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26 July 2022

To our 50th Anniversary Donors, Thank You!

It is only with the support of our donors that Burgmann College has been able to shine in the most challenging of circumstances. We are sincerely grateful for your support, which makes both a practical and meaningful impact to the lives of current and future residents, and to the future of the College. Thank you!

Celebrating 50 years of rich history

In 2021, Burgmann College celebrated 50 years as a respectful, inclusive and egalitarian academic and social community. We were fortunate to have commemorated this wonderful milestone with special events during the first half of the year, while we sadly had to postpone our 50th Anniversary Back-to-Burg Weekend to 19- 21 August 2022 due to the pandemic.

On 31 March, we commemorated the [anniversary of the laying of our Foundation Stone](#) (31 March 1968), giving all members of our community the opportunity to celebrate and reminisce on the rich history of the College while also looking towards our future.

College leadership, alumni, residents, staff and special guests attended, including ANU Vice Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt who paid tribute to Burgmann's 50-year history, sharing that Burgmann College was the 'best practice' model for residences at the ANU and said "*We are truly proud to have you as part of the ANU community.*"

At this event we laid out our vision for "[Building a Bigger Burgmann](#)", launching the new College [Master Plan](#) which envisages new innovative and modern spaces to enhance the unique residential experience Burgmann has always offered.



The place to become 1



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With the generous support of Burgmann residents who pledged \$100,000 from the Resident Building Levy, 2021 BRA President Isobel Kuo was delighted to launch our annual fundraising appeal for the Undergraduate Courtyard Redevelopment Project alongside President of the Burgmann College Alumni Association, Matthew Lobb.

Supporting one another through difficult times

While 2020 was possibly the most challenging year in the College's history, 2021 continued to deliver unparalleled challenges for our community, particularly in Semester 2. The Canberra snap-lockdown on 12 August required all residents to isolate in their rooms from 5.00pm, and while the restrictions eased somewhat over time, the lockdown continued until 14 October.

The spirit and resilience of our community shone through this period; our dedicated residents, staff, alumni and friends rallied to support one another. We delivered Luigi's hot scones with jam and cream to residents' rooms, installed hammocks on the back lawn for our residents' daily-outdoor-hour, and residents led events such as Zoom yoga, covid-safe gardening bees, and murder mystery nights to maintain social connection, wellbeing and community.

Establishing the College's Advancement Program

In 2021, the College appointed our inaugural Director of Advancement, solidifying the College's strong and ongoing commitment to its Advancement Program. Formerly a dedicated Deputy and Acting Principal throughout her five years with Burgmann, Ms Amelia Zaraftis was [appointed Director of Advancement](#) and commenced in May 2021.

In partnership with the Burgmann College Alumni Association, the Advancement Office worked to shape a vibrant and continuing Alumni Relations program, with a new events calendar, improved communications, and the launch of our Annual Alumni Awards program. Under Amelia's dedicated leadership, the College also commenced our Annual Appeal program and began the important work of building a major gifts program for Burgmann with a view to ensuring the future of the College for generations in perpetuity.

Alumni Awards a significant highlight in our 50th year

With pleasure, we announced the inaugural recipients of the [Burgmann College Alumni Awards](#). We are a community made up of amazing people, and we were incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements, commitment and compassion of our 2021 alumni, volunteer and staff recipients.



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Generous support from all parts of our community

We were thrilled and humbled that [one-hundred new donors](#) chose to support the College during our 50th anniversary year, contributing to the College's Annual Appeal and other priority areas including the New Beginnings Bursary, Residents' Hardship, and Principal's Priorities Fund.



The year also saw the rejuvenation of our workplace giving program, with 50% of our staff team contributing to the College's fundraising efforts. This phenomenal show of support from our staff exemplifies our workplace culture, with one staff member sharing that '*Helping others matters*' and another that their gift "*shapes the next generation of Burgmann residents.*"

In March, we were delighted to receive the final gifts in order to achieve the \$23,500 necessary for the inaugural purchases in our [First Nations Arts Initiative](#) collection. The generous support of donors enabled the College to purchase four remarkable works by First Nations artists. These included an exceptional photographic portrait of Ngambri Elder Dr Aunty Matilda House by the esteemed First Nations photographer Dr Brenda L Croft (Gurindji/Malngin/Mudburra Peoples; Anglo-Australian/Chinese/German/Irish heritage) which was shortlisted in the 2020 National Photographic Portrait Prize at the National Portrait Gallery and now hangs in the Grenfell Price Room.

By December, it was truly heartening to reach our ambitious \$100,000 goal towards the Undergraduate Courtyard Redevelopment Project, with special thanks to Global Philanthropic, StarRez and the Australian Bedding Company for their generous support. This project will see a major upgrade to our much-cherished outdoor social hub and barbecue space on the Back Lawn, connecting this area directly to the College Bar, Le Chat Noir, through a new link doorway.

Overall, with thanks to our generous donors, we raised **\$158,846** in 2021, allowing the College to make progress in supporting residents in times of hardship, supporting First Nations residents, honouring and celebrating First Nations artists, and improving future resident amenity.



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Our sincerest thanks for your support

Thank you for your support during our 50th Anniversary year. While 2021 was a challenging year for the College, and no doubt for everyone, our community triumphed and the Burgmann College spirit remained strong. As a not-for-profit College which aims to maintain an accessible fee structure, the support of our community is essential to the College providing its distinctive residential experience to the current and future generations of Burgmann residents, and to the *bigger Burgmann vision* we are building for the future.

Celebrations ahead, please join us!

Our rescheduled [50th Anniversary Back-to-Burg Weekend](#) is (finally!) on the horizon. We sincerely hope you will be able to join us for the celebrations on 19 – 21 August 2022. [Full program](#) details and registration information are available on our website.

Alumni Lost & Found – keep helping us to reconnect

We are working hard to ensure we reach as many Burgmann alumni, former staff & friends as possible to let them know about the 50th Anniversary celebrations. If you know friends, family or colleagues who are on [our lost lists](#), or who haven't heard from us for a while, please forward them this [update your details](#) link.

As a valued member of our community we look forward to keeping you updated and warmly thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Sally Renouf
Principal

Greg Mills
Chair of Council

Images:

Page 1: ANU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Brian Schmidt speaking at the Foundation Stone Commemoration Event, 31 March 2021.

Page 3: *Matilda (Ngambri)*, (2019). Dr Brenda L. Croft