



Queen's College  
*The University of Melbourne*

The Queen's College and  
Wyvern Society magazine

# inAeternum

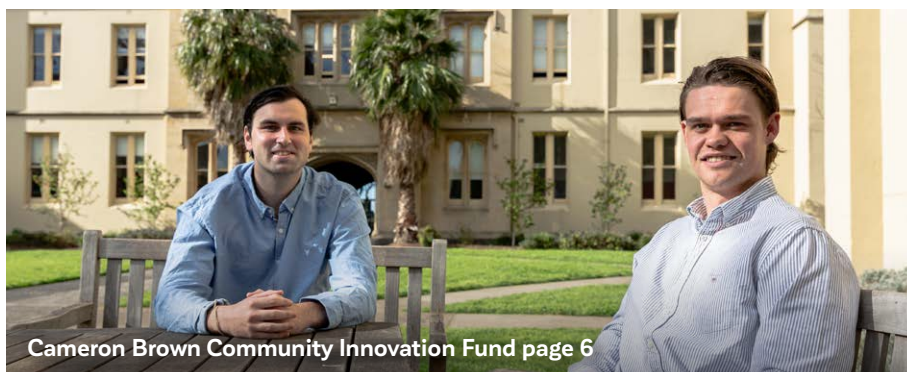
November 2020

**College life in the  
age of physical  
distancing**





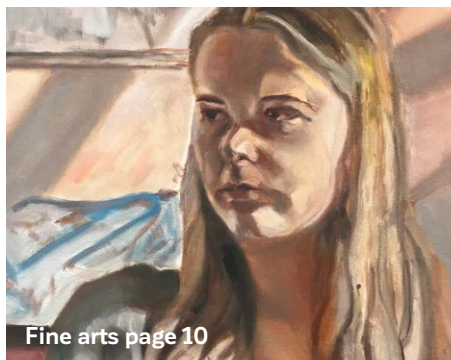
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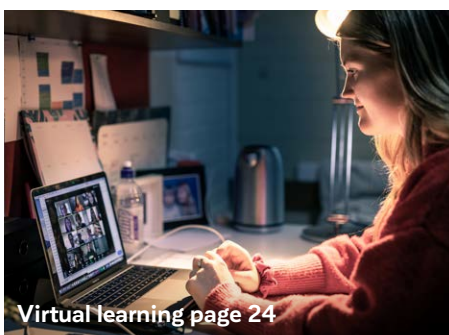
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**Front cover:** (back row) Kevin Law (PhD Candidate), Charlie Hocking (2nd year Commerce), Gregor Stewart (2nd year Commerce, President of QCS&SC), (middle row) Edi Rodda (2nd year Arts), Bhaanu Raj (1st year Commerce), (front row) Hayley Jiang (1st year Science)

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## From the Master

Extreme bushfires heralded the start of 2020. Quickly followed by a hailstorm so severe that it inflicted millions of dollars of damage in our capital and floods in southern Queensland. What else could go wrong? In the face of these apocalyptic – but in many ways normal – events for Australia, COVID-19 struck. Plans for 2020 went out the window.

The great 19th century expert on strategy, the Duke of Wellington, credited his success over Napoleon to resiliency. Bonaparte, he said, 'planned campaigns just as you might make a splendid set of harnesses. It looks very well, and answers very well, until it is broken, and then you are done for. Now I made my campaigns of ropes. If anything went wrong, I tied a knot and went on.' Unfortunately, it has been difficult to find any rope over the past few months in which to tie a knot. In the words of a great 20th century strategist, a former world champion boxer, 'everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth.' We have been repeatedly punched in the mouth this year, particularly in lockdown Melbourne. As the 18th century Scottish poet, Robert Burns, more eloquently put it 'The best laid schemes o' mice an' men/ Gang aft a-gley.' No matter how carefully something is planned, something may still go wrong. This has been 2020. Queen's has done well because of the strength of the community and the resilience of its people. Queen's is about people past, present and future. As I have said before – you check out but you never leave.

Resilience is a word that we have heard a lot of in 2020. I have personally seen it every day through the lives of students, staff, and stories that I have heard throughout the year from Wyverns. We can talk about how quickly and efficiently we have pivoted from a face-to-face model of education to online, and we have done that within the College. With up to 180 consultations and tutorials a week. However, where I have seen real resilience is how students have supported one another and been innovative in light of the necessary government restrictions, to find ways of preserving community and the Queen's vibe. Both the MCR and JCR student leaders have played a key role in organising alternative physically distanced events. Whether this be speed dating in the corridors, special dinners with limited numbers and rostered sittings to the Mural in the labs, the weekend take-away café, Willie Quick competitions and the College play which has been filmed within the government restrictions.

Throughout the year the Queen's scholars' online program has featured local, national and international speakers including Head of Medical School, Professor John Prins, and head of the Law Reform Commission, The Hon Justice Sarah Derrington. Under the auspices of the Sugden Institute launched in 2020 we have had the annual Indigenous Oration with Dean Parkin, Dr Michael Parkinson AC as Sugden Fellow in conversation with our own Dan Ziffer and a major dialogue partnering with Asialink on Indonesia.

In every way, we have sought to be future makers rather than future takers. Passivity in the face of change brought on by COVID-19 is a death sentence. We have seen within the College through the leadership coming from students, Wyverns, staff and council a creative and positive response.

Framing resilience to include elements of knowledge, motivation, capacity, and opportunity has set an agenda for the College in 2020. Our capacity to respond to this global challenge begins with knowledge. Queen's students have demonstrated great creativity, building, communicating, and respecting knowledge and has been seen through outstanding academic results with the award of the highest number of Wyvern medals ever. It is amazing what lockdown and lack of events does to concentrate the mind.

Informed discussion has led to ethical action by diagnosing issues to support. I think of the Black Life Matters vigil on the front lawn but also the support of various other causes throughout the year, most recently Beyond Blue and Polished Man. It has been a year of attempting to outline the benefits of College, which I am sure you would agree are many and the trade-offs because of COVID. Understanding the psychological impact (the positive impact of our partnership with Headspace), the social (no QuadStock, no Ball, no turns etc), the sports calendar (no sport and exercise limited), economic (parents and students losing jobs), and political aspects, but at the same time connecting with people's emotions via communication and the arts.

We can see this in the many photographs recording the creativity of this year.

Having said all that – it has not been an easy year and I am grateful for all of the staff at home especially Sally Dalton-Brown, Nicole Crook, Christine Ellem, Ben Fon, Jake Huang and Michele Mulder. Within the College, the catering and cleaning staff have done an outstanding job under Pascal Berthelemy and Lisa Turner, the residential tutors, ESOs and all the others in reception and finance led by Anthony Welsh. Thanks to the Council for their concern and governance over this difficult period under the leadership of Ian Marshman. Many Wyverns have supported us financially but also, at this time when there is a great deal of uncertainty re future careers, have provided mentoring and career advice through our CareerReady program. People make Queen's special. Thank you for your support in 2020 and I hope that this edition gives you a sense of a year in lockdown at Queen's.

Let me end with a few verses from a recent poem by Wyvern Denham Grierson:

The College squats solidly  
As it always has  
Time's stain undetectable  
On its outward features

As I cross the quadrangle  
I hear shouts and greetings  
Of present inhabitants in small rooms  
Today's coterie of ambition and hope

For an instant I am one of them  
Looking at an uncrossed country  
To be entered, cultivated, celebrated  
A future yet to be, already cast

Standing in this familiar place  
A distant mirror of loved images  
There is a moment of believing I will understand  
All that is gathered in this stillness

### Dr Stewart Gill OAM

*Queen's College acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land where we live and work, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations, and pays our respects to their Elders past, present and future.*



## YOUNG WYVERNS

### Jack Richardson (Wyvern, 2015)

NIDA Graduate, Jack Richardson (Wyvern, 2015) recently starred in a performance of *There's a Sea in My Bedroom* by Australian children's author, Margaret Wild.

Jack performed alongside musicians from the Australian Chamber Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House. The Sydney Opera House 2020 Digital Season was an immersive introduction to live music, capturing the magic of a child's fantasy world. The show is available for streaming on the Sydney Opera House website. The Sydney Opera House is streaming the performance at <https://youtu.be/6J82pQW8i0I>



Photo provided by the Australian Chamber Orchestra

### Su-Yin Lew (Wyvern, 2015)

This year, the United Nations celebrates 75 years since its founding – and Su-Yin Lew (Past QCS&SC Secretary, Wyvern, 2015) has been lucky to have a front row seat to the celebrations.

Su-Yin started in 2020 at the UN Headquarters in New York, working with UN Women on the Unstereotype Alliance – an industry-led initiative which works with members such as Google and Getty Images to address negative stereotypes and gender bias in advertising content.

From there, she springboarded to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), covering work and negotiations on topics from nuclear missiles and bioweapons, to small arms, landmines and even emerging technology – like the prospect of Artificial Intelligence (AI) 'killer robots'. Here, she was able to put her passion for disarmament and international security to use, assisting with communications, research and youth engagement.

What was supposed to be a monumental year of large-scale negotiations for the United Nations has, like most things, been completely derailed. Whilst COVID-19 meant Su-Yin partly had to work remotely from Melbourne, the experience has still been an enlightening and unforgettable one. 'It's been incredible to see how an organisation which straddles every country adapts to such huge changes – it's diplomacy as we've never seen it before,' she says.

In her view, the pandemic's impact demonstrates the importance of investing in international cooperation and the life of the UN for years to come. Next year, Su-Yin looks forward to continuing her work in international relations as a policy graduate with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra.



Su-Yin (left) at the United Nations' commemoration of International Women's Day 2020



Su-Yin and Antoinette Wichmann (Wyvern, 2015) at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Photos provided by Su-Yin Lew



Su-Yin and her parents at the United Nations Palais in Geneva, Switzerland in 2019



### Afra Cader (Wyvern, 2013)

Afra Cader is a Finalist in the 2020 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards for Victoria.

Afra is a Social Entrepreneur and Management Consultant born in Sri Lanka, raised in Bahrain and living in Melbourne. After working across the three countries by the age of 18, and then experiencing the shortcomings of a high-performing environment she founded Impact Path, an organisation that aims to combat burnout among young professionals, and she has committed to using her career to drive social change.

Afra has also founded one of the first international Graduate Mental Health seminars, has been selected to work with the UN and is an internationally published author on gender equality. In addition to being a Finalist for the 7NEWS Young Achiever Award, Afra has also been recognised as one of PwC Australia's top 10 leaders in Diversity & Inclusion and an FYA Young Social Pioneer.

## Celebrating 90 years

Some of our most eminent Wyverns have celebrated their 90th birthdays this year. Congratulations to Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC (Fellow of the College, Wyvern 1948), Dr Richard (Dick) Chenoweth (Wyvern 1949), Associate Professor Ronald Farren-Price AM (Fellow of the College), Dr Keith Lethlean (Wyvern 1949), Professor Emeritus David Penington AC (Fellow of the College, Wyvern 1950), Mrs Winsome Sunderland (Wyverna 1948) and The Reverend Professor Norman Young (Fellow of the College, Wyvern 1950).



Geoffrey Blainey



Norman Young



Winsome Sunderland



Keith Lethlean



David Penington

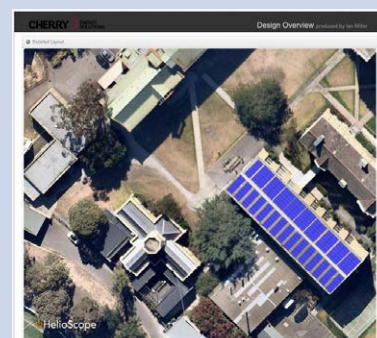


Ronald Farren-Price

## Solar comes to Queen's

To improve the College's energy efficiency, 204 solar panels have been installed on the roof of Eakins Hall to reduce the consumption of electricity from the grid and generate a significant reduction in the electricity expense incurred by the College.

With installation completed in January 2020 by Cherry Energy Solutions and the EDSA Groups, the plant was commissioned and began generating in April. To date, 10% of our total energy use has been supplied by the new solar.







Joshua Morgan and Charlie Hocking

## Cam Brown Community Innovation Fund

Established in memory of Cameron Brown (Wyvern, 1999), the Cameron Brown Community Innovation Fund (CBCIF) allocates grants to resident-proposed projects that care for the environment, improve the lives of disadvantaged individuals or groups, or builds community capability through innovation.

CBCIF is funded by donations from our community, is awarded annually with students submitting project proposals which are reviewed by a panel consisting of Nikki Brown (Wyvern 1999), the Master and a representative of the outgoing QCS&SC General Committee.

The CBCIF provides a means to respect and remember one of Queen's College's brightest alumni, a means to connect current residents with generations of Wyverns, and develop a culture of entrepreneurship. Cam was set on making this world a better place. The CBCIF will ensure his life mission is continued.

### Lockdown Links: 2020 CBCIF grant recipient

The 2020 CBCIF grant has been awarded to Lockdown Links. The project presented by Joshua Morgan (3rd year Arts) and Charlie Hocking (3rd year Commerce) aims to address the issue of mental health that exists within society. With a particular focus on male mental health the project will promote a positive use of social media to raise awareness and create a sense of connection at this time of great isolation. The group leaders will be provided with mentoring and introductions to groups established in this field to partner with and help them in their development of the project.



### Eco-ssentials: 2019 grant recipient

By: Arshya Kulkarni (3rd year Arts), Duncan Grainger (3rd year Commerce) and Ben Ayaydin (3rd year Arts Exchange Student)

2019 was a year of great ecological turmoil across the world. Declarations of a climate emergency saturated social media platforms, corroborated by horror stories detailing entire ecosystems being wiped out, entire islands at the risk of submersion and rainforests, such as the Amazon, being destroyed. While this rising awareness of the acutely destructive nature of our current way of life brought the issue of climate damage to the forefront of our consciousness, it was hard to know what to do to remedy the situation. This anxiety was keenly felt within the Queen's community, which has long been demanding,

facilitating and seizing opportunities to make shifts towards more ecologically friendly lifestyle practices.

Stemming from this drive, Eco-ssentials was born at the Featonby Library at 9pm one night by three Queeners just looking for a way to be 'greener', 'Eco-ssentials' in essence is a hamper service which delivers baskets of personally tailored, environmentally sustainable, locally sourced and affordable toiletries and other essential products to Queen's students. The main purpose of our service was to make the use of eco-friendly products more affordable, sustainable and accessible for Queeners.



In our year as business partners, we researched, tested and sold a plethora of different toiletry products that were truly environmentally friendly. Our endeavour to find products that were genuinely sustainable meant ensuring that the products were locally sourced (to avoid the carbon emissions associated with transport), sustainably packaged and recyclable or biodegradable. While this was at first quite difficult, after the invaluable guidance of Tom Hutchinson (2000), Felicity Brown and many other Wyverns, we were able to find many options for products to sell.

The first products we decided to look into were the essentials: toothbrushes, toothpastes and deodorants. We were luckily able to find a local provider of all three products called Envirosop. While we purchased these for sale at Queen's throughout the semester, our main purpose for these were to distribute them to 1st years for O-Week. This way we could instill the core community and environmentally orientated values of Queen's into the 1st year residents, while also accessing a valuable method of publicity and advertisement. Next, we noticed the women of the College showing a keen interest in accessing more sustainable menstrual products and thus turned to TOM Organics to source a range of biodegradable menstrual products to stock at College as well.



For us, the most valuable part of this experience was not purely learning how to create a business, but rather harnessing the quintessentially Queen's trait of community engagement and teamwork to reach a goal. From driving to the market at Abbotsford Convent on a Sunday in search of a lady who sold scented bars of soap to find out she only had a stall every first Tuesday of the month, to meeting Tom in his 18th floor boardroom overlooking the city of Melbourne and thinking 'Oh wow, this is real', every moment we encountered, every experience or trip we made together is an experience that we won't forget and will stay with us. While COVID stunted the development and growth of the business this year, we fondly look back at how lucky we were to have had the opportunity and support to try something new and leave a mark on the Queen's community.



Evangelia Wichmann

## Sir Douglas Menzies Oratory Competition 2020

By Dr Gayle Allan (Visiting Scholar)

This year's prize attracted a very strong field with six students putting forward entries. Topics varied widely and all presentations were well-researched and ably presented. The students all demonstrated passion and a sound knowledge of their topic, and incorporated facts and figure in an accessible and illuminating way. My fellow judges Simone Maurer (Resident Tutor) and David Lawrence (Wyvern 1982) had numerous discussions about the various merits of each entry, and we had a very difficult task in choosing a winner from this very talented group.

At the announcement of the winner, all judges commented on how the entrants had coped admirably with the new format of recording their presentation and acknowledged that presenting to a camera without audience feedback is a difficult thing. Nevertheless, all presenters were able to engage with their virtual audience and provide informative and thought-provoking material. Evangelia Wichmann's presentation 'Australia must sacrifice economic prosperity for environmental conservation' was announced as the winner of the competition. The judges felt that Evangelia's entry was a skilful combination of strong argument, well-researched facts, and effective use of relevant statistics for maximum impact. Her use of repetition, emphasis and variance in modulation was very effective in conveying the gravity and urgency of the situation.

We commend all students who took the time in this demanding semester to participate in the Sir Douglas Menzies Oratory Competition and congratulate them all for their very fine efforts.

### Sir Douglas Menzies Oratory Competition 2020 participants:

**Zali Cohen** (1st year Arts) –  
'War is an outdated concept'

**Matt Darley** (1st year Arts) –  
'The IQ of an individual should determine their right to become a parent'

**Zoe Ferguson** (1st year Science) –  
'Australia should implement a Universal Basic Income scheme'

**Nikki Henry** (1st year Commerce) –  
'Doctors should have the right to refuse to give care'

**Annese Lingafelter** (1st year Science) –  
'Large pharmaceutical companies should not be allowed monopolies on a newly released drug'

**Evangelia Wichmann** (1st year Arts) –  
'Australia must sacrifice economic prosperity for environmental conservation'



# College production breaks new ground

By Natalie Everett (2nd year Science), Producer

Frederico Garcia Lorca's tragedy *Blood Wedding* is a play that morphs realism with magical realism, prose with verse, all while developing a thematically and symbolically rich tale of love and loss. The play focuses on the intertwined lives of rival families, as two men fight over a bride's love, revealing the fallout and ultimate devastation of righteousness and vengeance.

Producing the play through constant adaptations to lockdown laws was challenging yet creatively rewarding. What started as a job of disappointment, knowing the play would not be seen on stage as initially intended, quickly became an exciting opportunity to develop a new method of production and distribution in the form of a film.

By producing an original feature film adaption, the production team aimed to provide a unique experience not only for many production members but for the greater Queen's community, while maintaining the physical distancing rules to preserve safe COVID practice. With limited numbers in the rehearsal space at any time, it forced us to instead focus on the smaller details, the minutiae of a performance or the smaller details of a prop that wouldn't require as much detail on stage versus screen.

Our actors, many of whom had limited screen acting experience, persevered

through the obvious challenges of wearing masks throughout rehearsals three times a week, while ensuring the subtleties of their characters were still being conveyed.

The makeup and costume designers worked with the cast and directors to develop aesthetically unique and authentic looks for each character.

With no workshop space available, our set design team constructed large portions of the set (which including eight two metre tall pillars), handcrafting it over the course of pre-production, while also sourcing and transforming special items from within a five kilometre radius of Queen's.

Our lighting team was forced to find inventive and flexible ways to light each scene and shot, prioritising quick movements and lighting changes to adapt to a constantly moving camera position, meticulously mapping out the positioning of each rig and light. Additionally, lighting also had to solve one of the more obtrusive

problems: controlling the daylight in the JCR, given that many windows were too high to cover with cardboard. This resulted in a creatively intuitive cooperation with the set design and cinematographers in which we constructed large black fabric walls to block out the majority of ambient light and thereby allow greater dynamism to the filming.

An unexpected yet beneficial bonus to the production of the film was the cooperation between production teams. Each team remained aware and cooperative with each other's work, collaborating passionately to achieve the desired outcome.

What becomes clear upon reflection is the passion within the Queen's community; that even during a pandemic, talented and driven young people can unite to create art that matters to them. *Blood Wedding* will not stand as a time stamp of COVID but rather a symbol of the creative possibilities of Queen's College residents.







# Fine arts news

Current Resident Alex Kynaston (3rd year Fine Arts) and young Wyvern Miranda Smith (2017) have kept their creativity thriving in the world of COVID-19.

## Alex Kynaston:

My art practice has evolved this year to centre on daydreams, using these to express an inner reality – or my ‘authentic self’ – at a time when looking internally seems the only way to find dependable truths.

I have developed a hybrid methodology to recreate my daydreams on canvas, studying the Surrealist and the Magic Realist movements to help recreate both my surreal and mundane daydreams in a realistic manner.

When I daydream magical or otherworldly scenes, I have looked to Salvador Dali’s literal representation of the subconscious for guidance on composition and symbolism. When my daydreams centre on the mundane, they are represented with the eerie and disquieting compositional techniques of Magic Realists like Alex Colville and Otto Dix.

These movements feel relevant and important to my current practice, as Surrealist and Magic Realist artists were reacting to the unstable pre- and post-



Remind me of the Babe, 2020, oil, ink and acrylic on canvas, 57 cm x 97cm

World War I years by attempting to create their own reality and sense of order based on their subconscious. It is impossible to practice art in a bubble, though Queen’s has a certain microcosmic charm, and so my work has also been deeply affected by the current events of COVID-19, racial inequality and climate change.

I hope to use this unprecedented time as a blank canvas for projecting my own order and ‘authentic self’ into the external world through painting and will continue this investigation during the last leg of my degree.



## College Mural Project

Combining creativity and community, our student Creative Arts Committee has been coordinating a community mural art project throughout this year. They hosted a mural design competition with our students voting on the winning entry by Beth Moody (1st year Arts), with everyone then pitching in to help paint Beth's design onto the walls in the Student Labs.

Although it's been slow going with physical distancing being enforced and only a couple of people allowed in the room at any time, it's been a wonderful project that has involved so many people at Queen's.

Watch how this mural came to be at <https://qns.cl/muralvideo>

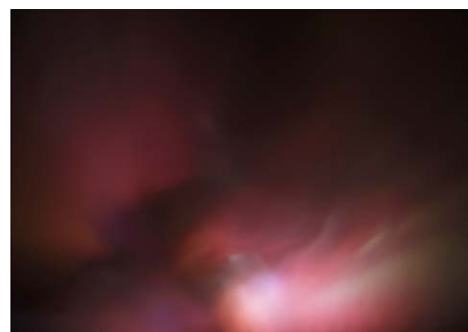


Miranda Smith at her solo exhibition

### Miranda Smith, based in Hong Kong:

I had my first solo exhibition here in Hong Kong in May. Luckily we were able to run it physically as the COVID-19 restrictions here allowed for it. I was even fortunate enough to have a few sales, which was fantastic for me.

The exhibition was called *Lucent Nebulous* and it was held at Gallery Jeeum, which is a new gallery in Hong Kong with origins in South Korea. The exhibition consisted of light installations and abstract digital prints.



*Nebulous*, 841 x 1189mm digital print, 2020



# Becoming CareerReady

With a tough graduate job market, Queen's launched the CareerReady program this year to help our residents get practical advice on how to stand out from other applicants.

Key to the program were Wyverns highly experienced in the fields of recruitment, graduate recruitment and management sharing their expertise and experience with our students.

Thank you to the Wyverns who assisted with the program: David Lawrence (1982) on professional networking, Harrison Callahan (2012) on CV Preparation, and Kathy Clarke (née Lenne) (2005) on Interview technique and preparation.

This program will be expanded in 2021 to include the use of Wyvern LinQ to allow our students to seek advice and mentoring directly from Wyverns.

If you would like to be involved in mentoring or providing career advice (in any field) to our residents please contact us at [wyverns@queens.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:wyverns@queens.unimelb.edu.au) and join Wyvern LinQ at <http://wyverns.org.au>

*'I am grateful for all the effort put into helping me build a network of valuable connections and give me the confidence to have those interactions, ultimately leading to me getting a job!'*

Henri Currie (3rd year Biomedicine)

*'Given the volatile job market we students face nearing graduation, Queen's CareerReady Program helped steer my professional ambitions, directing me to numerous opportunities. With its vast network, I was fortunate to be connected with several esteemed industry professionals who guided me through job seeking and recruitment, which ultimately resulted in me receiving an offer at my dream company.'*

Will Griffin (2nd year Commerce)





# Beyond the quad

**Nikita Shewandas**, 2nd year Master of Development Studies, has been an intern at Asialink since July 2020. Asialink is known for driving creative engagement between Australia and Asia to build a strong shared future.

I was first put in contact with my mentor, Penny Burt (Asialink's Group CEO) through Queen's CareerReady program that offers advice, CV help and mentorships through the College's extensive network. Penny was also one of the College's Queen's Scholars Online speakers (see page 24). The role offered was to support Penny and external partners in the planning of the Asian Australian Leadership Summit. Asialink plays a key role in stimulating public discussion around the bamboo ceiling that has impacted Asian-Australian leadership.

I had the most incredible opportunity to co-write a piece with Penny about the structural barriers women face in employment, and how these have been amplified given the global pandemic. It was published as a thought leadership piece for Griffith Asia Institute.

This internship has been a phenomenal platform to learn and grow as an individual. I attended seminars and sessions around a wide range of topics – from post COVID recovery for different countries and how their relationship with each other plays a vital role, to women in leadership, to learning and development sessions within Asialink.

As a Master of Development Studies student, the goal at the end of my degree was to gain a better understanding of the social, economic, political, technological and cultural aspects of societal change. This specialised training has been enhanced by my time with Asialink as I have been able to test everything that I have learnt in class, while raising questions during discussions.

I grew up in Malaysia, a country with strong relationships with Australia, particularly in economic and trade areas. Contributing towards enhancing this relationship is not just important to the two countries, but it also hits home for me. This internship has given me the chance to learn more about Asia capability, with a focus on the key individual capability of developing sophisticated knowledge of the Asian market and environment.





# Beyond the quad

## Ishani Nigam (1st year, Master of Marketing Communications)

Ishani has started a podcast *My First Step Ever* where she chats with individuals about taking the first step out of their comfort zone.

Through the podcast she has covered the journey of individuals such as Beverley Pinder, councillor, City of Melbourne, who leads the City of People portfolio. Under Beverley's leadership, Melbourne has received the Most Livable City for several years. Ishani has also interviewed Shileen Croatian, GAICD FAMI CPM as a Deputy Chair for the Victorian State Committee of the Australian Marketing Institute (AMI), who leads the Victorian committee in profiling the profession of marketing through the creation of events, and Maike Schroeder, a career coach, mature age transition specialist and Career Transition coach.

Ishani's podcast can be found at Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/2EmtMNK>; Apple Podcast: <https://apple.co/2RKsC1K>; Whooshka: <https://player.whooshkaa.com/episode/715168> and Instagram Community: <https://lnkd.in/g36pw75>



## Georgina Ryan (3rd year Science)

Georgina is currently the Chief Education Officer of UN Youth Australia. UN Youth Australia is the largest youth-led non-profit in the country running summits, residential conferences, and competitions for high school students about global politics and issues relevant to the United Nations.

In her role on the National Executive, Georgina is responsible for overseeing the educational vision of the organisation. Georgina reflects on her role:

*'I write the educational plans for all of our national and divisionally coordinated events, and oversee a committee of 25 volunteers who write the workshops and Model UN resolutions for these events. I also oversee the committees responsible for the rules for our national Evatt (Model UN) and Voice (public speaking) competitions.'*

*Two of my highlights this year in the role have been organising a gender equality summit in collaboration with UN Women Australia and organising a summit discussing trans-Tasman relations with UN Youth New Zealand.*

*I am also involved in the organisation of two of our national competitions – I am the Chief Judge of the Evatt National Finals for 2020, which will be held online, and I am the Chief of Staff on the organising committee for the*

*Voice National Finals 2021 (which will be held in Melbourne, COVID permitting).*

*I attended a significant number of UN Youth events when I was in high school myself, and that inspired me to first become a volunteer in Victoria and then nationally once I left high school. I am currently in my 3rd year volunteering for UN Youth. Through my involvement, I have learnt so much about governance (I was the secretary for the Victorian division last year), finance, people management and oversight, risk analysis, event management, and the list goes on. I have also made some of my closest friends through my volunteering, and it feels incredibly empowering to be a young person helping lead a national organisation that itself aims to inspire young people.'*

Georgina was recently elected as National President (CEO) of UN Youth Australia for 2021.



### Jheasy (Jessie) Sanchez Vargas (2nd year Master of Environment)

Jessie started an internship role with the International Savanna Fire Management Initiative (ISFMI) in March 2020. The ISMF, principally funded and supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Australian Government, was established to share Northern Australian traditional fire management techniques around the world. In addition, Jessie has had the opportunity to work with the Green Climate Fund; she is also a Queen's tutor for Spanish. Jessie reflects on her internship:

*'As an international environmental lawyer, this has been an invaluable opportunity. It has allowed me to take a look at the big picture while getting involved in several subjects of interest such as international law and the policy associated with international environmental law, First Nations traditional knowledge, climate change, finance, and aid, amongst others. Being an intern here has helped me build the necessary set of skills to develop my career even further.'*

*This organisation values diversity so that as an international student I have felt very welcomed. Overall, the experience has been as challenging as it has been interesting and productive.'*



### Yash Shewandas (1st year Commerce)

Over the winter break, Yash participated in the Global Victoria Intellect Program (GVIP), a virtual work-integrated learning program aimed to bring together like-minded university students to take part in a real-life business experience. Yash reflects on the program:

*'My team and I gained valuable insights as business consultants for a Victorian exporter specialising in child enrichment programmes. We applied foundational market research frameworks and techniques to develop a better understanding of the early education industry in Malaysia. This included assessing potential opportunities, threats and challenges faced in the market. Along with the research, I was the lead for writing and editing the report where I tailored information to meet the clients' needs.'*

*Given the consequences of the global pandemic, this program allowed me to engage in virtual teamwork effectively. It also offered practical experience and insight into the fast-paced life of a business consultant. This experiential learning presented me a platform to leverage core skills such as research, data analysis and problem-solving while honing my teamwork capabilities.'*

Yash has started a new role as a Policy Consultant at Culture Bridge to analyse cross cultural integration at Universities and develop ways to build stronger relationships and communities between students of different cultures, to develop and test solutions to the toughest cultural challenges faced by Australia's leading universities and to present key policy findings to relevant university heads and stakeholders.





## FROM THE MCR

## Kevin Law

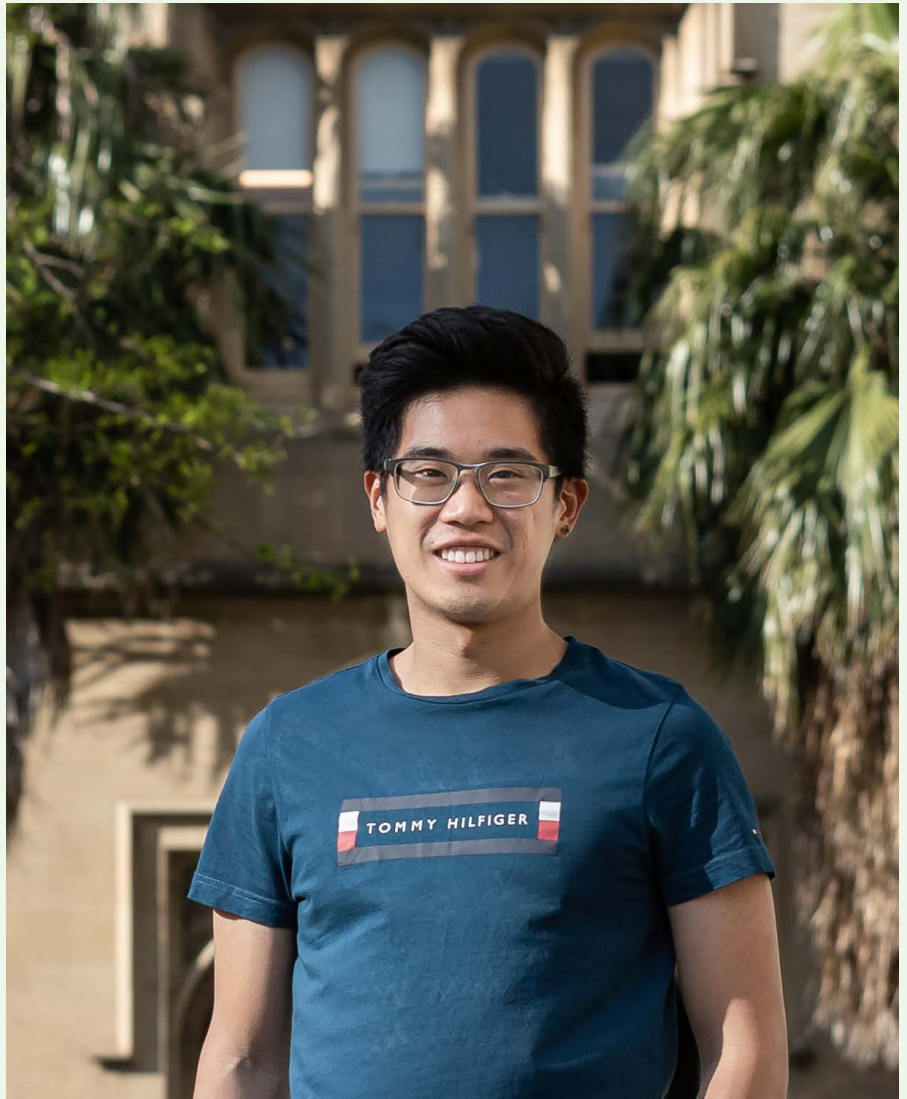
(PhD Candidate –  
Neuroscience) and MCR  
Vice-President, Academics

**What is your research project and how did you become interested in it?**

I work at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, investigating stem cell therapy in neurological conditions, like stroke and Parkinson's disease. My interest for this brain research was inspired in my first year of undergraduate studies by my late friend who suffered traumatic brain injury, a debilitating condition that currently lacks treatment. Having done some reading for interest and talking to academics, I learnt about the rising potential for stem cells to protect and repair the injured or diseased brain. What's more exciting is the new biological techniques that can reprogram adult skin cells back into the master-state stem cells, bypassing many ethical concerns around stem cell research. This became my passion.

**Who have your mentors been so far?**

My first mentor in my career was one of my undergraduate demonstrators, Dr. Rachel Shparberg, who was a PhD candidate at that time. After chatting with her about my interest in stem cells, she generously gave her time to introduce me to her stem cell laboratory and taught me the basic skills of working with stem cells. The skills Rachel taught me paved the way to my research internship in New York, my Honours research in Sydney and now my PhD at the Florey.


**Why did you come to Queen's?**

I moved from Sydney to Melbourne to pursue my passion for my niche research topic. Moving into a college would give me an opportunity to make lots of new friends in a new city so I chose Queen's because of their large graduate student body and accommodation flexibility. Being a second-year resident, I am grateful for having chosen a college with such a social and inclusive student community.

**What is academic life like at the College in the MCR?**

Life in the MCR is very supportive and comes with many academic benefits. Our weekly group study sessions motivate people to study, and whilst I do not sit exams, the studious group environment helps me to focus on my data analysis

and thesis writing. One of the most valuable aspects of living at a college for me is the opportunity to share my passion for my research with other college students and to practice explaining my research in a sensitive and accessible manner.

**How has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your research journey?**

Luckily the COVID-19 pandemic has not changed the direction of my research, but there have been delays in its progression. There was also the anxiety that my research institute may be forced to shut down, resulting in the loss of precious experiments. A big personal challenge for me in 2020 was maintaining motivation and working productively from home. Living at Queen's with my friends during this uncertain time has provided lots of valuable support to my study and wellbeing.



# The Sugden Oration

In the COVID era, the annual Sugden Oration took a slightly different look and feel this year, being held as an online conversation between Dr Martin Parkinson AC, PSM, Chancellor of Macquarie University and (amongst many other notable roles), former Secretary to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and former Secretary to the Australian Treasury, and inaugural Secretary of the Department of Climate Change, and Wyvern Dan Ziffer, who covers Melbourne-based business issues for ABC News on television, radio and online. The guests Zooming in included the present and past Vice-Chancellors of the University of Melbourne, the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, many other distinguished guests, including Fellows of the College, members of Council, Wyverns, friends, parents and students.

In his introduction, Professor Stewart Gill, the Master of Queen's, noted that the Sugden Institute had been formed to act as a vehicle for public debate on the grand challenges of our time. In introducing Dr Parkinson, Stewart said that at this time we needed creative and positive responses that encompassed scientific, social, economic, political and cultural knowledge and our speaker was eminently qualified by education and experience to address wicked issues that we face with regards to the economy, climate change and higher education.

In applauding the speed of the Australian medical reaction to COVID, Martin spoke about one clear challenge – how we might deal with issues of the global community in an era of low levels of trust in the government and national self-interest. Moving to the economic crisis, he noted that many of the relationships usually broken in recession between companies and employees may still be viable as government financial support has kept many companies in business and workers employed. He warned that some may however be 'zombie companies' that will fold over the next 12 to 18 months.

He noted that activist fiscal policy would now become more important; monetary policy did not have inflation to contend with, given low interest rates, enabling markets to be kept liquid within this deficit period. In response to a provocative question about 'Corbynite manifestos', Martin noted that traditional economic stimuli such as tax cuts and infrastructure projects have omitted the group most affected by the economic downturn – namely women. The current situation will negatively affect the gender pay gap for example.

Martin advocated for ongoing stimulus measures to both encourage jobs and grow Australia over the years ahead, moving the economy towards innovation, automation, digitisation, and industries associated with

climate change. 'Are we looking through the front windscreen or through the rear mirror' is the question we should be asking when we look at the upcoming budget.

Questions ranged from natural gas' significance in the transition to a zero emissions economy, how to educate politicians towards evidence-based reasoning rather than opinion, the part to be played by advanced manufacturing in forward-thinking economic recovery, advice on First Nations recognition, and the role to be played by state governments. On the penultimate point Martin stated bluntly that it was time for the government to 'get serious' about promoting Indigenous voices.

In her Vote of Thanks, outgoing MCR President and Master of Development Studies student Nikita Shewandas noted that it is now more imperative than ever for fresh ideas to be brought to the table in this evolving time.



Martin Parkinson



Dan Ziffer

## Indonesia-Australia Dialogue

On 21 October Queen's College and its Sugden Institute hosted with the support of Penny Burt, CEO Asialink, an Indonesia-Australia Dialogue. From the Queen's perspective, this was at the initiative and with the support of Dr Lance Castles (Wyvern 1955) who unfortunately passed away before the event. Initially we had envisioned having a senior Indonesian scholar in residence at Queen's who would engage with government, business and academia. With the pandemic, this was not possible but we instead joined with Asialink to look at how we navigate the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific post COVID-19. Stewart Gill welcomed a large audience from Australia and Indonesia. Annisa Natalegawa (Managing Director, Asia Group Advisors) moderated the dialogue. Speakers included HE Gary Quinlan, AO, and HE Kristiarto Legowo, Ambassadors for Australia and Indonesia; Mr Peter Varghese, AO, Chancellor of the University of Queensland and former Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Mr John McCarthy, AO, Sugden Fellow (2019), Asialink Senior Advisor, and Former Ambassador to Indonesia. Professor Tim Lindsey AO, Director of the Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society closed the highly successful dialogue. MCR President for 2020, Nikita Shewandas completing a Master of Development Studies and Intern at Asialink helped organise the event.

We are grateful for the support of Lance, who spent his life researching and teaching on Indonesia, and for the Castles family for sponsoring this event. Queen's has always had strong engagement with Asia, in particular Malaysia and Japan (see article on Lionel Phillips and Dr Janet Borland) and it is most appropriate that we extend this to Indonesia at a time when we need greater international understanding and cooperation within our region.

## Queen's Birthday Honours 2020

Congratulations to the following distinguished Wyverns who were awarded a Medal (OAM) in the General Division of the Queen's Birthday 2020 Honours List.

**Arthur Knee (1943)** for service to the community of Tatura.

The late **Susan Morse (1977)** for service to children's health, particularly through speech pathology.

Thank you for your service to the community.





COVID-19 required us to look at the College experience with fresh perspectives – even when physically distanced, our community has remained together.





# Lockdown life in 2020

It's been an extraordinary year. The College experience has been traditionally defined by face-to-face community interactions, so we had to re-examine what it meant to live at Queen's when 'physical distancing' was the defining rule.

The immediate impacts of COVID-19 at Queen's saw multiple changes rapidly implemented to ensure the safety of our community. These measures included the installation of hand sanitiser dispensers, physical distancing signage and markers, reduced Eakins seating of only four per table, dining in shifts, and the loss of the Intercollegiate sporting program and all of the large social events. Many of the staff began working from home with only a skeleton staff left at the College. The front College gates were closed and visitors were not permitted on campus.

Whilst many changes were implemented, our residents have been very resilient in adapting to COVID life – it required a different perspective and approach, but the core College experience remained intact.

The majority of our academic program moved to Zoom, and the College increased the number of tutorials and consultations by over 25%. Unsurprisingly, given students now had much more time to study, the College results in Semester 1 were the

best ever, with a record number of Wyvern medals to be awarded at a future date. We increased our academic events, turning our occasional 'Dine with a Scholar' Tuesday nights into a more frequent Queens' Scholars online program, and also provided a forum for the MCR to

share and showcase their research. Students remained resilient throughout Stage 4 restrictions and participated in all kinds of physically distanced events from Corridor activities, Zoom meet ups, and special dinners in Eakins (held in shifts to stay within capacity restrictions).







Sir Douglas Menzies Oratory competition was held via recorded online performances, and awarded by a team of judges headed by Wyvern David Lawrence (1982).

The MADS production of *Blood Wedding* proceeded under a strict 'closed-set' and physically distanced conditions in the JCR. As there would be no live audience, the performance was filmed and streamed online – a first for a MADS production.

Another highlight was the community mural organised by the Creative Arts Committee. Through a design competition, a student mural design was chosen to be painted on the walls of the Student Labs. With the design traced out on the wall, small groups of students were able to progressively 'paint-by-numbers' resulting in beautiful artwork created through the involvement of much of our community.

Two-thirds of our student body stayed in College during the first lockdown, and we allowed students to stay for free during mid-semester break which also kept our numbers up in the second half of the year and the College financial situation stable. The COVID-19 Student Support Fund created through the generosity of our donors played a significant role in helping to keep students at College in semester 2, given not only family income issues, but also that the majority of our students lost all their part-time work.

COVID-19 has also given us the opportunity to develop new initiatives that will persist even once the pandemic is over.

In recognition of the difficult employment market over the next few years, we launched our CareerReady program. Designed to help students have every advantage possible in applying for jobs, we invited Wyverns who are experts in their fields of recruitment, HR, graduate recruitment, and networking to share their experience and insider advice. This is a program that will continue as we seek to build more links between Wyverns and our current residents.

With all of our Orations and even the annual Wyvern event being held online this year, we will be looking to livestream more of these events in future so that our non-local Wyverns have more opportunities to remain connected with Queen's and our community.

Our Open Day was completely transformed into a fully online experience with multiple Zoom tours each hosting between 50-80 visitors. Whilst one student tour guide provided narration, two other tour guides walked through College with their mobile phones live-streaming to our visitors via Zoom. The tours were interactive with



Tour guides ready for virtual Open Day





the visitors able to ask questions of the tour guides. The virtual Open Day was a resounding success and it's a concept that will continue (in parallel with on-campus tours) to help make the College accessible to interstate and international students.

*College life has looked very different in 2020 – but as a community, we have shifted our perspective, adapted, and kept the core College experience intact. We will come out of the pandemic with a better understanding of what we value and new ways of delivering the College experience.*

Watch a virtual tour of Queen's  
at <https://qns.cl/fulltour>





## Ovarian cancer charity dinner



## Soccer mums and netball dads dinner





# THANK YOU!

## COVID-19 Student Support Fund

Thank you to all our generous supporters of the COVID-19 Student Support Fund. Support to this fund has greatly increased the College's ability to assist students who have been impacted financially by the pandemic and helped ensure they have the support they need to stay at College and continue their studies through these uncertain times.

The Student Support Fund is needs-based and focussed on assisting both undergraduate and graduate students who have been hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our students have lost casual employment (often two jobs) on which they rely to cover their College fees, others have unexpected costs due to their families undergoing financial hardship. These impacts are far reaching for our community and will continue even as pandemic restrictions are gradually lifted.

This year we have supported over 40 students with grants from the fund and will continue to support students into 2021.

### A message from the President of Council

Dr Ian Marshman AM

The challenges Queen's College has been facing this year have been without parallel, at least since the end of the Second World War.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a unique combination of public health, student welfare and financial issues that have required constant planning (and re-planning), clear yet empathetic direction



and continuing investment in maintaining a vibrant and safe learning community.

On behalf of the College Council I want to acknowledge the extraordinary leadership our Master and Head of College, Stewart Gill, continues to exercise, the strength of all the College's executive team, the remarkable and generous commitment of all our College staff, the special contributions being made by our student leaders and the unwavering understanding and collegiality all our students have shown during this strange year.

The collective endeavor shown by everyone connected with the College has underscored what a special community the College represents.

I also want to thank everyone who has donated, or is contemplating donating, to this year's Student Support Fund. Many of our students are continuing to face financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. The generous response of the Queen's community to build the Support Fund will mean that students who, because of financial hardship, might not otherwise be able to accept a place in College in 2021 and beyond will be able to do so.

*'The repercussions of the pandemic and the restrictions set in a place completely altered my academic, personal, and family circumstances. The uncertainty grew deeper when affording my tuition instalment and purchasing essential resources for the continuation of my program was all in question.'*

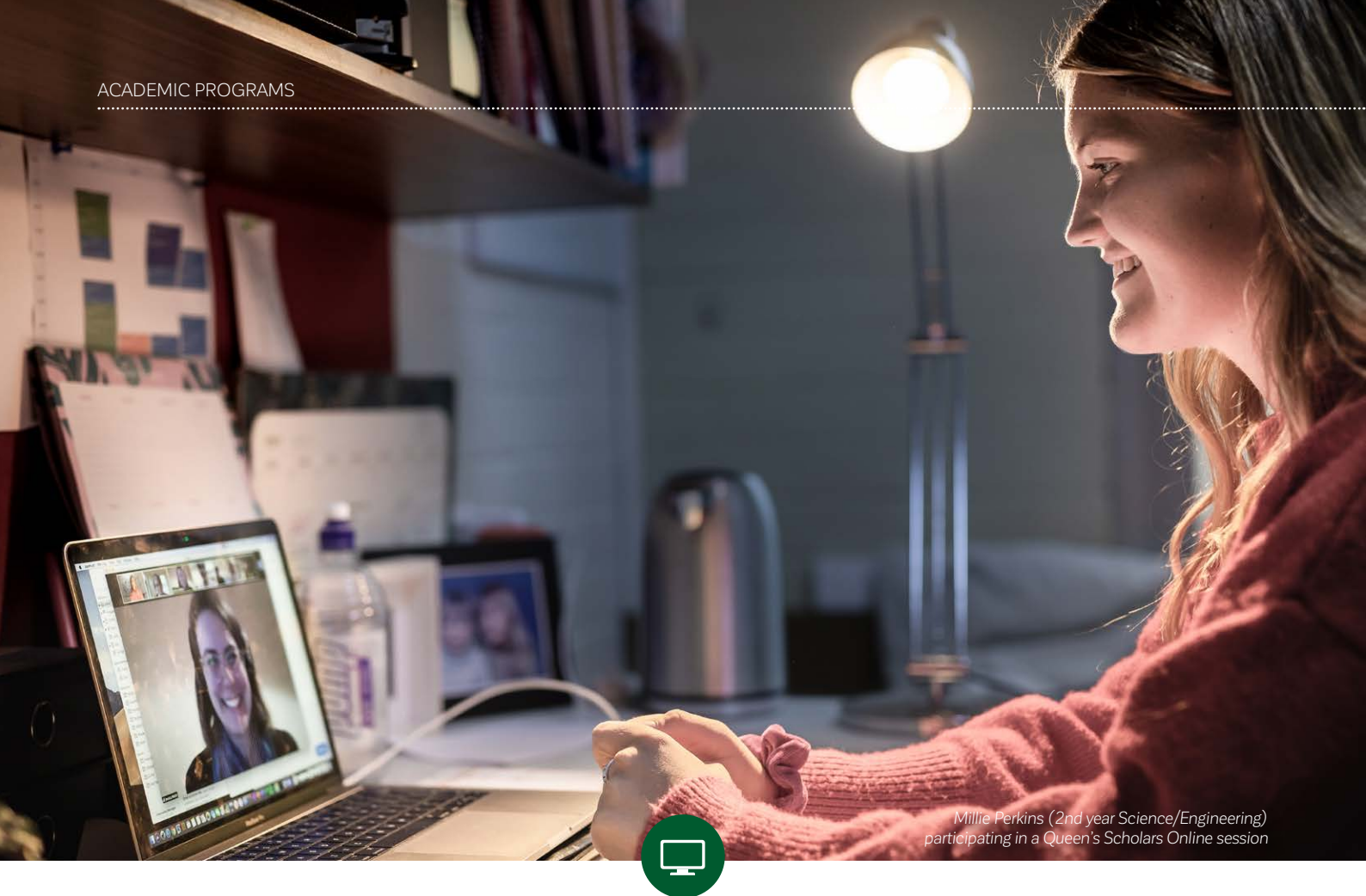
*I have been granted the great privilege to be a recipient of the Student Support Fund. This initiative has significantly reduced the unexpected financial burden and pressures my family and I are facing. There was an overwhelming and instantaneous sense of gratitude and relief felt upon receiving this news, as I am now confident that I can afford to complete my studies for the year.'*  
Doctor of Dental Surgery Resident

*'This is my first year at Queen's College and even though I lost work during the pandemic, I felt a great sense of relief and privilege to have such a great support system in a place I call home. Had it not been for the Student Support Fund, I certainly would not have been able to attend the College.'*  
Master of Engineering Resident

*'As a first year student, new to Melbourne and Queen's, I was overwhelmed by the amount of support provided on a daily basis to make my time at college meaningful. Once COVID-19 began impacting our lives, I lost my regular employment and was faced with stressful family circumstances that would have made it financially difficult to stay at college. The COVID-19 Support Fund ensured that I could continue my education and time at Queen's and for that I am so grateful.'*

1st year Science Resident





Millie Perkins (2nd year Science/Engineering)  
participating in a Queen's Scholars Online session



## Virtual Learning

..... **Dr Sally Dalton-Brown** .....

Dean of Academic Programs

'Virtual' learning is in fact not a new thing; the University of Wisconsin started, allegedly, the first online licensed radio education program in 1919. The future of learning in the context of the rise of online courses has been a constant topic since the 1990s, some deploring the decline of face-to-face teaching and interaction, and the loss of a 'campus experience', the erosion of a living community of scholars interacting in person. Others have adopted a more futurist stance, arguing for the democratization of learning through digital, more accessible media and the proliferation of (often more vocationally aimed) flexible micro-courses. Is the campus experience dead? In a few decades will students be plugged into individual virtual reality headsets, being coached by personalised edubots?

None of us thought that this question would become so important, and that the future would be slammed onto us with a few weeks' notice and while the headlines were filled with dire stories from Wuhan and Italy.

While universities raced to move teaching online, for our students it was a question of coming to terms with Zoom, and developing the patience required when you can't access a laboratory for pracs, or a workshop for your design studios, when maths formulas are written across your screen in tiny print, and when assessment might come via a download of questions

onto your phone. Queen's students lost first Uni, then the majority of their tutors, once externals were banned from our campus, all this while losing the social, sporting and cultural life that means so much to our community. Inevitably, a few – remarkably few – students decided that the online environment wasn't for them, and they would return to us later in the year or in 2021.

So what did we do? Cue many discussions with the University about policy, assessment and exams – but in more positive terms, we increased the tutorial and consultation provision by over

25%, from our normal 140 subjects (approximately) to around 180. (This doesn't include our tutors who assist with our CareerReady program – Queen's has six CV tutors). Given the lack of anything else to do, many students reported being remarkably up to date with lectures and being able to focus more strongly on study. Unsurprisingly, semester 1, 2020 gave us the best results we've ever had. We opened up staff offices (since half the staff had been sent home) for students to sit GAMSAT or job interviews. We got Headspace up and running to help students dealing with stress and uncertainty as never before; we spent a





Launch of the Sugden Institute in March 2020 with Panel members: Professor Deborah Terry AO, Vice-Chancellor, Curtin University and Chair of Universities Australia; Professor James McCluskey AO, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, University of Melbourne; Ms Ellen Sandell MLA, Greens State Member for Parliament for the Seat of Melbourne; Ms Colette Rogers, Partner, National Education Lead, Deloitte Consulting Pty Ltd; Dr Stewart Gill OAM, Master, Queen's College

lot of time emailing, texting, phoning and Zooming students to reassure them that we cared about how they were doing and that now was the perfect time to polish their skills, think about what they were doing with their degree, and perhaps pick up a new hobby.

We didn't ignore the more inspirational side of our academic program, either: our usual three-a-semester 'Dine with a Scholar' events, curated academic dinners on occasional Tuesdays, became a regular (weekly or biweekly) 'Queen's Scholars Online' event, with the added educational benefit of students now taking the lead in managing student interest and chairing the sessions. We've held: a seminar on law reform (Justice Sarah Derrington), two on politics (specifically Asia, with Asialink CEO Penny Burt, and John McCarthy AO), three on health (one on COVID-19, with US visiting scholar Professor Dave O'Connor, and one by Professor John Prins on clinical practice, and on biomedical engineering solutions in healthcare) with Associate Professor Jia-Yee Lee, and one each on ecology (Dr Jessica Walsh) and on political ecology (Dr Sarah Milne, Wyvern 1994).

We also held three Orations under the auspices of our new Sugden Institute (created to grow a community of scholars engaged in debate on the grand challenges of our time.

Our roundtable on Indonesia hosted with Asialink in October was supported by Dr Lance Castles (Wyvern 1955, deceased 2020). It included the two Ambassadors, H.E. Gary Quinlan AO (Australian) and H.E. Kristiarto Legowo (Indonesian), 2019's Sugden Fellow, Mr John McCarthy AO and various other Indonesian experts.

Queen's annual Sugden Oration featured Dr Martin Parkinson AC PSM in conversation with Wyvern and ABC reporter Dam Ziffer (Wyvern 1996) on global challenges to the economy and to education post-COVID. In Semester 1, our annual Indigenous Oration, with Dean Parkin, Director of *From the Heart* foundation kicked off our National Reconciliation Week with student-led events including a 'you can't ask that' video arranged by our Indigenous Student Support Officer Jess Alderton, and Deloitte scholar Luke West. Speaking on the challenge of racism in Australia, Dean spoke movingly of how this battle would be 'won with conviction and belief', through the connections made, and the strong individual stories that show that connection to country and community. Given that only two of the 'Close the Gap' targets are on track, the country has some way to go, and it is up to us to campaign and show our support for the ongoing mission of reconciliation.

Dean was also one of the speakers at our July Social Change Forum. Giving a space to students deeply troubled by the online reporting of the Black Lives Matter movement post the death of George Floyd, the forum was arranged by the Sugden Institute jointly with the Social Work Committee and the MCR, and posed the difficult question of how to make a difference through effective protest. MP Ellen Sandell (Wyvern 2003) and Katherine Ellis, CEO of the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, also spoke, offering practical strategies, from fully understanding an issue (doing your research) to becoming a holder of power, to building alternative institutions for change. Kate, after running the group through a 'privilege check', suggested becoming effective allies for those on the front line of campaigning as a strategy – using privilege to make a difference, to imagine a better future. Dean argued that we must 'refine, reform or reject institutions and systems that do not further the historical struggle for equality, and keep questioning – "Whom do I serve?" and "How do we change minds?"' Dean concluded with a reminder to redevelop resilience. Changemakers need not only practical strategies, but also persistence and passion.



# Wyvern Society Virtual Drinks

Wyverns from a tremendous range of decades – and from as far away as Switzerland! – joined Arch Wyvern Dr Katti Williams, Master of Queen’s Dr Stewart Gill, and Council President Dr Ian Marshman, for a cheeky game of 2020 Bingo and a virtual tour of the College. The highlight of the evening was the awarding of the Wyvern of the Year to David Lawrence (Wyvern, 1982).



An astonishingly humble yet hugely respected member of the College community, David is a truly generous and unfailing supporter of Wyverns and current students alike. David has mentored students, held committee positions as former deputy Arch Wyvern, and was instrumental in launching the Wyvern Ball and reviving Wyvern Dinners. He was the perfect choice to sum up the collective feelings of the community at the memorial service for former Vice-Master Jack Clarke.

David’s ready wit, energy, and insight have helped make *Laughing Matters*, the corporate comedy business he runs with fellow Wyvern Jo Gill, extremely successful. His College friends also remember him for his kindness, tolerance, and inclusivity: qualities which he still displays, and which have shaped his achievements.

David is passionate about improving childrens’ literacy, especially in remote Indigenous communities. He has authored 11 books for young readers which explore the themes of bullying, racism, leadership, teamwork, and support, and use a sporting backdrop to engage normally reluctant readers. His AFL-inspired Fox Swift series was co-written with Cyril Rioli, while *The Stormy Protest* won the 2019 Children’s Environmental Award. As an Ambassador for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, he has facilitated Creative Initiative writing workshops with students from the Tiwi Islands and Katherine, helping them to write and publish stories such as *Japarika* and *Japarika Rises*, and the *Damo Makes His Mark* series. These initiatives have helped young Indigenous women and men create (produce stories), cultivate (build knowledge) and motivate (grow self-esteem). In characteristic style, though, David sees this inspirational work as a privilege, counting himself lucky to be able to do what he loves.

We are truly lucky to have David as a member of the College community. He has selflessly enriched the lives of so many, and for that, we thank him, we admire him, and we honour him.

Dr Katti Williams (1994), Arch Wyvern



Photos provided by David Lawrence



# Julia Maguire

(WYVERN 2009)

Julia is an infectious disease epidemiologist currently working as a consultant for the World Health Organization's Division of Pacific Technical Support, which provides support to the 21 Pacific island countries and areas in the region.

The Division, based in Suva, Fiji, works closely alongside Pacific Governments and Ministries of Health, in collaboration with other regional partners, and are currently working to ensure that countries are well prepared to respond to the threat of COVID-19. Ideally, Julia would be undertaking this role in Suva, but due to travel restrictions is working remotely from her Sydney apartment.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Julia has taken a leave of absence from her regular role working as an epidemiologist at the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance where she conducts research of vaccine preventable diseases including epidemiological reviews, vaccine effectiveness studies and investigating the impact of immunisation programs on disease.

## Why this career?

My career path has not always been clear. I majored in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in my Bachelor of Science but knew that a laboratory-based career was not right for me. I researched further study and came across the Master of Science (Epidemiology), also at the University of Melbourne, and I instantly knew that epidemiology and public health were for me. It was a great mix of the biological sciences and infectious diseases in which I had an interest, without being lab or hospital based. It was appealing to potentially work towards impacting the health of the public as a whole, especially in resource-poor settings.



Julia at the WHO Division of Pacific Technical Support office, Suva, Fiji, assisting in the measles outbreak response and COVID-19 pandemic preparedness in the Pacific in January/February 2020.

## Best career advice?

*I am still early in my career, but I am a believer in taking any opportunities that come your way and not being afraid to apply for opportunities even if you aren't sure you tick all the boxes.*

## Your biggest career influence?

My infectious disease epidemiology lecturer during the first semester of my Master of Science (Epidemiology) at the University of Melbourne mentioned Australia's Field Epidemiology Training Program. I had never heard of it but quickly looked into it and set my sights on it. Four years later, once I finished the Master's and gained the required work experience, I started the program and I have never looked back. I have since run into that lecturer at a conference and thanked her for unknowingly influencing my career.

## A memory of Queen's?

That is so tough since there are so many! Some of my fondest memories are lounging in our rooms with the doors open or in the corridor chatting all afternoon with anyone and everyone. The turns and costumes are such fun memories too. I have Queen's to thank for so many enduring friendships and, of course, my husband!

## Most exciting project?

I have been very fortunate to work in a number of rewarding and meaningful public health settings. I was very excited for my first international deployment. I assisted in the surveillance and response of infectious diseases among the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. It was amazing to play even a tiny part to help during one of the biggest humanitarian disasters of our time. In general, I'm pretty excited about the endless possibilities of where my career may take me.



# Dr Cameron Wolfe

(WYVERN 1995)

Cameron is currently an Associate Professor of Medicine, in the infectious disease division at Duke University and reflects on his career.

My usual 'day job' is to look after patients who are immunocompromised – both as a result of HIV, and in patients receiving organ transplants or chemotherapy. Some of the most exciting work there has been to lead my hospital in developing safe ways to use organs from patients with HIV and transplant them into others who need organ transplants. We now have an equally large program to use organs from donors who have Hepatitis C, and to safely transplant them into patients who need a kidney/liver/heart lung transplant, and then treat their hepatitis afterwards. It's afforded us a wonderful opportunity to get people life saving organs much quicker, and wasn't contemplated when I started out 10 years ago. I have also chaired the national government committee on infections in organ transplant, observing and driving change in government and healthcare policy in transplant.

My other responsibility is that I'm in charge of our University's 'emerging pathogens' team, so that's meant the local COVID-19 response is on my shoulders (as was H1N1, Ebola and Zika before that). For COVID-19, I've had the honour of leading our clinical teams to care for now over a thousand patients in our hospital, and I've been the local Principal Investigator for a number of multi-center/multi-country trials, that have led to some successful treatments for COVID-19 being proven (specifically an antiviral called Remdesivir). It has been busy, but a wonderfully variable job, and pretty emotionally taxing at times especially in the last year, but incredibly fulfilling!

## Why this career?

I always had a curiosity about the intersection where microbiology met human disease, the social disparities that feed into those conditions, and the complex patients I would see in front of me during medical school. Infectious Diseases seemed to be a natural fit. My transplant



and special pathogens hats came through nothing other than serendipity and being in the right place when help was needed. Everything grew from being willing to say 'yes' early in my career.

## Best career advice?

Be open that what you started out doing may not be your final destination. I began assuming I'd do HIV-Global Health, yet as my years went on, I was able to flip into looking after patients with immunocompromised conditions domestically.

## Your biggest career influence?

A mentoring physician from Sale, who gave me advice to not get sucked into following the rat race, but to be prepared to branch out and do different things as you see fit.

And a now passed-on Artist-in-residence at Queen's, Richard Divall, who opened my eyes not only to amazing orchestral music, but to much of the world through his generosity and efforts when I went with Nick Potter (Wyvern 1999), and worked overseas for a year in Asia and Africa.

## A memory of Queen's?

Magoo's football, car rallies, turns, watching the rowing wearing my watermelon helmet?? Mostly some enduring friendships!!

## Most exciting project?

A toss-up between designing how to care for someone with Ebola... vs working to allow national college football tournaments to safely play during the pandemic, when to this day I have no idea of the rules of American Football!



# Dr Janet Borland

(WYVERN 1995)

As an undergraduate at Queen's, Janet studied an Arts/Science degree. She returned to Queen's in 2002 as a postgraduate and completed her MA in Japanese history.

Janet is currently an Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies at the University of Hong Kong. Her book, *Earthquake Children: Building Resilience from the Ruins of Tokyo*, was published by Harvard University Asia Center in 2020, and awarded the Hong Kong Academy of the Humanities First Book Prize for 2020. In 2020-21, Janet will spend one year at the University of Tokyo as a Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellow.

## Why this career?

I love everything about being a professor: I have the freedom to pursue research on topics that I am passionate and curious about (first earthquakes and disaster preparedness, and now the endangered Red-crowned Crane in Hokkaido); I get to work with great students and help them to achieve their potential; I have opportunities to engage with the Japanese business and diplomatic community in Hong Kong; and of course I love travelling – to Japan for research, and around the world to present my findings at international conferences. I'm always learning and challenged, and ultimately, I find this very rewarding.

## Best career advice?

Aim high and believe in yourself.

## Your biggest career influence?

Growing up on a dairy farm in West Gippsland, I never imagined that one day I would become a historian of Japan living and working in Hong Kong. Studying Japanese language at secondary school was undoubtedly the most influential factor that not only defined my career, but also my life trajectory. I had two opportunities to live and study in Japan as an exchange student. These experiences, especially at Kyoto University, consolidated my language skills and also my desire to pursue a career related to Japanese history. Knowing the language is essential for me to conduct research in original Japanese source material. I'm passionate about learning a language: in addition to obvious linguistic skills and insights into another culture, knowing a second or third language makes you a more empathetic communicator.

I'm glad I persevered learning Japanese for so many years!

## A memory of Queen's?

As I write from my office overlooking the densely crowded high-rise skyline of Hong Kong, my memories of Queen's are strongly connected to the historic buildings, open spaces, and beautiful gardens. I have fond memories of daily life at Queen's, everything from meals in Eakins Hall, to after-dinner events in the JCR, lying on the grass in the Quad, and even studying for exams in the Tower was special. I loved returning to Queen's in 2002 as a postgrad recipient of the Lionel Phillips Scholarship. I enjoyed mentoring and tutoring undergrads, and also connecting with members of the Senior Common Room. It was a formative time of my life and helped lay the foundations for my career in academia.

## Most exciting project?

In 2017 I partnered with Mitsubishi Corporation Hong Kong and created a field trip called the Young Leaders Tour of Japan. Every year I take ten HKU students to Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures to learn about recovery and reconstruction following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. It is a powerful experience to meet people ranging from survivors to business executives, and hear their stories about rebuilding the local community and their hopes for the future. This year, however, we Zoomed to Japan and had online guest lectures from leading experts in trade and tourism. Although not the same as visiting in person, our lively Q&A sessions enabled students to practice their Japanese language and, importantly, learn valuable lessons about leadership and post-disaster recovery, which are relevant today as we navigate life after COVID-19.





# Remembering Lionel Phillips

By Dr Stewart Gill OAM

Two of our most generous scholarships, the Lionel Phillips and Takahiro Chikashima Scholarships for Asian Studies at an undergraduate and graduate level are donated by Mr Takahiro Chikashima in honour of his close friend Lionel Phillips (Arts, 1940), who spent much of his life in Asia working in the Australian diplomatic service.

Lionel Phillips was born on 23rd June 1919 some eight months after the Great War had ended and in the midst of the Spanish Flu Pandemic. By the end of 1919 all Australian states had suffered 12,000 deaths. His place of birth is recorded as Sefton House Private Maternity Hospital which was in Madeline (now Swanston) Street close to Queen's College. His mother, Emily Caroline Phillips, was 33 and unmarried. Being an 'unmarried mother' carried significant stigma and was generally regarded as a disgrace. It is not clear if Emily lived in Melbourne at the time, or whether she came to Melbourne for the pregnancy and birth. It was common practice for single and pregnant mothers to move away from home. However, it is significant that despite the morals of the time, she kept Lionel.

Lionel, on entry to Queen's College in 1940 noted his address as being in Portland and he appears to have been raised there in a loving family that may have included his mother and two of her sisters who also never married. He appears to have been a high achiever academically and moved to Melbourne on a scholarship to Melbourne Boy's High School. From there he undertook a three-year BA degree at the University of Melbourne from 1938 to 1940. He entered Queen's College in his third year as a resident and spent 1940-1942 studying honours in history and some postgraduate study. He did note that he was poor while studying and was awarded a college scholarship in 1941 worth £25.

Lionel enjoyed his college days during the early years of the war. He played piano and organ and took part in the cultural and religious life of the College. He would later also play the church organ at St Paul's and St John's in Canberra.

After joining the Department of Defence in 1941 as a clerk he enlisted in the Australian Army the following year and served in PNG for two years. In 1946 after another year with Defence, he joined the fledgling Department of Foreign Affairs and began a long and illustrious career. Sent initially to China he was posted to Shanghai, Nanking,

Peking and Hong Kong. 1952 saw him serving in Manila and later in Pusan, South Korea. He also served in Accra, Lagos, Pretoria and Cape Town. His final and most enjoyable posting was as Cultural Attaché to the Australian Embassy in Tokyo. Cultural diplomacy, a central element of what has been described as soft power, is seen as increasingly important in developing and maintaining peaceful and prosperous relationships between nations. Lionel, being well-versed in history, literature, music and the arts and passionate about Asian culture was well placed to excel in this posting and was something of a pioneer in the field.

While in Japan Lionel met his friend and partner Takahiro Chikashima. He retired in 1979 in Tokyo and taught English at the Japanese Foreign Office and Soka University. Among his many contributions to promoting Australian-Japanese relations was the establishment of a Visiting Professorship of Australian Studies to University of Tokyo and the establishment of the Australian-Japan Institute Library.

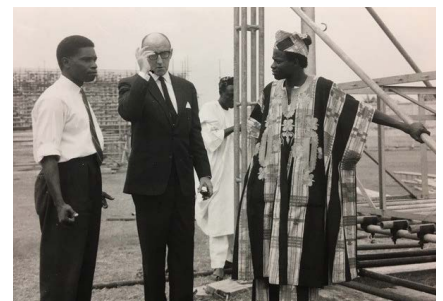
I would like to think that Queen's College through its egalitarian ideals provided support for a young man from country Victoria with a single parent and a state high school education and helped to open the door for his diplomatic service. Queen's provided a home and opportunities for a liberal education with wide cultural experiences. It is interesting to note that most recruits to the fledgling Department of Foreign Affairs in the 1940s were from private schools and with law degrees.

He died in 1990 but through the generous support of Mr Chikashima Lionel's legacy lives on to create greater cultural understanding between Asia, particularly Japan and Australia. There is surely no greater need as Queen's also reaches out to develop stronger ties with not only Japan but also Malaysia, Indonesia and China.

*With thanks to George Willox (1975), Associate Professor Allan Patience and Takahiro Chikashima for providing research information and photographs.*



*An early photo of Lionel*



*Lagos Nigeria 1960 – 1965*



*Medals awarded for Lionel's service in the AIF (Australian Imperial Force)*



*Glydebourne Opera UK 1989 with Takahiro Chikashima*



*Associate Professor Allan Patience with Takahiro Chikashima and portrait of Lionel Phillips*



## SUGDEN SOCIETY virtual event

The bequest societies of Queen's College and Wesley College recently joined for an exclusive viewing of Alan Hopgood's play *The Carer*.

Both Wesley College and Queen's College share a long history with hundreds of students over time exiting year 12 from Wesley and going on to take up residence at Queen's. Famous names in that category include former Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt (Wyvern 1927), renown historian Prof Geoffrey Blainey (Wyvern 1948) and playwright and actor Alan Hopgood (Wyvern 1952).

We were pleased to orchestrate a joint webinar delivered via YouTube, featuring Alan's one-man play *The Carer* which describes the trauma, but positive outlook experienced, by an elderly gentleman who has recently lost his wife from dementia. There were some 80 attendees online from the two Colleges.

In recent years Alan has written a series of plays known as 'Health Plays' which offer a humorous outlook on challenging health issues. Some of the sensitive topics covered include prostate cancer, diabetes, depression and suicide.



### Alan Hopgood AM (Wyvern 1952)

*'I've been an actor and playwright for 60 years and some of those early years were spent very happily at Wesley College and Queen's College where I must say I cut my teeth as an actor.'*

*The Carer was first made famous by dear Bud Tingwell who is no longer with us of course, but he toured this play for two seasons around Australia – 260 performances at the tender age of 83. I often saw him after a performance, which was a one man play of course and very exhausting, but he always insisted on seeing the audience and talking to them.*

*I said aren't you tired, and he said yes, but they re-charge my batteries and make me aware of why I do this play.*

*Bud is no longer with us, and after he passed on I was asked to take on the play and do it myself. What the Sugden Society and Sapere Aude Society viewed was a performance at South Bank Theatre and I happily shared this performance especially with them, so I can support Wesley and Queen's for their future because of what they gave me!*

**You can view Alan's plays at [www.healthplay.com.au](http://www.healthplay.com.au)**

### Athol and Mildred Lapthorne Memorial Scholarship

Established this year from the generous bequest of the Estate of Mildred Lapthorne, the Athol and Mildred Lapthorne Memorial Scholarship will each year from 2021 fund an applicant who demonstrates good academic potential but also a passion for community service.

The College will work in partnership with Dimboola Secondary College (who also received a generous bequest from the Lapthorne estate) to help seek suitable candidates, honouring the benefactors links with this school and assisting students to transition to University.



**SUGDEN SOCIETY**  
Queen's College

For further information about the activities of the Sugden Society, and the option of remembering Queen's in your estate, please contact:

**Coordinator of the Sugden Society**  
**Frank Opray (Wyvern 1965)**  
ph: 0407 316 865 e: [frank@opray.net](mailto:frank@opray.net)  
**Nicole Crook, Director of Advancement**  
[nicole.crook@queens.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:nicole.crook@queens.unimelb.edu.au)  
ph: 0417 368 605



## VALE

The College has been saddened to receive news of the passing of a number of Wyverns.

**The Reverend  
Murray Allen**  
Arts/Theology (1946)

**Dr John Bergman**  
Dental Science (1975)

**Mr Miles Burt**  
Commerce/Law (1998)

**Dr Lance Castles**  
Arts (Hons) (1955)

**Ms Jillian Crowe**  
Law (1973), retired  
Magistrate

**Mr Alan Dixon**  
Law (1947), retired  
County Court Judge

**Dr Peter Elliot**  
Science (1979)

**Mr Peter Fox**  
Law (1963)

**Ms Wilma Hannah**  
Arts (1941)

**Mr Alan Heath**  
Science (1961)

**Professor Raymond  
Martin AO**  
Science (1946)

**Dr Lawrence McIntosh**  
Arts/Theology (1951)

**Mr Wes Miles**  
Science/Education  
(1958)

**Mr Bob Newman OAM,  
ADM**  
Science (Forestry)  
(1947)

**Mrs Susan Morse**  
Speech Pathology (1977)

**Mr Robert Ramsay**  
Law (1944)

**Associate Professor  
Graham Schmidt**  
Medicine (1952)

**Mr Murray Treseder**  
Commerce (1953)

### Graham Theodore Schmidt

21 May 1934 – 22 July 2020

Graham Schmidt felt lucky that he failed first year veterinary science. It meant that he switched to medicine and a rewarding career as a gastroenterologist. Plus, he spent more time at Queen's College; seven happy years during the 1950s.

He was born in Korumburra, South Gippsland, in 1934, the eldest child of dairy-farmers Theo and Minnie Schmidt. Theo died five years later, and Graham always admired his mother for running the farm through the Second World War until she married Tom Rowe.

Graham won a boarding scholarship to Wesley College for the last four years of school, then moved in to Queen's in 1952. He threw himself into College life with gusto – serving on the GC, delighting in AGMs which stretched past midnight, water-bagging and singing in the choir. Although he was more of a scholar than a sportsman, he also represented Queen's in football, tennis, athletics and rowing.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of Queen's was that Graham met his wife, Patricia Gellie, through her brother, Warren, a fellow Queener. They were married in the Queen's College Chapel in 1961 then sailed to London in 1964 for Graham's post-graduate training. Patricia was 30 weeks pregnant and Graham described it as 'the craziest thing I've ever done', embarking on a six-week voyage as the ship's only doctor.

After returning to Melbourne, Graham began work in 1967 at Prince Henry's Hospital in St Kilda Road and Box Hill

Hospital, and established a private practice, first in Collins Street then in Box Hill.

He was a visiting physician at Prince Henry's for 24 years until 1991, when it closed to make way for the Melburnian Apartments. At Box Hill Hospital, Graham was head of the General Medical Unit for 18 years, from 1970, and became the inaugural head of the Gastroenterology Unit from 1991 until 1998. He retired from Box Hill Hospital in 2012, aged 78, and his farewell card stated: "You are loved, respected and highly regarded by everyone. You are a true gentleman."

Similar sentiments were expressed in every message sent to Graham's family after he died in July.

*'A very caring and compassionate physician; a first-class doctor, trusted and admired by his patients; such a kind, decent man, always interested in people and wanting to help; he was a thoughtful, warm and generous friend.'*

Many spoke of their admiration for Graham after Patricia died suddenly in 1995 and he rebuilt his life, learning to cook (including dinner parties), moving from the family home in East Malvern to an apartment in St Kilda Road and becoming a devoted grandfather to his seven grandchildren.

The one exception to his gentle nature was his fervent support of the Essendon Bombers – his one-eyed barracking was legendary amongst his friends, as was his quick wit, sense of fun and love of a rude birthday card.



Graham is greatly missed by his four children, Lucinda (Wyvern 1983), Jeremy, Nick (Wyvern 1986) and Rohan, his son-in-law James Omond and his daughters-in-law Michelle and Nicole, and his grandchildren, Charlotte (Wyvern 2018) and Maggie Omond (1st year Arts), and Blake, Annabel, Zara, Lachy and Joshua Schmidt.

By Lucinda Schmidt (Wyvern 1983)

Photos provided by Lucinda Schmidt



## Raymond (Ray) Leslie MARTIN AO, Emeritus Professor

3 February 1926 to 25 February 2020

In the passing of Ray Martin, we have all lost a scientific and educational leader with a long and strong association with Queen's College.

Ray was born in Melbourne, and grew up at 'Astolat', in Camberwell. His father was Professor of Physics at University of Melbourne (Sir Leslie Martin) and his mother a talented musician and linguist (Gladys (nee) Bull). Ray's school education was at Scotch College, completing his final year in 1942 at Sydney Boys High School, when his father was assisting the war effort to develop radar at Sydney CSIRO.

He started at The University of Melbourne in 1943, in Science-Engineering but in Year 2 shifted to Science graduating with a double major in Chemistry in 1946. In Australia, the only higher degree possible in those years was a MSc and he became a Fellow (later Senior Fellow) of Queen's College while he pursued his research in the area of non-stoichiometric oxides. His time at Queen College was an enjoyable one, and he must have gained his passion for teaching at this time. He also believed in a well-balanced lifestyle and was a regular participant in the College Balls as well as a keen tennis and cricket player.

He was awarded an 1851 Exhibition Scholarship to undertake his PhD with Professor (Sir) Harry Emeléus at the University of Cambridge. This feat emulated his father who had gained his PhD under the supervision of Lord Rutherford on an 1851 Scholarship at Cambridge.

At Cambridge, Ray was a Fellow at Sidney Sussex College and a member of the University of Cambridge tennis team, where he was awarded a Blue, but also played for Cambridgeshire in international tournaments. In 1952 Ray was awarded his PhD in Physical Inorganic Chemistry then undertook post-doctoral research at the Technische Hochschule Stuttgart (Germany). While in the UK, Ray met his future wife, Rena Laman (BSc, University of Sydney) and they married at St Edward's King and Martyr Church, Cambridge on 20 February 1954.

They returned to Australia late in 1954, where Ray was appointed Senior Lecturer at the University of Technology, Sydney (now The University of New South Wales). During this time, he made several academic discoveries, including the delta bond ( $\delta$ -bond) – a metal-metal interaction with unusual magnetic properties.

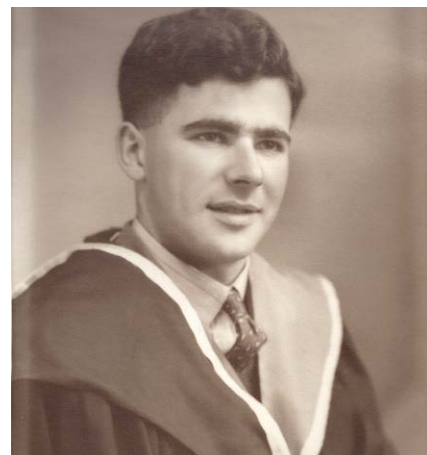
In 1959 he returned to Melbourne to join a new team at the Central Research Laboratories at Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI). Ray later became Professor and the inaugural Head of Inorganic Chemistry at The University of Melbourne in 1962, where he spent the next decade pioneering studies on magnetochemistry of transition metal complexes. During this period, he was both Dean of Science and Arts and an active member of the Professorial Board.

After several sabbaticals in the USA (at Bell Telephone Research Laboratories, New Jersey and Columbia University, New York), in 1972 Ray moved to The Australian National University (ANU) as their foundation Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, and Dean of the Research School of Chemistry.

His peripatetic career continued when he was appointed Vice Chancellor at Monash University in 1977. He remained at the helm for a decade, in which there were seminal projects that he sponsored, including the painting of the Banksia collection by Celia Rosser and establishment of a Commercialisation arm of Monash.

Following his decade as Vice Chancellor, Ray returned to research as Professor of Chemistry at Monash and also chaired the Australian Science and Technology Council (ASTEC) (1988-92) which directly advised the Hawke government's Science Council until his retirement in 1991.

His many academic awards included the Leighton Medal (1989), the Inorganic Chemistry Medal (1978), the Archibald



Ollé Prize (1975) and the H G Smith Medal (1968). In 1987 Ray was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for services to science and higher education. He was awarded a Doctor of Science (ScD) by The University of Cambridge in 1968 for his contribution to the theory and practice of coordination chemistry. In 1978 Ray received a DSc from the ANU, as well as receiving honorary degrees from both Monash University and The University of Melbourne.

Ray's interests were always eclectic and he was Chair of the Victoria College of the Arts, on the board of RMIT, Circadian Technologies, Selby Foundation and on the governing body of The Heide Museum of Modern Art.

Ray was always an avid sportsman playing tennis while a student at The University of Melbourne and at The University of Cambridge. He played social cricket, golf and was a keen skier until well into his 70s. He believed that this life-work balance was important and essential to maintain creativity and enthusiasm.

In 1992, Ray and Rena retired to Mount Eliza on the Mornington Peninsula until Rena died on 20 April 2016. Ray is survived by his four children, Leon, Lisa, Antony and Michael - all graduates of Monash University with three PhD's between them. His affectionate humour and camaraderie are a feature of his personality and will be sadly missed.

*By the Martin family*

*Photo provided by the Martin Family*

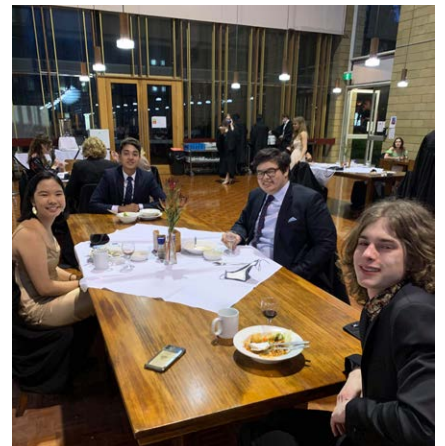




# Formal Hall

How do you continue the tradition of formal hall when the Eakins seating capacity has been reduced by over 50%? You do it in shifts!

During Semester 2 the community was determined to still come together to celebrate Collegians of the Year, Valedictorians and the election of the 2021 General Committee. With an extended dinner split over two shifts, every student was able to don formal wear and academic gowns and participate in the celebrations!



Photographs by Edi Rodda



# Thank you to our 2020 donors

Queen's College acknowledges with gratitude the following individuals, charitable trusts and foundations for their generous support towards the COVID-19 Student Support Fund; Scholarships; Indigenous Education; the Cameron Brown Community Innovation Fund; the Featonby Library; the Sugden Heritage Collections; the College Chapel; the Master's Discretionary Fund; Art & Archives and Student Facilities.

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