



New'n'Old

2020 Edition 1

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



ISSN 1447-8161



UNSW
SYDNEY

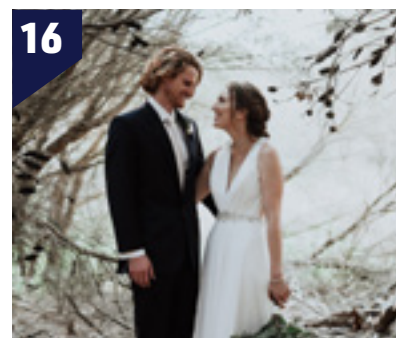
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Photography in this issue

Photography in *New 'n' Old* is primarily by New College staff, students and alumni. Special thanks to Marco Alberto and Amreen Badani.

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

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

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

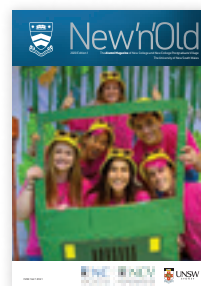
New 'n' Old is produced by New College at the University of New South Wales.

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.



Cover photo

The 2020 New College O'Week leaders: India Jolliffe, Alan Chen, Umair Ghansar, Abbey Slater, Melody Ranger, and Andrew Burvill.

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A Message from the Master

What a bittersweet time.

To some of us here in Australia, any sense of a pandemic may now seem very remote. However, while we have been spared any direct impact on present collegians, sadly, some in our community have lost close relatives to COVID-19. Our hearts go out to them and their families at this very difficult time.

February 2020 was a frenetic month as we developed and implemented community health management strategies while welcoming a huge influx of new residents. March and April continued at the same pace as we supported collegians and their families through decisions on whether to stay in College and how to best undertake their studies.

A special thank you to our Deans, Susan and Jonathan, for their patience and diligence as they worked through these issues. We should acknowledge our receptionists, Connie and Vicki, as they have patiently fielded many questions from anxious parents over the past few months. My Executive Assistant, Edwina, has also played a significant role. She worked with the team of collegians who took meals to residents isolated by minor illness or their parents' concerns.

Alumni reading this edition will be astonished by how bare our Colleges look. Social distancing has been an important part of protecting our residents. We are now gradually opening our Colleges up in response to New South Wales Government recommendations.

Despite all these complications, it has been a very special time. The Deans and I have been overwhelmed by the support that our Colleges have received from alumni, parents, and friends. And it has been delightful to see collegians care for each other over the past term.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Jacobs, joined us for our combined Commencement Formal Dinner. His vision for UNSW was inspiring and aligns well with our ambitions for our College communities. It was encouraging to hear him quote from Adela's history and get excited about our mission to help each and every young person who comes through our doors to flourish.



Professor Stephen Duckett (NC 1971-1972) joined us for a socially distanced Formal Dinner later in



the term. He addressed a sparse, enthusiastic group of residents just prior to us ceasing all large-scale events. Stephen has spent much time in the media commenting on social and medical policy over the past year. It was a privilege to welcome him back and have him exhort collegians to look after the most vulnerable in our society.

Just prior to going to press, we were delighted to hear that Moses Lo (NC 2006-2010) has been awarded the 2020 UNSW Innovation & Entrepreneurship Alumni Award. Moses can reflect with Joy (literally) on his time in College.

I am also delighted that Janet Simpson has agreed to take on the role of Board Chair. Janet and Ken have been warm supporters of College since their time at New. Sports Directors of many generations will share my pleasure in seeing a former NCSA Executive member take the reins of the Colleges' governing body. I look forward to working with Janet over the coming years.

Reflecting on a vibrant 2019 and this present bittersweet time, Ruth and I would like to say how much we continue to enjoy all of our new relationships with collegians and alumni. I finish by thanking Ruth for her patient support of me in my role within our communities.  

Adjunct Prof. William L. Peirson

From the INCOMING CHAIR



You could be forgiven for thinking that now is not a great time to become Chair of a non-profit Board—during a global pandemic and a national recession! However, it's been inspiring to see the way the New College Communities have risen to the challenge of COVID-19 and reflected the Colleges' ethos in acting decisively for the care and safety of both communities.

I am honoured to become Chair of the New College Board at this time. The Board plays a vital role supporting operations and resourcing both Colleges to become the premier family of university residential colleges in Australia. I want to thank my fellow Board Directors for their vote of confidence and support as together we serve our core mission and vision: to enable every one of our students to flourish.

I also want to pay tribute to the outgoing Board Chair, Bruce Morrison. Having discovered personal Christian faith in New College, Bruce remains a passionate supporter of the New College Communities. For the last twenty years, he has led with wisdom and conviction, working to advance the values and mission of the Colleges. Bruce and his wife, Michele, have regularly attended College events and enjoyed their three children thriving

at New College. Thank you, Bruce, for your exceptional service. I wish you every success in all that lies ahead.

As an alumna of New College, I know what a formative impact the residential experience can have. Like many, I had no idea what to expect of college life.

And while homesickness, Anzac Parade traffic noise, and water fights were at times challenging, New College introduced me to an exciting diversity of cultures, backgrounds, personalities, and experiences where enduring friendships were formed, including with my future husband, Ken. Most significantly, College gave me the opportunity to explore the claims of Jesus Christ and set me on a life path following him. After graduating, I worked as a social worker before taking time out of paid work to raise three children. Currently, I lead donor relations and fundraising at Anglican Youthworks and serve at Summer Hill Anglican Church.

Since joining the New College Board in 2014, I've gained insight into our Colleges, the sector in which we operate, the challenges we need to address, and the tremendous opportunities that lie before us.

Facing the uncertainty of the world's 'new normal', we have good reason for confidence in the future of these Colleges. Not only are the New College Communities being well led, but their effectiveness has been built on fifty years of cultivating academic excellence and pastoral care, underpinned by Christian faith and values.

As New College Communities alumni, our common bond of experiences enrich who we are today. We're privileged to have lived and learned here through both the highs and lows of life. Many of us have gone on to excel, inspire and serve in our chosen paths around the world. You are a part of New College Communities history—and an essential part of our future.

I look forward to working with the Master, the Board, and alumni to progress our strategic goals and equip future collegians to take their place as leaders, innovators, advocates, and change-agents in our world.

Thank you.

Janet Simpson

Bruce and Michele Morrison



Janet (centre) at New College in the 1980s.

LENT FORMAL DINNER

with Prof Stephen Duckett



On 18 March 2020, New College and New College Postgraduate Village (NCV) held their second combined Formal Dinner for the year, albeit with a much smaller crowd and much more social distancing.



The guest of honour was Emeritus Professor Stephen Duckett (NC 1971-1972), who has been the Health Program Director at Australian public policy think tank, the Grattan Institute, since 2012. He is also Emeritus Professor of Public Health at La Trobe University.


It was the first time since the 1970s that Prof Duckett had set foot in New College. The last time he was in the building, he was the 1972 NCSA President, having won the election on an 'Action Party' reform ticket. Duckett's administration successfully negotiated with the Board of Management to reduce the frequency of Formal Dinners to once per week. These were different times.

Prof Duckett delivered an engaging talk entitled "Hard lessons (or mistakes) along the way and how I now think about policy", drawing on experiences from the many senior healthcare leadership roles he has held in Australia and Canada over the last 35 years. His main piece of advice was to maintain a moral compass—to ground decisions in what is right and not necessarily what is most personally beneficial. He credited his mentor, Dick Scotton (one of the key policy advisers behind the Medibank program), with teaching him to "put yourself in the other person's shoes". This motto has shaped his determination to make changes that benefit all Australians, especially the most vulnerable in society.



Prof Duckett concluded his talk with a brief description of the work of the Grattan Institute. The Institute aims to shape people's thinking with "rigorous, independent and practical" research. They produce reports and then lobby ministers and the media to mobilise social action. Currently, the Health Program is addressing the sustainability of the private health insurance industry and is pushing for state climate action based on the recent bushfire season.



To complete the evening, Jagdeeshwar Gupta (NCV 2019-present) performed a wonderful rendition of John Field's 'Allegro moderato: Sonata Op. 1 No. 1' on piano, and Sneha Jayaprakash (NCV 2019-present) presented the vote of thanks. 

SARBESWAR PRAHARAJ

Building Smart Cities



More than half of the world's population lives in cities, and that proportion is projected to rise to 60% by 2030. Urbanisation brings economic growth, but also many problems if not done sustainably. India is one of the most rapidly urbanising countries in the world. New College Postgraduate Village (NCV) alumnus Sarbeswar Praharaj knows this well and is working to bring expert city planning knowledge to Indian city governments as they develop informed, resilient and smart cities.

Sarbeswar arrived at UNSW in August 2015, having just spent nearly three years as Assistant Professor of Urban Planning at Lovely Professional University. He has a particular interest in Smart Cities (cities that use data and technology to improve efficiency and sustainability). In 2015, India launched the Smart City Mission, a government project seeking to improve the liveability of 100 Indian cities with digital technology solutions. Sarbeswar saw an opportunity to help and so applied to undertake a PhD at UNSW, focusing on Smart Cities.

Moving to Australia meant finding somewhere to live, and Sarbeswar was "lucky and privileged" enough to discover NCV. The convenience of living on campus was attractive, but the main drawback was the chance to be immersed in university


culture. Sarbeswar has always enjoyed the academic environment, with its vibrancy and diversity of ideas. A residential community with a breadth of cultures, ages and research disciplines was a great fit. He appreciated discussing his research with fellow students, as well as spending time unwinding with friends. He has fond memories of floor suppers, courtyard barbeques and watching Australia-India cricket matches!

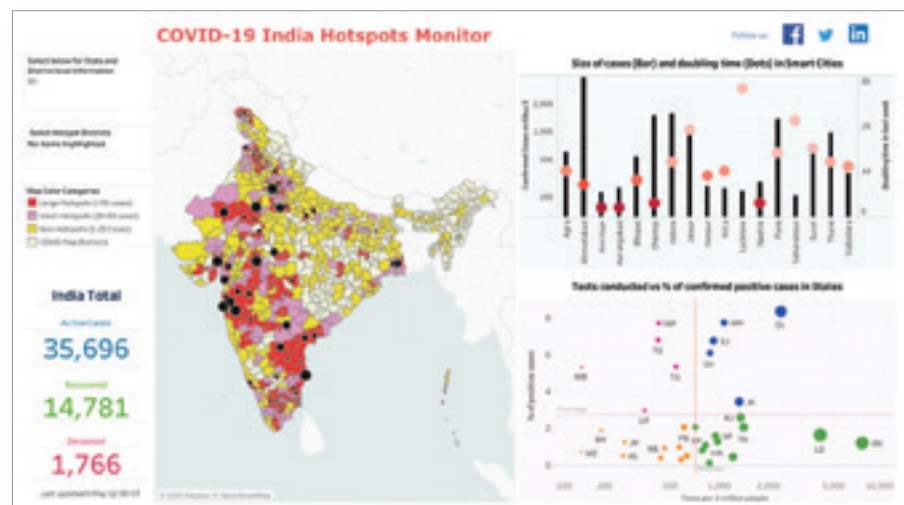
Sarbeswar left NCV in 2016, but continued work on his PhD until the end of 2018. His project had two primary focuses. The first was a quantitative analysis seeking to judge which factors best measure the quality of a city. The second was establishing the Australia-India Smart Cities Knowledge Network. Sarbeswar was particularly passionate about this because it fostered collaboration—something he views as a real strength of universities. Thanks to funding from the Australia-India Council, Sarbeswar organised several exchanges between Indian and Australian officials to share knowledge about urban development.

As Sarbeswar finished up his PhD, he began to work as a researcher in the

UNSW Faculty of Built Environment (FBE). As Manager of the City Analytics Lab, he transformed a huge repository of Australian city data into meaningful information. At this time, Sarbeswar also became Principal Investigator for a project called 'Making Cities Safer for Women and Children with Smart Technology', a partnership between an Indian app company, Korea's largest public corporation, and UNSW.

Sarbeswar was also responsible for expanding the FBE's relationship with India, which he achieved through the Pune Living Lab project, an initiative of the 'PluS Alliance' (UNSW, Arizona State University, and King's College London), seeking to develop Pune into a Smart City. Most recently, this work has taken him to a position as Assistant Research Professor at Arizona State University.

Sarbeswar is a researcher who understands the power of collaboration. It's a value that has driven his career so far and even his decision to live at NCV. It will no doubt serve him well as he continues to pursue sustainable development for cities in India and around the world. 



Sarbeswar has recently created a COVID-19 India Hotspots dashboard. It compiles real-time, micro-level information about the spread of COVID-19 in India and can be found at <https://public.tableau.com/profile/sarbeswar.praharaj>.

WAH GUAN LIM

NCV Fellow

Interviewing Dr Wah Guan Lim (NC 2002-2006) is a little bit like interviewing a celebrity. As we sit in the Dining Room, students say hello, he waves at people across the room, and he introduces me to the newest member of the catering staff. They're already friends, it seems. From what I can gather, not much has changed since Guan lived in New College as a student.

Guan's New College story started in the early 2000s when he was a high school student in Singapore. His results left him with few options for university at home, so he came to UNSW to study a Bachelor of Arts. Searching for accommodation that would allow him to meet local students, Guan applied for a few colleges and was accepted into New.

Over four years, he invested deeply into the community. He was involved in many aspects of College, but particularly enjoyed Revues and Music Nights. He always had friends in the kitchen – there is still a lot of affection between Dan Higgins, Moria Furby and Guan. He was also part of the first cohort to live on fourth floor when it opened in 2004. However, his greatest legacy was the way he fostered interactions between local and international students. Guan was 'social glue', pulling all kinds of people into friendship with each other.

When it came time to leave, Guan was possibly the most reluctant New College valedict ever. His final weeks were spent eking out his contract day by day...until the Dean and College Secretary gently reminded him that other students would need to move in.

Fortunately, exciting things awaited him. This self-confessed "bad exam-taker" headed off to Oxford University to complete a Masters in Chinese Studies. Next came the Ivy League—a Masters in East Asian Studies at Princeton and a PhD in Asian Literature, Religion and Culture at Cornell. These experiences served as the perfect gateway into academia, and Guan went on to spend several years as Assistant Professor of Chinese at Bard College, New York.



Guan with former New College Master, Dr Allan Beavis OAM.

In 2019, he returned to UNSW, taking a position as Lecturer in Chinese Studies. He continues to research identity formation in the Chinese-speaking world in the 1980s, viewed through the lens of theatre. A fun side-project



Guan's New College farewell picnic in 2006.

has been working as linguistic consultant for Kevin Kwan, author of *Crazy Rich Asians*, which became a highly acclaimed film in 2018. Although, he says, "the success of the book, unfortunately, has nothing to do with me".

The New College Communities have won out with Guan's return too. Since last year, he has been an 'NCV Fellow', living in the building and assuming pastoral and academic responsibilities. One of his most successful initiatives has been an English conversation group. Guan is multilingual, intimately understands the challenges facing international students, and is great company. Very quickly, this 'conversation class' became a 'life skills session', with residents not only growing in their confidence as English speakers but as young adults as well. For Guan, helping people connect is "second nature". He makes a compelling case: "Learning is not about a piece of paper...[and] you can only learn from people who are different from you".

The English conversation group now runs fortnightly, alternating with a 'Coffee Chat' in the New College Dining Room. In fact, we have scheduled this interview right before Coffee Chat begins. As the students trickle in, Guan is greeted with smiles and cheerful chatter. He immediately starts introducing me to his friends and offering around chocolate biscuits. He is in his element. 



SARAH DAVIES

Serving Around the Globe

1

Sarah Davies (NC 1990-1992) is a remarkable woman. She's spent twenty years bringing clean water and effective sanitation to places stricken by natural disaster, poverty and war; she's now completing a Masters in Public Health, focusing on environmental epidemiology; and in her spare time, she's competed in the Australian national rowing championships. With these experiences has come deep insight into privilege, the complexities of the humanitarian sector, and what it is to live a life in service to others.

Sarah grew up in Bomaderry, on the south coast of NSW. After receiving a Co-op Scholarship to study chemical engineering at UNSW, she moved to Sydney and was accepted into New College. Living at College was "one of the great times in [her] life". Sport was her passion – she happily recalls teaching people to row just days before the regatta – but she also enjoyed many other aspects of College life, including Revue, which she produced in 1992.

After graduation, Sarah began working with an engineering company that made water treatment equipment. This was not quite the chemical engineering career that she had envisaged, but she had been won over to water with the idea that it would help her "do something good for the world". She spent ten years working in the private sector, and in that time gained experience in research and development, and manufacturing, both in Australia and overseas. However, niggling away at her throughout the decade was the thought: "Is this it?"

Volunteering and service are "part of the DNA" of Sarah's family. Both of her parents have volunteered throughout their lives and this, combined with Sarah's Christian faith, means that service has always been a core value. Could she align her working life with her conviction to serve?

It was in this context that Sarah became aware of Australian Volunteers International, a program that matches skilled Australians with development projects in the Indo-Pacific region. An initial posting to

Flores, Indonesia fell through, but she used the time to complete a Masters of Engineering, and eventually made it to Fiji, where she lived for two years. While there, Sarah worked with an intergovernmental agency, providing water authorities throughout the Pacific with technical support.

During this time, Sarah encountered the work of the Red Cross. She applied for a job and was accepted in 2006 amidst a large recruitment drive following the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. Sarah went to Simuelue, Indonesia, an island that was very close to the epicentre of the earthquake. She was responsible for rebuilding wells and toilets, and for hygiene promotion.

After 15 months in Indonesia, Sarah applied to work in Chad with the International Rescue Committee. She describes the 18 months she spent there as "incredible", and you get the sense that she means it in the literal sense of the word – that it could barely be believed. Sarah lived in the Sahara Desert and worked in the Ouré Cassoni Refugee Camp, on the border of Chad and Sudan. This camp still houses thousands of refugees who fled Sudan due to the conflict in Darfur. She started out in water and sanitation as usual but was soon working as the field coordinator for the entire camp. This meant she also had responsibility for areas like health and hospitals, education, and gender-based violence. Reflecting on this time, Sarah feels she was very young to have such an "insane amount of decision-making power"; it was "like becoming the mayor of a village".

Sarah spent the next five years in Australia but as she was working for the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), she didn't stay in one place for long. In this role, she supported aid work in Asia and the Pacific. This took her, for instance, to Haiti, following the 2010 earthquake. In this time, she also "got a bit obsessed with rowing" (harking back to her New College days) and took a team to the 2014 Australian national championships.



2



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Sarah had worked with the Australian Red Cross and the IFRC, but she hadn't yet been involved with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which is the only branch of the Red Cross that works in active conflict zones. She applied for a job and in 2014 went to Syria for 18 months to assist with water, sanitation, and shelter.

Sarah lived on the west coast of Syria, which because of its relative wealth and safety, was seeing a huge influx of internally displaced people. This put significant pressure on infrastructure, and so Sarah describes her work there as "patchwork, keeping things going". This posting was impactful in a new way. As a middle income country, the stories of the people she met felt much closer to home. It was difficult to see people who seemed a lot like her, but who couldn't have the opportunities that she did.

Next came Sarah's "most frustrating" experience to date – 3 months in North Korea. She was recruited to assist with a community water and sanitation project in Kaesong, a city near the demilitarised zone. "The whole country is a façade" – Sarah was forbidden from seeing real living conditions, and every conversation was mediated by her translator and chaperone. Enacting change was like pulling teeth. With some relief, Sarah then went to Malaysia, where she coordinated the Red Cross Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) program. By the time she returned to Australia 15 months later, she was ready to try something different.

This led Sarah to enrol in a Masters of Public Health, associated with the French School of Public Health (EHESP). At the moment, she is based at the Australian National University (ANU), completing her thesis in environmental epidemiology. Sarah's

1. Vietnam - Sarah with the Vietnam Red Cross, helping with an evaluation visit after recent flooding, 2009.


2. Haiti - The Red Cross base camp set up after the 2010 earthquake.

3. Bangladesh - This was the first toilet for pupils ever built at this school in Bangladesh, 2017.

4. Chad - The water treatment plant that supplied the refugee camp of 22 000 people with drinking water, 2008. Photo by Jo Offer/IRC.

5. Syria - Sarah with one of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers, troubleshooting at a water pumping station, 2015.

project is analysing the potential relationship between socioeconomic status, bushfire risk, and incidence of disease. While unsure of exactly where this might lead, she is enthusiastic about the field and future possibilities.

Sarah has experienced things that most people in Australia never will. What's striking about speaking to her, however, is that she's not angry or judgemental. She accepts that there is no reconciling of the two worlds she inhabits. The struggles some people face are unfathomably removed from the privileges most of us know. Instead of blaming people or allowing the vastness of the problem to overwhelm her, she has learnt to focus on the goodness of small improvements in people's lives. For her, this has meant using her engineering skills for the humanitarian sector. For others, she believes the best place to start is by educating yourself, being open-minded, and listening to diverse points of view. Sarah is convinced that "in every walk of life, you have the possibility of doing good". 

HUMANS OF NCV

Photographer Brandon Stanton has been publishing people's stories on his hugely successful Facebook page, Humans of New York, for nearly a decade. Inspired by his work, NCV Senior Residents have started up their own 'Humans of NCV' initiative. The goal is to help residents get to know each other better and to share some of our wonderful personalities with the wider community. Here are snippets from two different Humans of NCV interviews. Check out the NCV Facebook page to see more!



Jayne O'Connor

PhD Law | NCV 2018-present | Buffalo, USA

Given the choice of anyone in the world, who would you want as a dinner guest?

Michelle Obama. She's so cool, smart, funny and accomplished – she just seems like she never messes up! I really admire her ability to overcome everything that she had going against her to make it work for her. She has also always felt confident enough in herself and valued herself


enough to be equal to Barack Obama. She's a role model for me on balancing strength and ambition with kindness and empathy.



Sneha Jayaprakash

Masters of Commerce | NCV 2019-present | Kerala, India

When was a time you had to be more optimistic?

I worked in an investment banking company in Bangalore, India for 6 months. I didn't like the whole experience as I was away from family and friends and lived in an apartment alone. Also, the job itself was quite mundane and I didn't have opportunities to speak to many people. I ended up quitting the job after half a year and moving back home. I had to be optimistic about the situation because it didn't look very ideal to others. Luckily, I received a lot of support from family. I am grateful that I have very supportive parents who always give me plenty of opportunities to try out different, crazy ideas. They make sure that I always live my life to the fullest. 



NEW COLLEGE
LECTURES

22-24
SEPTEMBER
7:30PM

FAMILY AND FAITH IN A
MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY



PROFESSOR
PATRICK PARKINSON AM
Dean of Law at the
University of Queensland

LECTURE 1
FAMILY

TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

LECTURE 2
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

LECTURE 3
AFTER CHRISTENDOM?

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NEW COLLEGE SHOP

A History

“Has anyone seen the shop key?” “What time is Shop open tonight?” “Can someone please come and open Shop?!”

Generations of residents have satisfied late-night cravings for sugary snacks at the New College Shop. Have a read of the best Shop stories and test how well you know your New College history...

1 1969: Open for Business

The New College Shop is almost as old as New College itself! A Shop Committee was formed in Term 1 of 1969, and Shop opened for business in Term 3. It was essentially a convenience store, stocking stationery, stamps, and basic toiletries, as well as snacks. In 1974, it also began selling College merchandise.

1981: Celebrity Sighting

In 1981, professional US tennis player Vitas Gerulaitis, winner of the men's doubles title at Wimbledon and the men's singles title at the December Australian Open in 1977, was practicing at the UNSW tennis courts. Feeling a bit thirsty after his training session, he stopped New College resident Kim Oliver (NC 1978-1981) and asked her where he could buy a drink. Oliver kindly brought him inside and gave him a drink from the College Shop!

2 1989: Aliases

In 1989, the New College Shop operated under various aliases such

as Mick's Bargain Basement, Dave's Discount Warehouse, Jo's Diet Drink Den, and Jude's Junk Food Emporium.

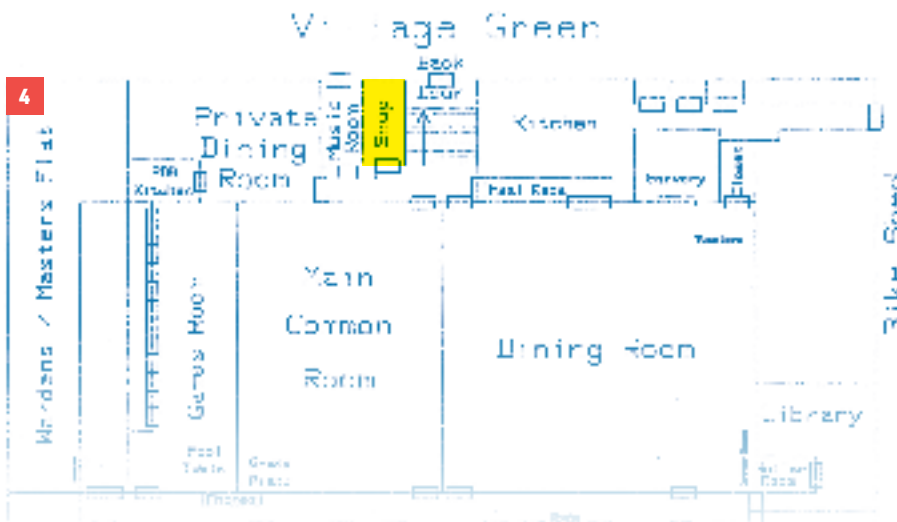
3 2007: The Award-Winning New College Shop

In 2007, the head of the Shop Committee was the enterprising Leonard Rowe (NC 2006-2009). He decided that Shop would be an ideal candidate for the Waverley Council Small Business Awards. The fact that New College is not situated in the Waverley Council district was no obstacle for Lenny, and neither, so it appears, was it an obstacle for the esteemed local MP Malcolm Turnbull, who presented the award. New College Shop of Randwick City Council indeed became the proud recipient of a Waverley Council Small Business Encouragement Award.

Location, Location, Location

It's not clear exactly where Shop was first located, but it's never stayed in one place for long.

- 4 In 1978, Shop moved to the eastern side of the ground floor (where the lift now is). In 1983, the Music Room was squished in next door.
- 5 In 1993 and 1994, Shop took over the old Computer Room and Library.
- 6 In 2010, Shop moved next to the shiny new Café!
- 7 Since 2019, Shop's home has been the courtyard. 📍 (A)



DANIEL HAGEMAN

New Adventures



Dr Daniel Hageman arrived at New College Postgraduate Village (NCV) in 2015. He had just moved from the United States and came to UNSW to undertake a PhD in Biomedical Engineering.

Along the way, he grew a deep love for the NCV community, and became both a Senior Resident (2016) and Assistant Dean (2017-2018). Daniel left NCV at the end of 2018, so we caught up with him to find out what he's doing now.

What did you love about the NCV community?

Where is one supposed to begin?! The community at NCV is unmatched in cultural, intellectual, and spiritual diversity. With a mixture of undergraduate and postgraduate students; a peer tutoring program across a wide range of academic disciplines; and a keenness for intellectual discussions, there was rarely a dull moment. The continuous influx of new residents, paired with the stability of long-term residents, allowed me to develop academically and personally in a way that I would not have been able to otherwise.

Were there advantages to living in a postgraduate community while working on your PhD?

There certainly were, starting with the easy access to fellow postgraduate students. The research seminars, run by the Senior Academic Tutor, provided a great casual and collaborative atmosphere for PhD students. Unfettered by the stresses present in our own academic departments,


we could express passion for our research endeavours, rather than worrying about answering questions correctly.

Beyond this, the general camaraderie was an invaluable resource. Whether looking for time management advice; commiseration; or just a listening ear for complaints about your steadily manifesting carpal tunnel, having a postgraduate community was without a doubt a huge advantage.

Tell us about your PhD. What did you research?

My PhD was in biomedical engineering and it had a two-fold focus. I undertook clinical research, seeking to mitigate the effects of secondary lymphoedema on breast cancer patients, and I worked on a project that sought to better 'visualise' the musculoskeletal system. This was done through the development of a human bone tissue 'Google Maps', which allows users to navigate the bone structure at the nanoscale.

What have you been up to since finishing your PhD?

I now work as a Field Medical Scientist in immunoncology for a pharmaceutical company in Chicago, Illinois. I interact regularly with leading medical oncologists, surgeons, and physicians at various academic institutions and major hospitals. I discuss current research with them and help them design and fund potential research projects. I'm lucky to be able to travel to conferences, interact with some of the brightest and most passionate minds in the field, and most of all, maximise the 'good' we can do in the world. Aside from that, visiting family and friends has been a top priority, as well as having a few Australian friends come and visit me! ▶ 





HILARY GEDDES

Award-Winning Jazz Musician

Photo by Matthew Waddingham

Hilary Geddes lived at New College from 2013-2014, while studying a Bachelor of Arts/Music at UNSW and then a Bachelor of Music Performance (Jazz Studies) (Honours) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Since then, Hilary's career as a jazz guitarist, improviser and composer has taken off—a recent gig write-up in *The Sydney Morning Herald* described one of her solos as “so ferociously raw and bluesy that it could certainly strip paint, and possibly kill off a virus”! With that kind of review, we had to ask Hilary a few questions to find out more:

How did you come to love music and decide to pursue it professionally?

I was lucky to grow up in a household that constantly had music playing in the background. My parents loved going to see live music and as a family we would travel to attend music festivals and concerts. The first concert I ever attended was The Wiggles and I started learning the guitar at age 6 in attempt to be like Murray (the Red Wiggle). In terms of pursuing it professionally, I don't think I quite committed to that in full until I was studying a Performance degree at the Conservatorium of Music. Being there opened up the myriad of possibilities of what could be created through improvisation and collaboration.

What did you enjoy about your time at New College?

I loved that there were so many opportunities to play music at College – from impromptu jams in the courtyard to putting on musicals and revues. I loved the camaraderie that came from these activities. I met so many wonderful people during my time at New College and it is the friendships that I cherish most from my time living there.


What are some of the musical projects you've been involved in since graduation?

In 2018, I performed at MONA as part of the Australian Art Orchestra Creative Music Intensive. I have also had the immense privilege of performing alongside some Australian jazz greats such as Mike Nock, Barney McAll and Ellen Kirkwood. I have become increasingly involved in the Sydney indie music scene and am the lead guitarist in the garage rock band, The Buoys.

In 2019, you received the Jann Rutherford Memorial Award. Can you tell us about that?

Named after the late jazz pianist Jann Rutherford, the Award aims to assist an outstanding young woman jazz musician who shows excellence in performance, improvisation and composition. Winning the award was a huge honour. It enabled me to write new music for my quartet and to premier it at the Sydney and Melbourne Women's International Jazz Festivals. I also had the opportunity to record my debut album for ABC Jazz, which still feels like a “pinch-me” moment! Titled *Parkside*, the album features all-original tunes that examine the temporality of place through episodic, self-contained works that act as an entry point into exploring the reflexive relationship of how our environments shape us and vice versa.

What is it about music that you love so much?

Music directly informs my ways of understanding and being in the world. I love how it is a medium for connection and expression, how it has power to connect people and (hopefully) bring joy. 

You can find out more about Hilary, her music and upcoming shows at www.hilarygeddes.com/.

TAMEKA LEE

Combating Climate Change in the Caribbean



New College Postgraduate Village (NCV) alumna, Tameka Lee, was the brains behind the one and only 'NCV Jamaica Night' in 2012. Now, she supports climate change mitigation and adaptation across the Caribbean. *New 'n' Old* asked Tameka to share with us about her time at NCV and beyond.

Tameka's plan to pursue post-graduate study arose while she was working as the Registrar at the Scientific Research Council in Jamaica. After much research, she discovered the Australian Aid Caribbean Scholarships, and was accepted into a Masters of Public Policy at UNSW.

"I ventured into what I call the unknown. It was my first time being away from home for such a long period – in a country where I had no friends nor family. It was liberating, to say the least!"

Tameka "immediately fell in love" with NCV when she visited it, and it only lived up to her high expectations:

"My stay at NCV was awesome! I enjoyed the connections and friendships made. I loved supper nights and floor socials ... The residents were kind and considerate."

Her fondest memory is running Jamaica Night, which lives on through present-day NCV Culture Nights. In 2012, Jamaica was celebrating its 50th year of independence and Tameka wanted to share her culture with the community.

"We approached John [Quinn, the Dean of Residents] ... and he loved and supported the idea. To my surprise, my flatmates and other friends in College also came on board to form the organising committee for the event. The event was a huge success – people performed cultural items from Jamaica, and we engaged a Jamaican restaurant to provide Jamaican meals. My fellow College mates ... and I choreographed and performed a dance to a medley of reggae songs, which stole the show."


After her "productive and epic" year at NCV, Tameka returned home to Jamaica to join the Caribbean Climate Innovation Center (CCIC). This is a World Bank and Government of Canada initiative that assists entrepreneurs with climate-smart business solutions. Tameka started out as the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and has since

become Program Manager.

Through her work at the CCIC, Tameka has offered business support to entrepreneurs across 15 countries. She has also initiated a Women in Business Mentorship Program, connecting businesswomen in the Caribbean with expert mentors across the globe. Tameka's other projects have included coordinating a 'Women in Green Business Bootcamp', developing virtual learning curricula, and consulting with the World Bank Group.

On the side, Tameka enjoys craft and has recently used this hobby to improve Jamaican waste management. Through 'KreativeLee Designz', she up-cycles bottles using acrylic paint and transforms them into décor pieces.

Tameka is carrying out important work as the need for clean-tech and sustainable businesses becomes increasingly urgent. It is wonderful that NCV was able to feature on this journey:

"NCV helped me to navigate university as well as Australia. Sweet memories". 



PHILIP PIGGIN

Advocate for Dance

Philip Piggin (NC 1971-1974) is not your typical professional dancer. He didn't start dancing until the age of 24—a development that surprised him most of all! Now, he is a keen advocate for bringing dance to everyone.

Philip arrived at New College in 1971 and he describes his four years as a resident as “formative” and “fulfilling”. For the first time, he met people from many different backgrounds, and he still appreciates that cultural activities, such as ‘Garden Night’, were so valued and respected. It was a joyful time, and so graduation was “a sad, significant moment”.

However, little did he know that he was about to discover a lifelong passion. Philip started teaching at a school in Kendall, NSW, and was invited by some of the parents to a few performances by the Margaret Barr Dance-Drama Group. He had no real background in dance, but these shows made him feel “like a duck brought up in the desert who suddenly discovers water”.

Determined to pursue dance, Philip began to train at the Victorian College of the Arts and various studios. Eventually, he landed a job with the Contemporary Dance Company in Sydney; a job he claims he was given because he was “a male and could stand on one leg without falling over”.

A few years later, Philip moved to the UK. While there, he worked in deaf and hearing classes, and as a Community Dance Animateur in Clwyd, Wales. He also started his own company, MEN DANCING, to

encourage, as you might expect, men to dance. These experiences were central in shaping his conviction that dance should be accessible for all.

Upon returning to Australia in 1994, Philip worked with various arts organisations in Albury-Wodonga and Canberra. Then, in 2010, he started as the Community Cultural Development Officer at Belconnen Arts Centre. One of his most fruitful initiatives has been running ‘Dance for Parkinson’s’ classes. This program was developed by an organisation in New York as a way of improving the physical and mental wellbeing of people suffering from Parkinson’s Disease. In these classes, Philip has the privilege of seeing music generate flow for people who can find movement challenging. He witnesses “glowing, glorious smiles”, and “beautiful bonds” between participants and their partners or carers.


Thanks to a 2014 Churchill Fellowship, Philip has also been able to transfer this program to other neurodegenerative disorders. These grants allow Australians to travel overseas to conduct research in a field that is not readily available in Australia, and Philip spent 10 weeks studying Dance for Parkinson’s in the US and the UK.

At the end of his trip, the “power of the arts to impact people positively” was more evident to him than ever. So, thanks to 3 years of funding from ACT Health, he launched ‘Dance for Wellbeing’, a program for people with Parkinson’s, dementia and multiple sclerosis. Although the government



Philip Piggin (centre) at the 1975 New College Ball.

funding has since ended, the Belconnen and Tuggeranong Arts Centres are pulling out all the stops to keep it going. Philip is eager to let the New College community know that they are welcome to drop in for a class anytime!

Driven by the “cultural doors” opened up at New College; a love for people; and an innate passion for dance, Philip is helping his community “engage body and mind” no matter their age or ability. 

NEW WEDDINGS

Marriages



Sarah Kanagaratnam and James Vigar

Sarah Kanagaratnam (NC 2009-2011) and James Vigar tied the knot on 16 November 2019 at St John's Anglican Cathedral, Parramatta. The ceremony was followed by a picnic reception at Moore Theological College, featuring Messina ice cream, Thai food and a coffee cart. They were grateful to be surrounded by so many friends, including Nicola Close (née Hicks; NC 2009-2011), who prayed during the ceremony, and Callan Pritchard (NC 2008-2010) who MCed the reception. Sarah and James were fortunate enough to have the wedding dress, sari, cake and decorations all made by family and friends!



Hamilton van Heeswijk and Jordyn Crossley

Hamilton van Heeswijk (NC 2014-2015) and Jordyn Crossley were married on 14 September 2019 at Lovedale Chapel in the Hunter Valley. They had an amazing day – the reception was one of the best parties the groom had ever been to! They were thankful to have a minister from the church where they first met officiate the ceremony, and to have New College friends in attendance, including Thomas Wilmot (NC 2013-2015) as groomsman.



Phil Holgate and Zita Hilvert-Bruce

Phil Holgate (NC 2005-2007) and Zita Hilvert-Bruce (NC 2008-2009) completed a New College trifecta when they said their vows on 14 December 2019 near Berry, on the South Coast of NSW. All three of the Holgate children attended New College and found other New Collegians to marry.

Photo L-R: Robbi Bishop-Taylor (NC 2009-2011), Elisa Holgate (NC 2010-2012), Chiara Holgate (née Callipari, NC 2004), Henry Holgate, James Holgate (NC 2004-2006), Zita Hilvert-Bruce, Phil Holgate, Wayne Holgate, and Elspeth Holgate.



Felicity Smith and Jeremy Smith

Felicity Smith (née Smith; NC 2009-2012) and Jeremy Smith were married on 14 December 2019 at St Thomas' Anglican Church, North Sydney, followed by a twilight reception at Little Bay. It was a beautiful and joyful day, celebrated with lots of family and friends. Many New Collegians were involved in helping the day run smoothly. Felicity's sister Olivia Martin (née Smith; NC 2011-2012, NCV 2013) was matron of honour, and did an incredible job at 36 weeks pregnant! Other collegians included bridesmaid Dhanu Eliezer (NC 2009-2012) and groomsman Edward Hannah (2011-2014). This is a second generation New College marriage – the father of the bride (Bryson Smith, NC 1977-1981) and the father of the groom (Grahame Smith, NC 1977-1980) attended New College together in the 1970s!



Kathryn Davis and Wing Kuen Wee

Kathryn Davis (NC 2011-2013) and Wing Kuen Wee said their vows on 4 January 2020 in Albany, Western Australia. This celebration took the form of a church ceremony with afternoon tea, followed by a Chinese tea ceremony. A week later, they had a second reception and tea ceremony in Singapore. The couple enjoyed celebrating with traditions from both of their cultures. Included in the bridal party were Kathryn's siblings and New Collegians, Tim Davis (NC 2015-2017) and Meagan Davis (NC 2019-present).

Annabel Paul and Tom Wyatt

Annabel Paul (NC 2014-2017) and Tom Wyatt tied the knot on 4 January 2020 in Armidale, NSW. The ceremony took place at St Peter's Cathedral, followed by a sunset reception at Saumarez Homestead. Many collegians took part on the day, including bridesmaids Adela Davis (NC 2014-2016), Emma Dunn (NC 2014-2016) and Naomi Utber (NC 2014-2015). Grace Tinney (NC 2015-2016) and Sam Kellahan (NC 2013-2015) both prayed for the couple, and Kenan Milham (NC 2013-2015) played guitar during the ceremony. The festivities continued well into the small hours of the morning – even the grandparents joined in on a late-night game of limbo!



Rachael Billingham and Ben Chaffey

Rachael Billingham (NC 2014) and Ben Chaffey had their wedding at All Saints Anglican Church, New Lambton, on 1 February 2020. It was a hot summer's day and so their beachside reception at Swansea Surf Club was very fitting! Rachael and Ben enjoyed soaking up the sea breeze and celebrating in the company of family and friends.



Winona Jolliffe and Matthew Radloff

Winona Jolliffe (NC 2016-2018) and Matthew Radloff were married on 25 January 2020 at St Matthew's Anglican Church, West Pymble, followed by a reception at Sydney Park Pavilion. It was an incredibly happy day. They felt very thankful to share the day with so many family and friends – and there were certainly a lot of New College friends involved! A small selection of names includes Eleanor Parker (NC 2016-2018), Hannah Grant (NC 2016-2018), Ebony Jolliffe (NC 2018-present) and India Jolliffe (NC 2019-present) as bridesmaids; Theodore Jolliffe (NC 2016-2018) as Bible reader; and Jonathan Stacey (NC 2015-2017), Emma Dunn (NC 2014-2016), Luke Blanch (NC 2018-present), and Michael King (NC 2015-2017) as musicians.

NEW FAMILIES

Martin

Angus (NC 2012-2013) and Olivia Martin (née Smith; NC 2011-2012, NCV 2013) welcomed Annie Martin on 12 January 2020. Angus, Olivia and big brother Ted (2) are very thankful for the arrival of this new bundle of joy.



Maher

Owen Maher (NC 2004-2006) and Claire Lawley (NC 2006-2009) were thrilled to welcome a beautiful little girl on 4 February 2020. Naomi Maher is very cute and is bringing much joy to these new parents.



Billingham

The New College Dean of Residents, Jonathan Billingham (NC 2006-2009) and his wife, Linda, have added another member to their little family. Daniel Arthur Billingham was born on 27 March 2020, weighing in at 3.14kg. Jonathan and Linda are delighted, and Bethany (2) is thrilled to be a big sister!




TIM PILKINGTON HEADS TO OXFORD

Tim Pilkington has been one of the two Research Fellows living at New College Post-graduate Village (NCV) this year. Tim studied for his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Political Studies at the University of Auckland, and then resided at NCV from 2015-2017 while completing his Juris Doctor at UNSW. Now, in early 2020, Tim is spending some more time in the NCV community before heading to St John's College, Oxford University to commence his doctoral studies.

This year, Tim has been working as an Associate Lecturer at the University of Sydney Law School, teaching property and commercial law. Prior to

this, he worked for Justice David Hammerschlag and Justice Julie Ward in the NSW Supreme Court. In his role as NCV Fellow, he has been tutoring and assisting law students, and arranging academic discussion seminars.

Tim's PhD will focus on a particular area of the law of unjust enrichment known as 'failure of basis'. What is this in layman's terms? Say, for example, you pay someone \$1000 in exchange for cleaning your windows. However, after being paid the money, they refuse to do the job. You would generally be entitled to recover that \$1000 from the devious window cleaner as 'restitution for a failure of basis'.

Tim is looking forward to the people, scenery, history and intellectual environment in Oxford, and anticipates that afterwards he will either continue in academia or go to the Bar. We wish Tim all the best with his future endeavours! 

NCV RESEARCH COMMUNITY



Research Community meetings are one of the main ways that postgraduate students are supported at New College Postgraduate Village (NCV). Every fortnight, NCV residents gather (over Zoom, if necessary) to hear a fellow student discuss their research project. Here is a snapshot what happened in Term 1:

Anna Xavier

Education and Refugee-Background Students

Anna is the Senior Academic Tutor at NCV this year and she kicked off Research Community with a presentation on her PhD research. She is in her second year of investigating language and literacy education for refugee-background students in regional-metropolitan NSW. The 30-minute question time saw some animated and productive discussion!

Coping with COVID-19

This was NCV's first online Research Community meeting. Residents were encouraged to speak about how they were finding the shift to online learning and to share tips for staying motivated.

Hayden Farrell

Tips for Managing Exam Stress

Hayden is in the final year of his Masters of Clinical Psychology, and so delivered three seminars on managing stress before, during and after exams. He covered helpful topics like dealing with procrastination, achieving a healthy study-life balance, managing anxiety, and preventing rumination.

Aref Samadi

Zoom for Academics

Aref is NCV's resident Zoom expert – he's been organising Zoom suppers, games nights, painting socials and more throughout the pandemic. As well as this, he is a PhD student in the School of Photovoltaics and Renewable Energy Engineering. So, he was the perfect candidate to teach research students how to give more engaging presentations on Zoom.

Shan Tan

Medicine and Hearing Loss

Shan is now in his final year of Medicine but conducted research in 2018 as part of his Independent Learning Project (ILP). The project sought to identify particular genes that might play a role in the mechanism behind temporary hearing loss. Those who attended were interested in the implications for those who suffer from hearing loss and the potential for follow-up research.

Arpan Banerjee

Law and Oxford University

Arpan is in Australia on study leave from his academic position in India to complete a PhD in intellectual property and entertainment law. He gave the final Research Community talk of the term, having just returned from a few months at the University of Oxford as a Recognised Student. Students enjoyed hearing about his Oxford experience over a pizza dinner. 

NCV COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19



COVID-19 has turned the whole world upside down, and life at NCV has not been an exception.

Community life has been fun as always, but it has taken a lot of hard work and creativity. Here are some of the imaginative activities that have been taking place. Plus, we have a couple of stories to share from people in our community who are experiencing different sides of the pandemic.



Sport

Amreen Badani organised a few Zumba sessions in the Main Common Room and Raghav Agarwal has been running volleyball and badminton games in the courtyard.

Christian Fellowship

The NCV Christian Fellowship has kept going with Bible studies, prayer sessions, and socials by using Zoom. Most recently, Assistant Dean Ben Staunton has started up a group to investigate the historical Jesus.

Thinking Hard

NCV Fellow Tim Pilkington has taken the reins on 'Thinking Hard', a fortnightly discussion group that tries to wrap their heads around curly questions. In Term 1, they talked about the ethics of pandemics, euthanasia, immigration policy and the refugee crisis, and feminism in the 21st century.

Coffee Chat

Our other NCV Fellow, Dr Wah Guan Lim, has been fuelling students' caffeine addictions with a fortnightly 'Coffee Chat' in the New College Dining Room.

Suppers

To keep weekly suppers going, Aref Samadi has been organising 'Zoom suppers', with fun activities like painting tutorials and games of 'mafia'. With the easing of restrictions, socially distanced, in-person suppers have resumed.



Kensi the Dog

NCV residents received a very special surprise this term... the Dean finally let them have a dog! Well, sort of. Kensi is delighted with his new home and the students have been very excited to take turns looking after him.

Ramadan

NCV Senior Resident, Nailah Masagos, told us what the month of Ramadan (23 April-23 May) was like:

“The group met to break our fast together with a different cuisine every time: Pakistani, then Persian, and Malaysian/Indonesian. On our last Ramadan weekend, we “went” to Turkey! ... Other than myself, a Singaporean Malay, there’s a Ugandan, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Iranian and Saudi Arabian --we’ve been learning so much from each other! ... I think the best thing about living in a college community during these challenging times is that our fellow collegians become family and Ramadan can still be a wholesome experience despite COVID-19 regulations in place.”

Foreign Correspondents



Peixi Shao is one of NCV’s many international residents. She went home to China in December last year and has been unable to return to Sydney.

“Zhangwan District [in Peixi’s home city, Shiyan] adopted “wartime control” on 13 February. This means that all buildings were locked except for police or medical staff. Deliveries of necessities were managed collectively to minimise group contact ... We [living temporarily in Zhengzhou] sterilised every corner of the house using alcohol and kept the air fresh every day. We [also started doing] street dance and my mum loved it ... We began to plant small vegetables such as scallions, which we thought [would be] cheaper and safer than buying [them] from outside”.

New ‘n’ Old also heard from resident Lizhong Li, who is still at home in Wuhan, China.

“I’m looking forward to living “normally” as before [the] COVID-19 pandemic if I’m able to come back to Australia and NCV soon. I’m looking forward to going to [the] library and gym ... I miss Formal Dinner, floor supper, NCV Service, meal plan conversations, Research Community meetings, [the] English conversation group held by Wah Guan Lim, and most important, [the] friends I made when I lived in NCV”.



Lizhong Li (far left)


From the Field



Shania lived at New College from 2016-2017 and then at NCV in 2018. Now, she is working at the Department of Health and

Human Services, Victoria in an Epidemiology Support Role.

“A typical day in the Intelligence Unit starts at 5am. This is when we put together the daily situation report so it is ready for media release later in the day. We report how many new cases of COVID-19 have occurred in the past 24 hours, along with other developments and current public health response activities in Victoria. Once the situation report is completed, I spend the rest of my day on situational awareness which involves the synthesis of routine reports, and investigating outbreaks. I’m really enjoying the work, especially meeting and working with experienced epidemiologists”.

Shania is also studying a Master of Science (Epidemiology) at the University of Melbourne. Once she graduates, she is hoping to pursue a career in infectious disease epidemiology and global health. 



NCV WELCOMES NEW RESIDENTS

To kick off the year, the NCV Dean, Assistant Dean and Senior Residents put together a fun-filled O'Week program. Activities included:


- Postgraduate welcome event
- Games Night
- Night out in Newtown
- Pancake breakfast
- Beach afternoon at Coogee
- Barbeque in the courtyard.



SWING IN TO O'WEEK!

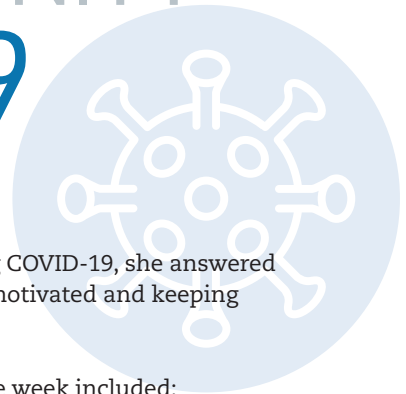
O'Week

It was that time of year again... time for hundreds of bright-eyed and bushy-tailed freshers to experience the whirlwind that is New College O'Week. It was a jam-packed program as always:

- Banner painting and bush dancing in the courtyard
- A very wet trip up to 'The Spot' in Randwick (the rain was so heavy, they didn't make it to Coogee!)
- Skit Night
- 'Brizza' – pizza dinner under the Harbour Bridge
- Fresher Formal Dinner with alumna Bronte Richardson (NC 2013-2015)
- 'Rumble in the Jungle' messy games night
- Fresher dancing for the Channel 7 Sunrise crew
- Harbour cruise. 



NEW COLLEGE COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19



What does a New College social calendar look like during a pandemic? Something like this...

Kollegian Kahoot and Karaoke Night

Combine Kahoot (a website for creating and playing quizzes) with karaoke and you have an alliterative adventure for your 10 April Friday night at New Kollege! Sam Pietsch, Communities Coordinator, tells us how it went:

"[We created] a whole bunch of quiz questions testing how well people knew their fellow collegians. We also took pictures of various common rooms, RA flats etc. and got people to guess where the picture was from. We projected the Kahoot onto a big white sheet hung off the third floor balcony ... We also shared it via a Zoom meeting so that people could play remotely ... Afterwards we just searched up karaoke songs on YouTube ... There was significant variation in the musical talent of those singing but overall it was lots of fun".

Mental Health Week

Mental Health Week is one of the best weeks of the year at New College. This term, the NCSA Executive knew it might be more important than ever. The program was both relaxing and educational.

Mental Health Testimony Night

3 upper-year students shared their experiences with mental health. A key take-away for the freshers was that ups and downs are normal in College, but that it's good to reach out when you need to. After the talks, there was time for questions and quiet reflection.

Mental Health Talk with Kath Craft

Kath Craft lived in New College in 1989, is now a member of the New College Board, and works as a psychologist at the University of Sydney. During her

seminar on coping during COVID-19, she answered questions about staying motivated and keeping perspective.

Other activities during the week included:

- Succulent planting and drawing in the courtyard
- Fresher dancing in the courtyard
- Watching the David Attenborough documentary, 'Planet Earth'
- Colouring in and jigsaw puzzles with GrandmaSoc
- Easter egg hunt

Courtyard Formal Night



With the scheduled Formal Dinner cancelled, residents took matters into their own (socially distanced) hands! To set the scene, they moved long tables into the courtyard, and dressed them up with foliage and table cloths. The evening started with photos, followed by College dinner under the fairy lights. Caleb Campion provided some live background music on guitar, and Jack Turner and Orkojeet Banerji manned the mocktail bar. For the address, collegians combined some of their sharpest minds into a four-person panel: Nikita Neville, Mitchell Roberts, Alexander Storey, and Andrew Trout. Together, they discussed and debated the curliest 'philosophical' and College-related questions the audience could throw at them.





Soirée Night

Collegians love a music performance night. Held in the Main Common Room, the audience were treated to a diverse array of items – from an original piano and voice composition, to a jazz rendition of ‘Row, Row, Row Your Boat’.

Sport

Residents have been keeping active with yoga, skipping, handball, fresher dancing, Pilates and more!

Trivia Night

‘GameshowSoc’ organised a very popular Trivia Night. Along with all the usual categories (general knowledge, sport, geography, pop culture etc.), there were a few other fun challenges dispersed throughout the night. The team that won the ‘plank challenge’ held form for over six minutes!

Back to School

Have collegians been feeling nostalgic for their school days? ‘RockSoc’ ran a Scissors, Paper, Rock Competition. NCSA President, Meagan Davis, says:

“We met in the courtyard and had multiple rounds of the game; each winner ‘gained’ the support of their opponent. This continued until there were 2 people remaining, each with half of the initial players as their supporters, chanting their name. The prize was an array of snacks”.

Marco Alberto also ran a paper plane competition, with models being launched off the bridge.

Subcommittees Galore

Subcommittees have had a crucial part to play in keeping the College entertained. Between PuzzleSoc’s weekly challenges, NerdSoc’s Mario Kart Tournament, and much more, there has never been a dull moment. What’s more, residents raced to create even more subcommittees in the wake of lockdown: HairSoc (with official haircut appointment times and an online booking system), BleachSoc (for more radical hair styling), UpsidedownSoc (for aspiring gymnasts), and BollywoodSoc!



Long-Distance Friendships

Connecting with friends who have returned home from College has been just as important as maintaining community in the building. Livestreamed suppers and Zoom Bible studies have been really valuable. Some groups have encouraged their members to send in photos and videos from home to be played at supper. 



NEW COLLEGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (NCCF)



Weekend Away

On 28 February, nearly sixty collegians packed into cars and headed up to Lake Macquarie for NCCF Weekend Away. Throughout the weekend, there were sessions that featured Bible talks, singing and discussion groups. The speaker was Ross Fotheringham, minister at Trinity Church Tamworth and father of Annie Fotheringham (NC 2019-present), a member of this year's NCCF Committee. He spoke on the first part of the book of Exodus.



Aside from the sessions, the weekend was filled with fun activities: spontaneous music sessions, phosphorescent-algae swims under the starry sky, fresher dance-offs by the campfire, and many late-night mafia games.



Guys & Girls Nights

The guys' social night started off with an interview, talking to some older collegians about their Christian faith. This was followed by a few hours of laser tag on Kensington Oval.

The girls came together for a social involving henna and hair wraps, as well as the chance to hear from some oldie girls about why following Jesus

is important to them and tips for thriving at university and College.


Testimony Night

Several times a year, residents have the chance to listen to a few Christians share their faith stories. This term, they heard from Hannah Dunn, Josh Kellett and Tim Ferdinand.

Exploring Easter

Easter is often a quiet weekend in New College, but with less students able to return home, it presented the perfect opportunity for the NCCF to run an 'Exploring Easter' event. The night started with Easter-themed Pictionary. NCV Assistant Dean, Ben Staunton, then gave a talk on the meaning of Easter, followed by question time and hot cross buns for supper.

Prayer and Praise Night

This event took place during the April study break before exams. The night was structured into alternating sessions of singing and prayer. The group prayed for College, for the world, and for the missionaries supported by each Bible study group. 

Want to keep up with the NCCF?

The 2020 NCCF Committee is sending out emails to any alumni who would like to receive updates and prayer points. To join the mailing list, please send an email to newcollegechristianfellowship@gmail.com.

UNSW VICE-CHANCELLOR AT COMMENCEMENT DINNER



Commencement Dinner at the New College Communities always marks the start of the new academic year.

This year, New College and New College Postgraduate Village (NCV) came together for the occasion, and they were joined by the guest of honour, Professor Ian Jacobs, President and Vice-Chancellor of UNSW.

First on the program was recognising the nearly forty UNSW academic awards and PhD conferrals earned by residents in 2019. The Colleges also gave their own academic awards to students who have excelled in their studies. A complete list of recipients can be found on the following pages.

Then came time for the musical item. Michael Harrell, a first year NIDA student, embodied Miss Trunchbull in *Matilda the Musical* with serious commitment. He performed 'Smell of Rebellion', ably accompanied on piano by Matthew Covetz.

Admitting some apprehension after such an entertaining act, Prof Jacobs took to the stage to give his address. Prof Jacobs' career background is in surgical gynaecological oncology, which brought him to various academic positions in the UK before his move to UNSW in 2015.

He focused his talk on UNSW's

2025 strategy and on sharing the steps that the University has already taken in furthering its commitment to academic excellence, innovation and engagement, and social impact. He drew attention to UNSW's commitment to make a positive impact through "life-changing, life-saving research" and acknowledged New College's role in this:

"New College embodies much that I am personally passionate about – the underlying mission of servant leadership, nurturing the holistic growth of students, and a belief in the transformational power of education for Australia and the global community".

Prof Jacobs left the room with three pieces of advice: throw yourself into university life, find a balance between work and your personal life; and give back to society. He particularly emphasised this third point, reminding the students that studying at UNSW is an immense privilege and encouraging them to use their education to better society.

During question time, Prof Jacobs spoke about the recent change to UNSW 3+ (trimesters); announced UNSW's decision to divest from fossil fuels; and emphasised the University's commitments to diversity and indigenous rights. He especially welcomed questions regarding the English Premier League and predicted that Sheffield United would not make the UEFA Champions League next season. To be fair, it's possible that no teams will make the UEFA Champions League next season.

All in all, Commencement Dinner was a fantastic opportunity to listen to an experienced leader, and to hear about the many ways that UNSW and the New College Communities are changing the world for the better. 



UNIVERSITY MEDALLISTS AND PRIZE WINNERS

These residents and alumni were acknowledged for their incredible achievements at the New College Communities Commencement Dinner on 19 February 2020. Congratulations to all our recipients on their academic success!

New College

University Medals:

Name	Residency	University Medal
Digby Allen	2014	Medicine
Emily Hull	2014-2016	Palaeoscience
Eilish Heffernan	2015-2017	Genetics
Stephen Melhuish	2016-2017	Finance
Albert Osti	2013-2014	History

UNSW Academic Prizes:

Name	Residency	Academic Prize
Callum Agnew	2013-2014	The Faculty of Art and Design Dean's List
Digby Allen	2014	The Sandy Reid Prize The Peter Reed Prize for Surgery The James Curran Prize for Medicine The Best Overall Performance in the Doctor of Medicine The Prize for Medicine in Phase 3 The Richard Johnson Memorial Prize for Paediatrics The Gordon Lowe Memorial Prize
John Co	2014-2016	The Best Undergraduate Final Year Thesis Prize (Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering)
Rachel Ditton	2017-2019	The Faculty of Built Environment Dean's Merit List (Undergraduate)
Clare Faulkner	2017-2018	The Bachelor of Medical Studies Academic Excellence Prize The Bachelor of Medical Studies Graduate Prize
Kristian Fiebig	2017-2019	The Faculty of Engineering Dean's Award
Deepan Kumar	2018-2019	The Faculty of Engineering Dean's Award The Professor Eddie Leonardi Prize
Cynthia Loh	2018-2019	The Faculty of Art and Design Dean's List
Matthew Taylor	NC 2016-2017 NCV 2018	The Nura Gili Centre for Indigenous Programs Spirit Prize - Science

New College Academic Prizes:

Name	Residency	New College Academic Prize
Alice Chapman	Current	Architecture
Meagan Davis	Current	Advanced Science
Sam Holford	Current	Arts and Secondary Education
Daniel Larratt	Current	Law and Economics
Michael Lee	Current	Commerce and Computer Science
Michael Orjekh	2018-2019	Phase 1 Medicine
Jingyi (Christine) Sun	Current	Civil and Environmental Engineering
Lachlan Thompson	Current	Fine Arts and Arts



New College Postgraduate Village

PhDs Awarded:

Name	Residency	PhD Awarded
Samira Abbasalipour	2010-2015	Built Environment
Abdulrahman Alqahtani	2017-2018	Biomedical Engineering
Yifan Chen	2016-2019	Pathology
Hoi Ying (Phoebe) Chung	2012-2014, 2016-2018	Chemical Engineering
Daniel Hageman	2015-2018	Biomedical Engineering
Chang-Yeh (Justin) Lee	2017	Photovoltaic Engineering
Hugh Miller	2014-2018	Civil and Environmental Engineering
Damrongsak Naparat	2009-2010	Information Systems
Sarbeswar Praharaj	2015-2016	Planning and Urban Development
Abbas Shieh	2015-2016	Built Environment
Hira Syeda	2016-2019	Computer Science and Engineering
Tanya Thaweekulchai	2012-2015	Creative Practice
Yunqi (Zoe) Wang	2016-2018	Electrical Engineering
Bing-Ru (Tim) Wu	2017-2019	Pathology
Tian Zhang	2018-2019	Photovoltaic Engineering

UNSW Academic Prizes:

Name	Residency	Academic Prize
Abdulrahman Abdullah Alyousef	Current	The Faculty of Built Environment Dean's Merit List (Undergraduate)
I Dewa Gde Yudistira de Aranio	2018-2019	The Faculty of Built Environment Dean's Merit List (Undergraduate)
Sofia Echesortu	2015	The Faculty of Art and Design Dean's List
Shuying Li	2019-2020	The Faculty of Built Environment Dean's Merit List (Postgraduate)
Jamie Sin Yu Ma	2018-2019	The Faculty of Built Environment Dean's Merit List (Undergraduate)
Oliver Pike	2019	The Faculty of Art and Design Dean's List
Suresh Mahendra Raj	2015-2016	The W G Telleson Memorial Prize in Clinical Application of Biomedical Sciences
Nailah Masagos Zulkifli	Current	The Faculty of Built Environment Dean's Merit List (Postgraduate)

NCV Academic Prizes:

Name	Residency	NCV Academic Prize
Abdulrahman Abdullah Alyousef	Current	Construction Management and Property
Layla Al Ibrahim	Current	Chemistry
Zahra Al Ibrahim	2019-2020	Computer Science
Xin Chi (Eunice) Kok	Current	Mechanical Engineering
Nailah Masagos Zulkifli	Current	Architecture
Shuguang (Sean) Wang	2019-2020	Commerce

NEWS IN BRIEF

Professor Adrian Russell



Congratulations to New College alumnus, Adrian Russell (NC 1993-1994), on his recent appointment as Professor of Geotechnical Engineering in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UNSW. Prof

Russell was a Senior Lecturer from 2007-2013, Associate Professor from 2014-2019, and has taken up his new position this year.

Future of Change Scholarship: Saurabh Kaura



“Are you ready to reimagine the world?” is the question UNSW asks of its Future of Change Scholarship applicants. On 2 October 2019,

NCV resident Saurabh Kaura was awarded this prestigious scholarship, valued at \$10 000 over the course of his degree. UNSW gives this scholarship to only 15 Indian students per year based on academic excellence. Saurabh recently commenced a Masters of Commerce, having previously earned qualifications in Marketing and Engineering. He enjoys event management and is passionate about environmental issues and photography.

A First Paper Published!



Christine Sun arrived at New College in 2018 to study Civil Engineering. Recently, her hard work paid off when she was accepted

into UNSW's Taste of Research scholarship program. This initiative gives a select group of upper year engineering students the opportunity to join a UNSW research team for 45 days “to understand what real research is about at university and in industry”. Christine joined a project related to water treatment and her team's research has just been published in the journal *Water Research*. The paper evaluates the performance of a particular kind of desalination technology. Christine is thrilled to have

her first paper published and is looking forward to pursuing academia further, starting with the completion of her honours thesis this year.

Postgraduate Prizewinner: Aref Samadi



Aref Samadi has been an NCV resident since 2017, when he began his PhD in the School of Photovoltaics and Renewable Energy Engineering. His research specifically aims to improve solar cell technology. In December 2019, Aref brought his project to the

UNSW Engineering Postgraduate Research Symposium, which is attended by postgraduate students, academics, and industry experts. He came away with first prize for a research poster presentation, at the value of \$300!

ARC Future Fellowships

Each year, the Australian Research Council (ARC) gives Future Fellowship grants to support mid-career Australian researchers in undertaking high quality research in areas of national and international benefit. In 2019, two outstanding New College alumni received this major grant.

Professor Renee Jeffery (NC 1996-1998), at Griffith University in the School of Government and International Relations, is investigating the effectiveness of national human rights institutions during political transitions in the Asia-Pacific.

Associate Professor Karen McNamara (NC 1998-2000), who is based at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Queensland, is researching the impacts that climate change will have on the most vulnerable, specifically in terms of grief, suffering, and loss of place and culture.

New Roles for Greg Clarke



Greg Clarke was a New College resident from 1987-1989, Senior Tutor from 1994-1996, and Director of CASE from 2003-2007. He recently finished up his time as CEO of the Bible Society, and now he has landed two very exciting roles! Greg is the new CEO of

the Australian Institute of Music, and the new Chairman of City Bible Forum.

Upcoming Album for Rhyan Clapham



Times are tough for the creative arts in Australia, but the Australia Council for the Arts has just provided 166 grants to boost creativity as the country recovers from the impact of COVID-19. One of these talented recipients was Rhyan Clapham (NCV 2015).

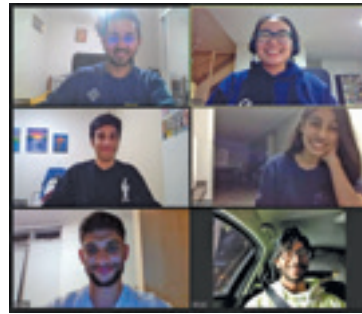
Rhyan is a rapper and drummer, who proudly identifies as a Filipino and Aboriginal musician. Under his stage name, DOBBY, he has already released a self-titled EP. With this funding, he will be developing his debut album, *Marshmallow*. We can't wait to hear it!

New College Gym Opens


The New College gym is open for (COVID-safe) business. Thanks to the hard work of David Twohill (NC 2019-present), the Pollard Room has been reinvented into a gym, complete with power rack,

treadmill, exercise bikes, weights, yoga equipment and more! At the moment, COVID-19 restrictions apply, but even so, collegians are excited to be using the new facilities.

Hacking for Good: Shakeel Anver



You might think a 'Hackathon' sounds a bit ominous ... but NCV resident Shakeel Anver has been using his powers for good! In May this year, Shakeel was part of a

team of UNSW engineering students that entered the IBM 2020 Call for Code May Hackathon. The task was to use code to create a solution addressing climate change or COVID-19. Shakeel's team did an amazing job and placed second in the competition with their app, Euphaura, which helps users to minimise their energy consumption. 

FROM THE PR OFFICE

New Role for Adela Davis




Once the 'Anniversary Historian and Event Assistant', this year Adela Davis has become the Communications Officer for the New College Communities. In this role, she has taken over public relations, alumni and communications duties from Jonathan Billingham (now the New College Dean of Residents) and Ash Braithwaite (now studying at Moore Theological College).

Adela is enjoying being involved in the New College Lectures, CASE, and Formal Dinners. However, her favourite part is talking to alumni and writing stories for *New 'n' Old* (and she's not just saying that)! If you lived at New College or NCV, Adela would love to know where you are now and what you're up to. You can get in contact with her by emailing a.davis@newcollege.unsw.edu.au or by phoning the College.

Visit our new website!

Last edition, we promised a new website ... and now it's here! We are very excited to have one New College Communities website, which you can find at www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au. Look out for:

- 360-degree virtual tours of both Colleges
- Video testimonials from our wonderful students
- Regular news stories about what our communities are up to
- Upcoming events
- The ability to update your details and sign up to any of our mailing lists
- Lots of great info about life in our Colleges and how to apply! 



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