



Queen's College  
*The University of Melbourne*

# In Aeternum

The Queen's College and Wyvern Society magazine 2023



## 50 years of women in residence

### **The call of the wild**

Conquering the  
Pacific Crest Trail

### **Centenary of our Chapel**

Celebrating stained  
glass beauty

### **Happy little Vegemites**

100 years of putting  
a rose in every cheek

### **Saving lives with data**

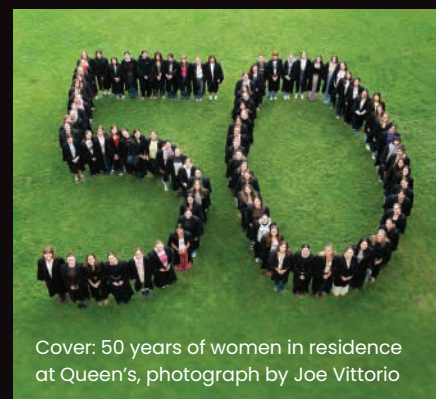
Wyvern of the Year  
Professor Alicia Oshlack





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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Queen's stands, the Wurundjuri people of the Kulin nation, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



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# A year of anniversaries

On April 25 1923, the first ANZAC Service was conducted at Albany, WA. A few days later, work commenced on the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. A few weeks before, on 11 March 1923, the Master of Queen's College, the Reverend Dr Edward H Sugden, the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, the Most Reverend Harrington Lees, the President of the Methodist Conference, the Reverend Alexander McCallum, and the new Professor of Theology, the Reverend A E Albiston, joined together in the dedication of the Queen's College Chapel. With an outstanding talk by current Queen's College Fellow, the Reverend Professor Robert Gribben AM, we recognised the important centenary earlier this year.

Jump forward fifty years to 1973, and in the midst of the opening of Australia's first casino in Hobart and the federal voting age lowering from 21 to 18, Queen's became officially co-residential. Women had in fact been in residence from the College's beginnings, but marginalised because small in number. However, Queen's continued to support women's education and had a number who attended tutorials as Wyvernas down the decades. In 1973, women were to enjoy full status.

Move on to 2023, and women are in the majority within the College. 2023 is a year for us to reflect on the impact of Queen's women. Our women's group within the College is named after Dr Mary Clementina de Garis (Wyverna 1900). Margaret Pawsey writes that Clemmie loved being at Queen's and was proud of the connection. Graduating as a doctor in 1907, she went on to serve in the First World War with the Scottish Women's Hospitals in

Macedonia, and with the Serbian Army as chief medical officer of a hospital. She was to become widely recognised as a feminist and child welfare advocate, as well as a medical practitioner in Geelong. She is a model to our current female residents and so it is fitting that the Clem Club is named after her.

With every milestone comes reflection: a remembrance of the past, an honouring of the present, and a hope for the future. This is true whether it is about a building, the Chapel, and what it stands for, or about the students in whom our present and future hope rests. The Chapel is a symbol of our Methodist and now Uniting Church values, and the people it has influenced as they have passed through. I am reminded that one of the famous statements of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, was this suitable challenge to our college: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can as long as ever you can."

***This year's anniversary is not only about these first women who joined in 1973, but it is an important acknowledgement of all the women who have made a mark on our community throughout our history.***

In 2023, Queen's Sugden Institute continued to engage with a range of topics bringing together town and gown. Among our speakers were Professor Bindu Puri from the Centre for Philosophy at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi on 'Gandhi on Truth and Non-Violence';



Professor Hilary Charlesworth AM on her work in the International Court of Justice; Dr Jackie Huggins AM who presented our Indigenous oration; and Professor Andrea Carson on social media and 'fake news'. The College also hosted a panel discussion on AUKUS with the UK and US consul-generals and a senior representative of DFAT, along with Professor Tim Lynch from the University of Melbourne. This was on top of a very successful engineering dinner and a number of smaller Dine with a Scholar events.

Of course, this year is not just about the past, but also the present. We celebrate the many achievements of our students in 2023 – academic, sporting and cultural – as recorded in this edition. It is also a year in which we launched our new strategic plan, which emphasises our four themes of belonging, encountering, exploring, and transforming. In a University of Melbourne bordering on 60,000 students, we provide, as we always have, a unique experience, making sure that our students have every opportunity to be equipped for life beyond university and college with life-long friends. Thus, our focus remains on being career-ready through education for life, not just for livelihood. This would be impossible without the support of and partnerships with Wyverns and friends as mentors and benefactors. Thanks to many in our community and beyond for your support.

**Dr Stewart Gill OAM**



# The call of **the wild**



## **Carryn Vincec** (Wyvern 2005)

Clocking up 4,265 kilometres over 153 days, wearing out five pairs of shoes scaling mountains, trekking through snow and deserts and dodging fires and bears is not everyone's dream break from work. But for Carryn Vincec, traversing the length of the United States from Canada to Mexico on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), was just what she needed to do.

"It's definitely one of the most incredible things I've ever done. The idea of walking across an entire country struck something in me. It has been life changing, which I think is common with people who hike the trail. It does help you realise what is important to you and what makes you happy."

Carryn took time off from her fabulous job in the legal team at Meta (formerly Facebook) in London to take on the challenge.

"For about seven years I was with one of the big firms over here, then

I went in-house with Meta, supporting their augmented, virtual reality business, which was fascinating and absolutely incredible. As far as legal jobs go, it was the most interesting one out there. The decision to leave that job to do the trail definitely was a tough one, but you are never going to get to the end of your days and say, 'Oh I wish I'd spent that year working instead of hiking the trail!'"

***Carryn planned to hike alone but found a life-affirming aspect of the trail to be the connection with strangers.***



"I was very fortunate. I got on so well with the people I met right at the beginning that we ended up hiking the whole trail together and we are still in touch. We all met up in Norway this year and went hiking there for a week. The scenery on the PCT is amazing, the experience is amazing, but it is definitely the people you meet along the way that stays with you the most. For much of the hike you are relying on the kindness of strangers, such as someone at the trail head giving you a lift into town, or as happened to us, a woman feeding and housing us overnight out of the blue. It really restored my faith in humanity."

Carryn has handy tips for anyone considering taking on the challenge.

"Do it. It will be the best thing you've ever done. Plan a bit but don't over plan. Once you get on the trail, any plan you have goes out the window – so many things are outside your control. Test your gear. Make sure you've done a practice hike with all your gear. You don't want the first time you are setting up your tent to be the first night on the trail. Resilience is definitely a big part of it. Obviously it's a physical challenge, but the mental challenge of it is far greater, particularly once the novelty of it wears off. You are out there for five months, every day, getting up, walking 32 to 48 kilometres a day. You definitely need mental resilience to keep going on days when it's cold and rainy, when there may not be amazing views that day, when you might be sore and hungry – you still need to keep going."



Carryn's determination stood her in good stead.

"There were low points but for me, there was never a point when I seriously contemplated getting off the trail. I very much knew that finishing the trail was my number one goal. I think it reflects my personality; my friends would say I'm quite goal-oriented."

The effort was well worth it.

*"Standing at the southern terminus, looking back north thinking 'I've walked here all the way from Canada' was indescribable."*







Professor Lesa Scholl, far left, guest speaker Georgina Downer (Wyvern 1998), Fellow and Chief Executive Officer of the Robert Menzies Institute, centre, with students

## Connecting and belonging

**By Professor Lesa Scholl, Dean**

I recently wrote a piece for our student publication, *The Wyvern*, on the difference between connecting and belonging, but how both relational states are important.

Belonging to a college community like Queen's is an irreplaceable experience: the day-to-day living with people and sharing in the good, bad, crazy, and funny aspects of entering adulthood is something our students will carry with them throughout their lives – as many of our Wyverns will testify! But it is also important to connect with other communities, partly for one's own benefit, but also in order to have something new to contribute back to the community in which one belongs.



Left to right: Alastair Roff, Executive Director of AIIA Victoria, Dr Matthew Champion, Isabel Scherf (2nd year Arts), Professor Lesa Scholl, Maddy Mulligan (2nd year Arts), Poppy Bell (1st year Arts) and Rani Fletcher (1st year Journalism)





*Professor Lesa Scholl, Dr Ian Marshman AM, President of Council, and Booga Huang (2nd year Master of Law) at Commencement Dinner*

This year we've had the experience of many Wyverns doing just that: bringing back to Queen's the wealth of their experience beyond the Castle walls. Thanks to the efforts of our Academic Director, Dr Catherine Sicurella, we've been able to run a series of workshops throughout the year, which both Queeners and Wyverns have enjoyed. Adrian Koenig (Wyvern 2002) ran a long mentoring session with some of our mechatronics students, while Jemima James (Wyvern 2015) held a session on finding work in the biotech/ pharmaceutical industries. Fraizer Mulder (Wyvern 2014) and Nick Felstead (Wyvern 2014) ran workshops in medicine and law respectively, and Harrison Callahan (Wyvern 2012, GC President 2014) held a workshop for the commerce students on how to find internships and graduate roles. Although these

workshops were 'one-off' occasions, these wonderful Wyverns have continued to connect with the students they met and are helping them with pathways into the future.

***Many of our academic tutors are also Wyverns, giving back and mentoring our students every week throughout the semester.***

One such Wyvern is Fergus Scott (Wyvern 2020), who has been running a very successful 'Foundations in Medicine' tutorial with undergraduates who are prospective med students. Cat Ng (Wyvern 2020, MCR VP 2021), who has a wealth of international business experience that preceded her time at Queen's, continues as our CV tutor, meeting with students individually to coach them on CV writing, job hunting and interview preparation.

Even beyond these connections, Wyverns have been involved in Sugden Institute events and other dinners, such as Dine with a Scholar with David Lawrence (Wyvern 1982) (an event that now holds the record for the latest running all year) and the Engineering Dinner with Nicole Stoddart (CEO of the Victorian Rail Project), organised by Executive Director of Advancement, Nicole Crook. These are just a few of the events that have been run at the College this year. All have been focused on opening possibilities and pathways for our students, heightening their tertiary experience both through the people they meet and the experiences they hear about.

***Thank you to the Wyvern community for bringing your expertise and global experience back to the Castle.***





## Centenary celebration of the Queen's College Chapel

The centenary of the dedication of the Queen's College Chapel was celebrated on Sunday 21 May 2023 with a beautiful service led by the Reverend Professor Emeritus Robert Gribben AM, Senior Fellow. The Chapel was dedicated in 1923 as a memorial to the residents of the College who gave their lives in the First World War.

The service entitled "A Blessing of Light", which is a form of prayer used as the sun sets, began with the lighting of a candle by the Master Dr Stewart Gill OAM. The large candle was specially designed for the occasion.

Reverend Robert Gribben (Wyvern 1961) said it was a great pleasure to celebrate the Chapel with Reverend Professor Dorothy Lee, Fellow delivering the Homily, assisted by the Dean, Professor Lesa Scholl and students reading prayers and scripture.

"I thought it went splendidly. The choir too made a tremendous

contribution. It's a voluntary choir, conducted by John Weretka, and together with organist David Agg, they were stunning on the day. They were young men and women singing their hearts out, it was just terrific."

Reverend Robert Gribben considers the Chapel a special place for all.

"The place deserves respect, it invites it and I think it gets it. It has an impact on people whether they are with or without religion because they enjoy the great art of the centuries. The stained glass windows encourage contemplation and people are welcome to come in any time."





## Celebrating the stained glass windows

The stained glass windows that bring joy and meaning to the Queen's College Chapel were celebrated on Sunday 7 May at 3pm.

The Reverend Robert Gribben AM chose the time so all could enjoy the setting sun through the western windows.

*"I planned four short talks about the windows, with musical interludes allowing some space to contemplate the windows further. They are in many ways the glory of the Chapel."*





# Australia Day and King's Birthday Honours 2023

Congratulations to the following Queen's College Wyverns who were recognised in the Australia Day Honours list:

## **Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division**

**Dr Barry Dowty (Wyvern 1960)** for service to medicine in a range of roles.

**Mr David Greenall (Wyvern 1959)** for service to the community through a range of organisations.

**Mr Gifford Hatfield (Wyvern 1954)** for service to youth through Scouts, and to the community.

## **Officer (AO) of the Order of Australia in the General Division**

The late **Professor George Patton (Wyvern 1975)** for distinguished service to psychiatry and developmental epidemiology, to youth health and wellbeing, and to mental health research.

## **Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia, King's Birthday Honours**

**Professor (Paul) Merlin Crossley (Wyvern 1982)** for significant service to education and to molecular biology.



*Barry Dowty with then Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau*



## Dr Barry Dowty OAM (Wyvern 1960)

Barry, now a retired consultant physician, came to Queen's from Mildura on a Commonwealth scholarship to study agricultural science. Through hard work, he pursued his hopes of becoming a doctor when offered a place in the second year of the medical course. He has practised in Mildura for 33 years, specialising in internal medicine.

Transfer of adult ICU patients from Mildura was initially very difficult. Through his involvement in the Clarebrough Committee looking into patient transport however, Barry was able to greatly improve fixed wing aircraft transfer of adult patients in Victoria. Alongside his RACP membership/fellowship from

1970 onwards, Barry's medical involvements include the medical staff groups of Mildura Base Hospital and Mildura Private Hospital; the Mildura Ambulance Service committee of management; the steering committee to create the Mildura Private Hospital and as it's Secretary, helping guide it through the Foreign Investments Review Board and past Health Department obstacles; Victoria AMA Mallee Branch as it's Councillor for two periods; and College of Physicians offshoot, the Australian Association of Consultant Physicians, as it's Federal Councillor.

Barry was also instrumental in the banning of the sale of unflued gas heaters in Victoria and was

a member of the group successful in the struggle to have Mildura Base Hospital management returned to public hands from Ramsay's management.

Barry is grateful to his country for the OAM honour.

*"There are many people who should be honoured in this way but aren't and hence I am grateful to the proposers and referees who put in the considerable effort for me."*

He abides by the mantra "service is the price we pay for the space we occupy on earth".

## David Greenall OAM (Wyvern 1959)

David followed his brother, the late John Greenall (Wyvern 1956), to Queen's, with brother Andrew (Wyvern 1967) and son James (Wyvern 1996) then following him. David's Queen's involvement includes 20 years as a member of the College's Finance Committee.

David has pursued a career in accounting in Horsham and been a member of CPA Australia for 60 years, specialising in public sector and charity auditing. His contributions to the accounting profession include as a foundation member of the Public Sector Accounting Standards Board, later Auditing Standards Board; as author (with J Paul and P Sutcliffe) of *Financial Reporting by Local Governments*; Australian Accounting Research Foundation Melbourne 1988; as a pioneer in Public Accountants office computerisation;

on the Australian Accounting Hall of Fame Nominations Review Panel; and as Chair of Victorian Government Department Audit Committees.

David has also served as a member of the National Red Cross Finance/Audit Committee for 15 years; as President of the Horsham and Beaumaris Rotary Clubs; as a member of the Overseas Audit Group Rotary International Foundation; as a Methodist/UCA Lay Preacher; as a member of the Uniting Church Assembly Finance Committee for 25 years; in the Victorian Synod for 15 years; and as an Honorary Financial Advisor to the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga for 25 years.

*The Honour of OAM came as "a lovely surprise after so many years involved in community projects".*



David Greenall

David has fond memories of his time in Queen's, practising on the Chapel organ, playing billiards in the Tower, and serving on the bike shed sub-committee where no bikes were housed.

His motto is "find a solution".



### Gifford Hatfield OAM (Wyvern 1954)

Coming from Wesley College, Gifford gained a scholarship to Queen's to complete an electrical engineering degree.

Upon graduating, he gained a cadetship with the Postmaster-General's (PMG) Department and stayed with them his whole career, through their Telecom and then Telstra iterations. Gifford's roles focussed on broadcasting and led to a scholarship to study a Master of Science (Electronics) at Berkeley University. This was followed by work with manufacturers and broadcasters involved with colour TV in the USA, Canada, UK and Europe, to determine the best course for the adoption of the new product in Australia. A strong interest in radiation safety saw Gifford pursue investigations into the technical side of TV and radio towers, which included helping prepare relevant Australian Standards.

His major community involvement has been in scouting, starting in 1946 and acting as a Scout Leader for 69 years. Gifford's other community involvements are through church and the Box Hill Historical Society.

*His OAM award is a "wonderful surprise recognition of my commitment to youth as a leader, adviser and mentor".*

Gifford has marvellous memories of Queen's, including annual meetings where the major aim was to hold the longest meeting in Queen's history, and when studying late, finding someone else up late and having a game of pool with them.

Gifford places importance in actively listening to people (particularly the young), asking them questions to draw out their thoughts and ideas without criticism.



Gifford Hatfield with Linda Dessau

### Professor George C Patton AO (Wyvern 1975)

31 December 1954 – 7 December 2022

George was an eminent adolescent psychiatrist and psychiatric epidemiologist, whose career focussed on improving the health of adolescents. His work brought global attention to adolescence as a unique developmental stage. He helped shift adolescent health from a nascent clinical sub-speciality of paediatrics to a critical area of public health programming in its own right. His work defined the unmet needs of the world's young people, and he articulated the actions required to improve their health.

His postgraduate training took him to the UK, where he trained in psychiatry and epidemiology at London's Royal Free Hospital. In 1991, he returned to Australia and took up a position at the very newly established Royal Children's Hospital's Centre for Adolescent Health, with an academic appointment in the Department of Paediatrics and subsequently also at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. George was Director of the Centre for Adolescent Health from 1997 to 2003, before transitioning to Director of Adolescent Health Research at the Centre.

George was frequently called upon by state and federal governments to advise on aspects of adolescent health ranging from alcohol and illicit substance abuse to suicide, men's health, and mental health.





George Patton

*From 2000, he chaired advisory groups to Australia's Institute of Health and Welfare on the health and development of Australia's children and young people. He produced 600 publications that include over 500 peer-reviewed papers.*

Despite this, he remained a remarkably humble man who was unfailingly generous with his time, ideas and wisdom – characteristics that no doubt explain why he was so sought-after within various global leadership networks. George was equally committed to growing the next generation of research leaders, supervising and mentoring more than 40 PhD and postgraduate scholars.

*With thanks to the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.*

### **Fellow Professor (Paul) Merlin Crossley AM (Wyvern 1982)**

With more than 140 publications to his name, Merlin's research has focussed on genetic diseases of the blood, haemophilia and sickle cell anaemia, and on the fundamental mechanisms of gene regulation.

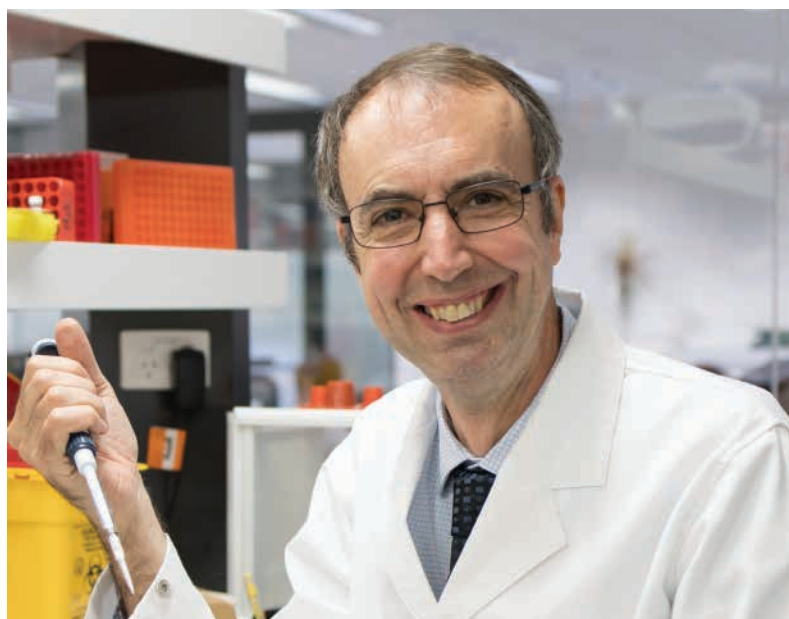
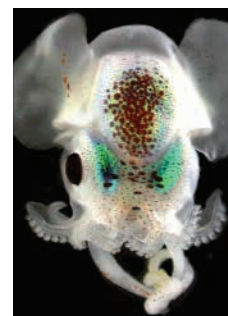
Serving as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Quality at the University of New South Wales since 2022, Merlin's current roles also include Director of the Conversation Board and Deputy Chair of the Australian Science Media Centre Board.

Merlin has contributed to Australian scientific organisations as a member of the Australian Astronomical Observatory Advisory Committee, Director of the Sydney Institute of Marine Science Board, a member of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory Australia Council, a member of the National Health and Medical Research Council, Chair of the Australian Research Council, and Honorary Secretary of the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Merlin's King's Birthday Honour comes after several acknowledgements for his work in education and molecular biology.

Particularly close to his heart is the recognition of his support for research at the Australian Museum, including nine years as Trustee and Chair of the Science Strategy Panel.

A newly discovered species of iridescent butterfly bobtail squid was named *Iridoteuthis merlini* in his honour.



Merlin Crossley



## Sabrina Petrucco

### 2nd year Fine Arts

It's not every day that a second-year fine arts student has the opportunity to create an exhibition within a gallery. Sabrina Petrucco's ability to think outside the square has enabled her to do just that, with her work, as part of a group exhibition, displayed at the Jewish Museum of Australia in Melbourne.

Sabrina's group has created their own exhibition called 'All Roads Lead To', exploring themes inspired by the Marc Chagall exhibition, 'CHAGALL'.

*"I was really interested in segments of his work that focus on themes of romance. He painted many works with flowers in which he depicted his lovers, his wife and ex-wife, which was really interesting."*

"Later on, he created stained glass windows for Jewish synagogues that were really beautiful. I've worked with glass before – I like to smash and reconstruct it. I modelled the shards of glass into 3-D roses and lay them on two sets of dining table plates, set up with chairs because I wanted it to have a really domestic feel. This created a nice link to my identity as well because they related to my grandmother... she has really beautiful floral plates."

Sabrina's roses will add nicely to her growing portfolio of work, enhanced by a lovely connection with a fellow Queener.

"Louisa Fitzgerald (2nd year Master of Production Design) has helped me a lot with my portfolio. She's in the MCR and was my tutor last year. She taught me how to market myself on Instagram and has given me a professional insight into how to create a portfolio, which is something I haven't been walked through in my course yet."

Sabrina is not one to rest on her laurels, with a body of work inspired by Dr Mary de Garis recognised with a 3rd placing in the Wyvern/Clem Art Awards, and new skills being developed in her role as the curator of this year's Wyvern magazine.





# Louisa Fitzgerald

## 2nd year Master of Production Design (Stage)

"I get in a zone when I'm creating... I can forget to eat. I think it's about passion, particularly when I'm model making, drawing, researching, or looking through design books. One of the exhausting things about a creative career is that you can't ever switch your brain off from work because at any point you can have an idea. Creativity is something you practice. The more you do it, the more ideas you will have. You have to ride those waves of inspiration when they come, and sometimes they can mean you get in the zone."



Louisa Fitzgerald, now in her second year at Queen's while studying at the VCA, completed her undergraduate degree at the College of Fine Arts, UNSW. Her focus is two-fold: set and costume design. It is a demanding line of work.

"It's one of the only industries where the deadline for your work cannot be moved because you can't re-book the theatre – opening night is going to happen. Costume and set design use different parts of the brain but I really like that. They have to marry to a certain extent, but you get different things from each. With costume, you learn a lot about the character before the actor speaks. The set is a more flexible tool. You can use it to just create a suggestion of location, or go down a very literal and naturalistic path. We are telling stories about people and that's why we like to go to the theatre – because we enjoy storytelling."

Louisa knows how to work in a team.

"In this job, you are always with people: builders, costume makers, lighting designers and production managers. We produce a lot of documentation. It's a

communication tool because if you're not specific, they won't know. It's such a collaborative industry."

In June, Louisa designed a children's show for the Victorian Opera, *The Grumpiest Boy in the World*.

"I really enjoyed it. It was on at the Playhouse in the Arts Centre. There was something wonderful about having a bunch of school children as your first audience and seeing them react. For a lot of them, it was their first time in the theatre and hearing opera music, which was very special. They are interesting clients as well because you can't be too abstract but you can't be too serious. It has to be playful and has to have colour. That was a really fun one. When designing, you have to work back from who is your audience."

Having moved from Sydney, living at College has been great for Louisa.

"It is a really good way to meet people. I don't imagine that any other degree would have as few people as mine does, with three classmates. It's really nice after a long, stressful day to come home and talk to people who actually don't know anything about theatre.

*"I'm a bit annoying to go to the theatre with. I used to just go for the love of it. I wish I could watch things impartially, but now I'm very much looking for things."*

It's a good circuit breaker. Doing what I do in a College environment can be a bit funny – washing costumes in the laundry, making models in my room, having bolts of fabric around the place."

Louisa has fully immersed herself in College life.

"As Vice President of the MCR my role is to support the president. Being in one of the leadership positions has also given me an interesting insight into how the College is run."

Louisa's plan to be a freelance stage designer is off to a great start.

"I am designing costumes for The Australian Ballet's upcoming new production, *Storytime Ballet: Cinderella*. It will premiere at the Arts Centre in Melbourne this December, before touring Australia over summer."





## At the crossroads: Voice, Treaty, Truth

In the lead up to the referendum on a Voice to Parliament, historian and author Dr Jackie Huggins AM FAHA was a most appropriate choice to present the Sugden Indigenous Oration on 7 September.

Dr Huggins participated in the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, her most recent appointment has been to co-chair the Treaty Advancement Committee, and she is also past co-chair of Reconciliation Australia, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, and the National Congress of Australian First Peoples. She is currently an adjunct professor at the ANU Center for Indigenous History, an honorary vice chancellor's fellow in Indigenous Leadership at Swinburne University and part of the Indigenous Leaders and Cultural Advisors group for the Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity at the University of Melbourne.

During her oration, *At the crossroads: Voice, Treaty, Truth*, Dr Huggins

stepped the audience through the long history of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The Bidjara Birri-Guba Juru woman from Queensland has devoted her life to ensuring a just and equitable outcome for her people and a fair Australia for all.

Dr Huggins cited the many national representative bodies that have been established and dismantled during her decades of involvement. She explained why she was voting "yes".

"I want the next generation of leaders to have a smoother ride than their previous leaders have had. And what a promising generation we have coming up. Young people who are culturally and morally sound, they have been grounded in their own cultures, their life experiences, and the teachings of senior people and Elders. They also have been educated, in the Western sense, having degrees and other qualifications to navigate their worlds."

Dr Huggins believes change must happen.

"After working for decades in Aboriginal affairs and reconciliation, I have seen governments, politicians, and bureaucrats come and go, but we are still here. Policies, programs, legislation, attempting to shift the dial, to overcome drastic statistics, such as incarceration, child removal, close the gap, to name a few, have failed. The system is broken, and we all need to fix it.

*We know our people  
are strong and resilient.  
How could it not be?  
Having existed here for  
over 65,000 years, our  
links to nature and the  
environment go unrivaled  
anywhere in the world.  
We are living treasures  
in our own land."*





# Ghandi: Truth and non-violence

2023 Sugden Fellow, Bindu Puri, Professor of Contemporary Indian Philosophy at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, delivered the Sugden Oration on Mahatma Gandhi. At a time when parts of the world are experiencing war or the threat of war, the 75th anniversary of the death of Gandhi was a timely opportunity to revisit his message of the pursuit of truth and non-violence as an active social technique.

Professor Puri explored views on *Satya* or truth implying openness, honesty and fairness, and *Ahimsa* which is an ancient Indian concept best expressed as non-violence. Gandhi had many heroes in his pursuit of non-violence and drew particularly from Russian author, Count Leo Tolstoy with whom he exchanged letters. Ultimately, while influenced by Tolstoy, Professor Puri argued that Gandhi's thinking on non-violence was rooted in ancient Indian philosophy.

Professor Puri noted that in a world where there is freedom to think there will inevitably be a world categorised by difference.

Hence, the importance of Gandhi's philosophy to meet difference with non-violence and a love that transforms hostility into kinship and a family feeling.

Professor Puri reminded us that Gandhi turned the Indian vows of truth and non-violence into virtues, as he stated that you cannot find truth without non-violence, that human beings have a unilateral obligation to show kinship or family feeling to the those most distant from us, "It is not non-violence if we merely love those that love us. It is non-violence only when we love those that hate us."



# From floods to friendships

## Greer Thomson

1st year Science

Recipient of the Una Porter Scholarship

Couch surfing at friends' homes after the October 2022 Echuca floods left her family homeless was far from ideal preparation for Greer Thomson's VCE exams. The high-achieving country girl's family had 24 hours to evacuate both home and farm on the Murray River. While saving some important items, Greer was unable to save stock she was raising. All this, the day before her 18th birthday.



"That was really, really tough. Mum and I were rearing calves, and we couldn't get them out in time. It was really hard on both of us. Last year was a very rough year so in comparison this year has been euphoric."

To add to the challenges, Greer's physical and mental health had been under a cloud over the last two years of her schooling.

"I became really sick in Year 11, it was a medical mystery. I started fainting three times a week, sleeping all the time, I couldn't concentrate and this continued through all of Year 12 which made studying really difficult. Then I struggled with mental health a lot as a result of that. I also didn't like my school, I was a little bit socially isolated; the only thing that was getting me through was looking forward to being in the city and being surrounded by people who are like me."

After Intercollegiate Open Day, Greer realised she had found her people at Queen's.

*"As soon as I got to Queen's I knew this was where I wanted to be. It was the feeling I had when I was here, everybody was saying 'Hi' to each other."*

"I thought I would be a little bit different from a lot of people at College because many come from wealthier backgrounds but I didn't feel that at all. I didn't feel like an outsider, it was really comfortable, everybody was just so beautiful that I called the intercollegiate office the next day and switched my preference to Queen's. I'm so glad I did."

Greer stepped through the application process.

"I had an interview with Catherine Sicurella (Academic Director). It was so good because it was further confirmation that the people I was going to be around and those supporting me were kind. We talked a lot about the values of Queen's, especially about the programmes around consent education because that was something I implemented at my last school. Then after that I

applied for scholarships and waited. I was so nervous, I was just waiting for that email. I was in the supermarket one day when I received it saying I had been accepted. I screamed. Then I scrolled down and saw I had received a 50% scholarship and I screamed again, and cried because without a scholarship I wouldn't be here at all. No way."

Greer supports herself with employment as a disability support worker and on university breaks, as a patient porter at the Echuca Hospital. Taking as many different university subjects as possible to work out her future direction, Greer's 'euphoric' year is all she'd hoped.

"Catherine is terrific, so too are Stewart Gill (Master), and Lesa Scholl (Dean). They are all so supportive and have done everything they can to help me. You are definitely not alone, they are right down the hall. Really strong relationships are a big part of Queen's. I feel like I have already made some incredible friendships. It is out of the ordinary for me to have so many people to lean on, I've only ever had one or two and it's an amazing feeling."

## Jessica Benter

1st year Master of Art  
Curatorship

Recipient of the Graduate  
Rural Scholarship

## The kindness of strangers

First in her family to go to university, Jessica Benter, through sheer hard work, parental encouragement and the kindness of strangers, is pursuing a Master of Art Curatorship.

"The odds can be stacked against you, and you can still do it if you want it badly enough. I'm always asking questions about what's next, because I don't have the security of knowing that as it's not emulated in the people around me. Doing what I've done is uncommon where I'm from. Going to university wasn't a given, an assumed path – it was one I decided to pursue and for that to happen, I worked full time before starting an undergrad, and before starting my masters as well."

Having completed her undergraduate and honours study at the Australian National University, Jessica approached Lesa Scholl (Dean) for a position as a residential tutor in order to support herself during her masters at the University of Melbourne.

*"Instead of offering me a job, she offered me a position as a graduate resident here. I hadn't considered it an option for me purely because of my financial situation."*

Growing up in Allansford near Warrnambool, Jessica, an avid reader, found art in the pages of art books, rather than through galleries.



"I originally thought I wanted to be an artist and I was a big drawer and painter. When I decided to do a double degree in art history and visual arts at ANU, I fell in love with art history and deviated away from the practical side."

During her studies in Canberra, Jessica worked at the National Gallery of Australia, then at the end of her second year, had the opportunity to do a small internship at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice. Now, Jessica interns two days a week in the international exhibitions department of the National Gallery of Victoria, and volunteers with the National Trust while she studies. Jessica is enjoying Queen's and the Middle Common Room cohort.

"They are a very lovely bunch of people, supportive and really studious. The environment is conducive to doing well at a masters level. Once you get to graduate study, you've found something you are passionate about, and listening

to other people and hearing what they are doing is so interesting. When someone is passionate about something, it's infectious."

Jessica is well aware of the difference her supporters have made.

"I wouldn't be here without my scholarship. I know everyone says it is life-changing, but the kindness of one person re-directed the path of my life. Lesa's support and belief in me, whether she knows it or not, will have a ripple effect. I didn't expect to be here, and I was perhaps judgmental of what these types of institutions represent on a superficial level, but there's a lot of good work done here. The ability to study a masters at Melbourne Uni and have the opportunity to intern at the NGV – you can't do without a programme like this, because it's through these official channels that these opportunities are provided. This will ensure that I can go overseas. This will ensure that I am competitive in the industry."



## Council Prize 2023 winners

“...to encourage the academic ambitions and prospects of young students by acknowledging the important place of a truly international education experience...”

The inaugural Queen’s College Council Annual Prize served its purpose unquestionably, enabling life-changing opportunities for **Evangelia Wichmann** (Wyvern 2020) and **Matthew Hird** (Wyvern 2021).

Evangelia travelled to the Thai-Myanmar border where, over two months, the council prize enabled her to live and work alongside Karen people who had fled to Thailand to escape the civil war in Myanmar. Evangelia learned about their way of life, their sense of community, and their homesickness.

“I gained an understanding of how challenging development work can be and how culture adds both uniqueness and complexity to the work. The opportunity also allowed me to begin setting up a first aid office at the school for over 2,200

undocumented students who fled Myanmar and do not have proper access to health services – most pressing, first aid. These experiences and lessons are ones I will never forget, and they will continue to shape me and my future career.”

Since leaving Thailand, Evangelia has begun a Master of International Development.

“Given my first-hand knowledge of what villages in Myanmar currently have access to or, more accurately, are lacking, discussions in class regarding sustainable development and basic needs have struck a chord with me. I believe by building bridges and connections between places we consider ‘elsewhere’, we can better appreciate each other’s humanity.”

Link: [sharinghope.org.au](https://sharinghope.org.au)



Evangelia Wichmann

*“Receiving the inaugural Council Prize was a transformative experience, allowing me to delve into one of the most profound journeys of my life.” Evangelia*

For Matthew, the prize enabled him to complete a semester-long exchange to Charles University in Prague, the Czech Republic.

“While in Prague, I completed the final units of my Bachelor of Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne and studied interdisciplinary ‘breadth’ subjects in economics and finance, something that I enjoyed greatly and that I feel challenged me in a new way.”

Matthew is thankful for the opportunity to study abroad that the prize gave him.

“Funds from the council prize went directly towards my accommodation in a student dorm in Prague, where I was able to meet interesting people from all over the world. Next year, I will be starting post-graduate medicine, and am looking forward to continued engagement with the College, current residents, and Wyverns.”



Matthew Hird

*“I am so glad to hear the college will again be providing this opportunity to departing students, and I encourage everyone who is interested in completing an overseas project to apply.” Matthew*

# Willie Quick Club report

by Harriet Birks (3rd year Commerce), President, Willie Quick Society

In 2023, the Willie Quick Club embarked on a mission to uphold the committee's legacy of nurturing the academic and intellectual environment at the College. Through the series of speaking and art competitions, we celebrated the diverse talents of the Queen's student community that exists in every corridor of the Castle.

The **Sir Douglas Menzies Oratory Competition** was impressively won by Sarah Myatt (1st year Arts), who gave a persuasive and interesting speech on dentistry being covered by Medicare. The Foreign Affairs Competition was taken out by Rani Fletcher (1st year Journalism). Rani's topical and articulate speech addressed the disengagement of young people in the news and foreign affairs.

The **Eggleston Arts Competition**, ran across the categories of poetry, visual arts, and performance. This year, to acknowledge 50 years of women residing at Queen's, the theme for the competition was women and in particular, Wyverna

Dr Mary Clementina de Garis, the second woman in Victoria to become a doctor. There was an impressive array of pieces presented, highlighting the best of talent Queen's has to offer. The Eggleston Prize was won by Bella Marcon (1st year Arts) for her series of photographs titled *Strawberry Stains*. The Clem/Wyvern 1st prize went to Audrey Rouse's (1st year Social Science) *Unseen Heroines*, 2nd to Jonno Fisher's (2nd year Fine Arts) portrait of Clementine, and 3rd to Sabrina Petrucco's (2nd year Fine Arts) body of work.

A highlight of the Willie Quick calendar was the black-tie dinner in September. Themed according



*Strawberry Stains* by Bella Marcon, winner of the Eggleston Prize

to the Divergent series, the College was looking extremely sharp as the alternate arrangement of Eakins tables ensured a lively dinner. The keynote address was given by Fellow Georgina Downer (Wyvern 1998).

## Bee BnBs

The Cameron Brown Community Innovation Fund (CBCIF) awarded \$5,000 to the Bee BnB project for 2023. Eva Hilton (1st year Fashion and Textiles), Juliette Bosscher (1st year Science) and Phil Ma (2nd year Commerce) are working together to educate their fellow students about the importance of bees by involving them in making bee hotels to encourage native bees to the College grounds.

Eva explains: "Alongside the hotels we will be planting wildflowers to provide more sources of pollen. Throughout this project we will be hosting various events such as a Bee Movie night, a seed Christmas card writing day, a discussion with a bee expert, a day for planting the wildflowers, a day for College students to paint the hotels before they are installed and an excursion to a bee farm to understand the practice of looking after bees. There is so much value in protecting and supporting the bee population and we hope to bring awareness to our community regarding the value of connecting with nature, as this is something we often neglect in urban areas such as Melbourne."

Established as an active way to honour **Cam Brown** (Wyvern 1999) who passed away aged 35 in 2016, the CBCIF encourages Queen's College students to engage in innovative, community-based projects that represent Cam's personal passions, drive and integrity.







*Her Excellency Judge Hilary Charlesworth AM speaking at the Careers Law Lunch*

## There are no set steps in a career

“The moral from my story is that the most interesting things you end up doing, you can’t really plan.”

An observation from Her Excellency Judge Hilary Charlesworth AM, Australia’s representative on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) when speaking at Queen’s College on Tuesday 25 July.

Judge Charlesworth went on to advise students at the lunch to be open to opportunities.

“Sometimes there’s too much attention given to career planning. To young people, don’t hurry, take your time, don’t feel there’s a set path and you need to progress along it. The most important thing is to be attuned to other possibilities that might come your way. Don’t be too locked into the idea there are set steps in a career.”

*Judge Charlesworth’s career, now as one of 15 judges on the ICJ, the first Australian woman and only the fifth female permanent judge in the ICJ’s history, is indeed evidence of embracing opportunities.*

On graduating from Arts/Law at the University of Melbourne, she became an associate to High Court

Judge the late Sir Ninian Stephen, who encouraged her to pursue a Doctorate of Juridical Science at Harvard Law School. This was when she decided to pursue a career in academia. Teaching at the University of Melbourne, University of Adelaide and the Australian National University, Judge Charlesworth then returned to Melbourne as the Harrison Moore Professor of Law. Her research included the structure of the international legal system, peacebuilding, human rights international humanitarian law, international legal theory (with particular focus on feminist approaches to international law) and the art of international law.

Now having served on the ICJ since 2021, Judge Charlesworth has been nominated to continue her role for a further nine-year term. Judge Charlesworth said her role on the ICJ can be overwhelming with cases coming in thick and fast,

ranging from land and maritime border disputes, to offering advisory opinions on the legal obligations of Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territory, to the legal consequences of climate change.

As an international body, the appropriate use of language is very important. Judge Charlesworth has already made her mark by changing the rules of the ICJ to remove gendered language, which was no small undertaking.

With the Court’s official languages being both English and French, she drew attention at the lunch to the importance of learning a language other than English.

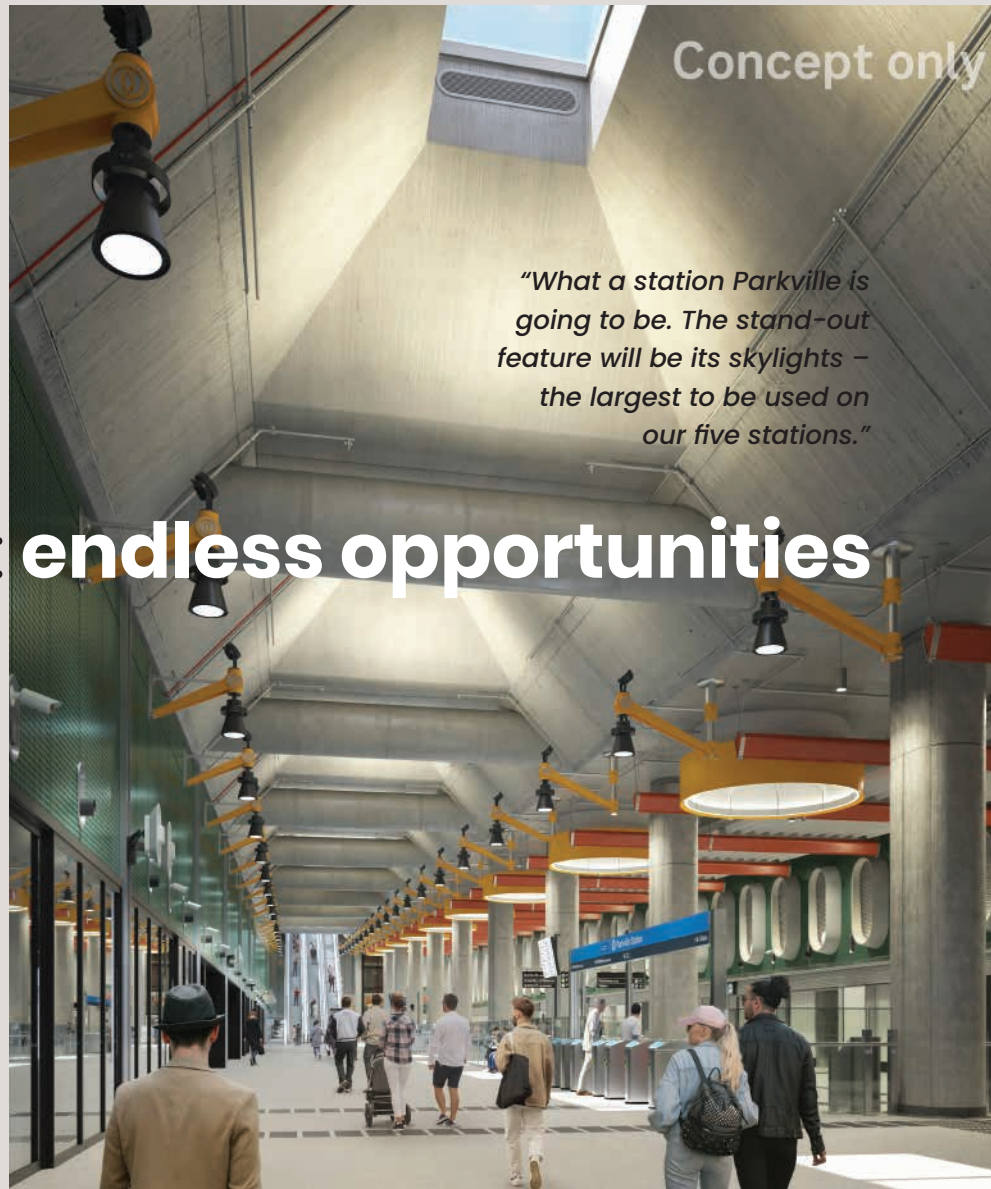
“The advice I give to anyone generally working in the international sphere is that languages are critical. Having knowledge of any other language besides English, if you can, is completely worthwhile. It’s never too late to learn another language.”

"Events like the Queen's College Engineering Dinner provide a great opportunity for us to connect and share our knowledge and experience. It's wonderful to be in a room with like-minded people who have a mutual passion for engineering and construction, especially when it's the next generation," said Nicole Stoddart, CEO of Rail Projects Victoria and inspiring guest speaker at the dinner on Tuesday 29 August.

## Engineering: endless opportunities

Nicole has extensive experience working in the government, consulting and contractor sectors, spanning across multiple tier one contractors and working for a number of years as Managing Director Construction Services at AECOM. She has worked on major projects in the Philippines, Thailand and United Kingdom, where she played a key role in the redevelopment of London's iconic St Pancras Station. Over the last four years before joining Rail Projects Victoria, Nicole headed up the design and development of the Suburban Rail Loop.

She provided us with an exclusive update on the monumental Metro Tunnel project. The project includes a nine-kilometre underground railway between Kensington and South Yarra, creating an end-to-end Sunbury, Cranbourne and Pakenham line, complete with five



*"What a station Parkville is going to be. The stand-out feature will be its skylights – the largest to be used on our five stations."*

*Image provided by Rail Projects, Victoria*

underground stations, one right here at the University of Melbourne. It was particularly exciting to hear of the progress with the Parkville Station and integration with a revitalised Grattan Street, bus connections, bike lanes, pedestrian spaces and the main entrance to the university.

The dinner was also a perfect opportunity for our students to chat with our Wyvern engineers and learn more about their industry and potential future career paths.

Juliette Bosscher (1st year Science) said, "Hearing from Nicole Stoddart was incredible. She talked about the importance of variety and using the fundamental skills of engineering to

create successful projects. She has never worked on the same type of project twice, always adapting and learning. I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to attend an industry dinner, meeting professionals working in a range of sectors from civil to aerospace to sustainability, to geomatics and so many more allowed me to gain some insight into my possible career paths. These industry dinners are a great opportunity to network, have a social dinner and learn something new."

Nicole's take-home message was clear. "The opportunities are endless."



*Sam Werner (Wyvern 2008), Bezi Saunders (1st year Science), Nicole Stoddart (CEO of Rail Projects Victoria) and Olivia Perkins (3rd year Science)*



# All the thrills and spills

By Liv Perkins (3rd year Science) and Will Savage (3rd year Science), Sports Representatives

It has been a crazy year in the world of Queen's sport. We've had impressive performances, some heartbreaking losses but also some glorious victories.



The first sport to kick off the calendar was **cricket**. While the women's team was not able to bat out the notorious St Hilda's, our men's team left Ormond stumped, to then claim the championship.

In **tennis**, we fought valiantly, but came up short against the racquets of Ormond in the grand final.



Arguably, the most notable sporting event on the Queen's calendar is **rowing** day, which once again did not disappoint. Both men's and women's First VIII rowed with incredible strength to come third. Both Magoos crews also rowed very impressively with the women placing third and the men, fifth.







**Buroinjin**, the indigenous ball game played by the Kabi Kabi people of South Queensland, was played in O-Week and Queen's joined Trinity, Ormond and St Hilda's in a series of round robin matches during National Reconciliation Week.



In a thrilling night of **hockey**, the Queen's women's team secured a convincing win over UC in the minor final, while the men's team emerged victorious with a remarkable 2-0 win over Trinity in a gripping match.



We witnessed a rollercoaster of emotions, from exhilarating victories to heartbreaking defeats, as the winter season took hold. The chilly Melbourne weather failed to dampen our enthusiasm as **netball** and **football** seasons began. Both netball teams lit up the court in the finals, however it was the seconds who stole the silverware from Ormond. Similarly, in a repeat of last year's final against Trinity, the men's footy team was too strong, ensuring the trophy remains at the Castle. The women's footy team also served up an exciting and dominant season, winning their minor final.





In Spring, the men's and women's **basketball** teams both made the finals, and in a Friday night show-stopping match, the women's team was able to claim the title over St Hilda's.



**Volleyball** hosted a noteworthy display of passion and commitment from the team, but they unfortunately were unable to secure a spot in finals. Although we may have lost on paper, our unmatched abundance of coaches and substitutes cheering from the sidelines did garner a different kind of respect on the court.

**Squash** saw our Queener's battle it out in yet another grand final and unfortunately again fall short of a victory. This did not detract at all from the entertainment it provided the swarm of green and gold that rushed to the Nona Lee Sports Centre to witness the spectacle.

We watched an amazing display at the **badminton**, where we came up against International House in the grand final. Although Queen's was unable to secure the flag, we put forward an impressive fight. The women's doubles especially so, with Cherie Lim (2nd year Science) (fourth from right) and Lemoni Japhary (2nd year Pharmaceutical Science) (far right) remaining undefeated for two years in a row.







# The Drowsy Chaperone

A musical within a comedy; a fundraiser within a musical

The Queen's College Music and Drama Society (QCMADS) performed *The Drowsy Chaperone*, with music and lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison and book by Bob Martin and Don McKellar, to the delight of packed audiences in the new Union Theatre from the 7-9 September.

**Emma Parfitt** (2nd year Science), Director, was thrilled that the choice of musical achieved the desired effect – an evening of fun.

"It went really well; the energy was very high. We wanted to do a show that was a lot of fun, I think that's what a production at Queen's is all about. I also really love *The Drowsy Chaperone* because it's a deep dive into the history of theatre, which makes it really interesting. It's an awesome comedy but it's also quite deep and has some meaningful messages, so it's a good mix. The main thing is it's fun to be a part of and to watch. It's one of those productions that makes you laugh and cry."

Musicals are particularly challenging to produce but the hard work paid off.

"There are so many moving parts, you have your cast, a band, choreography, then costumes, set, lighting and sound. There's

so much to put together as well as the administration part of it, all of these things have to come together to make it happen. It's like a machine, it all has to click together. The show ran very smoothly, everyone worked well together and we've had a great time doing it."

**Catriona Dyer** (1st year Science), Producer, enjoyed being involved.

"I learned that it takes an awful lot of time, organisational skills and paperwork to put on a production and having a good group of people makes all the difference. By being involved, I got to know people I wouldn't have otherwise. One of the good things about Queen's is it has many opportunities to participate in extra curricular activities. I'm studying a Bachelor of Science with a major in pharmacology – most people doing that don't have the opportunity to participate in the performing arts. The fact Queen's enables everyone to do so, is really cool."

Catriona was particularly excited to be part of the first fundraising musical produced by MADS.

"We put together our budget at the start and it looked like we might be going to make a profit, and we really wanted to give back. We raised \$1,500 and unanimously decided that the Victorian Actors Benevolence Trust would be a good charity to give to. They support actors and people in the performing arts during times of hardship and medical emergencies like COVID-19. We would really like to make this an ongoing thing. This is not just a first for Queen's, we are the first of any of the colleges as far as we know, to fundraise through their production. It is something we would like to encourage because to be in a college and have these opportunities, is something lots of people don't have, so we would like to encourage this idea of giving back to the community."









# Academic life

By Dr Catherine Sicurella, Academic Director

The concept of small group tutorials dates back to the 15th century, when Oxford tutors were described as having responsibility for the conduct and instruction of their younger colleagues. It is through small group tutorials in the Oxbridge tradition that Queen's College is able to provide a much better learning experience than many of us experienced at university.

My university journey began at the University of Melbourne in the early 1990s, amid the Dawkins reform reshaping higher education. Government funding dwindled as enrolment surged, ushering in an era of packed, noisy lecture theatres of hundreds of students.

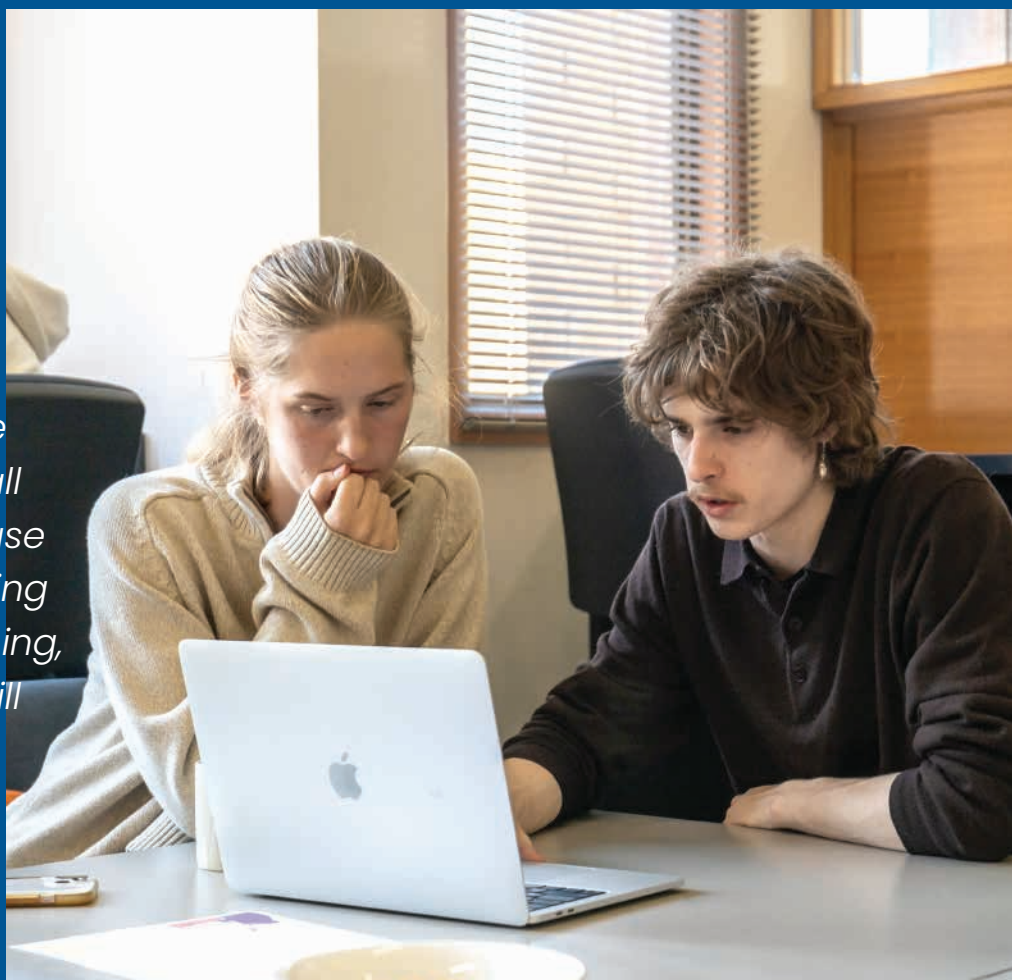
Lecturers either scribbled in chalk on blackboards that slid up and down high mountings, or used overhead projectors with smeary transparencies. A loud collective groan from students would echo around the lecture theatre if the lecturer pulled a transparency

away too quickly and students had not finished writing their notes, as there were no recorded lectures available after class.

In those pre-digital days, lecturers were not accessible via email or discussion boards. Finding a journal article meant slowly trawling the library's collection of often misshelved volumes. Exam preparation consisted of visiting the basement of the Baillieu to photocopy past exam papers, and exam results were posted on noticeboards in the relevant faculty.



*At Queen's College, we continue to utilise small group teaching because of its power in promoting a deeper level of learning, critical thinking and skill building in students.*



The only way to manage was to find a group of friends who were also in the same classes, and form informal study groups who shared notes or worked on study questions together. Friends-of-friends who had already completed the subject would be consulted for advice and help. Essentially, we created our own version of 'small group tutorials' to facilitate learning through peer instruction and group problem-solving.

At Queen's College, we provide students each week with a diverse selection of small group tutorials, encompassing a wide range of academic content, skills enhancement opportunities and career development sessions. We also offer individual consultations in course and career advice, and opportunities to interact with

academics through seminars, workshops and dinners.

We have introduced gallery tours and fine arts tutorials, foundational tutorials for aspiring doctors and lawyers, and a 'Long Night Against Procrastination' in the library at the beginning of SWOTVAC.

During Semester One this year, we embedded academic skills into first year tutorials to help students transition successfully to university, whilst in Semester Two we included career development as a focus.

***These small group tutorials allow learning to occur through social constructivism as students can interact, discuss topics and participate in collaborative learning.***

Our tutorials are flexible and personalised, and provide a safe space for students to test ideas, apply new knowledge and receive feedback. Research has shown that this format of three to five students and a facilitator leads to increased student enjoyment, motivation and depth of learning. It is also an opportunity for students to develop transferrable skills such as communication skills, teamwork and problem-solving.

Despite these benefits of a very student-centric learning model, few university students in Australia receive small group tutorials, most likely due to the resource-intensive nature of them. At Queen's College, we continue to utilise small group teaching because of its power in promoting a deeper level of learning, critical thinking and skill building in students.





Photograph  
by Joe Vittorio

# Resilience

## – how well resourced are you?

By Stuart Meldrum, Director of Student Life

Resilience. There are lots of definitions out there, but probably the most common one goes something like... “being able to bounce back from adversity”. Not sure about you, but I find it pretty hard to bounce back after life knocks me to the ground. I usually lay down in the mud first and allow myself some time to indulge in a

little self-pity. Then, calling upon some resources in my kit bag – alongside the healing power of time – I pull myself back onto my feet. I may not always feel amazing afterwards, but I do feel like I stand a little taller. I’m more confident in who I am and in my ability to take on the crap that life will inevitably dump on me. For me, resilience is the

ability to endure tough times with a healthy dose of optimism, using the resources available to me, internal and external, to pick myself up again. It is neither something you’re born with nor a destination on the horizon. It is a strength, and you have the opportunity to grow it.



So, how do you become more resilient? Well, some self-awareness and an appetite to problem-solve helps. But the starting point of resilience is the willingness to sit in the discomfort that adversity plates up for us and resist the temptation (and temporary solution) of distraction. Whatever your choice of distraction medication – social media, alcohol, binge-watching a TV series, baking all weekend until you nail the perfect gluten-free scone (truth bomb... it doesn't exist!) – it's important you eventually return to the present moment and acknowledge the hurt.

When it comes to external resources that can make you more resilient, Queen's dishes them up like rolled chicken at Formal Dinner: the bonds from corridor culture, warm greetings from fellow Queeners, endless opportunities to get involved and be part of something, and the pastoral support from student leaders and staff.

On top of all that, Queen's also provides a familiar environment and a sense of routine and tradition, much like a family does.

This can be a real comfort when things are tough, especially for students who are far away from their families and hometown friends.

All of these external resources are great, but we can't be resilient without ourselves. The resources in our minds and bodies shape the way we respond to adversity, and we have the ability to train them. For instance, we can practise mindfulness and learn how to be present, which helps us manage stress and develop self-awareness of our thoughts, emotions, and behaviour; we can practise self-compassion, gratitude, and optimism, which helps us see the good in ourselves, others, and the world; we can practise self-care, prioritising our sleep, nutrition, and physical health; and we can explore meaning and purpose, so we have something to guide and motivate us during rough seas.

*If you take anything from this article, let it be this: resilience is a skill, not a personality trait.*

You can become more resilient – you just need to practise. You don't need to seek out adversity. Life is already hard enough and will give you plenty of opportunities to build resilience. It's all about showing up when life gets tough, facing these moments with your eyes and heart wide open, and calling upon your internal and external resources to not only survive, but be transformed into a more confident version of yourself each and every time.

*We thank Stuart for his work as Director of Student Life in 2023 and wish he, Sarah, and their family all the best as they return to Adelaide.*





## Wyvern women

*Photograph  
by Joe Vittorio*

# 50 years and beyond

Fifty years ago, in 1973, Queen's College began admitting women into residency, thus ending 85 years as a male residential college. It was not an easy decision, with opinion divided between those who feared the loss of the character of an all-male community and those who felt that it was time for the College to adapt to a more inclusive world. The 53 women admitted in 1973 quickly established their place in the College and the Club, and, fifty years on, it is impossible to imagine the College without women residents.

The female presence at Queen's in fact goes back much further than 1973 – there have been women closely associated with Queen's since it opened in 1888. For the first two years of the College's existence, it even had female residents. Queen's student Miriam Merfield was the first woman in Australia to live, as well as study, in a university college, and until the second decade of the 20th century, Queen's continued to enrol "resident" female students (although these women were housed in Parkville, and not

within the college grounds). Non-resident female students were also enrolled, and these women took an active part in College life from the beginning, going on to form the Wyverna Club and to contribute enormously to the College and to the wider community. Over the years, the College tutorial staff included many female academics who provided intellectual stimulation, inspiration and positive role models for students. The Masters' and Vice-Masters' wives gave enormous support to their

husbands and played an active role in welcoming and supporting students, often while maintaining independent professional lives. Female staff, including long-serving and much appreciated matrons, domestic staff and administrative staff, supported and befriended generations of students. The governance of the College too, has benefited considerably from the influence and input of women, whether as members of Council and Committees, or as Fellows.



# Courageous trailblazer

## Dr Mary Clementina de Garis

(Wyverna 1900)

Trailblazer, extraordinarily determined and courageous are just some of the many ways to describe Dr Mary Clementina de Garis.

When women were still two years away from gaining the right to vote in federal elections, Mary de Garis became the 31st woman to enrol in medicine at the University of Melbourne. As the second woman in Victoria to be awarded the Doctorate of Medicine in 1907, Dr de Garis qualifies easily for the term 'trailblazer'.

Born in Mildura in 1881, Dr de Garis was dux of the Methodist Ladies' College in her matriculation year and awarded a Queen's College Residential Scholarship. She came to College in 1900, residing in "Marmion" Parkville as a non-resident student, for four years.

On graduating with honours, Dr de Garis worked in the tiny grazing town of Muttaborra in central Queensland from 1908–1909, and then the remote town of Tibooburra in New South Wales from 1911–1915. As soon as war was declared in 1914, she resolved to enlist in the Australian Army Medical Corps, expressing her belief that women, being equal to men, should do their patriotic duty.

Ten days before Britain's declaration of war in Europe, Dr de Garis became engaged to Colin Thomson, farmer and captain of the Tibooburra cricket team. When Colin enlisted in early 1915 and was shipped to Egypt, Dr de Garis also applied, but was refused enlistment.

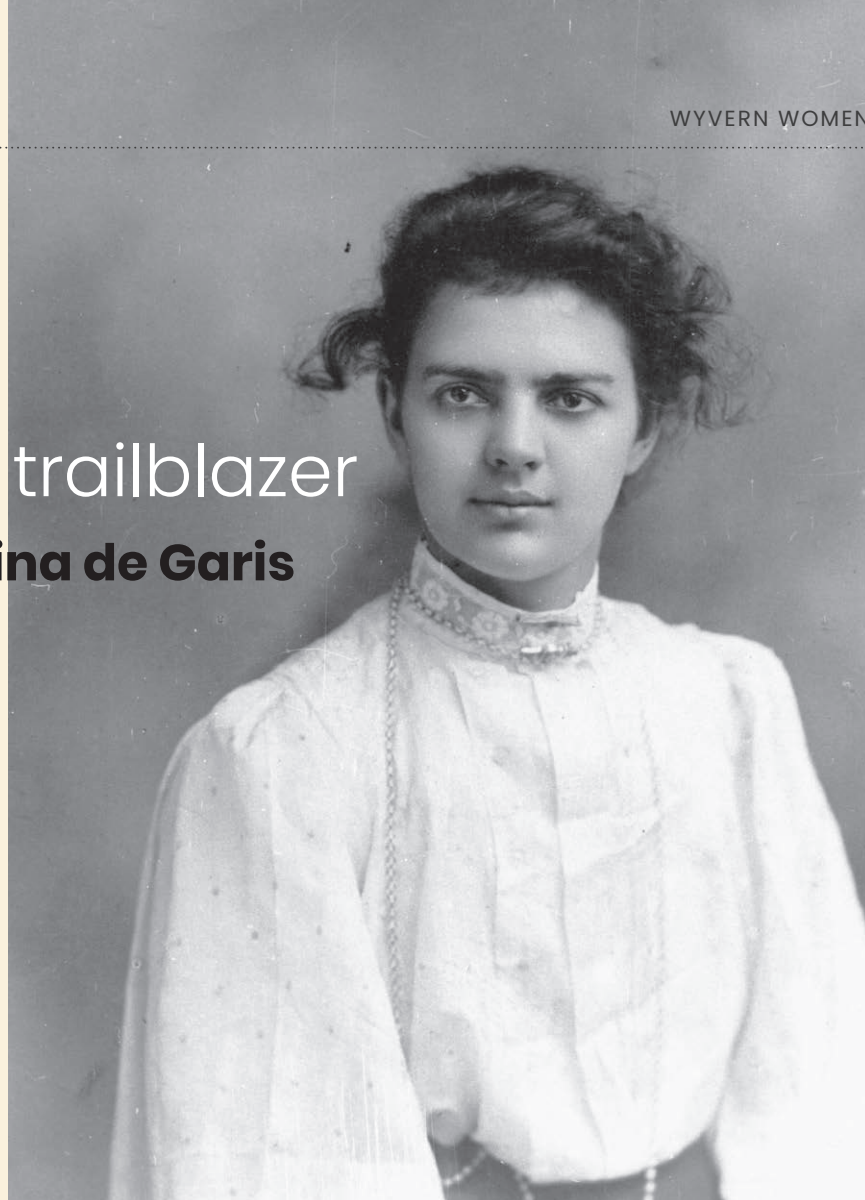
Determined to be on hand should Colin be repatriated to England, Dr de Garis sailed to London in June 1916 with a revolver in her luggage. She worked at the Manor Hospital, where she learned that having courageously survived Gallipoli, Colin, then deployed to France, was killed in August that year in Pozières.

Dr de Garis joined the Scottish Women's Hospitals (SWH) and served as Chief Medical Officer and Surgeon in the 4th America Unit in Ostrovo, Northern Macedonia under the Serbian Army at the Balkan Eastern Front from February 1917 to October 1918. In charge of 250 people, and with malaria, typhoid and dysentery as constant companions, she courageously performed difficult surgeries through air raids and in all weather, including snow.

Having survived the Spanish Influenza, Dr de Garis finally arrived back in Melbourne in February 1919.

*She was decorated by the Serbian government with the Order of St Sava III class, and also by the British government with medals for her extraordinary contribution in a place of peril and medical emergency.*

After postgraduate study overseas, she practised with distinction as an obstetrician in Geelong, where she was the city's first and only female medical practitioner until 1941. Dr de Garis conducted research to improve infant and maternal mortality rates, and was a pioneer in the feeding of high protein diets to pregnant women. Her work at the Geelong Hospital was commemorated with the naming of De Garis House. Dr de Garis died in 1963 having made a huge contribution to medicine.





# First female member of the GC

## Heather Carr

(Wyvern 1973)



Heather Carr (left) and Carolyn Graham (right) in the labs

50 years have passed since I entered the hallowed halls of Queen's College, and its enduring influence has been a constant theme in my life since then. Queen's opened up many possibilities that a country girl raised in the 1950s and '60s had never dreamt of.

My parents delivered me to Queen's at the start of my second year studying Physical Education. Jack Clarke met me and showed me to my room, and then introduced me to a group meeting after dinner. The meeting consisted of one Gippsland boy, Geelong boys and a couple of Melbourne lads, and that was the exciting first day of my three years at Queen's.

When I think of phone duty in 1973 – which involved answering the phones and then yelling a person's name in the Quad – I am certain that many things have changed significantly, but I know from the experiences of my niece Jacqui Lloyd (Wyvern 2005) that the spirit of Queen's remains strong.

In those three years, I played a lot of sport, studied (usually much more than most of my cohort), went to balls, celebrated lots of 21sts, and took part in fun activities. These included chasing a group of Ormond people who tried to steal Bentley Still the goat, and watching cars being waterbombed from the tower as they were re-directed into

the drive by boys in their science lab coats, until police sirens could be heard coming up Swanston Street.

*I was proud to be elected to the GC in 1973, taking a leading part in setting guidelines for equality around women's and men's sporting celebrations.*

I was part of the Queen's women's team which won the intercollegiate cup in 1974, and was chosen as a valedictorian in 1975 (after which I received a dunking in the rowing pool). My memories of Queen's also include the kindness shown by Joy Parnaby remembering that I preferred black tea and no sugar in the second year of afternoon tea at The Lodge, and Elaine Clarke playing her piano, with her beautiful music wafting around the Quad.

I have taught generations of girls modern history in Sydney, encouraging them to work hard and to think critically about the world. In my professional career, I have had a long stint as an HSC

marker and judge. I've adjudicated at international public speaking and debating championships for a decade.

Despite living in Sydney for more than 40 years, I have always enjoyed and valued the strong and continuing support from my Queen's friends, most particularly after a catastrophic bicycling accident when my son was only three and a half months old. A family holiday coinciding with Russell (Wyvern 1972) and Michelle (nee Dreyfuss) Ball (Wyvern 1974) and their children at Lindeman Island was memorable as that was the first mini triathlon I participated in after my accident. Visits to and from 'Pud' Carolyn Graham (Wyvern 1973) over the years have been constant as we have both navigated the ups and downs of life.

At my school in Sydney, girls who finished their final year 50 years ago are referred to as 'Golden Girls'. That is the moniker I think of for myself and Queen's... is it possible that I am a Queen's Golden Girl? It just doesn't seem possible!



## Carolyn Graham

(Wyvern 1973)

In February 1973, I entered Queen's College as a naive seventeen-year-old. I didn't know the makeup of the College: I didn't realise that I was part of the first cohort of women into Queen's, or even that you didn't need to be in bed by a given time. I have fond memories of going to the 'bughouse' in togas (i.e., a sheet), learning to drink beer at an intercollegiate barbeque at Trinity, and throwing water bombs from the tower at unsuspecting cars driving round the entrance.

The College was made up of 53 women and 135 men. Very soon friendships were formed, relationships started and the joy of connection soon became obvious. While groups evolved, there was still an openness to mix with women and men. In summer after lunch, cricket in the quadrangle was the popular activity. It was inclusive. Cricketers, cricket tragics, and total non-performers were all invited to participate. This was the Queen's ethos.

With my great mate 'Jexy' Heather Carr (Wyvern 1973), we organised Queen's women's participation in intercollegiate sport. The enthusiasm was such that even though we were just a small number of women, we offered a team for each sport. I'll never forget the women's football team, playing in the mud. Some girls had never touched a football and talent was hard to spot, but we did manage equal best on ground, 'Jexy' and I.



Heather Carr (left) and Carolyn Graham (right)

While my first 12 months in Queen's was one big party with little work undertaken, I was influenced academically to seek challenges. Initially I undertook a Diploma of Physical Education, in second year, I doubled my workload and commenced a Bachelor of Arts, which I completed while teaching. Later, I undertook a Master of Health. These qualifications saw me move from teaching into research and evaluation in the health sector.

I am now retired, but am still connected to health initiatives. My health has not always been positive but my friends from Queen's College have always stood by me. For this, I feel most grateful.

*I realise that the central impact of living at Queen's College is the understanding that everybody has a story. That regardless of gender, sexuality, race, age or skill level, each person is as important as the next person, and from this I learnt to connect with openness and gratitude.*

For me, the power of friendship, the enduring nature of friendship and the elements of friendship are all a legacy from my time at Queen's, and I have carried these gems forward wherever I have travelled.



## Dr Belinda (Lindy) Hunter (née Clarke)

(Wyvern 1974)

I went into College in my final year of medicine, thanks to a Queen's scholarship. I'd been living in my family home in Ringwood and spent hours travelling every day. Shifting close to the Royal Melbourne Hospital where I trained allowed me to fit in extra tutorials and patient contact time, which would not otherwise have been possible. I also really appreciated the Queen's tutorials. I admired my obs and gynae tutor, Mr Graeme McLeish, so much that he later delivered my babies.

And then of course I met a certain mathematics tutor in Queen's to whom I became engaged. Richard Hunter (Wyvern 1974) and I married at the end of that year and were extremely fortunate to be able to shift into the married tutors' flat on the ground floor. We lived there for three years, during which time I was the live-in on-call medico for the College (when I wasn't in the wards

or in the lab doing experiments for my PhD). I remember making several visits to Jack Clarke's kids during that time, as well as dealing with injured sportsmen and the occasional student who had over-indulged to the point of unconsciousness, among others.

When I was studying medicine, women comprised about 25-30% of the student cohort, whereas now, they outnumber the men. I didn't face any overt sexual discrimination during my professional career in pathology, but I know it did exist in some other specialties. I think that decisions regarding work-life balance are still a major issue for women, including child-rearing and family pressures.

I retired 10 years ago after nearly 45 fantastic years in medicine, specialising in anatomical pathology. I now enjoy time with my five



grandchildren; I'm actively involved in Probus; I belong to three book clubs; I volunteer as a learning club tutor for the Smith Family; and I play cello in the Brisbane Symphony Orchestra. As many retirees say, I don't know how I ever found time to go to work. My husband and I have also been able to travel more both in Australia and overseas, where we have indulged in adventure motorcycling. We've ridden around Iceland, the Dalmatian Coast, Russia, the Baltic Coast and Morocco, and have also visited numbers of other countries by more usual transport.

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## Liz Eldridge

(Wyvern 1974) Vice President Queen's College Council

Fifty years ago, Queen's College had a terrific student body, and through Owen Parnaby and Jack Clarke, low-key but effective pastoral care. Queen's provided me with a great circle of friends, support and a lot of fun when I transitioned from school to university. I still remember the day I arrived at Queen's and the students waiting to welcome my father and I and carry all my bags up three flights of stairs.

Queen's was a big part of my university experience which enabled me to get a couple of degrees. On a personal level Queen's provided me with wonderful lifelong friends – a group I have caught up with regularly and shared the joys and

sometimes trials of life for almost 50 years. Queen's largely means friendship.

When I look back to 1974 the women at Queen's were bright, confident, had dreams and ambitions and were fun to be around. From what I can see that's pretty much like the women of Queen's today. Young women entering Queen's today enter a College with at least 50% women students. They expect and have access to mentoring and counselling services. Women are well represented on the General Committee and often hold the position of President. Queen's is no longer a male college with female students.



I am retired and my husband Alfie Anderson and I spread our time between Northcote, Flinders and Alfie's family in the UK and apartment in Portugal. I keep busy playing golf, skiing, diving, gardening and learning the piano. After retiring from the Victorian Public Service, I had several board appointments, including being a member of the Queen's College Council.



*After 20 years practising law in a major national law firm, I took a couple of unorthodox career steps before discovering my passion for aviation.*

## Merren McArthur

(Wyvern 1981)

Queen's College was my gateway to independence in the critical transition phase from secondary school to university. I met many of my best friends at Queens, including my partner of over 30 years, Murray Dowty (Wyvern 1981).

I partied so hard that my marks were not good enough to get me into my dream job in the Diplomatic Corp, so I had to settle for a career in law. No regrets. I ended up satisfying my travel bug through aviation rather than diplomacy, which was probably a better fit in hindsight.

One strong memory is from the 1982 Queen's Ball featuring Cold Chisel, who were at their peak at the time. As a member of the ball organising committee, I had the privilege to slide down a plank of wood (in my ball dress) to below stage, where I met and kissed Jimmy Barnes.

When reflecting on women in society over the last 50 years, progress seems to have stalled in the last two decades. While women now represent more than 50% of university graduates, they are still underrepresented in senior management and executive positions in most large companies and professions. I hope that we see some real progress over the next two decades towards gender equity and diversity in our leadership positions across Australia.

After 20 years practising law in a major national law firm, I took a

couple of unorthodox career steps before discovering my passion for aviation. I was an executive at Virgin Australia for 10 years, including roles as CEO of Virgin Australia Regional Airlines, Virgin Australia Cargo and Tigerair Australia. I am now the founding CEO of Lynx Air, a start-up ultra-low-cost carrier based in Canada. The airline launched in April 2022, and we carried our millionth passenger a couple of months ago. Within two years we have grown our team from 20 to 450 people, and our network spans 16 destinations across North America.



## Jane Allen

(Wyvern 1981)

I'm a freelance screenwriter in television drama, working on everything from *Blue Heelers* to *Secret Life of Us*, *Janet King* to *In Our Blood*, a musical drama on ABC TV this year. I also worked as a lawyer for a few years, in criminal defence, and mass torts – which provided many stories and characters that have found their way onto our screens.

I'm a Tigers supporter, a word nerd, and an Antarctic tragic, and forever grateful to the Australian Antarctic division for allowing me to live at Mawson Station for three months over the summer of 2018/19 as their official arts fellow.

I came to Queen's having never lived in Melbourne before, so it was a safe haven for me as I explored a new world. Queen's gave me friends who I still hold dear, and connections that I am rediscovering and reanimating even now.

It gave me access to people doing courses other than mine, who I would otherwise never have met. It broadened my horizons, challenged my beliefs, and occasionally infuriated me. There was the good – friends, the bad – the othering of those outside the dominant paradigm, and the ugly – the Thrashing Awards.

There was Bentley Still, for ever in danger of being kidnapped by another College. and there was the Master, "Snips", telling us in his welcome address that if we had a bottle of spirits in our room, we should take a long hard look at ourselves.

We were rostered to attend the public phones, and either find the person the call was for (by yelling out in the Quad, or running to the outside and doing the same), or writing down a message. Needless to say, it was not entirely successful, especially if you had an outside room.

Being involved with the College play for three years was an absolute highlight, even if in the first year (in *Measure for Measure*) I was pregnant in a wedding dress and got to faint on the altar in the Chapel.



I don't know what Queen's is like for women now. Back in my day, in the early eighties, it was a place where the men set the agenda and the culture. There were plenty of strong women, don't get me wrong, but the place was very male-dominated. It was all but compulsory for everyone to attend the men's sports matches, but the same could not be said for the women's sport. I am sure that is no longer the case but with women's rights being eroded in the world at large, whatever improvements in equality need to be guarded carefully.

As for the next fifty years... I hope Queen's is a place where all who are fortunate enough to live within its walls feel safe and seen and celebrated. Maybe amongst the Wyverns there might even be a Matildas player or two...





## Fleur Maidment

(Wyvern 1987)

I have stayed connected to Wyvern friends since my time at Queen's and have been fortunate to connect with other Wyverns and University of Melbourne alumni when living overseas.

It is heartening to have an ongoing association with Queen's through the Outer Metropolitan Scholarship, which has supported women from diverse backgrounds to access the great opportunities at Queen's, and is now working with Evangelia Wichmann (Wyvern 2020) to use our knowledge, skills and connections to help people less fortunate than ourselves. The connections and friendships formed at Queen's lead to positive outcomes for society.

I'm one of the lucky cohorts who met their life partners at Queen's College. Together, Daniel Moorfield (Wyvern 1989) and I have balanced our careers and interests, and have been able to live in Ballarat, Shanghai, Singapore and Melbourne.

My most outrageous memory of Queen's is singing American Pie in formal dress on the tram between pre-dinner drinks and a college ball. It seemed to shock and amuse the Royal Parade commuters.

When I first graduated from uni, they needed to build a female toilet for me at the local environment department office. I was catapulted into a very male-dominated industry in agriculture and forestry as a young woman, but I must say my experience at Queen's during the

1980s was overall very positive and respectful. Naturally, the opportunities at Queen's need to be open to all, no matter gender, race, religion or background. Being in contact with Evangelia and knowing there has now been 11 female GC Presidents and seeing more females engaged in leadership roles gives me confidence that the future is positive and in good hands.

I was lucky enough to move to Singapore in 2016, and due to the proximity to Myanmar, I took an interest in the environmental challenges that the country was facing. I first travelled to Myanmar with a former refugee, Thablay – now living in Nhill, Australia. We identified that helping villagers and displaced people care for their water catchments and gain access to clean water was a high priority – one that would save lives and prevent many of the diseases we observed spreading, such as diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid. Together, we founded Safe Water for Every Child – Myanmar, and since then we have established a team of local staff and trained them to test water, install water filters and educate their communities about water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

What started as a small program

escalated due to the military coup in February 2021 and we quickly mobilised our staff to give humanitarian assistance to the thousands of people fleeing.

***To date, we have given over 65,000 people safe drinking water in villages, schools and camps in the region.***

An offshoot of the organisation was establishing an English tutoring program during COVID-19. Queen's College jumped on board, and we were able to match students on the Thai-Myanmar border with native English speakers to continue their English practice while they could not attend school. One of the tutors who volunteered was former college president, Evangelia.

Recently, we travelled together to meet her tutoring student in Thailand, and she stayed on to teach at Thoo Mweh Khee Migrant Learning Centre and work with the Safe Water for Every Child team. In a few short months, she saw a critical need and set up a First Aid and Health Hub for the school, with its 2,200 students and surrounding community of largely displaced people.

Link to Safe Water for Every Child:  
[https://linktr.ee/SafeWater\\_Myanmar](https://linktr.ee/SafeWater_Myanmar)



# First female GC President

## Samantha Unger

(Wyvern 1993)

Now, while working as a management consultant for Deloitte in the UK, supporting clients going through large scale change, I look back at my time at Queen's and my first thoughts that come flooding back are ones of sheer fun.

There was a sense of the ridiculous and friendship – with memories ranging from jumping up and down on the banks of the Yarra with watermelons... to lounging around in the corridors (literally) in the middle of the night chatting.... to seeing how high boiled eggs could be thrown in the dining hall. Whilst these friendships may have started amongst the rituals of College life, they have stood the test of time and I count some of my closest friends as those I met oh so long ago at Queen's.

Aside from the incredible friendships, I think Queen's made an indelible impact on me because of the sense of community and support that it gave each and every one of us. I suspect that university life would have been much harder to navigate without the support structures of

Queen's. Having 200 odd 'readymade' friends certainly helped me find a place within university life.

My role as the first female GC President was a great learning experience – only made possible by the fact I had an amazing GC. In hindsight, I think that at the time I was more focussed on simply being accepted as any other president would have been and not wanting to focus on the fact that I was the first female president. Whilst I think someone's gender should not impact upon their getting a role – I would have told my younger self to reflect more on the fact I was the first female president.

In so many ways as a society, we have come a long way in the 50 years since women resided at Queen's.

And, indeed my life at Queen's was an incredible microcosm of celebrating and supporting everyone, no matter who or where they came from.

However, recent global events are a stark reminder that we can't take freedoms and equality for granted. No, I am not talking about a war-torn country like Afghanistan – but Spain. The aftermath of the Spanish women's football team victory was a heart-breaking reminder that we can't be complacent in ensuring our society is a fair and equal place for all. Michelle Obama so eloquently reminded us during her final speech as a First Lady:

*"You cannot take your freedoms for granted. Just like generations who have come before you, you have to do your part to preserve and protect those freedoms... you need to be preparing yourself to add your voice to our national conversation."*



## Carly Schrever

(Wyvern 1998)

Carly has found the perfect way to make her contribution to the world by marrying her legal career with her strong interest in psychology through completing a PhD on the occupational stress of the judiciary.

Carly joined the Judicial College of Victoria in 2007, developing educational programmes for judges, and found a gap in their professional development: the focus was traditionally on their legal skills and not on the human dimensions of their role.

"It was always there – how do they manage the vicarious trauma, or the stress of writing judgements? The cat's out of the bag regarding institutions trying to uphold any superhuman ideal. The notion that judges are somehow above stress, don't feel emotion; these archetypal ideals, that might have prevailed for centuries, people now know they are not the case. There have been more women appointed to the court and I think that's changed the culture. Almost every judicial officer I spoke to feels that the pressures bearing upon the courts are increasing."

Carly selected five courts to be included in her study and 67% of the judiciary within them responded to her survey. She found magistrates to be significantly more stressed than judges, attributing the difference to their lack of autonomy and time pressures. She also found 20% of all the surveyed judiciary met the criteria for burnout, but there was an even more concerning finding.

"The one that was really shocking was a measure I included of what's called secondary traumatic stress, which refers to the development of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)-like symptoms, not from



your own trauma but from being repeatedly exposed to information about other people's trauma, and 30% of the participants responded positively to that, which is enormous because the general population prevalence of PTSD in Australia is only 4%."

The stress is cumulative, and brought on by a combination of factors: heavy workloads, the subject matter of cases, the intense scrutiny of the work – with every word potentially raked over by the appellate court or the media, with a view to finding fault with it, the public nature of the work, and the fact judges are working in isolation. Carly's findings will aid her in the development of support systems.

*"When I started the PhD, it was almost a taboo topic to suggest judges might be impacted by stress. It's now, after eight years, become a topic of real global interest and judges all over the world are speaking openly about the stresses they face."*

"They want to learn skills to manage it. I think there's a groundswell. There are many reasons we want people in positions of power to have their stress at an appropriate level, particularly judges."

For Carly, being the third female president of the General Committee in 2000 proved to be a difficult role. Leading the GC while a small but overbearing group of students dominated the College culture made it very challenging.

"Clearly things have changed regarding the status of women, it's completely different now. I know it's come a long way because I came back six years ago to give an education session to freshers on the laws of consent and we couldn't teach them anything they didn't already know. Society has come so far. It was beginning to shift in the late '90s but there was still a lot of work to be done."

Carly has turned the negatives into positives.

"I reflect on that time and see it as a microcosm of what plays out in society sometimes. That experience has shaped my understanding of power, culture and institutions. I learned so much about group thinking, gender politics, things that contribute to how institutions and cultures form and run. It also helped me shape my values and gain clarity on what I want my contribution to be in this world."



## Nicola Sutton-Hay

(Wyvern 2003)

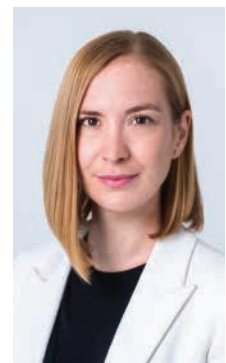
Queen's was a home away from home when I first moved to Melbourne to pursue tertiary studies. I came from a small rural community, and Queen's provided an instant support network to help cope with that transition.

Studying amongst such a talented set of peers who celebrated academic success also gave me the impetus to perform much more strongly at university than I think I ever could have done starting out solo.

Many of the people I met at Queen's remain among my closest friends to this day, including my husband – Lachlan Hay (Wyvern 2003) whom I met in first year.

Professionally, being able to discuss career change plans with Wyverns who'd already entered the international development sector helped guide my decisions on the type of roles and organisations that would best suit my ethos and skillset.

The changes for women in the past 20 years in Australia have been slow, but not insubstantial. Since my time at Queen's, Australia has seen its first female Governor-General and Prime Minister, decriminalisation of abortion in Victoria, and the launch of the much-lauded Women's AFL. As a nation, we're starting to consider the differential impacts on women of policies from the outset, rather than as an afterthought. There's greater public awareness of the alarming rates of domestic violence and sexual harassment and assault against women, and amendment of legislation protecting abusers such as the law of provocation. There's increasing acknowledgement of the disproportionate effect of mental



load, the financial and career impacts on women having children, and the impacts on fertility for women who choose to put career first. Discussions of consent in relationships have matured, with far less tolerance for a 'boys will be boys' mentality, and earlier introduction to the concepts in schools.

*That said, we're still a long way from equality. The gender pay gap remains significant, women are significantly underrepresented in parliament and in corporate leadership, and women still shoulder a disproportionate share of caring responsibilities and housework.*

Despite women first being eligible to enrol at the University of Melbourne in 1880, it wasn't until 2018 that they first comprised more than 50% of the student body, and we've yet to see the appointment of a female Master at Queen's or, to my knowledge, a building wing named for one, all of which reflects women's historical exclusion from academic spaces.

I work in the philanthropic sector managing international development projects, predominantly in West Africa. Most of our work focuses on education, skills training, and healthcare, including a breast cancer awareness program trying to reach women in under-served communities around the world.



## Erica Mandi Manga (née Hamence)

(Wyvern 2003)

Queen's College was my first home in Melbourne. It is the place I first explored faith, developed as a leader, and made what have been so far lifelong friends.

It's hard to say what difference living at Queen's has made for my life professionally, because when I lived there I was studying arts/law with a hope of becoming a human rights lawyer somewhere in South America. That obviously hasn't happened.

But in another sense, by giving me a place to explore leadership, it actually gave me a really significant foundation for what I now do as a minister. Personally, it gave me friendships that are precious to me to this day.

I am a senior assistant minister at an Anglican church in central Sydney (St Barnabas Anglican Church). I oversee our formation and training ministries.

***I am also the founder and spokesperson for Common Grace's Domestic and Family Violence Justice Team. Common Grace is a nondenominational Christian social justice movement.***

As part of my work in domestic and family violence advocacy, I have helped to create *Safer*, an online resource for people experiencing domestic or family violence, and those seeking to support them ([saferresource.org.au](http://saferresource.org.au)); *Renew*, a

handbook for Christian women survivors of domestic violence; *Before It Starts*, a primary prevention curriculum for youth groups to teach them about safe and respectful relationships; and *Responding to Domestic and Family Violence*, an online course for theology students and other interested participants to help them to care for victims and survivors of domestic and family violence, as well as *Gender Equality and Respect: A Bible Study Series for the Melbourne Anglican Diocese*.

When it comes to violence against women, unfortunately not much has changed. In Australia, more than one woman a week is killed by her partner. Where I find some hope is that there is now much more education and some growing understanding about the complexity of gender-based violence. Cultural and structural change is a long game, and we'll need equal amounts of persistence and patience to see a reduction in violence towards women in this country.

Alongside that, I'd love to see more women enter, and thrive, in ministry. The church needs them.

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence or abuse, you can contact 1800RESPECT.





## Maddie Wagg

(Wyvern 2010)



*"It is a wonderful thing in this industry to have someone believe in you and give you that break."*



You've seen them, but possibly not considered how they came to be, or who might be behind them. The opening title sequences, visual effects on screens and logos on billboards for shows like 'The Thing About Pam' starring Renee Zellweger, or 'Australian Survivor', are the work of Maddie Wagg.

Maddie is the Creative Director of her business Moonwalkers Motion, based in LA. Working with executive producers from Netflix, HBO, Amazon, NBC, FOX, and more, Maddie designs the graphics that are not shot in camera, for their shows.

"We normally start the process about halfway through the edit of the show so it's not a finished piece yet. It's more of a collaboration and they are trying to figure out their direction, and have us make graphics to fit into the show so it all lives in one seamless world."

In Maddie's kit, mind reading would be a useful tool to have.

"I'm trying to pull a visual in my brain out of someone who has a storyteller's brain, who's creating a TV show. I make sure I understand the tone because typically I don't watch the show – it hasn't been

made yet. I have no reference. Then I create up to eight mood boards of very different creative visual directions, they pick their favourite, and we start making it. A typical graphics show package takes around three months."

Maddie loves her life on Venice Beach and credits lucky opportunities for bringing her to this point.

"It is a wonderful thing in this industry to have someone believe in you and give you that break. Every single step forward in my career has been because someone has believed in me. I can pinpoint all those moments of elevation and they came from a decision based on faith in my abilities."

Maddie's first job after completing her Bachelor of Design (Communications Design) at RMIT was with Channel 10 in motion design. Then came the

move to LA with Burnish where she was Creative Director, which led to her starting her own company. College life too played its part in her trajectory.

"Queen's was really wonderful at facilitating people who were interested in creative endeavours, particularly with the Tower space. I thought that was the coolest thing ever when they decided that was for creatives and as there's not very many creatives, I felt like I had that space to myself."

Watch out for Maddie's next creation, a 30-second promotion for 'The Secrets of Miss America'. Hint: crowns will shatter.

## Jess Sanchez-Vargas

(Wyvern 2019)

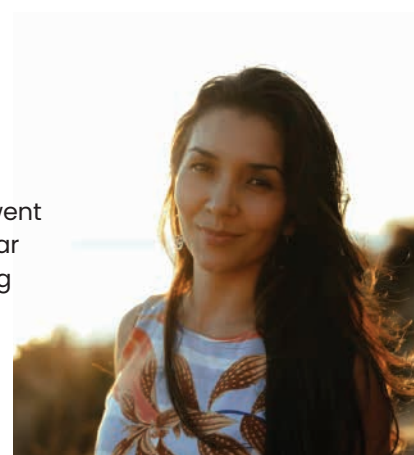
During the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, Queen's College went above and beyond its role as a residential college. It transformed into a pillar of emotional support for all of us. Everyone came together, especially during the difficult times faced by international students like me.

One of my favourite memories is the unforgettable study sessions in the Stafford room. These moments felt like family coming together, especially during the stressful exam period. In 2019, all of us graduate students at Queen's College, studying a mix of subjects like medicine, maths, environmental sciences, and more, formed a close-knit group. Those late-night study sessions in the Stafford were evidence of the incredible power of community and the unwavering spirit of collective ambition, moments I will forever hold dear.

I work as an environmental consultant, liaising with both the private sector and government

agencies to develop and implement impactful environmental projects. My main focus is on stakeholder engagement, project planning, and resource management. This multifaceted role allows me to bring different parties to the table and foster collaborations that aim to build resilience and adaptation strategies to face the current challenges of climate change.

It's truly remarkable to look back and see the progress made for women in my field. Fifty years ago, opportunities for women were quite limited, and the path to success was often filled with obstacles. However, over the years, we've witnessed a significant and transformative shift



towards greater gender equality.

I hope to see even more progress as I look ahead to the next 50 years. I'd love to see a world where women continue to rise to leadership positions, breaking down any remaining barriers. I also believe that it's crucial for all of us to understand and embrace the idea that we all are complementary to one another, with no one holding superiority. If we all work together, we can create a world where true equality and collaboration thrive.

## Eliza Shannon

(Wyvern 2018)

Queen's College for me was a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet and connect with a group of great people from completely different walks of life. Somewhere I was able to fast track my life learnings and growth as a person. A safe and inclusive place where one can gain independence, lifelong friends and create some of the best memories. One of which was the champagne breakfast on High Table after winning the softball cup.

After completing a Bachelor of Science major in Neuroscience, I am currently working part time in learning support while I have a career in football with North Melbourne Football Club.

Although only residing at Queen's for two years I was grateful to encounter equal opportunities for both men



Eliza Shannon, left

and women on campus. Whether regarding positions of leadership, access to facilities or involvement in sports and extracurricular activities, as a female at Queen's College I was never held back from opportunities to participate and maximise my experience.

Whilst residing at Queen's I could never have seen myself forging a

career as an AFL athlete. However, over the last few years the opportunities and resources provided in our sport have amplified significantly. Although there is still a long way to go, a career in AFL for women is becoming progressively more feasible, and what that may look like has changed tremendously for the better.



# Happy 100th birthday to a true Australian icon – Vegemite

Created by **Dr Cyril Callister** (Wyvern 1911), then Head Chemist with Fred Walker and Co., the 'pure vegetable extract' rolled off the factory's lines in South Melbourne in 1923, but was far from an instant hit.

The salty, black paste was modelled on the British spread 'Marmite' and made from *saccharomyces cerevisiae* or brewer's yeast, a bi-product of beer, bought from Carlton and United Breweries. The name Vegemite was determined through a public competition, with 50 pounds on offer for the winner. There were so many entries that the winner was drawn from a hat.

Neighbours complained about the vile stench coming from the processing vats of yeast for Vegemite production, and with slow uptake at first, under increasing threat from Marmite imports, it was almost pulled off the market. Desperate measures were undertaken to promote the product including a name change for a year to 'Parwill', working with the slogan, "Ma might not like it but Pa will."

Born into a humble family in 1893, the third child of nine, at Chute, west of Ballarat, Cyril's

academic excellence gained him a scholarship to Grenville College, Ballarat, where he attended with fellow scholar, future Prime Minister and lifelong friend, Robert Menzies. With much determination, he gained a government exhibition and residential scholarship to Queen's College, where he lived until completing an honour's degree in science at the University of Melbourne in 1914. Cyril graduated with first class honours and the Dixon final honours exhibition.

When the First World War came Cyril's enlistment application was cancelled. He was to serve as a scientist rather than a soldier, and was transferred to England as a chemist to make the highly explosive product, cordite.

After the war, while working at Kraft Walker, Cyril received a doctorate from the University of Melbourne, largely for his work creating Vegemite. He was known to his workmates from then on as 'The Doc'.

*By 1937, after many years languishing, sales for Vegemite showed signs of life. Baby health centres promoted it to mothers with the product's advertisements sporting an image of a rosy-cheeked baby.*

When Australia went to war in 1939, so too did Vegemite. The spread was considered a vital source of



*Dr Cyril Callister and sister Alice graduating from the University of Melbourne. Photo from Vegemite The True Story of the Man who invented an Australian Icon (Murdoch Books 2023) by grandson Jamie Callister.*

vitamins in a jar. Its popularity grew to legendary status with Vegemite passed off as boot polish in order to penetrate the Changi prisoner of war camps. By then, Vegemite production had increased thirty-fold and the baby boom sealed its future popularity.

Cyril Percy Callister died from a heart attack on 5 October 1949, aged 56. His legacy however, lives on a century later, being the creator of a product that has become a pantry staple for Australian households, with more than 20 million jars produced every year.





## This is no time to be silly

**Fellow Professor (Paul) Merlin Crossley AM** (Wyvern 1982) was recognised for his significant service to education and molecular biology with a King's Birthday Honour. Merlin has also had the honour of having a newly discovered species of iridescent butterfly bobtail squid named *Iridoteuthis merlini* in recognition of his support for the Australian Museum.

Merlin has always been a contributor, in more recent times through his research on genetic diseases of the blood, haemophilia and sickle cell anaemia, and on the fundamental mechanisms of gene regulation. He has provided service to education as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Quality at the University of New South Wales since 2022, and is also Chair of The Conversation Editorial Board and Deputy Chair of the Australian Science Media Centre Board.

Whilst at College, Merlin contributed to the entertainment of many with his great sense of humour.

"I loved Queen's, it was such a happy time. It was a theatre. It was a coming of age and a time for learning lessons, but also of sheer amusement. We worked hard, we did well, but we were carefree. We drank Chateau Superbe port and talked about important things. If you wanted to be a dag or a sporty person or a nerd, there was something for everyone. I remember the fresher's exam in

Eakins Hall and one of the questions was, part A, "Who cheated in inter-collegiate sport last year?" and part B, "Why did Trinity do so?" It was all so funny."

While in College, for the sheer fun of it, Merlin, along with Glenn Wiedemeyer (Wyvern 1982) and Martin Kudnig (Wyvern 1982), was key to establishing a political party called the 'Deadly Serious Party', with the tag line, 'This is no time to be silly'.

*On a platform that included dispatching killer penguins to protect our coastline from invasion and a call for "better weather", Merlin ran in the Flinders' bi-election. He was 18 years of age, the youngest parliamentary candidate in Australian history.*

He ran fifth out of the seven candidates, stealing 1,136 votes away from Liberal candidate and the ultimate incumbent of the seat, Peter Reith. The party was

deregistered after four years for not having the required 500 members.

But politics was not the only target; the art world was also in their sights.

"Glenn painted himself, Martin, Bruce Wright (Wyvern 1982) and me and we took the painting to the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). While one person distracted the guards, we quickly hung it with drawing pins and a descriptor titled "Fuzzy and Friends", with all our names written backwards.

"That was how sneaky we were, no-one would ever know we did it. Then we wrote to *The Age* about what a great painting it was and we had eight letters published. Finally, Patrick McCaughey who was the Director of the NGV wrote to *The Age* and said he had to remove the painting because it was being worn out by the adoring eyes of the public. He assured us that the painting was still in the vaults of the NGV. It was a lovely adolescent time, I thought it was great. We just had so much fun."



# A man in two worlds

Congratulations to **Tyrone Bean** (Wyvern 2016) Kabi Kabi Traditional Owner and emerging Elder, proud descendant of the Wakka Wakka, Nughi of Moorgumpin, Bindal and Wulgurukaba tribes in Queensland on receiving the 2023 NAIDOC Black Excellence Education Award.

"This award is super significant; to be recognised by the South East Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community for all the work I'm doing bridging the gaps, uplifting, upskilling, supporting community is very humbling. I accept it with humility and I also accept the full responsibility that comes with it."

Tyrone has many 'firsts' to his name. He's the first in his family to study past Year 10 and to continue on to complete a postgraduate degree – Master of Teaching. While studying his masters, Tyrone was Queen's College's first Indigenous Student Support Officer. He was the first First Nations teacher at Wesley College and Trinity Grammar School. Tyrone then chose to pursue further study in order to create greater impact by completing an MBA, and becoming the first and currently only

recognised First Nations person at global management consulting firm, McKinsey and Company, where he works today as a Junior Associate.

"I think my upbringing as it was has put me in a good position to make a difference. I was offered a scholarship to Melbourne Grammar when I was 15, so I spent seven months of the year in Melbourne and five months of the year in Queensland, on country surrounded by strong culture while facing social inequalities. These inequalities became my driving force to become who I am today.

I pride myself on being someone who is relatable. I was too black for the white kids and too white for the black kids so I was always having identity crises. There came a point in time where I committed to being who I am, being First Nations, because that's where I felt the most connected. That was my turning point, understanding I'm not going to be able to please everyone, but I need to be happy with myself.

My message to young First Nations people is do the foundational work of who you are, your identity, community, culture, then if you get that right, everything else will fall into place. You need the connection and support from your ancestral lands."

Tyrone credits Queen's with providing a safe place for him to be himself.

"I can't speak more highly of Queen's. My time there was the most positive time of my educational life. I was lucky enough to win one football



*'A Man in Two Worlds'. Tyrone was one of 12 indigenous Australians painted by Celia Moriarty in a series of portraits of those who bring their culture into their work. It hangs in the reception area at Queen's College.*

and two cricket premierships, which is also close to the most enjoyable sporting experiences I have had.

I was super supported, not as a hand out but as a student, a human being, it held a space for me and added value and a support network not just for me but all the other First Nations students on the crescent."

Tyrone is tireless in his efforts to create opportunities to have open conversations.

*"We are in this incredible time at the moment where a lot of conversations are being had. I deliver cultural and education workshops for sporting groups and clubs, and in the private and not for profit sector. I have been doing so for 15 years. I bring in my knowledge as a Traditional Owner as well as a teacher. I love to share the message and bring people along. I love sharing my journey."*



## Young Wyvern drinks



*Etsegenet Herschmann (Wyvern 2019), Natalie Everett (Wyvern 2019) and Joel Alexander (Wyvern 2021)*



*Olivia Salthouse (Wyvern 2015), Tanya Banagala (Wyvern 2014) and Sophie Tilley (Wyvern 2016)*



*Nick Barry (Wyvern 2019), Kate Coupland (Wyvern 2018), Harry Parker (Wyvern 2019) and Henri Currie (Wyvern 2018)*

## Gatherings in London and Singapore

After a three year hiatus in international gatherings, Master Dr Stewart Gill OAM and Executive Director Advancement Nicole Crook met with Wyverns and parents of students over dinner in Singapore. They were then joined by Arch Wyvern Louise Ryan (1977) and Patron of the Sugden Society Jack Ayerbe (1965) for the get-together at the Society of Antiquaries of London. Link to see all photos: [wyverns.org.au](http://wyverns.org.au)



*Ross Gales (Wyvern 2015), Stewart Gill, Lily Rodgers (Wyvern 2005) and Patrick Townsend in London*



*Tamzin Byrne (Wyvern 2003) and Ben Ayaydin (Wyvern 2019) in London*



*Jack Ayerbe (Wyvern 1965) with son Timothy Ayerbe (Wyvern 1998)*



*Daniel Harness (Wyvern 2018) and Louise Ryan (Wyvern 1977) in London*



*Vijey Ananda (current parent), Stewart Gill, Fleur Maidment (Wyvern 1987), Daniel Moorfield (Wyvern 1989) and Tom Tan (Wyvern 1969) in Singapore*



*Frank Opray (Wyvern 1965) (Bequest Manager), Lachlan Hay (Wyvern 2003), Nicola Sutton (Wyvern 2003) and Stewart Gill in Singapore*



*Stewart Gill with Satha Logaraj (Wyvern 2019) in Singapore*



*Current parents at the Singapore gathering: Anurag Mathur, Pratheepan Karunakaran, Kanagammah Devi Dharmanand, Nupur Mathur, Elaine Lew (Regional Manager Singapore, University of Melbourne) and Chitra Ananda*



# Wyvern of the Year 2023

## Alicia Oshlack

(Wyvern 1994)

Fortunately for all, while living at Queen's Wyvern of the Year 2023 Professor Alicia Oshlack began to believe she could become a professional scientist. Alicia now heads the Computational Biology Program at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and sits on the Laboratory Research Executive team where they consider how to enable researchers to make discoveries for better treatments, better care and cures for cancer.

"I feel like I started my journey into science when I came to uni and lived at Queen's. Before that, I studied science because I was good at it, but over this time period I began to realise that I could actually have a job as a scientist. There were lots of high achievers and I came from a country school in Warrnambool, I was very naïve. One thing it gave me was the confidence that I could mix it with that group."

Alicia is best known for creating statistical methods and software for the analysis of genomic data, which gives clear insights into what is happening in cells. This includes understanding aberrations in cancer cells and determining what molecules should be targeted in cancer treatments. One of the great things about developing analysis methods for all researchers to use is that laboratories across the globe can access them to answer their own scientific questions in all areas of biological science.

"There's thousands of different research groups around the world trying to develop new drugs for beating cancer or developing prognostic tools for cancer patients. My work is about providing the tools that are necessary for people to make these really important discoveries. So now anyone, even small or poor hospitals, can run

these tests, use our tools to analyse them and then make decisions based on this. That's what I really like about the sort of work I do – it enables way more research than could ever happen in my group on its own."

Alicia has been recognised by the science community for her important work, receiving the Gani Medal for Human Genetics from the Australian Academy of Science, the Georgina Sweet Award for Women in Quantitative Biomedical Research, and membership of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science. Receiving the Wyvern of the Year award is particularly meaningful.

"I was very surprised and taken aback when I was awarded the Wyvern of the Year. I'm really chuffed to be appreciated in this way by this community. Queen's is a broad community with interests in many aspects of life, careers and professions. I am proud of being acknowledged in that broad sense. I am also really happy about receiving it in the 50th year of women residing in Queen's. That's very significant to me. I've been trying to gain equity for women in science for 20 years, with a range of initiatives over different aspects of my career. It's definitely an issue that's important to me."

*Alicia acknowledges opportunities for women to succeed have improved in the past 50 years but would like to see more barriers broken down.*

"There's lots of subtle biases that mean women are still more limited in their success than men. Women don't get as many options and experiences. We still have a way to go with that. It's demonstrated by the lack of women at the very top in many areas, especially science. In the next 50 years, I hope we can develop approaches for evaluating success and potential that remove biases for women."

"The other thing I'd like to see progress in is science itself – how do we make discoveries meaningful and have them recognised as a real positive in mainstream society? Not everyone appreciates science in the way I do. That's another area I'm interested in addressing."

*Queen's congratulates and thanks Alicia for her contribution to science and equality for women thus far. We are proud to have Professor Alicia Oshlack as this year's Wyvern of the Year.*

*"I've been trying to gain equity for women in science for 20 years, with a range of initiatives over different aspects of my career. It's definitely an issue that's important to me."*





# 50 years of women Wyverns

27 October 2023

*Hamish Donaldson, Etsegenet Herschmann,  
Matthew O'Sullivan, Charlotte Scaunich,  
Robert Strong, Sophie Hanna, Natalie Everett  
and Jessica Attenborough, all 2019*



*Luke Graham (Wyvern 2005), Jacqui Lloyd (Wyvern 2005) and Heather Carr (Wyvern 1973)*



*Courtney Ford (Wyvern 2004) and Belinda Hutchinson (Wyvern 2002)*



*Elizabeth Eldridge (Wyvern 1974), Prof Lesa Scholl (Dean), Michelle Ball (née Dreyfus) (Wyvern 1974), Russell Ball (Wyvern 1972) and Deb Johnson (Wyvern 1975)*



*Libby Spiers (Wyvern 1996), Natalie Lee (nee Howell) (Wyvern 1997), Sarah Apted (Wyvern 1996), Natalie Dando (née Martin) (Wyvern 1996) and Kat Napier (Wyvern 1997)*



*Dr Warrick Brewer, Dan Ziffer (Wyvern 1996) and Gill Cashion (Wyvern 1996)*



*Frank Opray (Wyvern 1965), David Lawrence (Wyvern 1982) and Tom Hutchinson (Wyvern 2000)*



*Karen O'Shanesey (Wyvern 1988), Sally McColl (Wyvern 1988), Sonia Petering (née Barry) (Wyvern 1988) and Vicki Edmonds (née Price) (Wyvern 1988)*



*Dr Fiona Fullerton (Wyvern 1975) and Jenny Gardner (née Clarke) (Wyvern 1976)*



*Prof Alicia Oshlack (Wyvern 1994), Monica Hiew (Wyvern 1994), Dr Annette Webb (née Ekanayake) (Wyvern 1988), Joanne Barrett (Wyvern 1994), Julie Roycroft (1994) and Katti Williams (Wyvern 1994)*





The first women to reside in College: Amanda Stone, Lynn Hunt (née Morgan), Heather Carr, Carolyn Graham and Sue Smith, all Wyverns 1973



Prof Alicia Oshlack (Wyvern 1994) Wyvern of the Year 2023



Judy McKenzie (Wyvern 1977), Dr Andrew McKenzie (Wyvern 1973), Helen McKenzie (Wyvern 1978) and Janine McKenzie (Wyvern 1982)



Katie Skillington (Wyvern 2006) and Jim Stewart (Wyvern 2006)



Louise Ryan (Wyvern 1977) and Marion Vile (née Fagg) (Wyvern 1977) and Liz Gayton (née Pawsey) (Wyvern 1977)



# Vale

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

Emeritus Professor Max Corden AC  
Economics (1947)

Dr William Denholm AM  
Engineering (1943)

The Reverend Albert Graubner  
Theology (1957)

Dr Keith Lethlean  
Medicine (1949)

Mr Peter Milhinch  
Science (1964)

Mr Darryl Palmer  
Arts (1955)

Professor George Patton AO  
Medicine (1975)

Emeritus Professor David Penington AC  
Medicine (1950)

Mr Colin Price  
Former College Bursar  
(Great Grandson of Sugden)

Mr Simon Raffin  
Arts/Law (1998)

The Hon Alwynne Rowlands  
Law (1960)

Dr Allen Russell  
Science (1961)

Mr Ian Still  
Law (1962)

Mr David Tredinnick  
Commerce (1952)

Dr Howard Walker  
Medicine (1946)

## Emeritus Professor David Penington AC

(Wyvern 1950), Honorary Fellow

4 February 1930 – 6 January 2023

Born in Melbourne, David Penington received his undergraduate education at the University of Melbourne and continued his medical studies at Oxford University. Having held academic and hospital appointments as a medical specialist, teacher and researcher at the London Hospital, Professor Penington returned to Australia in 1967 to pursue his research at the University of Melbourne.

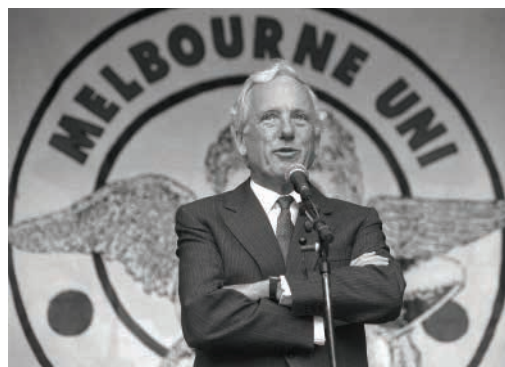
His association with the University of Melbourne was long and distinguished, including 17 years as Professor of Medicine, eight as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, and eight as Vice-Chancellor from 1988–1995.

He was driven by a passion for higher education, and understood and cared deeply about the University's capacity to change lives, build careers and contribute to the public good. Professor Penington was a stalwart and resolute defender of university values and institutional autonomy during his time as Vice-Chancellor – a period of significant change and government intervention. He oversaw a major expansion of the University through amalgamation with the Melbourne

College of Advanced Education and the Victorian College of the Arts. He established the University's first Graduate School and helped create the University Graduate Student Association. Australia's current university admissions framework, Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks (ATARs), is in no small way the product of Professor Penington's earlier dedication to safeguarding robust selection practices from Year 12 into university.

During his leadership of the Medical Faculty, he responded positively to government and community concerns about access to medical courses for socially and educationally disadvantaged students, including refugees, principally from Vietnam.

His great legacies as Chairman of the National AIDS Task Force, the Victorian Premier's Drug Advisory Council, and the Victorian Government's Drug Policy Expert Committee, include his leadership in Australia's HIV/AIDS public health strategy and advancing rational debate on drug-related issues.



*Photo: Michael Silver*

The Penington Institute is named in his honour.

In the mid-1980s, Professor Penington chaired a national Committee of Inquiry that was instrumental in the subsequent introduction of Medicare. He also worked for the Red Cross, including seven years as Chair of the National Blood Transfusion Committee, and established blood transfusion aid programmes in Nepal and China. He also played a central role in establishing the North Richmond Community Health Service.

Professor Penington's outstanding service to medicine and the community as one of Australia's leading public intellectuals and health experts was acknowledged by his appointments as Companion of the Order of Australia in 1988 and Victorian of the Year in 2014.

## Ian Bentley Still

(Wyvern 1962)

5 January 1943 – 14 May 2023

Ian Still gave to his community of Kilmore through his legal practice, which he started in 1968 and where he worked until the day he passed away. He loved his hometown and spent much of his life on the Kilmore Hospital Committee, Kilmore Football Club Committee, the Kilmore Tennis Club and Cemetery Trust, and was a Councillor and then President of the Kilmore Shire.

He married Lyn in 1968 and together they had five children – Debbie, Tracy, David (Andrew), Fiona (dec) and Geoffrey. Lyn passed away after a



very short illness in 1997, and Ian married Ann in 2003.

One of Ian's closely held honours in life was the lasting legacy of having his name adorn the Queen's College mascot, the goat.

The goat story began on 8 September 1965, at 11pm to be precise. At the general meeting in the JCR, Jim Sloman (Wyvern 1963) stated, "It's important the College acquires a mascot. Such a mascot could be paraded at intercollegiate events to give support to those gentlemen giving of their best for the College. The most appropriate mascot would of course be a Wyvern, but as these creatures are currently difficult to obtain the next best example would be a goat."

The late John Barnett (Wyvern 1963) said, "For a goat to be a mascot of Queen's it is vital that it have an impressive pedigree. Queen's is a traditional institution and the mascot would have to have "good breeding". The name Bentley would seem appropriate. As well the name should be hyphenated... to demonstrate an

upper-class background. In order to recognise the significant contribution made to the College by Ian Still it would be fitting to associate the goat with that gentleman... it would be appropriate therefore to name the goat Bentley-Still the Second."

Ian's daughter Debbie said, "Although Dad was a quiet humble man, he secretly loved the fact that the Queen's mascot was named after him. He didn't gloat about it. The first time I recall hearing about it was when my grandmother produced the birth and death notices that would appear in the *Herald Sun*. I remember asking Dad and he blushed. As a child I didn't really understand the significance of it, but as I grew older I realised what an honour was bestowed upon our beautiful father".

**With thanks to Debbie Rowe and Dr Jack Ayerbe (Wyvern 1965)**



## Simon Raffin

(Wyvern 1998)

26 July 1979 – 20 July 2023

There was only one Simon Raffin, and he was exceptional in many ways. A natural pianist, his tinkling of the ivory filled our family home with joy. He loved the theatre, and enjoyed some successful acting stints including a lead role in the Queen's College production of "Other People's Money".

Simon loved languages. He studied German, French and Japanese while living at Queen's, and honoured Dad's Italian heritage by studying the language right up until his diagnosis. It was his love of learning that motivated Simon to return to Queen's – this time in the Senior Common Room – as a tutor in law and politics. He was also an avid traveler, just as fascinated by the painted grain

towers of the Mallee as he was by the brown bears in the Alaskan wild.

Simon was a lot of fun: he could light up a room with his booming, infectious laughter. He enjoyed the buzz of Queen's College life – it was where he forged some of his closest friendships. He was quick-witted, his humour often irreverent.

But Simon's greatest gift was his intellect. He made the most of this, studying Arts/Law at the University of Melbourne, becoming an editor of the Melbourne University Law Review, and enjoying a decorated career at the Attorney General's Department, at Norton Gledhill, and finally at the ANZ Bank where he was a senior leader in their legal team.

Simon was humble, kind, and selfless. He looked for the good in people and was more interested in hearing others' stories than telling his own.

What Simon cared most about was his family. We were blessed and fortunate to have a son, brother and uncle like him.

In dying, Simon reminded us how we might live. Shortly after receiving the news that his cancer was terminal, he began making a list of all the things he was grateful for, focussing not on the 43 more years he might have had, but – in his words – on the 43 wonderful years he was given.

He will be deeply missed.

**With thanks to Luke Raffin (Wyvern 2001)**





## Emeritus Professor Max Corden AC

(Wyvern 1947), Honorary Fellow

13 August 1927 – 21 October 2023

Born in western Poland, Max Corden and his German-Jewish family escaped to Britain initially, then Melbourne in 1939, narrowly missing Hitler's regime. Professor Corden studied Economics at the University of Melbourne and the London School of Economics.

He worked as a journalist with *The Argus* newspaper at first, an experience that cemented his ability to explain economics clearly and simply.

Author or co-author of nine books, the best-known ones being *The Theory of Protection*, *Trade Policy and Economic Welfare*, and *Inflation, Exchange Rates and the World Economy*, his work influenced

the Whitlam, Hawke and Keating governments to dismantle Australia's high tariffs and quotas.

He held tenured positions at the University of Melbourne, the Australian National University, Oxford University (Nuffield College), and the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of the Johns Hopkins University.

Corden's interests expanded into monetary policy and macroeconomics. He was a member of the Group of 30, an international forum of current and former chiefs of central banks, the IMF, the Bank for International Settlement and private lenders.

He received many honours. In particular, as an Honorary Foreign

Member of the American Economic Association, a Fellow of the

British Academy and of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, a Distinguished Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia, with an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Melbourne, and as a Companion of the Order of Australia.

He was pre-deceased by his wife, Dorothy in 2010 and only child, Jane in 2019.

Professor Corden's work was always grounded in the real world and motivated by the desire to make it a better place.



# Queen's College Sugden Society

The Queen's bequest program, and its associated Sugden Society, continued to grow and engage with generous bequestors during 2023.

The membership of the Society (those who have remembered the College in their estate) has grown from 169 to 184 over the past 12 months. Not all of these intended gifts are large, but they do represent a universal interest in giving back to Queen's out of gratitude.

One of the features of the Society is that it regularly invites its members and other members of the Queen's community to participate in special sessions or outings, visiting locations that are generally off-limits to the public or which are visited under special Queen's related circumstances. This often means being hosted by a Wyvern or parent contact.

During 2023, these have included:

- A visit to the Australian Synchrotron, adjacent to Monash University, hosted by its Director Professor Andrew Peele (Wyvern 1983) for

a briefing on its world ranking research activities.

- Participation in a webinar on 'Australian Deserts: Ecology and Landscapes', presented by Darwin-based Dr Steve Morton (Fellow of College, Wyvern 1969), celebrating the launch of his book of the same title.
- A visit to and lunch at Cruden Farm, the former home and gardens of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, on the Mornington Peninsula.
- Additionally, for those who were interested, Lachlan Vallance (Wyvern 2004), a partner of lawyers Hicks Oakley Chessell Williams, presented an online seminar on wills and estate planning.

There are many other engaging events in the pipeline, and members of the Queen's community are welcome to register their interest and receive invitations.



## SUGDEN SOCIETY Queen's College

To discuss a bequest or to obtain a copy of the bequest brochure for full details, please contact:

**Frank Opray** (Wyvern 1965),  
Bequest Manager,  
frank.opray@queens.unimelb.edu.au  
0407 316 865

**Nicole Crook**, Executive Director  
Advancement,  
nicole.crook@queens.unimelb.edu.au  
0417 368 605

Alternatively, please refer to the bequest page on the Queen's website at:  
[www.queens.unimelb.edu.au/giving/bequests/](http://www.queens.unimelb.edu.au/giving/bequests/)

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Queen's College acknowledges with gratitude the following individuals, charitable trusts and foundations for their generous support towards the Master's Discretionary Fund, Scholarships, Indigenous Education, the Cam Brown Community Innovation Fund (CBCIF), the Featonby Library, the Sugden Heritage Collections, the College Chapel, Art and Archives and Student Facilities.

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Philip Crutchfield KC & Amy Crutchfield	Carolyn Graham	Roger MacCallum	STAF – Joy & Owen Parnaby Trust	
Cybec Foundation	Kerrie Graham	Ian Manning	Kathryn Steel	
	Geoff Green	Allin Marrow	Dick Stephens & Sally Bell	
	Geoffrey Grinton OAM	Ian Marshman AM	James Stewart	
	Melissa & Barry Guy	Neil Mathison		

1 October 2022 to  
19 October 2023










Photograph by Joe Vittorio



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