries that have been devastated by COVID-19. Indeed, some have been moved to leave their studies at UNSW and return home to care for their families.

Wealthier countries have budgeted significant deficits. Poorer countries have seen their people descend into greater poverty. The present challenges are significant and for many vulnerable people around the world, there are questions about how they and their communities will emerge from this crisis.

This present edition of *New 'n' Old* illustrates that our Colleges have been safe havens for students at UNSW.

This year, particularly, our resident numbers have been significantly depleted. However, our





Adj Prof Bill Peirson with his daughter, Dr Laura Ayling, and Annette and Mark Bennett at Formal Dinner on 2 June 2021.

smaller communities have maintained their vibrancy. Also, at a time when so much university teaching has moved online, our Colleges have provided special opportunities for students to mutually support each other in the midst of (often dry and tedious) online instruction.

I think that our readers will be both encouraged and astonished at the achievements of the students in our Colleges through this difficult period. I am.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Adela Davis for her careful preparation of this edition. I also wish to publicly thank our diligent Deans, Susan Bazzana (now at St Martin's Wagga Wagga) and Jonathan Billingham, as well as Acting Dean Edwina Hine, for their kindly management of our communities during this difficult period.

I will finish on a personal note. I started as Dean at New College shortly after Susan had started as Dean at NCV. We had a lot of fun, sometimes competing with each other. It was a joy to innovate together with Trevor and then to further these ideas over the last few years. Susan's kindness and fierce advocacy for her residents were in deep tension during the light rail construction. This earned the affection of her residents and Ruth's and my deep respect and appreciation. It was a complicated time to move during COVID but Susan will do great things at St Martin's and, I believe, will make a great contribution to Charles Sturt University. These pages show some of the mark that she will leave on NCV. What they do not show is the depth of reflection that she contributed to the making of a postgraduate community. Ruth and I have felt both blessed and encouraged through our time with Susan, facing the joys and challenges of community life.

There have been some great sadnesses of this COVID time but we look forward to happier times. We love to hear from our alumni, friends, and supporters. Please stay in touch.  

Adjunct Prof. William L. Peirson



# Farewell, SUSAN BAZZANA



Susan Bazzana arrived at New College Postgraduate Village in July 2014. Now, after 6.5 years of dedicated service as the Dean of Residents, she has moved on to become Head of St Martin's College at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga.



**B**efore being appointed as Dean of NCV, Susan was based in Melbourne, working as the Head of Church Partnerships at World Vision Australia. At that time, she knew that she wanted her next career move to involve cross-cultural work with young adults in Christian ministry, but she wasn't exactly sure what kind of role would allow her to do this. One Sunday lunchtime, she came across the advertisement for NCV Dean, and she knew it was meant to be.

As Dean, Susan worked tirelessly to welcome, nurture and guide hundreds of students from all over the world. Whether she was providing pastoral care, baking cakes, running College services, or liaising with light rail construction officials, Susan gave generously of her time and energy. Under her leadership, the NCV community has continued to grow and flourish.

Susan explained the impact the community has had on her life during her address at NCV's 10th Anniversary luncheon in 2019:

*Being Dean has been one of the great joys of my life. Every day I get to walk alongside people from an amazing array of nations as they learn to navigate their lives and to contemplate what the future holds for them. You see people at their best and sometimes at their worst. You are with them in ways that sometimes even their families are not. That's been a precious gift that I've been given, to be able to shepherd this community.*

With COVID restrictions, Susan's formal farewell was a smaller affair, held in the NCV Common Room with the College Board and recent NCV Senior Residents. Invitations were also opened to Deans from other colleges in Sydney. The Deans were delighted to have the opportunity to express their appreciation for the collegiality that Susan has developed with them over the past six years. She will be missed.

NCV welcomes Edwina Hine as their new Acting Dean, and we wish Susan all the best as she begins her exciting new role at St Martin's.  



**A and B.** Susan with NCV residents and alumni at her farewell dinner in January 2021.

**C.** Susan at her Commissioning Service with 2 previous Heads of St Martin's, Peter Savage (L) and Glenn Maytum (R).



# WHY CASE?

The New College Communities have many distinctives.

One of the most widely discussed is the ban on alcohol consumption at New College. This decision was a vexed one for the College founders and it has been railed against by a contingent of collegians ever since. Interestingly, though, alumni seem to affirm the importance of this aspect of College life.

Another distinctive is the presence of a scholarship hub, dedicated to serving the community. The Centre for Christian Apologetics, Scholarship and Education (CASE) and its publication *Case Quarterly* (CQ) are very unusual for a residential college at a secular university—even a church affiliated college. Our communities value intellectual enquiry, and CQ is an important vehicle for promoting the exploration of contemporary issues in light of Christian principles in those communities.

Over the past few years, my co-editor Dr Dani Scarratt and I have been accentuating connections with UNSW. When UNSW enunciated a series of ‘Grand Challenges’ – significant challenges currently facing society that the University committed to addressing – CQ published corresponding editions on *Inequality* (#48); *Climate Change* (#50); *Refugees and Migrants* (#51); and *Living with 21st Century Technology* (#53).

We have also been pushing forward with crucial issues at the junction between church and society: *Why Apologise?* (#52) frankly addresses oppression of indigenous communities, domestic abuse and institution abuse; *Speciesism* (#58) provides some (surprising) Christian perspectives on the animal rights movement; and *Multiculturalism* (#59) examines issues of identity and religion in society.

*Wellbeing* (#54) was particularly significant in my view, allowing me to publicly summarise for members of minority groups in College how a Christian college would ensure they are respected and safeguarded. It also includes some insightful perspectives on mental health, as will two upcoming editions: *Life after Loss*, and *Nurture*, slated for publication later this year. Our two most recent editions reflect on areas often neglected in Christian scholarship—beauty and art—and were prompted by a reader’s desire to redress this neglect.

Australian society is presently asking some very big questions: How do we care for older people? How do we affirm the value of people who feel alienated due to their identity? How do we confront this epidemic of mental ill-health sweeping across



younger generations? Providing opportunities to think through big issues is an important aspect of college life. CASE helps us do this within College itself and beyond in public life.

Dani and I greatly value the input of alumni and supporters, whether it be suggesting ideas, writing, illustrating, subscribing, or simply letting us know what you think. We encourage you to get involved!

Adj Prof Bill Peirson

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# 2021 COMMENCEMENT DINNER with Prof Eileen Baldry


To kick off the 2021 academic year, Prof Eileen Baldry AO, UNSW Deputy Vice-Chancellor Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, joined the New College Communities as guest of honour at the 2021 Commencement Formal Dinner.

Prof Baldry is a Professor of Criminology and held a number of senior positions at UNSW prior to her current appointment, including Interim Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Her research and advocacy span a broad range of social justice issues. Prof Baldry was awarded the NSW Justice Medal in 2009 and became an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2021 “for distinguished service to tertiary education, to criminology and social welfare policy, and as an advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion”.

After a captivating performance of ‘I Dreamed a Dream’ from *Les Misérables* by Claudia Horne (vocals), Ben Connor (piano) and Anna Nolan (violin), Prof Baldry took to the stage to deliver her address.

She opened with two vignettes, chosen to illustrate inequality in the world in terms of colonialism and classism. Prof Baldry then moved into a discussion of the idea of disability as a social construct. She concluded by expressing her sincere hope for the College community, that “every single one of you will be involved in a really positive way ... in enacting a more just society”.

Question time was rigorous, with students making the most of Prof Baldry’s experience and knowledge. Questions and responses covered such topics as the complexities of labelling and diagnosis; virtue signalling and social media; empathy and understanding; and multiculturalism.

A significant portion of the evening was also dedicated to acknowledging the many academic achievements in our communities over the last year. 

## New College

### University Medals:

Name	Residency	University Medal
Christopher Burnitt	2015-2016	Economics
Rosemary Kirk	2015-2016	Medicine
Veronica Xu	2016-2017	Design

### UNSW Academic Prizes:

Name	Residency	Academic Prize
Marco Alberto	2017-2020	The Warwick Slade Royal Aeronautical Society Prize
Caleb Champion	Current	The Ashurst Prize
Alan Chen	2019-2020	The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean’s List
Kwan Hung Chun	2019	The Faculty of Built Environment Dean’s Merit List (Undergraduate)
Meagan Davis	Current	The Faculty of Science Dean’s List The Faculty of Science Prize for 2nd Year Advanced Science
Timothy Fernando	2017-2020	The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean’s List
Mirima Goldman	2018-2019	The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean’s List
Anneke Goud	Current	The Faculty of Built Environment Dean’s Merit List (Undergraduate)
Emma Hastie	2017-2018	The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean’s List
Imogen Hunter	2016-2017	The Faculty of Art and Design Dean’s List
Beau Jesser	Current	The Faculty of Science Dean’s List
Ahmad Khayyat	2017-2018	The Surface Facilities Design Project Prize The Petroleum Economics Prize
Rosemary Kirk	2015-2016	The Frank Rundle Prize for Surgery in Phase 3 The Best Overall Performance in the Doctor of Medicine The Combined Teaching Hospitals Senior Staff Prize for Performance in the Phase 3 Integrated Clinical Examination The Australian Medical Association Prize for General Practice The David de Carle Prize The Ken Cox Prize for Surgery The Gordon Lowe Memorial Prize
Daniel Larratt	2015-2020	The Faculty of Law Dean’s List
Alexandra Macdonald	2018-2019	The Dorothy Allison-Furhagen Prize
Anna Nolan	Current	The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean’s List
Samuel Pietsch	Current	The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean’s List
Christopher Seow	Current	The Outstanding Year 1 Student Prize (Petroleum Engineering)
Karina Stacey	2019	The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean’s List
Dominic Stirzaker	Current	The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean’s List
Annabelle Thorne	2015-2016	The Faculty of Law Dean’s List
Annie Touw	2020	The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean’s List



## New College Academic Prizes:

Name	Residency	New College Academic Prize
Meagan Davis	Current	Science
Anneke Goud	Current	Built Environment
Rachel Hansen	Current	Engineering
Anna Nolan	Current	Fine Arts
Nicholas Perera	Current	Business
Samuel Pietsch	Current	Law
Dominic Stirzaker	Current	Arts & Social Sciences
Chloe Willemssen	Current	Medicine

## New College Postgraduate Village

## University Medals:

Name	Residency	University Medal
Rachel Firmer	NC 2016-2017 NCV 2018-2019	Environmental Engineering
Grace Jenkins	2014-2015	Interior Architecture



## PhDs Awarded:

Name	Residency	PhD Awarded
Yijun Gao	2018-2019	Photovoltaic Engineering

## UNSW Academic Prizes:

Name	Residency	Academic Prize
Ghaida Ahmed Aljuhani	2017-2019	The Outstanding Year 3 Student Prize (Petroleum Engineering)
Ali Alshomaly	Current	The Reservoir Engineering Prize
Moutaz Mohammad S Alsoofi	NC 2020 NCV Current	The Outstanding Year 2 Student Prize (Petroleum Engineering)
Zelong (Adam) Bi	Current	The Faculty of Science Dean's List The Faculty of Science Prize for 2nd Year Advanced Science
Rachel Firmer	NC 2016-2017 NCV 2018-2019	The Faculty of Science Dean's List
Kiah How	2018-2019	The Joseph P Forgas Third Year Prize
Grace Jenkins	2014-2015	The Faculty of Built Environment Dean's Merit List (Undergraduate)
Qian Yi Lee	2019-2020	The UNSW Business School Dean's Award
Erica Leong	Current	The Faculty of Built Environment Dean's Merit List (Undergraduate)
Jamie Ma	2018-2019	The Faculty of Built Environment Dean's Merit List (Undergraduate)
Nailah Masagos Zulkifli	2018-2020	The Faculty of Built Environment Dean's Merit List (Postgraduate)
Tanushri More	2019-2020	The Faculty of Law Dean's List
Oliver Pike	2019	The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean's List
Ramon Pio Roda	2019-2020	The UNSW Business School Dean's Award
Abdullah Rakkah	2017	The Natural Gas Engineering Prize
Syed Salahuddin	2018-2020	The Warwick Slade Royal Aeronautical Prize
Luke Simpson	2017-2018	The Thesis Project Prize (Petroleum Engineering)

## NCV Academic Prizes:

Name	Residency	NCV Academic Prize
Jiajing (Jean) You	Current	Commerce and Accounting





# CLUB MELON

## Women in Entrepreneurship

2 weeks with a group of strangers to create a viable start-up company. This was the task presented to the 81 women who joined the 6th UNSW Founders New Wave cohort in 2020.

**T**his two-week intensive program aims to address the underrepresentation of women in entrepreneurship by offering expert mentoring and masterclasses in key skills.

The culmination of the program is showcase night – an opportunity for shortlisted teams to pitch their start-up idea to industry leaders and compete for the \$1500 prize.

In 2020, the winning team, Club Melon, included NCV resident Amreen Badani. Led by Holly Richards, Club Melon seeks to provide custom-fit sports bras for plus-size women.

Amreen didn't know the other three women in the team before she joined but they were all united in their enthusiasm for the idea.

*“What made it special was that we all had a very personal connection to what we were doing ... It made us want to bring it to reality even more.”*

In the lead-up to showcase night, Club Melon learnt all they could about start-up entrepreneurship and channelled their new skills into getting their concept off the ground.


*“There were so many times we were just exhausted [but] we got so lucky with our team. We all had different skills and personalities that worked very well together.”*



Melissa Ran, Head of Community at Airtree, spoke on behalf of the judges:

*“Club Melon is a business that addresses a very clear gap in the market. Its customers are crying out for this solution, and we really loved the personal connection to the problem that the whole team had”.*

Club Melon continue to meet weekly as they line up meetings with potential supporters and work with the UNSW Michael Crouch Innovation Centre to create a prototype for their first sports bra.

*“It's going to be a long process [but] ... we are excited about working on this and seeing where it takes us ... Who knows, [it] may turn into a company someday!”* 



# ELECTRIC PLASTIC AND SKY DETERGENT

## Our 3 Minute Thesis Finalists



Jonathan Hopkins



Blair Welsh




We are delighted that two members of our community made it to the 2020 finals of UNSW's prestigious Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition.

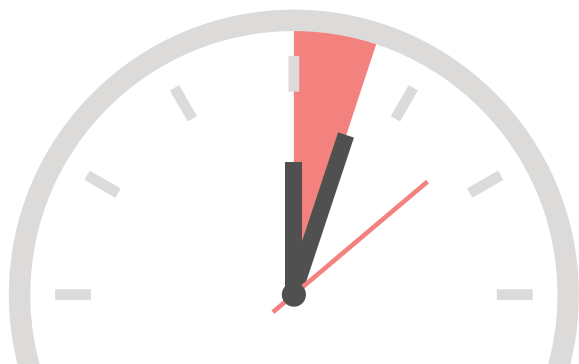
**3MT** is a worldwide competition developed by the University of Queensland, in which hundreds of PhD students take part each year. The challenge is for participants to present their research in exactly 3 minutes, in a clear and engaging way that will effectively communicate with a non-specialist audience. Many universities, including UNSW, run their own competitions. Those winners then progress to the Asia-Pacific Competition. Usually, participants present to a live audience but in 2020 they submitted 3-minute videos to the judging panel.

### Jonathan Hopkins (NCV 2018-present)

Jonathan is a Scientia PhD scholar in the School of Materials Science and Engineering. He entered 3MT with the video, 'Designing Electric Plastic to Fight Diseases'. Jonathan's thesis focuses on making "soft, electric plastic that can keep an eye on our body's electrical signals". To do this, he is "playing with molecular Lego" – building up strings of "molecular wires" that can be spread throughout the body. This plastic can then be used to manipulate the body's electrical signals to improve health outcomes, such as in cases of epilepsy or heart attack. "My work is bringing us one step closer to treating some serious diseases and improving people's quality of life".

### Blair Welsh (NC 2013-2015)

Blair Welsh is completing his PhD in the School of Chemistry. His 3MT submission was called 'Shining a New Light on Atmospheric Chemistry'. Blair is investigating free radicals in the atmosphere – also known as the "detergent of the sky". These molecules scrub the atmosphere clean of chemicals put there by humans. This is important work; having a better understanding of this kind of chemistry could have helped prevent air pollution catastrophes like the 1952 Great Smog of London or the hole in the ozone layer. 



# COMPASSION

## Foundation Formal Dinner with Hugh Mackay



It's no secret that Australia is facing twin crises: a growing mental health epidemic and an increasingly socially fragmented society. Recent data shows that 20% of Australian adults will experience mental illness in any given year.<sup>1</sup> It also shows that 25% of Australian adults report feeling lonely more days than not during the week.<sup>2</sup> On 21 October 2020, Australian social researcher Mr Hugh Mackay AO 'Zoomed' into the Foundation Formal Dinner to offer his solution to these pressing concerns.

Hugh Mackay's social research career has spanned 60 years. A prolific writer, he has authored over 20 books during this time, and he spent 25 of those years producing a weekly newspaper column. In recognition of his distinguished service to the community, Hugh Mackay was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2015.

Mr Mackay began his address by drawing out the key factors contributing to social fragmentation in Australian society: shrinking household size, increased rate of relationship breakdown, low birth rate, greater mobility, busyness, the information technology revolution, and social inequality. Mr Mackay linked these factors, at a broad societal level, to the steep rise in anxiety amongst Australians.

If turning back the clock on these changes is impossible, what can we do about mental illness and social fragmentation? Hugh Mackay offered a concise solution: compassion.

This was not an empty platitude. Rather, it was a call for "tough mental discipline".


*Compassion is the most rational response we can make to a full realisation of what it means to be human. Compassion says ... "I'm going to treat everyone I meet with kindness and respect and tolerance, not because I like them, not because I agree with them, but because they're human".*



A. Dr Wah Guan Lim delivered the vote of thanks.  
 B. NC resident Tom Kirk performed 'Brother' by Matt Corby.  
 C. The College congratulated 5 NCV residents who completed their degrees in 2020. L-R: Raghav Agarwal, Nailah Masagos, Abdulrahman Al Yousef, Adj Prof Bill Peirson, Eunice Kok, and Ethan Cheung.

Compassion – a shifting of focus from the self to the other – is, according to Hugh Mackay, the "radical antidote to anxiety".

But how do you practically change the mindset and behaviour of a whole society? Mr Mackay encouraged the students to start with their own College community.

*If you would like to see Australian society [become a] kinder, more compassionate, more respectful, more equitable kind of society, then there is only one thing that you can do about it and that is to start living like that right here, right now. Because if enough of us start living like we are that kind of society, that's the only way we will become that kind of society.* 

<sup>1</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australia's health 2020*.  
<sup>2</sup> Australian Psychological Society, *Australian Loneliness Report*, 2018.



# PROF PATRICK PARKINSON

## Zooms into Formal Dinner



**A.** Elise Elkington and  
**B.** Erica Leong are presented with their prizes for the literature competition.

**C.** New College & NCV art competition entries. Digital drawing by Phoebe Jong (left), 'Four to a Table' by Alan Chen (top, 1st prize), embroidery by Ben Connor (centre, 3rd prize), and painting by Anneke Goud (right, 2nd prize).

**O**n 6 and 7 August 2020, New College and NCV enjoyed a preview of the 2020 New College Lectures. New College Lecturer, Professor Patrick Parkinson, 'Zoomed in' from Brisbane to discuss marriage, family and mental health.

At the New College dinner, Prof Parkinson's address focused on the sharp decline in the mental wellbeing of children and adolescents observed across the Western world over the last 20 years. He highlighted that while it is a complex issue, a large proportion of this increase in mental health problems can be accounted for by an increase in the rate of family breakdown.

Prof Parkinson then spoke to NCV on the following night about the history of marriage and de facto relationships in Australian law. At the heart of both his messages was a plea for Australia to begin a national conversation on the wellbeing of children and the promotion of safe, stable and nurturing families.

Both Formal Dinners featured a musical item. Tim Connor from New College played the "bombastically difficult" Chopin piano Étude Op. 10 No. 12 in C minor, known as the 'Revolutionary Étude'. Sourabh Dhouchak from NCV sang the Hindi pop song, 'Bol Do Na Zara' by Armaan Malik.

The dinners were also a chance to showcase entries into the Colleges' annual art and literature competition. This year, submissions were required to fit the theme, 'Living through Coronavirus lockdown'. Congratulations to the prizewinners!

### Visual Arts

1st prize – Alan Chen  
2nd prize – Anneke Goud  
3rd prize – Ben Connor

### Literature

1st prize – Elise Elkington  
2nd prize – Erica Leong



# CELEBRATING ALUMNI SUCCESS

## Bernise Ang | 2020-2021 Obama Foundation Scholar



Image: Bernise Ang presenting at 'Mind the Product' in 2019  
www.mindtheproduct.com/designing-for-public-needs-in-participatory-ways-by-bernise-ang/.

Bernise (NC 1999-2000) lives in Singapore and is the founder, Principal and Chief Alchemist of Zeroth Labs. Her organisation uses systems dynamics, anthropological ethnography, data analysis and other methods to improve the quality of life of low-income communities in rapidly developing cities. Zeroth Labs has partnered with governments and the

United Nations Development Program to bring about significant changes in public policy. As an Obama Foundation Scholar, Bernise is studying with other emerging leaders at Columbia University to improve the impact and reach of her work through leadership development, networking, and mentoring.

## Dr Ou hao (Daniel) Chen | Reviewer Excellence Award



Ouhao lived at NCV from 2013-2016 while completing his PhD in Educational Psychology. As of February 2020, he has joined Loughborough University in the UK as a Lecturer in their Mathematics Education Centre. For the last two years, Ouhao has served as a reviewer for Educational Technology

Research and Development, a journal published by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology in the USA. In 2020, in recognition of his exemplary academic service, the editorial board selected Ouhao for the Reviewer Excellence Award. The award has been a great encouragement to him as he continues in his academic career and makes further contributions to his field.

## Xin Chi (Eunice) Kok | 2020 Jenny Birt Award finalist



The Jenny Birt award was established by the UNSW 'U Committee' in 1995 to encourage young, emerging painters. In 2020, NCV resident Eunice Kok was selected as a finalist for her artwork, 'RIP! Here lies Ian's MacBook. It has lived a difficult life, mistreated and drowned'. She wrote,

*A friend desperately bought a bag of rice in the hopes of reviving a badly water-damaged screen, proceeding to essentially submerge their computer within it. Though successful, the attempt to rejuvenate the machine using what can only be described as an incredibly precious resource, during the age of COVID-19, was quite the spectacle to see, presenting itself as an almost comical portrayal of technological dependence.*

## Moses Lo | 2020 UNSW Alumni Award



Moses lived at New College from 2006-2010. Since then, he has become the founder and CEO of Xendit, one of the fastest growing payment companies in the world. In recognition of this incredible achievement, Moses received the 2020 UNSW Alumni Award for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

When asked how UNSW helped him on his start-up journey, Moses commented, "New College gave me a family away from home and a license to just be me. These are my best friends, these are the people who made me into who I am today".



## Wangari Muchiri | Steve Sawyer Memorial Award



Wangari was one of NCV's foundation residents, living in the community from 2009-2013. She is now based in Kenya, working as a renewable energy engineer. In 2020, Wangari was named the inaugural recipient of the Global Wind Energy Council's (GWEC) REvolutionaries: Steve

Sawyer Memorial Award. This award was established in honour of the GWEC's late CEO, Steve Sawyer, and is intended to empower young pioneers of renewable energy in developing countries. The prize includes financial support, study opportunities, and media promotion.

## Nanak Narulla | 2021 Rhodes Scholar



The Rhodes Scholarship has been offered since 1902 to enable young people from outside the UK to undertake full-time postgraduate study at Oxford University. Nanak Narulla, who lived at New College from 2012-2013, has been fortunate enough to be selected for the 2021 intake. Nanak has been

working as an Associate at the Boston Consulting Group. He intends to study a Bachelor of Civil Laws and a Master of Science in Environmental Change and Management at Oxford University to equip him for future work as an environmental lawyer in the fields of climate change and sustainability.

## Hayley Pollock | 2021 ACN Emerging Nurse Leader



Hayley (NC 2014-2016, NCV 2017-2018) is in her final year of a Bachelor of Nursing at Swinburne University of Technology, and she has recently been selected as a 2021 Stage 1 Emerging Nurse Leader by the Australian College of Nursing. The program runs for 9 months and involves leadership activities,

conferences, mentoring, and career coaching. Hayley is excited to get to know the broader nursing profession and learn more about leadership in healthcare.

## Dr Sam Wills | Advance Awards Emerging Leader finalist



Sam (NC 2003-2005) is an economist, with a particular interest in helping countries better manage their natural resource wealth. He is a former John Monash Scholar at Oxford University, and he now holds external research positions at the Universities of Sydney, Oxford and ANU. The

Advance Awards recognise Australians who have made an international impact in industry sectors that are of national significance. In 2020, Advance.org named Sam a finalist in their Emerging Leader category for his work in developing a new way to measure poverty; responding to the 2008 financial crisis; and managing the Norwegian Sovereign Wealth Fund. 

# MAYURI SENGUPTA

## Gender and forest management



Dr Mayuri Sengupta lived at NCV from 2010-2013 while completing her PhD in Development Studies. We caught up with Mayuri and asked her a few questions about her life and work.

### *Where did you grow up, and how did you decide to study at UNSW?*

I was born and raised in Kolkata, India. After completing high school, I was lucky enough to gain admission to Lady Shri Ram College (University of Delhi) in BA (Hons) Political Science. I later completed my MPhil in Political Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

While in the final year of my MPhil program, I applied for the Australian Leadership Award Scholarship in the hopes of completing a PhD at UNSW. There were two major reasons for this: UNSW is a GO8 university of world repute, and I knew that Prof Duncan McDuie-Ra (my eventual PhD supervisor), taught there. He is well known in my

field of research. Fortunately, in 2010 I was awarded both the Australian Leadership Award and the Endeavour Postgraduate Award. I chose the latter.

### *Why did you choose to live at NCV? What did you enjoy about your time there?*


Living at NCV was my priority for many reasons. I wanted to stay close to UNSW and NCV is very well-maintained in terms of cleanliness and security. It also provided an avenue for peer engagement through a range of activities. I remember spending hours playing table tennis with my husband – memories that make us nostalgic even today!

### *What was the focus of your PhD? How did you become interested in this topic?*

My doctoral dissertation examined the lived experiences of an Indigenous community in rural northeast India throughout a state-led development project. I critically analysed these experiences through the lenses of gender, migration and changing ethnic identity. I have a keen interest in vulnerable and marginalised people and how they are impacted by a range of developmental and environmental changes.

### *What have you been doing since finishing your PhD and leaving NCV?*

Post-PhD, I took leave from research to care for my toddler and I looked for a postdoctoral fellowship. I was extremely fortunate to receive the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Canadian Government. From 2017-2019, I was the Principal Investigator of a research project that examined the challenges of ensuring meaningful inclusion of Indigenous women in northeast India in participatory natural resource management projects that aim to deliver forest conservation and women's empowerment.

Currently, I am in Brisbane with my family. The global pandemic has made it a tough year for the university sector. I am utilising this time to prepare grant applications for my next research project, which is a multi-sited ethnography on Indigenous women and participatory forest management in Australia's Wet Tropics and India's northeast. 





# KARIM HADDAD

## Improving lives with knives

Throughout his life, Karim Haddad (NC 1988-1990) has been guided by one simple philosophy: do things that make you more human, rather than less. This principle has led Karim on a remarkable journey from IT to outdoor education to running the largest bladesmithing school in the world. Karim recently shared his story with *New 'n' Old*, and then with the rest of the New College community at the 2021 Easter Formal Dinner.

Karim arrived at New College in 1988 having moved from Canberra to study Business Information Technology at UNSW. His time at College was a “great big adventure” where he learnt to “jump in boots and all” to everything the community had to offer.

At graduation, Karim was on track to join the rapidly expanding computer industry but he quickly realised that life behind a desk was not for him. In a gutsy move, he turned down a graduate IT job with an eye-watering salary to become a group instructor at Outward Bound, an outdoor education organisation.

Why this particular left turn? When Karim was in Year 11, he was profoundly impacted by a school camp experience. His camp group was rock climbing and Karim was struggling to reach the top. But even when his classmates had finished the activity, Karim’s instructor waited with him until he finished it as well. It was a simple gesture but it impressed upon Karim the power of encouragement and the importance of perseverance.

Karim eventually became CEO of Outward Bound and then in 2008 took a job with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. In his spare time, he consulted on leadership education for the President of Madagascar and the Sultan of Oman, and clocked up nearly 30 years with the Rural Fire Service.

So where does the knifemaking come into it? In 1995, while Karim was working at Outward Bound, he met Master Bladesmith Thomas Gerner. He began learning the craft and found it to be hugely satisfying. Despite Karim’s best efforts in leadership education, he knew that people rarely change quickly, if at all. Bladesmithing was the opposite – wood and metal were transformed into functional, beautiful tools before his eyes.

Karim brought his newfound passion back home, and in 2003 he opened up Tharwa Valley Forge and began to teach classes. At its core, Karim was doing what he had been doing all along: helping people to see that they are capable of more than they think. As Karim says, knifemaking is a tangible, daily reminder that you are useful, clever, and valuable.


Tharwa Valley Forge now runs 350 classes a year, and the Forge works with people from all walks of life including veterans, first responders, and people with disabilities.

Karim is humble – when he talks about his career, he only hints at the fantastic stories and adventures he has collected over his decades in outdoor



A. *Rabble and Scum Revue* band, 1990. Karim is 3rd from the left.

B. Karim Haddad and Tom Chin at Easter Formal Dinner in 2021.

education and craftsmanship. This is because what drives him is not kudos but social impact: “As soon as I’m chasing what I want, it’s not going to happen. But if I help other people feel successful, confident and competent, then I will feel that [too].” For Karim, the purpose of life is to leave the world in better shape than he found it. And whether he is running school camps or knifemaking workshops, he strives to do that by bringing each person he meets into deeper connection with their humanity. 

# UNSW HEROES AT NCV



Sometimes, clothes shopping is a lose-lose situation. You go to the shops, wander around for hours, try on all the wrong items in a poorly lit changing room, and come home empty-handed. Or you brave the online shopping world only to end up with something three sizes too small that costs more to return than it did to buy. Is there another way?

NCV resident

Jagdeeshwar Gupta (top centre above), NCV alumna

Janvi Sheth (NCV 2019-2020,



bottom centre above), and four other

UNSW students certainly thought so. Their solution saw their team, The Technocrats, win the UNSW Hero Program competition.

The UNSW Hero Program equips students with key graduate skills such as innovation, entrepreneurship, critical thinking, problem solving, and confidence. The program achieves this via workshops facilitated by industry leaders; volunteer work experience; and the 'intrapreneurship project'.

For this 'intrapreneurship project', Jagdeeshwar, Janvi and the rest of the team worked with an industry mentor for two weeks to create and pitch a service improvement idea. The Technocrats developed the 'Erised' app, smart mirror and smart checkout. The shopping experience goes like this: customers download the Erised app, create an avatar and virtually try on different outfits tailored to their taste, body type and current trends. App users then either purchase items online or book a time to visit the store in-person. In store, customers use a smart mirror with an interactive display to virtually try on the outfits they selected at home before physically trying on the clothes. When they're ready to purchase, customers bring their clothes to the smart checkout, which automatically scans the items.

To showcase their idea, The Technocrats created a video and a report, which they submitted to a judging panel that included representatives from IBM, Engineers Australia, and Deloitte. The judges were so impressed by The Technocrats' solution that they awarded the team first place.

Jagdeeshwar said, "It was a great experience, and I encourage others from NCV to get involved in the program and improve their profile".  



# SAM HILE

## Cutting edge quantum mechanics



An ion-trap qubit device at the University of Sussex.

Sam Hile (NC 2008-2010) is a Research Fellow at the University of Sussex in the UK, working at the cutting edge of quantum computer research. We asked him a few questions about his work.

*How did you become interested in quantum mechanics? What do you love about it?*

I've always wanted to understand how things work. Quantum mechanics, in particular, takes that to the extreme – how does a single subatomic particle work? In trying to figure out how things work at this level, you do, at some point, hit the boundary of metaphysics where the 'how?' becomes a 'why?'. But what's interesting to me is to go in a more concrete direction and think about what sorts of nifty things we can engineer given our knowledge of quantum mechanics. This is where I've chosen to work – pursuing the idea of a quantum computer.

*Tell us about your PhD research and the experience of working at the UNSW Centre for Quantum Computation & Communication Technology (CQC2T).*

During my PhD, I worked in a team focused on 'precision qubits'. This meant building, literally atom-by-atom, a bespoke nanometre-sized electrical circuit, connecting it up to some rather fancy electronics, and examining how the thing behaved. The goal was to make a well-behaved quantum

mechanical equivalent of a single binary bit, which we managed to do. "The Centre", as we called it, was a fantastic place to work and to learn. It's a mix of physicists and electronic engineers, it's very internationally diverse, and it's also very egalitarian – as a PhD student I always felt like I was on equal footing with more experienced research staff.

*What is the focus of your current research? Is there anything you're particularly excited about?*

At the moment, I'm working at the University of Sussex in the UK, still doing quantum computing research, but on a different technology platform. The qubit devices at UNSW are 'solid-state' things. In some ways this is great – they tend to behave in exactly the same way day in and day out, and they're difficult to damage (once I dropped one and found it the next day stuck to the sole of another guy's lab booties – it was fine!). But, on the other hand, this meant that if something wasn't right you had to go back to the beginning and make another device. The 'ion-trap' devices I'm working with now have a much more dynamic system. So my research focus is around how to configure and operate the qubits rather than on how to make them in the first place.

The field of quantum computing is still pretty immature, despite all the hype, but progress is definitely accelerating. I'm really excited to see what kind of qubit technology will take the lead in the end and to see what sorts of as-yet-undreamt-of applications we will find in addition to the many tasks we already know they'll be good for. ■ (AD)

# NEW WEDDINGS

## Marriages



### Ed Hannah and Amelia Fletcher

Ed Hannah (NC 2011-2014) and Amelia Fletcher had a truly 2020 wedding day. The ceremony took place at Wild St Anglican Church, Maroubra, on 1 May 2020 amid severe COVID-19 restrictions. This meant that, sadly, very few friends and family were able to join them and their reception was cancelled. Despite this, Ed and Amelia are thankful to God for their marriage, the safety of their families, and God's work to enable them to keep the promises they made before him that day.



### Anna Fernon and Andrew Ham

Anna Fernon (NC 2012-2014) and Andrew Ham were married on 25 July 2020 at St Michael's Cathedral in Wagga Wagga. The ceremony was followed by a reception at Anna's family home. Andrew is not a New Collegian - rather, he went to Warrane! - but the two met while Anna was living at College. Their small wedding was intimate and beautiful, and it reminded them how lucky they are to be surrounded by so many loving friends and family members, many of whom Zoomed into the ceremony on the day.



### Henry Bell and Amy Turner

Henry Bell (NC 2015-2017) and Amy Turner said their vows on 5 December 2020 at St Mark's Darling Point. Their reception took place at the picturesque Gunners' Barracks. Two of Henry's New College friends took part on the day: Jonathan Stacey (NC 2015-2017) prayed for the couple and Sally Boardman (NC 2015-2017) was their photographer. For Henry and Amy, the day was a wonderful blur filled with joy as they celebrated their marriage with friends and family. They were thankful for God's kindness in giving them such a happy day amid COVID-19.





### Luke Blanch and Caitlin Matthei

Luke Blanch (NC 2018-2020) married Caitlin Matthei on 18 December 2020. The ceremony was held at St Clement's Anglican Church in Mosman, followed by a reception at the Prince Henry Centre at Little Bay. Many New Collegians took part on the day, including Emily Blanch (NC 2016-2017) as bridesmaid, Noah Larratt (NC 2018-present) as groomsman, and David Twohill (NC 2019-2020) as Bible reader. Luke and Caitlin were thankful for the large number of witnesses they had in person and online; for the ability to sing together (albeit masked); and for the opportunity to start their marriage on the foundation of God's love.




### Sarah Clark and Ryan Woodford

Sarah Clark (NC 2015-2016, 2018) and Ryan Woodford tied the knot on 2 January 2021 at St Edwards of the Riverina in Wagga Wagga. Annabel Wyatt (NC 2014-2017) and Charis Guilfoyle (NC 2017-2018, 2020) took part on the day as bridesmaids, and Sally Boardman (NC 2015-2017), Harris Loxton (NC 2017-2019), and Kaspar Fiebig (NC 2015-2017) read the Bible and prayed. Sarah and Ryan had a wonderful day and were thankful for the opportunity to share their Christian faith with their friends and family.

## NEW FAMILIES

### Alice Lang and Nicholas Spencer

Alice Lang (NC 2006-2010) and Nicholas Spencer were very excited to welcome Harcourt (Harry) Christopher Spencer on 24 May 2020, who weighed in at 2.7kg. 



### Jonathan Stacey and Karina Sholl



Jonathan Stacey (NC 2015-2017) and Karina Sholl (NC 2019) were married on 16 January 2021 at St Matthias Anglican Church in Paddington. This was the same church where both sets of parents were married, of whom 3 out of 4 are alumni themselves! The couple had lots of New College representation on the bridal party including Nick Stacey (NC 2014-2015), Mitch Kingsland (NC 2016-2018), and Kaspar Fiebig (NC 2015-2017) as groomsmen, and Ebony Jolliffe (NC 2018-present), Kate Stacey (NC 2020-present), Maggie Tugwell (NC 2016-2019) and Lucy Sholl (NC 2021-present) as bridesmaids. The reception was held at Horizons Maroubra, and the weather was so lovely that many guests went to the beach after the lunchtime reception!

# MID-AUTUMN FESTIVALS



## NCV

The Mid-Autumn Festival was organised with the objective of celebrating the diversity of NCV residents. It was the first time we had celebrated it in NCV's history and residents clearly enjoyed themselves. Ethnically Chinese residents were happy to be able to bring a piece of home to NCV. For others, it was an opportunity to learn about different cultures. NCV residents from various regions gave a short presentation covering the festival's history, significance, and traditions. This ended with a game of Chinese riddles (by Jenny Chen). Mooncakes and Tang Yuan (made by the NC kitchen!) were just some of the Asian delicacies served. A special thanks to the supporting committee: Heidi Foo, Cathleen Lee, Zoe Ong, Jenny Chen, Grace Zhang, Cassie Zhuang, Ian Chen, and Wah Guan Lim.

– Nailah Masagos  

## NEW COLLEGE

At our 'Chuseok' celebration, we ate mooncakes and other traditional food, looked around at the beautiful lanterns, and played a traditional Korean board game called 'Yutnori'. In Korea, we usually play this game with our families at Chuseok.

I really enjoyed introducing everyone to this traditional Korean game. Everyone played really well and I was happy to see them having fun!

I think this festival was a really good chance to celebrate the holiday and share my cultural traditions, especially now, in such a difficult time. This event was a really fun and meaningful time, with local and international students feeling refreshed and enjoying different cultures.

– Euna (Eden) Oh  



# END-OF-YEAR DINNER

**O**n Saturday 14 November 2020, NCV celebrated the end of the year with a Formal Dinner and afterparty.


It was a great evening with reflections from the Master, the Dean, Hayden Farrell, and Amreen Badani. The audience were also treated to two musical performances – Noelle Sze on piano, and May Gao on violin.

Congratulations to Jayne O'Connor who won the NCV Award, and to Alison Jiang who received the NCV Service Award.

This is what the Dean of Residents, Susan Bazzana, had to say about each of the award winners:

*Jayne has exercised widespread community leadership during the three years she has lived with us. She has organised events such as Spa Night, 4th July and other events in previous years. In 2019 and 2020 she coordinated and promoted the clothing drive which has ensured we have been able to recycle a ton of clothing. Jayne has presented multiple times on topics related to her*

*PhD at Research Community. She is full of ideas and often has conversations with me about ways she thinks we could improve the College or about people she thinks we need to look out for. She was an enthusiastic participant in community life from the day she moved in and has continued to be so.*

*Alison was nominated by multiple people who have been impacted by her establishing the Females Fitness Group. This must be one of the groups that meets the most regularly among all of the building's ongoing activities (and at some ridiculous hour of the morning when most of us are still sleeping!). Alison has played a leading role in the group: structuring workouts, organising dumbbells and weights—inspiring our girls to a healthier lifestyle! This is especially important in times of COVID: when outdoor activities were not encouraged in the beginning phases of the pandemic and people felt cooped up inside the building, the Females Fitness Group allowed our residents to stay healthy and well within the walls of our own building!* 





# NCV COMMUNITY LIFE AT NCV

- A. Malaysia Night
- B. NCV Senior Residents celebrating the end of the light rail construction (with cake made by the NC kitchen!).
- C. Eid celebration
- D. Christmas in July
- E. Mental Health Weekend activities, including art therapy.
- F. Research Community with alumnus Dr Hugh Miller
- G. NCV Halloween party







**E**

SAT  
24.10  
2 PM

THE NCV  
HUMAN  
LIBRARY

Every one of us is a walking human book of experiences and we can learn so much from one another by practicing active listening.

Come participate as a human book as we debunk stereotypes and share our unique stories!

MENTAL HEALTH WEEKEND

SUN  
25.10  
2 PM

ART THERAPY ON THE TERRACE

Afternoon tea: Snacks, Tea & Coffee provided


Engage in mindfulness through a guided art session.





# 2021 NCV O'WEEK

# O'Week

Like many things in life at the moment, O'Week in 2021 looked a little different to normal. But, as usual, the Colleges welcomed new students and had lots of fun along the way. Here are a few highlights from the NCV and New College O'Weeks. 





# 2021 NC O'WEEK






# CORONA BALL



After months of planning, New's very first 'Rona Ball was held within the walls of College after the 'normal' annual Ball had to be postponed due to COVID. While it was disappointing to cancel our booking in Darling Harbour, we heard the excitement of Jonathan and Bill as they told us that holding the Ball at College was actually the norm in years gone by. We were definitely even more interested when they told us Ball had "attracted fame such as Midnight Oil!". So, we began the search for our very own act of fame. We petitioned Timomatic for weeks but, unfortunately, his hourly rate of \$10 000 just didn't seem economically viable. So we continued to brainstorm ways in which we could make the event distinguishable from a Formal Dinner. This felt particularly important as we were required to hold it in the Dining Hall/MCR, and could not allow free dancing under COVID restrictions.

After tireless efforts from maintenance, kitchen staff, and the NCSA, the downstairs space looked almost unrecognisable - filled with fairy lights, candles (fake, don't worry) and table foliage. A highlight of the night was the ex-collegian band that very generously played three sets for us, the last one being compulsory fresher dances. We also included a College-related Kahoot (somehow the ex-col band members almost won?). The night wrapped up with a comedy set from alumnus Rowan Thambar - his jokes definitely landed amongst the community. The night was a huge success (bar the fire alarm evacuation), and it felt surreal to hold such a significant event amongst the chaos and uncertainty of COVID. So, whilst we're hoping it won't become an 'inaugural' Corona Ball, we feel pretty prepared for whatever comes our way!  
- Meagan Davis, 2020 NCSA President 







# VALEDICTORY DINNER



**T**ying up one of the most unusual years in the College's history, New Collegians gathered for their annual Valedictory Dinner on 20 November 2020. The evening was full of College talent – musical items, eloquent speeches, and lots of award winners. It was also a time to welcome the election of new leaders in the community, including the 2021 NCSA President Arthy Mukunthan and the 2021 NCCF President Matthew Chapman. 

Congratulations to the following award winners:



Recipient	Residency
New College Award (Academic)	Daniel Larratt
New College Award (Service)	Hannah Dunn
Collegian of the Year	Sam Holford
Service Award	Marco Alberto
	Thomas French
	Belinda Parry
	Nicholas Perera
Matt Giblin Award	Caleb Champion
Mick Braund Award	Anna Ryan
Steph Frewin Award	Courtney Mallon
Subcommittee of the Year	Caleb Champion & Alan Chen (Shop)
Sportswoman of the Year	Selina Chan
Sportsman of the Year	Harrison Blake
Most Inspirational Sportswoman	Rachel Pierotti
Most Inspirational Sportsman	Darcy Allen
Volleyball	Rachel Pierotti
	Micah Wang
Basketball	Kate Stacey
	William Morphet
Netball	Paige Sedgwick
	Connor Day
Soccer	Adrienne Thackway
	Andrew McColl
Touch Football	Annie Fotheringham
	Tairon Zhang
Ultimate Frisbee	India Jolliffe
	Caleb Champion






# REVUE: THE UNFORESEEN



**A**fter a series of 'Unforeseen Circumstances', New College's 2020 Revue appeared on stage from 29-31 October. In a script written by directors Charlie Lowe and Arthy Mukunthan, four producers and one super-genius scientist made their way through the decades to try to save their production from being cancelled (as many were during COVID-19). Scattered throughout the program were a series of skits, ranging from the lives of PIXAR letters to Irish students complaining about their exam experiences. There was a talented instrumental ensemble and a set of bands organised by MusicSoc, as well as an incredible team of dancers coordinated by DanceSoc. Producer Paige Sedgwick's tireless work was key to making this event as amazing as it was. All in all, New College's 2020 Revue was a brilliant example of what collegians can produce during a year like 2020.

– Arthy Mukunthan, Revue Director 










# PLAY: THE GREAT GATSBY



Directors (Charlie Lowe and Idhika Sahi) and Producers (Chloe Bobbin and Jessie Du).

It was wonderful to see the annual New College play return after a sad COVID-19 cancellation in 2020.

From 8-10 April 2021, the breathtaking glamour and decadent excess of the Jazz Age came to life in Barry Lowe's stage adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel *The Great Gatsby*.

Directors Charlie Lowe and Idhika Sahi, and producers Chloe Bobbin and Jessie Du, in collaboration with the amazing cast, crew and band, transported the audience into the glitz and glamour of 1920s New York high society. But, as the play went on, it became all too clear that underneath this veneer lay obsession, greed and duplicity – the product of deep disenchantment with the American dream. Thanks to the hard work of all involved, New College's *The Great Gatsby* was a haunting and compelling production. 

## Main Cast

**Nick Carraway** – Joshua Clift

**Jay Gatsby** – Joey Ellery

**Daisy Buchanan** – Olivia Hayes

**Tom Buchanan** – Sam Holford

**Jordan Baker** – Audrey Varghese

**George Wilson** – Joshua Spratt

**Myrtle Wilson** – Amy Williams

**Meyer Wolfsheim** – Brendan Pierotti







# 2020 NEW COLLEGE LECTURES

## Family and Faith in a Multicultural Society



From 23-25 September 2020, Professor Patrick Parkinson joined the New College Communities to deliver the 34th annual New College Lecture series on 'Family and Faith in a Multicultural Society'.

It was an unmistakably 2020 event. There was livestreaming, masks, plenty of hand sanitiser and, of course, the lecturer spoke not from the New College podium, but from Brisbane.

Patrick Parkinson is a Professor at the TC Beirne School of Law at the University of Queensland (and at the time of the Lectures was also the Academic Dean and Head of School). He is a specialist in family law, child protection, law and religion, and the law of equity and trusts. Prof Parkinson served from 2004-2007 as Chairperson of the Family Law Council, an advisory body to the federal Attorney-General, and chaired a review of the Child Support Scheme in 2004-2005. He was President of the International Society of Family Law from 2011-2014. He is also well-known for his community work concerning child protection. In 2009, Prof Parkinson was made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to the law and to legal education. In 2018, he was awarded a Doctor of Laws by the University of Sydney for his book, *Family Law and the Indissolubility of Parenthood* (Cambridge University Press, 2011).

Prof Parkinson's first lecture, 'Family', took attendees on a whirlwind tour of the history of marriage, de facto relationships, and divorce in Australia. Bringing the audience up to the present, he explained that now, unlike any time previously,

marriage, in a legal sense, doesn't matter. The legal status of religious and civil marriages, and registered and de facto relationships is identical – "all roads lead to Rome". Along with this, has come a declining rate of marriages in Australia.

Using a variety of data, Prof Parkinson proposed that this shift away from marriage as the foundation for family life in Australia has disrupted children's access to safe, stable and nurturing families. This, in turn, has likely had a profound effect on young people's mental health.

He concluded,

*Australian society, like other Western societies, is charting its own course with a rather confused idea about what marriage is and why it is that de facto relationships should be treated as equivalent to marriages ... The challenge for public policy is to work out how better to support children with safe, stable and nurturing families ... The problem of family instability is one of the greatest challenges of our time.*

In his second lecture, Prof Parkinson turned to another great challenge in Australian society – religious freedom. He argued that ongoing erosion of freedom of association, freedom of speech and freedom of conscience were indirectly but disproportionately affecting the freedom of religious expression.

Prof Parkinson then unpacked various reasons for this, including the inherent weakness of freedoms in the law, the social internet, inflation of the definitions of emotive words, weaponisation







of complaints procedures, ever-expanding categories of discrimination, and hostility towards granting religious bodies exemptions from anti-discrimination laws. Prof Parkinson was concerned that these developments would threaten the multicultural, multifaith nature of Australian society, and he called for a return to calm and reasoned policy debates in the national conversation.

Having “presented a rather dystopian picture” up until this point, Prof Parkinson used his third lecture to turn to the question asked by theologian Francis Schaeffer in 1976, “How should we then live?”. Prof Parkinson began by encouraging Christians to accept that society has changed and he warned Christians that the “desire to cling to power, whatever the cost, whatever the collateral damage, is misplaced”. Instead, he suggested that Christians should seek

to demonstrate the attractiveness and goodness of the gospel by turning inwards, building strong communities of faith in the local church, and then by turning outwards to serve their local communities. He suggested that Christians could particularly meet community needs by supporting the creation of safe, stable and nurturing families. He emphasised that Christians (and other faith communities) would need freedom of religion to retain their identity and provide this support. This, he believes, would be the key to living in a harmonious, multicultural and multifaith society.

If you would like to read or watch Prof Parkinson’s lectures in full, you can go to [www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au/lectures](http://www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au/lectures). There you will find links to the livestreamed lectures and to written transcripts published on ABC Religion & Ethics.  

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Adrian Russell – ARC Future Fellow



Last issue, we reported that alumnus Adrian Russell (NC 1993-1994) had been appointed Professor of Geo-technical Engineering at UNSW. Prof Russell's success continues, as in July 2020 he was named an ARC Future Fellow.

He received a grant of \$1.04 million for a project that aims to prevent mining disasters.

## Farewell Trevor Perrin



Trevor Perrin arrived at the New College Communities in 2015 and has been quietly but busily working as Maintenance Officer ever since. If something needed fixing or furniture needed moving, Trevor would

be on the job before you blinked. He is now taking a well-deserved break, retiring to the beautiful Port Stephens area. All the best, Trevor!

## The Arrernte Hanging



The Arrernte painting, which hangs in the Dining Room, has been one of the College's most distinctive visual features since 1992. The artwork was designed and created by a group of Indigenous women at Nungalinga College in Darwin. The painting symbolises the College's motto, 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom'. The artists had originally requested that the title of the hanging be displayed in their own language as well as in Hebrew, but this fact was only recently rediscovered during the process of documenting the College's history in 2019. In late 2020, the artists' wishes were finally fulfilled. The Arrernte hanging is now displayed with the New College motto in Arrernte, Hebrew, English and Latin.

## SR and RA Training Retreats



Each year during Prep Week, our RA and SR teams head up to the Central Coast for 3 days of intensive training. The program covers all kinds of topics, including communication, dealing with conflict, pastoral care skills, and self-care. Jenny Nixon, our Anglicare counsellor, also came along this year to deliver some of the training.

Another key part of equipping our Resident Advisers for their role is the Mental Health First Aid course. Over 2 days, students and staff from New College, Arundel House, Robert Menzies College, Morling Residential College and Warrane College came together to hear Stella Ladikos lead them through the material. The week finished up with a seminar on 'Managing Students in Distress', a CPR and First Aid course, and leadership training.



## Goodbye Danny Bale and Ryan Betbeder-Matibet

The New College Communities have been sad to say goodbye to two Systems Management Assistants and all-round tech extraordinaires in recent months. Danny Bale has made an exciting move to Goulburn where he is working as a high school music teacher, and Ryan Betbeder-Matibet is heading off to work as a data pipeline engineer. We wish them both the best!

## NCV Represents on UNSW Academic Board



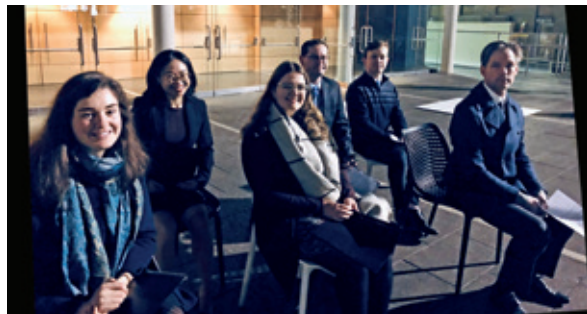
Saurabh Kaura (NCV 2019-2020) has been elected to the UNSW Academic Board as postgraduate representative for 2021-2022. Saurabh is studying a Masters of International Business and was eager to

serve the student community in leadership. His participation in other UNSW programs, including the Future of Change Scholarship, Graduate Student Association, UNSW Heroes Program, and Professional Development Program, placed him in great stead for taking on this position. In his position on the Board, Saurabh represents all the Masters students at UNSW. More recently, Saurabh has also been elected Councillor on the UNSW Postgraduate Council.

## New Role for Sahm Nasseri


Sahm Nasseri lived at New College from NC 2003-2006 and has since had a highly successful business career. After moving from strength to strength in Merck, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, Sahm has recently been appointed as CEO of PYC Therapeutics USA. This company particularly focuses on the development of new RNA technology to treat traditionally untreatable optical and Central Nervous System conditions.

## Inaugural UNSW Anzac Day Dawn Service



On Anzac Day this year, over 200 people gathered at the UNSW Scientia Lawn for the inaugural UNSW Dawn Service. The service was a collaboration between the UNSW Regiment, faculty and chaplaincy. Rev Carl Matthei delivered the invocation and Lt Col Garth Callender gave a powerful address, drawing on his personal experience of being wounded in combat in Afghanistan.

Many current and past members of the New College Communities attended and took part on the morning. Hannah Dunn (NC 2017-2020) recited the Anzac Requiem; Tom Chin (NC 2019-present) prayed for the students of UNSW; the Bible was read by Master Bill Peirson; Lucy Sholl (NC 2021-present) prayed for remembrance; and Ebony Jolliffe (NC 2018-present) laid one of the wreaths.

In addition to this, a UNSW choir sang 'Abide with Me' and this ensemble included the New College Dean of Residents, Jonathan Billingham; Adela Davis (NC 2014-2016); Emma Dunn (NC 2014-2016); and Alison Jiang (NCV 2020-present). 



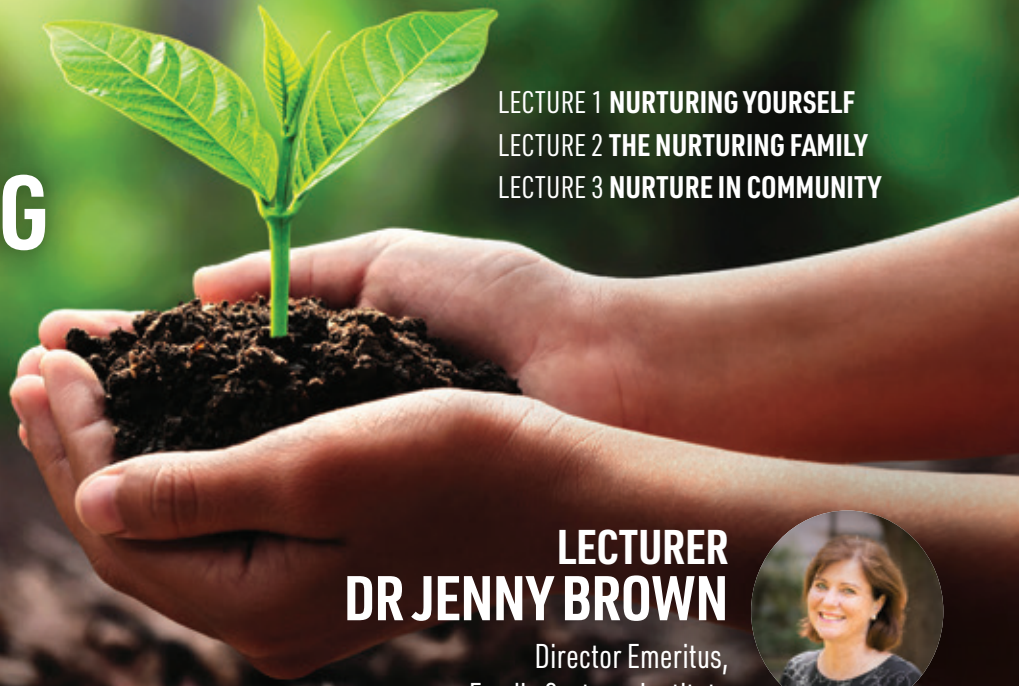


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## CASE BOOK LAUNCH

*Western Fundamentalism*  
by A/Prof Gordon Menzies, 3 May 2021

