

The Trailblazers
The Student Experience
Council and Alumni News

The Change-makers
Donations and Scholarships
College Leadership



Janet Clarke Hall
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ENCORE

Inspiring stories. Lifelong connections.



Pictured: Wanwue Tarpeh (2024)

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Front cover artwork:

The JCH Dining Hall, by Faryal Hasan (2024)

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Elder, Uncle Bill Nicholson conducted a Welcome to Country for our 2025 residential student cohort. Speaking first in Woiwurrung language and then in English, Uncle Bill provided unique insights into Aboriginal culture in Narm (Melbourne) as he burnt sticks and prepared fresh gum leaves for students to take part in a Smoking Ceremony.

The Council, staff, and students of Janet Clarke Hall acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we are privileged to live, learn, dream, and grow. The Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation are part of the richest and oldest continuing culture in the world, and we have much to learn from their deep care for Country, culture, and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging, and through respectful relationships we will work for the mutual flourishing of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. We commit ourselves in thought and deed to this land and all its people, seeking truth, reconciliation, unity, and equity.

From the Principal



Dr Eleanor Spencer-Regan.

Meeting Students Where They Are – But Not Leaving Them There

At Janet Clarke Hall, we often return to a question that sits at the heart of our work: what does it mean to meet students where they are while also holding faith that they are capable of more?

To meet students where they are is to begin with understanding – to recognise each student’s unique background, strengths, challenges, and stage of readiness when they arrive at university. It means acknowledging the diversity of their experiences and capacities and responding with empathy and respect.

But it is *not* an end point. Meeting students where they are involves creating the conditions in which they can grow far beyond that starting point, with encouragement, appropriate challenge, and structures of support that nurture courage, confidence, and curiosity.

It’s a balancing act familiar to everyone who has worked in or resided at a residential college: between hospitality and high expectation; between empathy and aspiration; between creating safety and learning to sit with risk. Done well, this is not compromise but calibration – the ability to create an environment where students are known, supported, and stretched in equal measure.



Students at Welcome Day 2025

Understanding Today’s Students

Our new students arrive from increasingly diverse backgrounds and experiences from around Australia and beyond. Some bring strong academic skills but a quiet uncertainty about belonging; others are socially adept but must adjust to the rigour and independence of university study. Many shoulder invisible burdens – financial hardship, cultural expectations, or mental health challenges that shape their first months of university life.

Studiosity’s 2022-2023 *Australian and New Zealand Student Wellbeing Survey* found that almost 40% of tertiary students continue to feel the residual impact of the COVID-19 pandemic – in their ability to focus, their wellbeing, and their capacity to connect. Starting university, then, is not always a fresh slate and often a continuation of a complex personal journey.

That is why residential colleges must offer much more than just accommodation. We must offer anchorage – a place of belonging, connection, and confidence from which students can launch into their studies and their adult lives.



Jazz-It Clarke, Intercollegiate Battle of the Bands winning ensemble

Belonging as the Baseline

American academic and author of *College Students’ Sense of Belonging: A Key to Educational Success for All Students*, Terrell Strayhorn defines ‘belonging’ as ‘students’ perceived social support on campus, a feeling or sensation of connectedness, and the experience of mattering or feeling cared about, accepted, respected, valued by, and important to the campus community or others on campus such as faculty, staff, and peers.’

Research now confirms what educators have long intuited: a student’s sense of belonging, engagement, and wellbeing is as powerful a predictor of academic outcomes as their prior academic achievement and ATAR score.

Furthermore, research by van Kessel, G., Ryan, C., Paras, L. et al. (2025) published in *The Australian Educational Researcher* revealed not only a significant small-to-medium positive association between a student’s sense of belonging at their institution and their academic outcomes ($r=0.20$), but also a significant medium-to-large positive association with wellbeing outcomes ($r=0.40$). Simply put, the more a student feels that they belong at university, the more likely they are to thrive academically, persist through challenges, and experience better mental health. Belonging is not just a comfort; it is a necessary

condition for optimised learning and flourishing.

At Janet Clarke Hall, we understand belonging as the baseline – the ground from which growth begins. Our goal is not simply to offer comfort but to cultivate courage: to create a community where students are cared for deeply and are also invited to stretch into the best version of themselves.

Supporting and Stretching

Meeting students where they are is only the first step. Our true work is to accompany them towards what they can become. Because our community is both residential and academic, our influence is constant and lived – in hallways and tutorials, over dinner conversations, in quiet moments of support or shared laughter.

That close proximity over time gives us the privilege of guiding students not only in their studies but in their self-understanding. We celebrate achievements big and small, but we also normalise resilience. We build confidence through mentorship, challenge through opportunity, and growth through reflection.

For some, that growth takes shape on the sports field, where intercollegiate competitions offer both camaraderie and the courage to test one’s limits. For others, it happens on the stage or behind

the microphone – in the Oratory Competition, the Midwinter Debate, or Battle of the Bands – moments that ask students to find their voice and use it with confidence. Leadership, too, provides its own arena for growth: through the Student Club, students learn not only to represent their peers but to collaborate, compromise, and lead with integrity. Even in the classroom, the challenge of a demanding breadth subject can become an exercise in resilience and intellectual curiosity. Each of these experiences – athletic, creative, academic, or civic – is part of the same formative journey: we meet students where they are, but we accompany them as they stretch toward who they can become.

To do this well requires deliberate structure:

- **Mentorship that is discerning and formative** – pairing students with mentors who see their potential and name it.
- **Academic support that is tailored and aspirational** – helping those who need a foundation and extending those ready to lead.
- **Belonging that is intentional** – expressed through rituals, spaces, and everyday gestures that say, ‘You matter here.’
- **Wellbeing that builds capacity** – teaching balance, adaptability, and courage in the face of inevitable challenge.



2025 Moulin Rouge themed Valedictory Dinner

Building Structures That Reflect Our Values

This commitment to belonging and to nurturing resilience and – ultimately – excellence must be reflected not only in our culture but in the very structures and spaces of our College. This year, we have taken several significant steps to reinforce that vision.

Work will soon commence on our new front concourse and mobility ramp – an architectural renewal that both enhances our historic frontage on Royal Parade and strengthens our connection with the wider community. By opening the College more fully to view, we signal what has always been true of Janet Clarke Hall: that we are a place of welcome and intellectual hospitality. The renewed entry will express that openness and serve as a reminder that ours is a community defined not by gates and walls, but by curiosity, inclusion, and accessibility for all.

At the heart of the College, our Dining Hall restoration continues this same story in a different register. The Dining Hall has always been so much more than a space for meals; it is where conversation flows, ideas are tested, and lifelong friendships are formed across disciplines and differences. Its renewal honours that legacy while ensuring it remains a place of warmth and belonging – a room that quite literally embodies

the belief that there is a seat at our table for everyone. In restoring the Dining Hall, we are also recommitting to this shared purpose, and the collegial spirit that sustains us.

In an age that prizes convenience over community and individualism over connection, this commitment feels both more important and quietly radical. To gather each day, to share food and conversation without digital distraction, is to resist the drift toward isolation that defines so much of modern life. The Dining Hall stands as a reminder that genuine learning and belonging happen not only in lecture halls or libraries, but around shared tables – in the slow, deeply human work of listening, laughing, and breaking bread together.

Looking ahead, the launch of our new College website in early 2026 will



Moyia Vidler, Arts and Culture Representative and Brian Kennedy (Residential Tutor, 2015)

extend that sense of welcome into the digital realm. It will reflect who we are and who we aspire to be – a vibrant, inclusive, intellectually alive community that reaches outward while remaining grounded in its traditions.

Each of these initiatives, from digital tools to physical spaces, is guided by our College Values: *Community, Curiosity, Courage, Excellence, and Generosity*. They remind us that the places we inhabit shape the people we become and the lives we lead both within and beyond the College.

A Transformative Purpose

Residential colleges are not simply extensions of the university – they are environments of formation: intellectual, ethical, and personal. At Janet Clarke Hall, we meet students where they are, but we do not leave them there. We see the promise in them – often before they see it in themselves. We build the structures and relationships that make courage possible.

When we do this work well, the result is not only academic success or higher retention rates. It is nothing less than transformation. Students leave not just qualified, but empowered with the resilience, curiosity, and empathy to be leaders in the world beyond our gates.

That is the promise and the privilege of a collegiate education. It is why we do what we do, and why the work of residential colleges remains as vital today as it has ever been – perhaps more so.

Dr Eleanor Spencer-Regan
Principal

The Penelope Jane Swain Scholarships

A bequest from **John Swain** (1932-2025) honours the spirit of adventure, learning, and love at Janet Clarke Hall.



John Swain and Penelope Swain

Janet Clarke Hall is honoured to receive a generous bequest from the late **John Swain**, made in loving memory of his late wife, **Penelope Swain** (1942-2008). This enduring gift will provide scholarship support for promising students in financial hardship, reflecting the Swains' lifelong belief in the transformative power of education, community, and friendship.

John Swain led a life of both intellect and adventure. Trained as an aviation engineer, he combined technical precision with a deep love of literature, returning to study in later life to complete a Master's degree in English Literature at the University of York and later a PhD on Australian poet Frederic Manning at the University of Glasgow – the first doctoral thesis devoted to Manning's work. John became a Non-Residential Tutor in English Literature at Janet Clarke Hall in the late 1990s, and students remember him as a quiet yet passionate teacher who was happy to go on discussing the text at hand long after the tutorial had finished!

His wide-ranging interests mirrored a keen curiosity about the world, one that took him far beyond the library and into the mountains. He was among the first Australians to climb the Matterhorn in the early 1970s, an achievement emblematic of his courage and determination.

It was in Switzerland, while mountaineering, that John met Penelope, a spirited and capable climber from the United Kingdom. Their meeting marked the beginning of a lifelong partnership enriched by shared adventure, intellectual curiosity, and deep generosity.

After settling in Melbourne, Penelope became Administrator of the Melbourne Law School and later served as a member of the Janet Clarke Hall College Council from 2002 to 2006. She was known for her warmth, practicality, and unwavering commitment to students and staff alike.

The scholarships endowed by John and Penelope's bequest will open doors for gifted students to pursue their ambitions with the same courage, curiosity, and generosity of spirit that defined John and Penelope's life together. In every scholar who dares to climb higher, think deeply, and build lasting friendships, their presence will be felt.

This enduring gift is more than an act of philanthropy – it is a celebration of two extraordinary lives united by adventure, intellect, and love, and a testament to their faith in education as a powerful and transformative force.

Legacy gifts like this one play a vital role in shaping our future, making it possible for talented young people, regardless of circumstance, to access an exceptional education and a safe and supportive home-from-home where they can learn, lead, and belong.

We are deeply grateful to John and Penelope for this extraordinary act of trust and generosity. Their story reminds us that a gift in your Will can become a powerful expression of what matters most, a way to honour your own journey, and to help others begin theirs.

Dr Eleanor Spencer-Regan
Principal

Finding My Place: Reflections on Joining Janet Clarke Hall



└ Annie McGuire

There's a particular kind of quiet that settles over Janet Clarke Hall in the early morning. It's not silence, exactly – more a gentle hum of possibility. Footsteps echo on the wood floors creaking softly in the corridors, the scent of eucalyptus drifts in from the courtyard, kitchen lights are on, and the College begins to stir. As someone new to this community, I've found these moments to be grounding. They remind me that beginnings, while often uncertain, are also full of expectation.

Joining Janet Clarke Hall as Deputy Principal has been both a professional milestone and a deeply personal transition. I arrived with a suitcase full of experience – years spent in education, student wellbeing, and leadership – but also with a sense of humility. This College has a rich history, a vibrant culture, and a rhythm all its own. My first task was not to lead, but to listen. Listening to vibrant conversations of residents involved in a Just Dance competition, table tennis balls being smacked around the JCR and the soft, measured playing of the piano helped me start to understand the many parts of Janet Clarke Hall.

What I've discovered in these early months is a community that values connection. Students greet one another with warmth. Staff collaborate with care. There's a shared understanding here that learning is not confined to the University or the tutorials – it happens in conversations over dinner, in quiet study sessions, and in the everyday rituals of College life. It's a place where people matter, and where relationships are at the heart of everything.

I've been struck by the thoughtfulness of the students. They are curious, clever,

articulate, and engaged – not just academically, but socially and ethically. They ask big questions and wrestle with complex ideas. They care about the world and their place in it. It's a privilege to walk alongside them, to hear their stories, and to witness their development.

Of course, being new comes with its own set of challenges. There are names to learn, traditions to understand, and systems to navigate. I've found myself asking questions daily – about how things are done, why certain rituals matter, and what makes this College tick. But there's also joy in discovery – in finding the hidden corners of the Library, hearing stories from alumni, and watching the College come alive during Formal Hall. Each day brings a new layer of familiarity, a deeper sense of belonging.

One of the most beautiful aspects of Janet Clarke Hall is its commitment to tradition – not as something rigid or exclusionary, but as a living, breathing part of College life. From the architecture to the artwork, from the Formal Halls to the student-led initiatives, there's a sense of continuity here that's both comforting and inspiring. It's a reminder that we are part of something larger than ourselves – a community shaped by generations of students, staff, and leaders who have come before us.

At the same time, JCH is a place of innovation. It's a College that embraces change, that listens to student voices, and that seeks to evolve in response to the needs of its community. I've been impressed by the way students advocate for themselves and others, by the thoughtful conversations around equity, sustainability, and wellbeing. This is a place where ideas are welcomed, where leadership is shared, and where everyone is encouraged to contribute.

As I settle into my role, I'm reminded daily of the importance of presence. Leadership, I believe, is not just about strategy or decision-making – it's about being available, being present, and being willing to engage in the messy, beautiful world of College life. Whether it's a conversation in the Dining Hall, a walk through the gardens, or a chat walking with a resident on Tin Alley, these interactions matter. They build trust, foster connection, and create the conditions for growth.



└ Joe, Border Collie

I'm especially grateful for the welcome I've received – from students, staff, and the wider Parkville community. My family (including our energetic Border Collie, Joe) has felt embraced from the start. We've found not just a workplace, but a home. Joe, in particular, has become something of a minor celebrity among students – his tail wags and friendly nature seem to bring joy wherever he goes until he steals a table tennis ball and will not return it.

In many ways, this transition has reminded me of the power of place. Janet Clarke Hall is more than a building – it's a sanctuary, a hub of ideas, and a space where people come together to learn, reflect, and challenge each other. It's a place where values are lived, not just spoken. And it's a place where I feel incredibly fortunate to be.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about the possibilities. I hope to contribute to the legacy of JCH while honouring its traditions and supporting its evolution. I bring with me a commitment to restorative practices, to student wellbeing, and to inclusive leadership. I believe in the power of college life and university to transform lives, and I believe that colleges like JCH play a vital role in transforming not just scholars, but citizens.

I also bring with me a deep respect for the stories that shape this place. Every student, every staff member, every alum has a story – and together, these stories form the tapestry of Janet Clarke Hall. As I listen and learn, I hope to add my own thread to that tapestry, one woven with care, curiosity, and compassion.

Being new is never easy. It requires patience, vulnerability, curiosity and a willingness to embrace the unknown. But at Janet Clarke Hall, it feels like being new is simply the first step toward becoming part of something extraordinary. It's a journey of connection, of discovery, and of shared purpose.

And so, as I walk these corridors, sit in meetings, and share meals with students, I do so with gratitude. For the welcome, for the wisdom, and for the opportunity to be part of a community that truly lives its values. Janet Clarke Hall is a special place – and I'm honoured to call it home.

Annie McGuire
Deputy Principal

‘Each new poem is a mystery and a provocation, like the first.’

For **Peter Rose**, poetry began in a quiet room with a book by Keats. Decades later, as Janet Clarke Hall’s inaugural Poet-in-Residence, he returns to that sense of wonder – and invites others to share it.



Peter Rose with Janet Clarke Hall students

My first encounter with poetry was quite accidental. I was about thirteen or fourteen at the time. This was long before I knew anything about poetry – its properties, its demands, its supreme pleasures. I had grown up in a house with plenty of books and music, but no poetry. One day I visited a friend’s house. Her parents had a library, conductively octagonal and windowless. I took down a book by someone called John Keats and opened it.

‘Epiphany’ is an overused term (‘a cheap word, a hairdresser’s word’, as Pasternak said of the word ‘genius’), but this was the effect that the short lyric I turned to had on me. The page all but glowed. I closed the book and didn’t tell a soul, but in that moment I somehow knew what I wanted to do with my life. I had no idea what I had discovered, but the significance was clear. I guess the same thing applies when a young person picks up a flute or a microscope or a cricket bat. Somehow they fit, almost predestined. They suit us, necessary, inevitable.

Many years passed before I could write a technically competent or persuasive poem. Mine was a slow apprenticeship. Many artistic careers are like that. We’re not all Rimbaud or Keats or Francis Webb, the great Australian poet who began publishing in his teens. There are worse sins than biding one’s time. My first poem appeared when I was thirty (in the vaunted journal called *Scripta*, based at Ormond College), my first book when I was thirty-five. At the time it felt belated; now I am very relieved that the world was spared my juvenilia.

Few poets choose to limit themselves to writing verse. (Les Murray is a rare exception in the Australian context.) The audience is small (shrinking perhaps); the rewards few. In a way, poetry’s very isolation or irrelevance – the public indifference, if I can put it like that – can be liberating for a poet. (I like that quip by the American poet James Merrill: ‘Think what one has to do to get a mass audience.’) The freedoms, like the responsibilities, seem vast. Judith Wright – a fully formed poet when she began publishing in the 1940s – put it well: ‘Poetry is one of the last subjective tasks in a time devoted to the object.’

My career, such as it was, went off in all sorts of unexpected directions. (Sometimes I think that careers are much less inevitable than we like to think.) An unlikely stint managing a medical bookshop led to a job in marketing at Oxford University Press. A few years later I was offered a job as a publisher at OUP. For a decade, not quite believing my good fortune, I commissioned reference books and monographs with some of Australia’s finest scholars, many of them at the University of Melbourne. In 2000, rashly perhaps, wanting to live more quietly, I gave it all up to write a memoir about something that had happened to my family. But things have a habit of happening. One year later I was invited to become editor of *Australian Book Review*. I agreed to do it for a couple of years – and stayed for twenty-four, until May this year.

Along the way I was always writing. *Rose Boys*, my family memoir, appeared in 2001 and that decade

I published a couple of novels. In the 1990s, I began writing reviews, tentatively at first – wary of overreach – then more freely and speculatively, increasingly aware of the symbiotic relationship between artist and critic, so memorably advanced by Henry James, who described the critic as ‘the real helper of the artist, a torch-bearing out-rider, the interpreter, the brother’. Now I write about literature and the arts, mostly opera. In recent years, I’ve been writing short absurdist plays and performing them with my theatrical troupe, The Highly Strung Players. Never had I thought to end up on the stage, but life is full of surprises. The pleasures, like the risks, are considerable. Charlie Chaplin summarised it well: ‘All you feel while you are acting is ebullience.’

But it is poetry that has always preoccupied me – a lifelong spur. To date I have published seven volumes, most recently *Attention, Please!* (2025), which Prof. Stephen Regan generously launched at Janet Clarke Hall earlier this year.

The technical challenges, the lexical and emotional burdens, never diminish. Each new poem is a mystery and a provocation, like the first. We are back in the windowless, octagonal library, hopeful but imperfect. ‘Every picture’s a defeat,’ stated the celebrated artist Jeffrey Smart. Many poems go by the wayside, unconvincing or insoluble, or merely repetitious – a bland echo of something I wrote years ago.

Poems can’t be hurried; they have their own tempo. It’s not unusual for me to put aside a first draft and not revisit it for weeks, months, years. It is, however, unusual for me to actually *forget* about a poem. This has happened only once, and here I think there are some fairly obvious psychological reasons. In 1999 I wrote a poem about my brother’s funeral, at which I had spoken. In the poem I looked back at the car accident that had left my brother a quadriplegic at a young age. The poem moves between present and past – from the sombre church to the wrecked car.

Ten years later, I came across the scrap and decided to revive it. Many drafts followed, and the poem assumed a new title and a different form (a lyric one in the style of the American poet Robert Lowell, with more rhymes and half-

rhymes than I would normally employ). Eventually it was complete – or as complete as I could make it. It became the title-poem of my sixth volume, published in 2015. The poem had bided its time. I went back to it gropingly when I needed to:

The Subject of Feeling

*Outside the church, unmemoried,
names of the dearest
deserting me, I turned as they
slid you in the hearse, set off
with a small police escort.*

*For a quarter of a century
we had been ramming you
in cars of various sorts,
long before the age
of ramps and hoists.*

*They took longer to prise you
from the giddified wreck –
two hours was the report.
Eschatology is a slow
remorseless science.*

*While they forged above
a woman squeezed inside
and stayed with you,
 marvelled at your composure,
heard about a new daughter.*

*Then the subject of feeling –
why you had none in your feet.
Men ground the car with steel
and flung it open
like a sack of wheat.*

Now, in this new phase of my life – my professional career done – I’m delighted to be joining Janet Clarke Hall as Poet-In-Residence. Already I have met many members of the JCH community. I welcome the collective interest in fostering a poetry coterie, one where those of us who are fascinated by the genre – or possibly quite new to it – can gather to appreciate poetry from different ages and cultures.

Poetry demands to be heard aloud; we only get so far reading it on the page, however studiously. The aural plea-



Dr Eleanor Spencer-Regan, Peter Rose

sure are profound, and for practising poets the generative possibilities are immense. No poem is a feat of parthenogenesis. To my mind, it would be impossible to write the stuff without a deep and continuing obsession with the past. As the Russian poet Marina Tsvetayeva said, ‘Writing poetry is rewriting it.’ It’s amazing what happens when you really listen to poetry and let it resonate.

I look forward to meeting students in informal, conversational settings and to exploring poetry together – their own, other people’s. There may be other outcomes, more formal ones – workshops, private consolations – but my initial goal (a rather selfish one) will be to introduce people to writers they may have overlooked and to share some reflections on this unique literary form in the spirit – the abiding spirit – of wonderment and aspiration.

The Change-makers

Emeritus Prof. Andrew Scott (1981), Office of the Executive Dean, Arts and Education at Deakin University, enjoyed lunch in the Dining Hall and chatted with JCH students **Shanti Leimanis-Budden (Student Club President)** and **Bee Woodman (Student Club Treasurer)**.



Andrew Scott with his mother, alumna Margaret Wallace (1957)

Hi Andrew! We're so happy to see you back at JCH today after such a long time. What would you consider one of your fondest memories of JCH?

I think my fondest memory is of JCH being a big family, and one small community. The scale of it was perfect: Big enough for diversity, but not too big for anonymity. One of the highlights used to be sitting around in groups talking about the issues of the day – often disagreeing a lot!

I've been thinking about examples, and perhaps the best one from my year was the issue of Northern Ireland. One night, six of us talked about it at length, and the group included an older postgraduate who knew more about it than the rest of us. He contributed some information that we didn't know, and by the end of the evening we agreed that the solution was

to send in United Nations peacekeepers, rather than the British army, because they would be more independent to try and keep the peace without the history of conflict between the Protestants and the Catholics. That's a memory of the sort of intense discussions we had on big issues, and what we learnt through those discussions.

Free university is a current topic, considering issues such as increasing fees for Arts degrees. We are curious to know if you think that Australia is likely to change that anytime soon.

We recently had an election where the Labor government promised to cut twenty percent off debts – that was some indication that they are listening to the concerns. Unfortunately, they have not repealed the 'Job-Ready' graduate legislation, and I think it's appalling that humanities are being targeted. This is another strange thing – I was a Labor Party supporter when I was at JCH. But the Liberal Party then didn't hate universities. I mean, the founder of the Liberal Party, Robert Menzies, loved universities. There were lowercase L 'liberals' who were very supportive of diversity, of debate, and the arts were seen as incredibly important arenas for people to have their discussions. But this targeting of the arts by the Morrison and the Abbott governments, as if the arts are some sort of fifth-column of disloyal troublemakers, is very, very concerning. It's become a lot more authoritarian and biased.

Is there any advice you'd give to JCH students today on pursuing their higher education if they want to take a similar pathway to you, and explore similar things?

I think sticking to your values and what you're most passionate about is important. I mean, idealism is valuable, but you do have to live in the real world, and in the real world you have to pay bills and afford to live. It's not cheap to live in a college, for example. One error that I made was doing Law as well as Arts, because people said, 'You've got to do it. You've got the marks.' That was a significant error, because it wasn't what I was passionate about.

Doing what you really want to do is important, but on the other hand, it's not always easy when you're eighteen, or nineteen, to know what you want to do for the rest of your life. I hadn't got it right then, but politics and history were my strongest interests in my late teens, and they have been ever since. It's important to do what you are passionate about – not what your parents and others think is best for you.

Teaching politics and policy will change over the years as our political climate is always evolving. How have political discussion and attitudes altered over the years in the context of education?

Well, I think we have tended to become more utilitarian. It was a great privilege when I ended up becoming a university teacher, and that wasn't until I was in my mid-thirties. When I was teaching first-year politics at RMIT, I basically encouraged them to say whatever they thought. There were a lot of generalisations that young people were 'apathetic', that they 'weren't as idealistic' as their predecessors, and I didn't see that. I saw people coming in, very concerned about the environment, very concerned about racism and other forms of discrimination, and we had good debates about those things. I think encouraging students to talk about the big issues is something that we must always do, and I've seen very little evidence that any generation of young people is more cynical than their predecessors. Waves of idealism come with each new generation and they should be nourished.

In your works you've explored the Australian Labor party quite a lot in Running on Empty and Fading Loyalties. How do you propose the Australian Labor party might change its policies in the coming years?



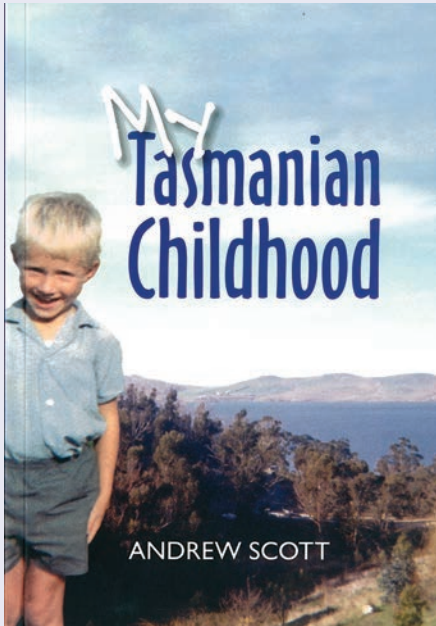
Andrew Scott far right

Fading Loyalties was actually my honours Arts thesis from Melbourne University, extended somewhat after the political experience and employment experience I'd gained in the student union and trade union. I'd also joined the Labor Party, and I was observing that the members in the branch meetings weren't very representative of the voters, they were much more middle-class. These questions, 'What is the working class?' and 'What is the middle class?' are very problematic concepts, so I was very interested in exploring those, and exploring changes over time through historical evidence. I wrote the book, *Running on Empty*, in 2000, and if anything it's become emptier since then, unfortunately. First of all, Albanese won in 2022 and had an incredibly cautious first term. One of the most important things he did was stopping the stage 3 tax cuts that the Morrison government had legislated, which would have made the tax system even more unfair on lower- and middle-income earners. He has taken some steps towards universal childcare, and he extended paid parental leave, and they're things I applaud absolutely. They're the things I think Labor should be doing.

But then Albanese won an unexpectedly large majority in the second term, and

not much is happening. Now, Australia does not have enough revenue, and you can't pretend that isn't the case. I think the Prime Minister and the Treasurer are in a great position now to use their large majority and their persuasive capacities to lead a conversation with the Australian people about needing to improve our revenue base to make the tax system fairer. Whether they do it or not, I'm continuing to advocate that they should, considering how far Australia is behind in terms of quality universal childcare.

There is, of course, the safety crisis in childcare which is largely, in my view, due to it having become dominated by for-profit providers, rather than being run as an essential service. I am to make a speech in a few weeks in Queensland, which I'm spending most of my time on at the moment, trying to get the tone of that right. After the recent review in Victoria, people are questioning whether the government has the strength to say to a very strong, for-profit childcare industry: 'Sorry, but you cannot keep doing what you're doing, and we know you've got a lot of economic power, but children's safety comes first. This is an essential service, and we are going to reduce your dominance.' I think this must happen, and I think it's going to happen one way or another. The government needs to act



on that. I feel very strongly about that at the moment.

In the title of your fifth book, you use the idea of the Northern Lights as a metaphor for the glowing standard set by Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway. Last year you would know we had our own Southern Lights here in Australia. Do you think that's a premonition for the future of Australian policy?

Yes, I'll take any sign as positive. The important thing is that these types of policies look after children, and give parents time, and set people up well in the early years. They just don't have to happen in cold Scandinavian countries near the North Pole, but in other countries too. Australia has some things in common with the Nordic countries: we like to think of ourselves as egalitarian, we rely on natural resource extraction for our wealth, but we handle it differently in terms of how we tax that revenue. In Norway's case, they put it in the sovereign wealth fund, which helps provide the money to help fund free university education. They're things I think we should keep thinking about, and advocating. It's very common now to read pieces saying 'We should be going in the Scandinavian direction'. Of course, the alternative direction is America, and that's not going terribly well.

Last time we spoke to you, you told us about your broad book collection and how you arrange them in the order that you've read them. Clearly you

read quite broadly. Do you think that reading is essential to gaining perspective? Do you think literature plays a significant role in learning?

I think it absolutely does. Some of the best experts in all fields, even medicine or economics, are great lovers of poetry and literature. John Maynard Keynes, the great economist, loved the theatre. I am proud to know the Janet Clarke Hall College Visitor, Prof. Peter Doherty, who won a Nobel prize for medicine, and he's always talking about the latest literature he's read.

One of the other things that inspired me to do my degree in the history department was when I read a book by E.P. Thompson called *The Making of the English Working Class*. This book was published in 1963, and it's written brilliantly. It starts with the story of a radical in 18th century Britain who's charged with sedition, because he's publishing pamphlets advocating things like the right to vote. He's acquitted by a jury, because they're not going to convict someone who's advocating for their rights, so instead of being convicted, he's carried out of the court by his supporters, and he's cheered through the streets of London. It is the best book I've ever read. E.P. Thompson

wrote so beautifully that you start to think that history doesn't have to be dry, it doesn't mean you're leaving the world of great literature or great storytelling.

Why did you choose to live at Janet Clarke Hall? What is your connection to this place?

I didn't know my mother had resided at Janet Clarke Hall. I chose the College after walking around the Crescent and having a good look at all of them, and then I rang my mum to tell her, and she said, 'That's where I went.' I thought that was rather uncanny. Was that telling me something that's important? My mum and I often talk about our respective experiences at JCH. So that's another special reason I've reconnected with the College – it has influenced my family across two generations.



Andrew Scott's mother, Margaret Wallace (front, centre) on the JCH 1957 winning College Championship basketball team

ForenEX: the future of forensic testing

I am a third-year Biotechnology student at Janet Clarke Hall. This semester I had the privilege of participating in the *Melbourne Accelerator Program (MAP) Melbourne Entrepreneurial Centre Student Startup Competition*, a dynamic platform bringing together some of the University's brightest innovators from across disciplines. I entered alongside my close friend and colleague, Carmen Tan, and together we founded ForenEX, a startup dedicated to transforming how forensic evidence is collected for survivors of sexual assault.

Our concept emerged from both professional and personal experience. Both Carmen and I work at the Australian Centre for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer (ACPCC), the first accredited lab in Australia for self-collected HPV testing. We witnessed how this innovation was beneficial to women across Australia, and it sparked a critical question: if self-collection could revolutionise cervical screening, could it also change the forensic testing process for survivors of assault?

This is a topic that holds incredible personal significance to me. At sixteen years old, I underwent forensic DNA testing as part of a police investigation after a sexual assault. The process was invasive and traumatising, and I was told this was simply 'the system' involved in reporting assault. This is not a unique experience. Approximately one in five Australian women have experienced sexual violence, yet fewer than 30% report their assault. Of those who do, fewer than 10% result in conviction. This is not due to a lack of courage from survivors, but a series of complex, systemic issues that demonstrate an urgent need for innovation in this space.

Our product, the ForenEX Self-Collect DNA Kit, allows survivors to self-collect forensic evidence under clinical supervision, ensuring samples are legally admissible while providing survivors with autonomy at a time when it is desperately needed. The kit uses nylon-flocked swabs, the same technology used in high-yield diagnostic testing and includes secure storage that allows survivors to hold samples for up to two years before deciding whether to proceed with a report. It's a design that values dignity without compromising

forensic integrity, striving to make an arduous process a little bit easier for those who must endure it.

Out of 84 participating teams, ForenEX advanced to the Top 8 finalists, and to our astonishment, we were awarded First Place Overall and the Colin McLeod Entrepreneurial Excellence Award. This recognition reaffirmed that autonomy and opportunity for justice can coexist in this space.

Our next steps involve participating in pre-accelerator programs and working with Melbourne Connect to refine our prototype and progress through the medical device research and development pipeline. We are currently seeking advice from industry professionals who specialise in forensics, law, public health, pathology, biotechnology, MedTech, or from anyone who can offer an insight into another relevant industry. We are two passionate founders with an ambitious goal ahead of us, but with determination, empathy, and purpose, we are ready to help drive the reform this space so urgently needs.

Evie Archer



Evie Archer and Carmen Tan.

Sustainability in Every Pour

Kiera Walpole enjoys a conversation with ReWine Founder, **Marshall Waters**.



Marshall Waters

When Janet Clarke Hall students and guests gather for Formal Hall or College events, the wine poured into their glasses represents more than just a toast – it’s a commitment to sustainability, innovation, and community.

ReWine, the sustainable wine merchant supplying all College events, has reimaged how wine can be enjoyed without waste. Founded by industry veteran Marshall Waters, ReWine’s ‘refill and reuse’ model prevents thousands of bottles from ending up in landfill each year. To learn more about the story behind ReWine and its mission, Kiera Walpole, Secretary of the Student Club and member of the Environment Committee, sat down with Marshall for this Q&A.

What inspired you to start ReWine, and how did the original idea take shape?

I was involved in a much bigger B2B version called *Big Bottle Wine*. I sold out my share of that business and was looking for another, less capital-intensive way to save emissions in the wine industry. I thought I’d explore the possibilities of selling direct to the public in reusable containers.

With over 40 years in the wine industry, how has your experience shaped your approach to creating a business focused on sustainability?

I had a small wholesale business dealing with the premium end of the restaurant and retail wine business. The amount of waste generated in glass really started to bother me. Analysis of the carbon footprint of the Australian industry showed that more than half of emissions were caused by single-use glass.

Your mission is centred on ‘zero-waste wine’ through return, refill, and reuse. What have been the biggest technical or logistical challenges in implementing this model, and how have you overcome them?

My experience in the *Big Bottle Wine* business showed me how to handle the wine always in full containers until it was sold. A system had been devised to ship wine in our own reusable 1,500-litre tanks, then break it down into smaller, manageable 220-litre drums, and finally dispense from barrels in the shops using nitrogen to displace the wine and fill the bottles.

You state that each refill prevents 1.1 kilograms of carbon emissions. Could you explain how that figure is calculated, and which parts of your process contribute most to this reduction?

The bottle, the bottle, and the bottle. The common 500-gram bottle represents more than half of the total emissions in the industry from vineyard to glass. Our freight costs are much reduced as we ship directly to the retail outlet in bulk.

ReWine is now moving to use ‘Clean and Green’ lightweight bottles. Can you tell us more about this innovation and its impact on your sustainability goals?

ReWine is moving to the new lightweight ‘Clean and Green’ bottle



produced by Orora in South Australia. It’s made using mostly recycled glass from the South Australian bottle deposit scheme, which adds another factor to the already low carbon footprint of this bottle.

In an article in the *Wine & Viticulture Journal*, 31(1): pp35-39, the authors* demonstrate how much the bottle contributes to the overall carbon footprint of the wine production cycle (see figure 4). By using the lightweight bottle, we reduce our first-use carbon footprint by nearly half. But the next step is where the return-refill-reuse ReWine method is really effective. Our packaging cost drops to almost zero, with the only remaining packaging input being the hot water needed to rinse each bottle.

This approach makes the ReWine method even more sustainable than a four-litre cask, and unlike the cask, which uses a foil-lined bag that can’t be recycled and ends up in landfill, our bottles stay in continuous circulation.

What challenges have you faced in encouraging both customers and suppliers to adopt reusable systems, and how have you worked to build engagement?

That’s the million-dollar question. We know we must persist with demonstrating the process and opening up to on-premises rather than just retail has allowed us to show both the wine quality and the process. We have been intermittent users of social media over the years and find it hard to penetrate the fog. We do rock-poster runs from time to time, and we have a 1,500-subscriber

email list which sometimes surprises us with either a lack of response or, alternatively, a very high level of interest.

Have there been instances where customer behaviour – such as forgetting to return bottles, contamination, or breakage – has threatened your zero-waste goals? How do you address and mitigate those risks?

We effectively charge \$3 for the bottle by offering a \$3 discount at refill. This is enough encouragement for most people to do the right thing, though there will always be a few recalcitrants.

Looking ahead, what is your vision for ReWine and for sustainable wine businesses more broadly over the next 5-10 years?

I would love to see refilling become the norm in wine retail. There’s a lot of it in France and Italy for local house wines. We have tried to expand that to the whole range of wine, from house to premium. There are two other refillers now in Melbourne and we welcome that, as it makes it a more normal way of doing business. I dream of ReWine being strategically placed all around the city to become the norm. I’m past that myself and aiming at retirement in the next few years, but I’d love someone with a bit of capital to take it over and expand to six outlets.

How might educational institutions, like Janet Clarke Hall, further engage with ReWine to further implement environmental awareness and increase impact?



Look to other products that can be refilled, or bulk purchased, like olive oil. A friend of mine in the printing industry said the way to increase awareness of your waste is to go through your bins and see what can be replaced with a reusable or alternative supplier.

What advice would you give to people also passionate about combining entrepreneurship with sustainability?

Think long and hard about keeping it simple and reducing labour costs. Many food refilling processes are very labour-intensive and become non-viable once grants and subsidies are exhausted.

Sustainability often requires changing long-established habits. What has been the most rewarding moment for you in seeing ReWine’s impact on the community and the wine industry?

Supplying the Fringe Festival and saving a whole skip full of single-use glass each season is very gratifying. Also extremely satisfying was instigating a deposit/reuse cup at the Night Market for our mulled wine and having the whole market adopt the system at all the bars.

Sustainability, community, and celebration at JCH

Janet Clarke Hall’s partnership with ReWine is a conscious choice aligned with the College’s ongoing sustainability commitments. Each bottle refilled represents a small but meaningful act of environmental care. But it’s also about something more: sharing quality wine over a meal brings people together. It’s communal, joyful, and reflective of the shared spirit of College life. Through partnerships like this, we continue to model how tradition and sustainability can thrive together, one glass at a time.

* Abbott T., Longbottom M., Wilkes E., Johnson D. (2016) *Assessing the environmental credentials of Australian wine*.

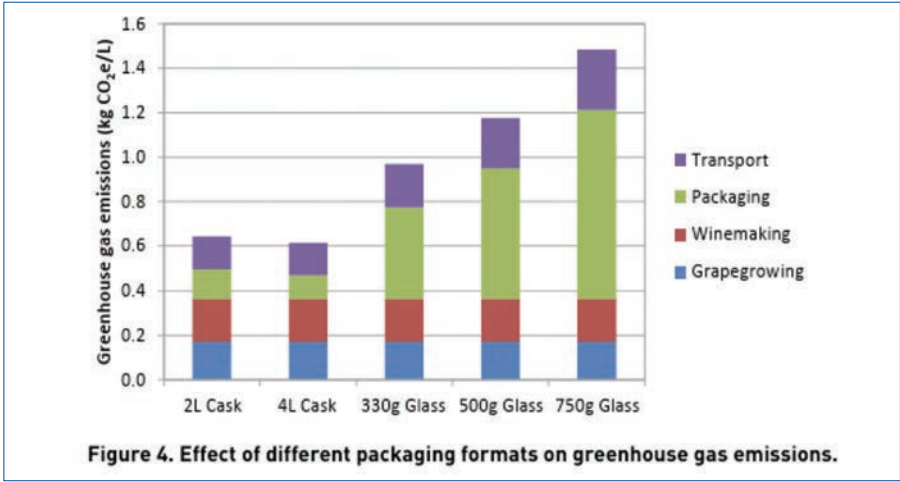


Figure 4. Effect of different packaging formats on greenhouse-gas emissions (kg CO₂e/L). Source: Abbott et al., 2016.

The Trailblazers

Reflecting on the meaning of 'achievement'



Isobel Whitehead

Growing up, my parents rarely put pressure on me to succeed. My mum is a primary school teacher, who recognised early these perfectionist tendencies of mine, and my dad has always questioned (jokingly, I'm sure) why I would ever put in so much effort. He is the kind of man who didn't even take the plastic off his textbooks the night before his exams but would go on to pass anyway. Both, in their own ways, demonstrated to me the value of my own dedication to a task, as a worthy achievement in itself.

An attention-seeker at my core I was also a big tantrum-thrower when I didn't get my way, which meant my parents and I regularly worked on taking failure well and talking through disappointment. For example, when I wanted to become a Junior School Ambassador in primary

school, on several occasions we discussed what to do when I did not become a Junior School Ambassador. Asking my mum about this now, she said: 'I find it really interesting that I spent more time discussing how to fail well than discussing how to succeed.' To this day, I have the utmost respect for gracious losers as a strong testament to and achievement of their character.

There was obviously some method to their madness. I think traditional academic environments focus possibly too much on achievement. I also believe they can promote some of the more problematic aspects of achievement, like competition, social hierarchy, and stress and anxiety. A student myself, I've seen how these aspects can negatively affect the sleeping patterns, relationships and especially the mental health of the people around me. Yet I would argue that in every field we allow individuals to strive for some form of achievement, from excellence in sport and the arts, to elements of the everyday, like appearance, charisma, or taste.

Despite all this, I would still regard myself (mostly) pridefully as an ambitious person and a rather high achiever. I often fall into the temptation of perceiving my own drive with a touch of embarrassment,



Isobel Whitehead, Kiera Walpole

because I understand the complexities of an achievement-oriented world. But I am proud that even though I never became a Junior School Ambassador, I was a year 12 College Captain, and the Dux of my graduating cohort. I am also proud to have made the University of Melbourne 2024 Dean's Honours List in the Faculty of Arts and intend to do so again this year. I am proud to have taken on the JCH play, *Wonderland*, and the many setbacks we faced behind the scenes. I am proud that I am smarter than I was when I graduated high school. I am proud that I worked a full-time job over my gap year and gained so many important life skills. I am proud to have found people who understand and love me. And I am proud to have such intelligent parents.

Writing this article, I'd almost become convinced that striving for achievement had dominated my life for the worse. After calling my mum, as I so often do when I'm feeling at odds with myself, she reminded me very kindly that I am someone riddled with self-doubt, and achievement can help bring me back down to earth; provide me with a concrete identification of the hard work I do, and the talents I have. She brought up my major, which is Politics and Screen and Cultural Studies, and that I chose to study it, instead of English, even though it was my best subject in high school and at university last year, because I was already good at English.

Ultimately, I think opportunities for achievements, big and small, are everywhere because we need a reason for and a gauge of our success in all of the new things we try and accomplish. Thanks to my parents, I know that achievement includes the hard work, as well as my reaction to the failure, so all I or any of us really have left to do, is give it our best go.

Isobel Whitehead (2024)

Adding up the points

For better or worse, I'm quite a competitive person. That fact has made the concept of achievement quite an unstable thing; it means success is always relative. With competitiveness inevitably comes a fear that you are spreading yourself too thin. I am a university student who plays hockey, tries to stay fit, wants to go out on the weekend with friends, works part-time, and is a member of the Student Club Exec. I sometimes feel as though I'm growing half a dozen pot-plants, one in each city of Australia, and I'm driving around trying to keep them all watered and happy. Sometimes, such as in exam season, I forget about some of the other plants, lock myself in a tute room, and study intensely. Then exam season ends, and I'm left with one very healthy plant, and a few that have started to wilt.

This frustrating feeling is, of course, driven by an urge to measure my achievement against others. It's fair to say that moving from a regional town to Melbourne hasn't helped. Whereas at home I could get away with trying to be the best in all of these areas, here there is annoyingly always someone with better marks than me; someone who goes out more than me; someone in better shape; someone who scores more goals; someone who works longer at their job; someone who does none of these things but dedicates plenty of time just for themselves. I'm constantly jealous of those who tend to one plant as much as they can. It can feel hard to remember that their other plants might have wilted a bit, because the foliage from that one is so large that it blocks the rest from sight.

Two years into university, I've been asking myself whether I'm alright with my choice to spread myself thin; whether I'm alright with multiple small achievements, instead



Luka Venables

of one big one. I've realised that I am. But I don't pretend to have had some enlightened anagnorisis; that I've somehow overcome my competitive way of thinking. I haven't, and I'm not sure I will. Studying psychology, I'm interested in whether you can change an outlook like that, one that feels so fundamental to you. But alas I'm only in second year, so I don't have a psychological answer, just my personal opinion. My personal opinion is that we can't change a way of thinking that is so ingrained within us, at least not whilst maintaining the routines of life. Rather, I believe in applying that way of thinking in a way that is sustainable and that makes you happy.

Writing this piece, I've started to think about achievement like a points system, one where small victories in different areas all add up. Doing well, but not exceptional, on an assignment? Points. Getting to all my hockey training

and games, even if I don't train the best? Points. Going out with my friends on Thursday night? Points. Rocking up to my 9am lecture the next morning? Points. Re-watching the lecture recording later that day because nothing sunk in? Points.

At least for me, these little micro-achievements add up. They mean that the highs – like winning gold at the recent UniSport Nationals for hockey – can help cancel out the lows – like facing the insurmountable number of assignments waiting for me at home. Achievement to me is success across a number of small areas. I made this definition of achievement so that it aligns with my skills and my life. Achieving things makes me happy. And that's enough.

Finding a way to construct my definition of achievement, in a way that ensures it is easy for me to achieve? Points.

Luka Venables (2024)

Brigitte Shill (2021) reflects on her five years in JCH

When I first came to Janet Clarke Hall, people around me often spoke about me as someone who was going to ‘blaze trails’. I already carried a history of doing just that. Being the youngest of five had pushed me to carve out my own path, to step into opportunities early, and to prove myself in spaces where I was often the outlier. By the time I arrived at College, I was used to being the one who said ‘yes’ to challenges, the one willing to go first. And yet, despite this, I secretly so often felt the weight of imposter syndrome. Beginning engineering at university, surrounded by people who seemed effortlessly capable, only amplified it. I wondered if I truly belonged, and whether my earlier trail-blazing was enough to meet the expectations I now faced.

What made the difference was JCH. The College gave me a home where I could experiment, stumble, and still be encouraged to try again. Its small, close-knit community meant I was known as a whole person, not just a student number. There was always someone to talk to after a long day, a friend to walk with to Formal Hall, or a corridor full of laughter to return to. In a place where it was easy to feel lost in the scale of university, JCH reminded me that who I was mattered just as much as what I achieved.

These friendships and routines of College life shaped much of my experience. Rooftop chats that stretched into the early hours, movie nights in the Bage, last-minute grind sessions in Hendo – or even laughing about being terrorised by possums – are all memories that made this place feel like home. They taught me that trail-blazing doesn’t always mean doing something big. More often, it’s about consistency, showing up for others, balancing joy with responsibility, and making sure there is space for community as well as ambition. That sense of support ran through every part of College life. Tutors invested time in my learning and helped me through the hardest parts of engineering. Staff were always willing to go beyond what was expected, showing that care mattered just as much as capability.



└ Brigitte Shill

Over five years, I’ve seen many people come and go. With each farewell, I was reminded of the transient nature of college life, but also of the consistency at its heart. The comfort of JCH has never left me. No matter the season or the shifting demands of university life, the College remained a touchstone. The memories layered into its spaces gave it life, holding not just my story but the stories of countless others who shaped me along the way.

In my final year, the demands of study have pulled me further from these day-to-day rhythms of College. I spend more time in computer labs, libraries, and working, often commuting back tired and distracted. Yet whenever I walk through the doors, I am met with the same sense of welcome. Even as I changed, JCH remained steady. It became the place against which I measured my growth: from an uncertain teenager to a confident woman I am proud of, one I think my younger self would be proud of too.

Looking back, I realise JCH was the environment that made me believe I could grow into the person others already saw in me. If I have left anything behind, I hope it is the knowledge that it’s okay to arrive unsure of yourself. Sometimes the best place to begin is exactly there. Trail-blazing, after all, is less about certainty and more about courage: taking steps without knowing exactly where they will lead, and trusting the path will emerge under your feet.

Now, as I prepare to step beyond the walls of JCH, I feel both scared and excited. Scared, because the familiar comfort of these five years will no longer be part of my everyday life. Excited, because I know I can carve out a place for myself in whatever comes next. JCH grounded me so I could lift off. It gave me the resilience, the tools, and the courage to keep walking – even when the path ahead is uncertain. And wherever the journey takes me, I will carry the spirit of this place into the world beyond.

Amy Bongetti (2022), Resident Tutor in Biomedical Science, reflects on her time in residence while completing her PhD at the University of Melbourne.



└ Amy Bongetti

JCH has been my home for the past four years and within that time it has been a great privilege and pleasure to experience the many different seasons of College life. When I first moved into College, a mentor, colleague and now good friend, **Dr Jack Tan**, said to me that every year in College you reinvent yourself in a way. Now, looking back, I can truly understand what Jack meant. Every year in JCH, another year into my PhD studies, brings an additional layer of experience to my role as Resident Tutor and a deep respect for the value of College community in the education and university experience of our students.

What initially attracted me to JCH was its humble and studious nature. I have come to appreciate that while this is a sentiment that holds true, the red brick building that we fondly call home is so much more. Our residents come from all walks of life, with a range of lived experiences that enrich time spent at College. The Dining Hall is always full of chatter and excitement, whether it be the satisfaction of deciphering the final crossword clue over breakfast, exploring complex intellectual ideas over dinner or hearing about weekend adventures, life in College is anything but dull. JCH is an environment where it is safe to

be yourself and where relationships are forged that stand the test of time.

Like many things that are most worthwhile in life, they eventually come to a close. Seeing my first group of first year students graduate from their undergraduate degrees was quite an emotional experience because, in a way, I had also grown alongside them during my first years in College as a tutor and as I experienced the ups and downs of my PhD. For me, it is the utmost privilege to see my students mature through their years in College, from move-in day to their final valedictory dinner where they pass through the guard of honour and make their way in the world.

As a Melburnian, I commuted from home during my undergraduate years but living in residence during my PhD allowed me to be closer to the lab and more effectively manage my time. During my undergraduate studies in Neuroscience at the University of Melbourne, I developed a keen interest in the role of inflammation and tissue repair in diseased states. At the time, I was representing Australia in karate and still deciding which path in life I wanted to follow. In the end, it was my passion for elite sport that led me to discover neural regulation of skeletal muscle and determination of muscle fibre type specificity. Therefore, in 2021, I commenced my PhD in the Centre for Muscle Research, in the Department of Anatomy and Physiology at the University of Melbourne.

The focus of my academic research was the mechanisms of skeletal muscle wasting and weakness in critically ill patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Up to 50% of patients admitted to the ICU experience an ~20% reduction in quadriceps muscle thickness within ten days of admission, a decrease of ~2% per day. The extent of muscle weakness is associated with both the severity of critical illness and the degree of systemic inflammation. Patients afflicted by this neuromuscular condition can experience chronic disability and a mortality rate of up to 40% within five years post-discharge. Due to the mechanistic complexities underlying muscle wasting and weakness, as well as the heterogeneity in clinical studies, there are currently no effective therapies in routine standard of care.

My PhD thesis, entitled: *Mechanisms of skeletal muscle wasting and weakness associated with critical illness: from bench to bedside*, sought to assess barriers to developing treatments for muscle wasting and weakness in critically ill patients through investigating: 1) the initiation of, and recovery from, skeletal muscle wasting and weakness using pre-clinical models; and 2) novel nutritional interventions. Driven by my curiosity for cellular biology, I explored the progression of muscle wasting and weakness in two different mouse models of critical illness, one of poly-microbial sepsis, and another involving administration of an endotoxin-like substance to produce a more controlled systemic inflammatory response. In addition, I also investigated the anti-inflammatory properties of novel nutritional interventions in a cell culture system. To complement my work in the laboratory, I was fortunate to be involved in collaborative works in the ICU at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, where I investigated the effectiveness of various nutritional compounds to maintain muscle health in patients.

My PhD journey challenged me in ways that I could never have predicted but has made me the scientist that I am today. Being given the autonomy of setting up my research and seeing it through has been one of the most worthwhile experiences of my life to date. Having the opportunity to live in residence at JCH during my PhD provided so much enrichment to my research journey. My fellow tutors and staff in residence were always there after long days and weekends spent in the lab and to celebrate every milestone, from the submission of my first paper to cheering me on at my completion seminar. The support that I received from the team made all the difference.

In addition to my time spent at the lab bench, my candidature was deeply enriched by a multitude of experiences, including developing my science communication skills and presenting my work at scientific conferences. These conferences included the Australian Physiological Society and the European Society for and Enteral Nutrition (ESPEN) Scientific Congress in Milan, Italy. I was also fortunate to have the opportunity to be a tutor and practical

class demonstrator at the University, where my combined experiences in elite sport and muscle physiology allowed me to teach subjects in the muscle and exercise physiology discipline Parenteral. These conversations flowed on to my tutorials at JCH and then into the Dining Hall, where students were keen to hear about my daily experiments or debate about whether plant or animal-based protein powder would help them build bigger muscles. These conversations in corridors, on the sporting field and in the Dining Hall are thought provoking and have added much enrichment to my life and to my research journey which has only just begun. I am forever grateful to the students of JCH who ask me about my day, show interest in my work and are a pleasure to live alongside.

I couldn’t imagine my PhD experience without life at JCH as so many of my fondest memories are intertwined. As the days grow longer, I see the smiling faces of JCHers past and present traversing Royal Parade, going between the University, College Crescent and beyond. Sometimes, I bump into those smiling faces in my office at the University, on the badminton court, or once even in a church in Milan. JCH continues to mean postcards sent and received, travel and book recommendations shared, and a community for life. Once a JCHer, always a JCHer, no matter how far or wide your travels take you. As the final weeks of semester edge closer and we reach the end of exams, the summer break provides time for rest and relaxation after a busy College year. However, by the time January rolls around I look forward to the laughter once again drifting through the corridors of the humble red brick building which I have the privilege to call home.



The Student Experience



Our Men's and Women's Rowing Team after the Regatta

Celebrating another super sports year

After finishing fourth in the overall point count for college sport in 2024, JCH headed into 2025 with great excitement and, of course, our usual enthusiasm.

The first semester began with our Mixed Cricket team taking the field. The matches were greatly enjoyed by both spectators and players as we spent the weekend mornings getting to know the new students who had joined us in College.

After rejuvenation, our collegiate spirit emerged through Athletics and Cross-Country, which were greatly anticipated. Both events saw some spectacular individual performances

with many students finding podium-place.

Our Tennis team continued this trajectory, with some outstanding performances resulting in a place in

the quarter finals. Weeks 5-8 saw the Soccer and Hockey competitions. Notably, this year JCH fielded a Women's Hockey team, the first time in many years. Having made it to the minor final for both Men's Hockey and Women's Soccer in 2024, we had high hopes of out-doing last year's success. Whilst the Women's Soccer team didn't reach the desired finals, the Men's Hockey team progressed through to the minor final. We came up short in a hard-fought match against Ormond; however, the dedication the team showed was impressive as, for most players, it was their first time taking to the hockey field.

Like any of the weekend tournament sports, Table-Tennis certainly brought about plenty of fun and competitiveness, especially at a busy point in the semester. We ended the day with a win against University College but couldn't quite beat Queen's or St Mary's in narrowly fought games.

To round out the semester, the Rowing Regatta was the final event. The Regatta was well received with spectators lining the banks, hot chocolate and pancakes in hand, to cheer on our teams. After re-introducing a JCH Men's team to the competition last year, the boat was filled again this year but unfortunately without the pirate hats! The Regatta was a wonderful event that



Our winning Men's Volleyball Team

inspired the spirit, not only in JCH but across all the colleges, making it a thoroughly enjoyable competition.

Semester 2 came around quickly, and the first few weeks saw the spotlight on our women's teams. A third-place finish in Division 2 Netball was a wonderful way to begin the semester. For the second year ever, our Women's AFLW team took to the field with grit and determination. Whilst we are still learning the ropes, we played and scored in both games which saw some epic tackles and teamwork from every player on the field.

By week 4 of semester 2, our Men's and Women's Basketball teams were back in action. Both teams showcased wonderful skill and effort against very talented opposition. In similar fashion, our Men's Netball team played some fast-paced and fun matches in a Sunday tournament.

Heading towards the last half of the semester, our Badminton team provided our first overall podium finish, coming in third place! Following on from this success, our greatest effort of the year was in Volleyball. Whilst our Women's Volleyball team narrowly missed a place in the finals, our Men's Volleyball team triumphed in the group stage and comfortably made it all the way to the grand final. The night of the final saw most of us adorned in JCH colours sitting anxiously courtside as we watched the game. Whilst the second set was relatively close, our men's team succeeded, winning 3 sets to nil, taking home the trophy. It was a wonderful way to wrap up another successful year for college sport at JCH.

Sasha Coorey
Female Sports Representative 2025

On Friday, 23 May, JCHers and guests headed into the Australian outback for the JCH Ball, 'Dancing in the Dunes: An Ode to Australian Landscape'.

Avoiding the red of desert dust, the sage of eucalyptus trees and the blue of creeks and watering holes, guests were a sea of neutrals that reflected hundreds of thousands of years of untouched beauty. The Ball was organised by **Hal Porter**, JCH Student Club 2025 Vice-President and journalism student at RMIT, and by **Gigi Guttie-Galpin**, Ball Co-ordinator and Youth Work and Youth Studies student at RMIT. This year's Ball was not only an opportunity to socialise with new and old friends, but also an exercise in appreciating the uniqueness of our country and the spaces we inhabit.

Held at Greenfields Albert Park, the Ball offered guests the opportunity to enjoy the stunning backdrop of beautiful Albert Park Lake. Upon arrival, they were treated to the lavish table decorations, alongside the fabrics draped from the roof, creating a beautiful outback getaway. This would not have been possible without the hands of **Kiera Walpole**, **Shanti Leimanis-Budden**, and **Leni Severin**, Science, Biomedicine, and Arts students respectively at the University of Melbourne.

After a delicious dinner, guests mingled and explored the many things this venue had to offer. A beautiful symphony of conversation, in addition to music provided by the DJ, created the perfect environment for a night to remember. If it all became too much indoors, guests were able to head outside to the terrace, for some fresh air and a lovely view of Albert Park Lake.

As the night drew to a close, everyone knew they would look back on a night of pure joy, connection, and celebration. Even for the stressed organisers for whom the Ball was a culmination of months of planning, teamwork, and creativity, it was all



brought to beautiful life under the warm glow of the lights and the soft hum of music. 'Dancing in the Dunes' wasn't just a Ball — it was a love letter to the Australian landscape and the JCH community that continues to grow within it.

Hal Porter (2024)





└ L-R: Shanti Leimanis-Budden, Bee Woodman, Roman Newall

The Death of the Lecture?

Our Mid-Winter Debate is one of the most treasured, enjoyable and absolutely nerve-wracking traditions that JCH has to offer. This year, the topic was ‘The university lecture is not useful for learning.’ It certainly was a contentious topic, and one personally relevant to teams consisting of College students and educators, so it was sure to be a thrilling way to welcome everyone back after the break.

The nail-biting pressure to uphold a four-year winning streak was keenly felt throughout the JCR team as we slaved away building our arguments in preparation. We were poor in previous debating experience, but supremely high in spirits as we proposed different points of deliberation, constructed a (hopefully) impenetrable line of reasoning, hypothesised the opposing arguments, and used any spare time left over to shout our speeches at each other. After all, we would be presenting our case in front of an audience of university students who attend up to twelve lectures a week and are solidly familiar by now with the concept.

On the famed night, many different perspectives were offered throughout the verbal onslaught. Our affirmative team urged the judge to consider the capitalistic and elitist qualities inherent to the lecturing practice, and how the incarceration

of modern attention spans in such a glacial teaching format is akin to psychological torture. However, the negative SCR team was a discursive force to be reckoned with, striking back with a commentary on the lecture’s uniquely informative and intellectually stimulating teaching capabilities, and questioning whether the Mid-Winter Debate itself could be categorised as a lecture.

While it was an electrifying experience, the truth is that any debate would be enjoyable with such a supportive, responsive, and affectionate audience. We were truly grateful for the way our College cohort intently cheered us on, all the way to the awaited result, when the JCR claimed its fifth victory in a row, keeping the streak alive and well for at least another year. With the way the Dining Hall erupted upon this resounding conclusion, it was abundantly clear that the Mid-Winter Debate is the one lecture no one would ever disparage.

Bee Woodman

Lucas Dell was declared winner of the 2025 JCH Oratory Competition and kindly agreed to share his speech with *Luce* readers.

It’s 1962 and we’re at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis. You are second-in-command of a B-59 Soviet nuclear submarine and have been out of contact with Moscow for three days. Tensions are escalating rapidly to boiling point. The serene silence of the great ocean’s depths is immediately broken by an explosion on your starboard side. Damage is minor but currently survivable; however, with an American submarine circling above, it seems highly likely that another depth charge may soon be on its way. Conversations start swirling around your ship, ‘Has all-out war begun?’. For now, you have the capability to retaliate, launching your nuclear torpedo straight at the American mainland, and achieving something out of your seemingly inevitable deaths in this war. Your captain has already given his authorisation, but as second-in-command you have the opportunity to withhold consent and prevent the strike. Sirens ringing, alarm bells buzzing – what do you do? You need to act now. Three, two, one.

That ‘scenario’ is a true story, and we all owe a major debt of gratitude to Second Officer Vasily Arkhipov for finding calmness and reason in a sea of tension and instability. Recently, I’ve been fascinated by the nature of split-second decisions, and the hundreds of mini-Cuban Missile crises we face every day. Now, while most of us don’t have our finger on the trigger of a nuclear torpedo, I’ve seen how some of the biggest questions of our life – who we fall in love with, what we want to do for a living, the values that we choose to uphold or discard – are answered through the sprawling series of shaky, instantaneous judgement calls that comprise life. One split-second decision after another.

That seems very abstract, so let me start by asking you this: why are you sitting where you are right now? Seriously – look around and think about it. Perhaps Hal walked into the SCR and



└ Lucas Dell receives his award from the Honourable Justice Gorton

saw Declan’s big juicy grin and thought that if he sat beside him they’d have some good laughs before the speeches started. But then it becomes the domino effect: why did Declan choose to come to the Oratory Competition in the first place? Or perhaps you’re like me, and you always sit in the second row from the front at these things, to show that you’re keen, but not too keen. Maybe you sit next to someone who thought the same way, and you get to chatting, and realise they’re a bit more interesting than you first thought, and ‘oh what the hell’ you invite them to eat lunch with you in the garden the next day, and then one tender moment you choose to let those scary, scary, words out of your mouth to ask them on a date. And then maybe, just maybe, one day they decide to say ‘Yes, I do’. It’s pretty magical. Something as big as meeting the person you’re going to spend the rest of your life with is determined in just a few split seconds. And for the record, if anyone does end up getting married because of this speech, I do want to be mentioned during the ceremony!

But these split-second decisions aren’t always amazing. Our brains evolved to make them in the context of the African Savannah, where the decision to chase that gazelle or to stay back and wait for the next one was the difference between dinner for the tribe and starving. Our brains, however, definitely have not

evolved for the incredibly complex society we’ve built around them – with all its expectations, intricacies and consequences. I think we’ve all had those moments, in the heat of argument perhaps, where you say something that you just shouldn’t have said. And the second it leaves your mouth, you would trade anything in the world to be able to pick it up and stuff it back inside – but you just can’t. And to use the full extent of my vocabulary, that sucks; that’s really, really sucks. Because you hurt people. I’ve hurt people. People I care a lot about. It’s not a nice feeling, and even when long-since forgiven, that stain doesn’t wash out easily.

So, I’m trying to become a better split-second decision-maker. To slow down, to ignore the sirens and alarms in my own submarine and focus on the peace and the serenity of the ocean depths. Now, I’m sorry to disappoint if anyone was hoping for a simple little hack to unlock your inner clarity and calm, because I simply don’t have one. It’s not easy, and in fact I’m finding it extraordinarily difficult to override the evolutionary wiring in this old monkey brain of mine. But I believe it’s something I can get better at, that we can all get better at. To take a step back, to pause, to reflect on our past decisions and think thoroughly, and embrace the perspectives of those around us, to ensure that at least one of us keeps our paws off that nuclear button. So, I’ll ask you again, why are you sitting here?

Thank you!



└ Students and guests at annual Oratory Competition

Leading Lights

From the Student Club President, Dante Duell



▶ Dante Duell

It goes without saying – and could be said to be something of a ‘truth universally acknowledged’ – that Janet Clarke Hall is a wonderfully unique residential community. It has often been remarked upon that we tend to be more of a ‘quirky’ bunch than those with whom we share the beautiful College Crescent, and I believe we assume such a mantle with a healthy amount of pride. Perhaps it is this aforementioned attribute of ‘quirkiness’ that galvanises a sense of belonging to, and flourishing within, such a congenial community. At JCH, you are encouraged to be yourself and, in a world increasingly characterised by artifice and performativity, that is a most heartening thing.

Reflecting upon the past year, we have heralded a reinvigorated culture of sociability. Our Dining Hall remains a favoured spot for all at College, a place to take a meal, yes, but also a place to linger long after the tables have been cleared, engaged in vigorous debate or lazy conversation alike. Welcome Week this year was a roaring success, with the addition of new activities and events to encourage engagement and a sense of belonging. The

effective running of that week would not have been possible without the incredible efforts of both our Welcome Week Coordinator, **Hannah Crompton**, and our terrific team of Leaders. I would also like to extend my thanks to every member of the Student Club who got involved, not only during Welcome Week, but throughout the year.

Many people have worked enthusiastically both under our own roof and beyond in the intercollegiate space, to ensure JCH has been represented in the best way possible. This came to fruition through our sportsmanship on the pitch and on the court, our friendliness in intercollegiate hangouts, and our memorable performances on stage, securing us two major, groundbreaking wins in both the Intercollegiate Men’s Volleyball tournament and the ICAC ‘Battle of the Bands’ competition. It has been a thrill to see the Student Club thrive this year!

It has been a joy to work with such a vivacious and passionate crop of inspiring individuals during my time as Student Club President, with each and every member of the Executive Committee working collaboratively and creatively, embodying a belief in the huge potential of this College. In doing so, they have become people that I will cherish for life. I’ve enjoyed meeting alumni who have shared that they’re still blessed with the friendship of those they met at JCH and I look forward to becoming one of them.

I have been immensely privileged to be able to spend all three years of my undergraduate degree residing at JCH, and it wouldn’t have been possible were it not for the generosity of our donors and supporters. Now, as the graduates of 2025 find ourselves on the cusp of adult life beyond the JCH threshold, I can attest that there could be no better or more welcoming place to call home.

Reflections from Hal Porter, Vice-President of the outgoing Student Executive



▶ Hal Porter

I believe that the most crucial strength that a group of young leaders in a residential college can possess is cohesion. How else can you successfully work with others to represent the collective interests of a 100-person cohort? Whilst I cannot claim that the 2024-25 Student Club Executive were perfect and successful in every way (indeed, who is?) I can say with chest that we came pretty darn close.

Execs are thrown out of the frying pan of voting and campaigning and into the fire of the College’s (often contentious) room ballot followed swiftly by Valedictory Dinner. We spent long hours up in Henderson House cutting, glueing and painting all the decorations we needed to turn our Dining Hall into Alice’s Wonderland.

With our College being such a warm and tight-knit community, one of our biggest tasks was managing our friendships whilst also working day in and day out with one another. Setting boundaries was a challenge, as some of us were close friends and had spent our summer breaks together. These boundaries being set and respected, however, would not only make our working environment better but our friendships outside of these roles that much stronger.

Overall, the experience of being on the Janet Clarke Hall Student Club Executive is one that we will all cherish forever. To work hard and make our already wonderful place of residence that little bit better was our goal as an Exec at the start of this year, and with trust and faith from our Student Club and supportive staff, I would call our goal verily fulfilled.

Incoming Student Executive

The new Student Executive members are beyond excited to have been elected and given the opportunity to give back to the College community that brings us all so much joy and fulfilment. Our team is built on diverse perspectives, and this is integral to the way we work. We aim to support and advocate for all students in an equitable and opportunity-rich environment to ensure the growth and involvement of the whole community.

We will continue to highlight the desirability of Janet Clarke Hall, aiming to increase our visibility to fit the future that both the student body and the staff envisage for this College – a future led by our values of community, courage, curiosity, generosity, and excellence.

We are all first-year students and are already friends, allowing us to build our working relationships based on clear and honest communication, to support each other and, in turn, support the wellbeing of the Student Club.

We are proud to introduce our eight new members:

Shanti Leimanis-Budden, Student Club President

‘I am most grateful to the people of this College for trusting me with this position. I am so excited to work with and support our team to continue to nurture the beautiful community spirit of this College. I hope to inspire our students and provide balanced leadership that creates a safe environment for a thriving student body.’

Amelia Lees, Vice-President

‘I am so excited to take on this role and to assist the President in overseeing the Student Club and its Executive! I want to ensure that the subcommittees function smoothly to enrich student life at JCH. I’m delighted to be organising the 2026 College Ball as I feel this is a key event to celebrate our community and what makes JCH so special!’

Kiera Walpole, Honorary Secretary

‘I want to ensure the smooth functioning of the Student Club in aspects such as elections, legal matters, communications and meetings. I am working towards getting a permanent liquor



▶ (L-R) Back: Camilo Gonzales Monardes, Amelia Lees, Molly Harris, Shanti Leimanis-Budden, Kiera Walpole, Samuel Sosa Haby, Moyia Vidler, Phoebe Woodman

licence for JCH that would enable the College to have a thriving social event scene that is accommodating to everyone. I am looking forward to organising the end of year Valedictory Dinner and ensuring it is a fitting celebration for our departing students.’

Phoebe Woodman, Treasurer

‘I’m looking forward to building a Student Club budget in the coming months that is both stable and accurate, through making projections that accurately address the needs of every student activity. I hope that I can skilfully wield our funds to maximise student experience, and I will prioritise collaboration with students to ensure the financial side of every College event is well handled.’

Moyia Vidler,

Arts and Culture Representative

‘I’m so excited to be the Arts and Culture Representative for 2026! I’m passionate about the arts and I’m excited to continue the JCH ICAC legacy by supporting and cheering on all our talented students in the various events and opportunities across the Crescent. The arts and culture calendar is very eventful and I’m hoping to involve as many students as possible and ensure they have a great time representing our College!’

Samuel Sosa Haby,

General Representative

‘I ran for General Representative so I could continue to uphold our great work as a community when it comes to all our food/kitchen related matters! Whether it’s

checking that we have enough forks in the kitchenettes or making sure we get potato gems on a Friday morning, I’m always there to help in any way I can!’

Molly Harris,

Women’s Sports Representative

‘I’m very excited and looking forward to a year of sports and working with our other fabulous Exec members. I ran for the position to increase the participation of players and supporters in intercollegiate matches and to introduce casual games for anyone who wants to wind down on the weekends.’

Camilo Gonzalez Monardes, Men’s Sports Representative

‘I approach everything with the same simple mindset: your best is always good enough. As Male Sports Rep, I hope to uphold JCH Sports as a program where you’re encouraged to give anything an honest crack, whether you’re a seasoned veteran or have never even heard of the sport.’

When we selected our visions and values for our Executive team our key word was balance. We aim to bring a balanced approach to problem solving, ensuring we are egalitarian and sensitive. We move amongst the students as calm and steady leaders who are open and fair. And we approach our work, and its challenges, with balance by infusing joy wherever possible.

Shanti Leimanis-Budden and Amelia Lees

From the Chair of Council



└ Allan Joseland

In 1987, as a Year 12 student from a school with no history of VCE graduates, attending the University of Melbourne Open Day was a triumph of optimism. I even wandered College Crescent, suppressing my concerns about the affordability of residential colleges. Janet Clarke Hall stood out – warm, intimate, and welcoming. I began to dream of calling JCH home.

Remarkably, within months that dream became reality. A part scholarship from JCH helped ease the financial strain on my parents, and I embraced the opportunity wholeheartedly. My time at JCH was transformative. I developed foundational leadership skills, formed lifelong friendships, and gained a deep appreciation for the unique and diverse talents of others. It was also where I met my future wife, Sharelle, and we now have three university students of our own.

I returned to JCH in 2019 as a member of Council, and since then the College has undergone significant change. The appointment of **Dr Eleanor Spencer-Regan** as Principal in 2021 ushered in a bold and inspiring strategic plan for 2024–2029, supported by Council, led by **Clare Pullar**. I thank Clare for her wise and inclusive leadership as Chair of Council for almost seven years. Clare stepped back to Deputy Chair earlier this year, in order to focus her extensive

philanthropic expertise into the newly formed Advancement Committee. We are fortunate to have a diverse, talented and committed Council, well-equipped to meet the strategic and governance demands of the College. I acknowledge the outstanding contributions of recently retired members **Tony Wood, Stephen Higgs, and Elizabeth Kennedy (1972)**, and welcome **Meaghan Bare (1987)** and **Amy Turner (2002)** to their new roles. I thank all Council members for their dedication throughout the year.

JCH's mission remains the provision of transformative experiences through equitable access to tertiary education and College life. In 1886, and for many subsequent decades, this focus was directed toward advancing the education of women. Today, our challenge is to extend these opportunities across all socio-economic groups, while honouring our legacy.

Our commitment to achieving need-blind admission by 2035 reflects our belief that a diverse, engaged and talented student body is essential to a rich college experience. This privilege should be based on merit, not means.

Thanks to generous bequests and endowments, JCH awarded 57 part and full scholarships this year – a level of support unmatched in the Australian residential college sector. A personal highlight was presenting these awards at the Commencement Dinner. We are uniquely placed to become the first need-blind college in Australia, but this is far from a *fait accompli*. It will require generous philanthropic support from alumni and benefactors who share our passion for equal opportunity.

With your support, if JCH can achieve our vision of a need-blind admission process, I believe this will be transformative not only for JCH, but also for the broader Australian residential college sector – perhaps even as transformative as living at JCH was for me!

Allan Joseland (1988)
Chair of Council



└ Elizabeth Kennedy

Farewell to Council

I joined the Council of JCH in 2021 following the retirement of **Jenny Ross (1970)** BA LLB (Hons), serving on Council and the Governance and Nominations Committee until mid-2025.

My first Council meeting was held online via Zoom on 14 April 2021 and by May 2021 Melbourne was placed into its fourth lockdown due to the COVID pandemic. Two more lockdowns followed in 2021 and all the meetings for the rest of that year until November were conducted via Zoom – so much so that I did not physically enter College until our last meeting of the year.

As I walked up Royal Parade to join my fellow Council members for my first face to face meeting, I noticed that the front fence of JCH had a decided lean to it, and enquired at the ensuing meeting when the fence had last been checked. I was informed that it had been checked but I was shortly thereafter nicknamed ‘Nostradamus’ as it became evident from the events that followed that the front fence required (and still does!) extensive (and expensive) remediation.

I certainly think that Council members were reminded of their responsibilities in terms of occupational health and safety on that occasion.

The College students and staff were kept safe and sound during the pandemic in 2020-2021 under **Margie Welsford's** capable and excellent leadership as Deputy Principal.

By January 2022 we received an update from **Clare Pullar**, our then Chair, that an offer was to be conveyed to **Dr Eleanor Spencer-Regan** as the preferred and outstanding candidate for Principal.

I pay tribute to Eleanor's leadership of JCH and to the changes she has instigated resulting in the wonderful *esprit de corps* that exists at JCH. She has been an enthusiastic Principal, immersing herself in the life of the College – from its sporting activities, to the annual Ball, to actively promoting JCH to secondary schools and students.

It has been a very valuable experience for me to serve on Council. I have enjoyed the leadership of **Clare Pullar** and **Allan Joseland** – helping to support first **Dr Damian Powell's** then Margie's and then Eleanor's teams in managing the College to best advantage. I have felt it a privilege to hear the different perspectives my other Council members brought to the table.

We have had genuinely interesting and thought-provoking discussions about various issues – from student welfare, to combating sexual harm, to the Voice, to College refurbishments. Key decisions the Council made during my tenure were to review and then adopt a new Constitution, appoint a new Principal to replace Dr Damian Powell, appoint a new Director of Advancement and adopt a far-reaching *Strategic Plan 2024 - 2029* with a vision for JCH to become Australia's first need-blind residential college.

I hope I have made a small contribution to the governance of JCH and I know that **Meaghan Bare (1987)** will take an active role in my stead, ensuring that the College continues to thrive.

Elizabeth Kennedy (1972)
BA LLB (Hons) LLM Grad Dip
(Med and Health law) GAICD

Welcome new Council member, Meaghan Bare (1987)



└ Meaghan Bare

It was a privilege to join the Council of Janet Clarke Hall. Since graduating, I've worked as a solicitor specialising in employment law. I've served as in-house counsel for Live Performance Australia, worked in Canberra with the Commonwealth Department of Industrial Relations, and spent over 25 years practising employment law in private law firms. I'm now a Partner at the law firm Maddocks, based in Melbourne.

I lived at JCH for three years commencing in 1987. I grew up on the Bellarine Peninsula and was the first in my family to attend university. Neither of my parents had the opportunity to pursue higher education, and arriving at the University of Melbourne could have been an intimidating experience for me. My experience at JCH made sure that was never the case.

I began my studies in Arts, but it was through conversations and inspiration from people at JCH that I found the confidence to begin a Law degree in my third year. That decision shaped the course of my life.

During my time at JCH, I enjoyed being O-Week Coordinator and Secretary of the Student Club. The debates about the quality and texture of the orange juice taught

me the importance of listening, demonstrating patience and developing negotiating skills, which are essential tools for life in the legal profession.

Some of my closest friends today are people I met in College. Those friendships have lasted decades and continue to be so important to me.

I am also a parent to two wonderful young adults who are on their own educational journeys. I am passionate about supporting students from diverse backgrounds, especially those from regional schools like mine. I want to assist JCH to thrive, as the community and support JCH offers will become even more important in an increasingly digital world.



Celebrating two special achievements

Prof. Susan Sawyer AM (1980) elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences



Prof. Susan Sawyer AM
Image credit: AAHMS

Janet Clarke Hall alumna, College Council member, and former Student Club President (1982) **Prof. Susan Sawyer (FAHMS)**, has been recognised among Australia's most distinguished leaders in health and medicine, following her election as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS) for 2025.

Election to the Academy is one of the nation's highest honours in health and medical research, acknowledging individuals whose work has advanced scientific knowledge, improved health outcomes, and inspired the next generation of researchers and clinicians.

Prof. Sawyer, Director of the Centre for Adolescent Health at the Royal Children's Hospital and Chair of Adolescent Health at the University of Melbourne, is internationally recognised for her pioneering contributions to adolescent health. Her leadership has been central

to establishing adolescent medicine as a distinct clinical and academic discipline, shaping care models and public policy that have improved the wellbeing of young people both in Australia and globally.

Announcing the 29 new Fellows for 2025, AAHMS President Prof. Louise Baur AM said the newly elected group represents 'the very best of the health and medical sciences in Australia,' noting that their work 'improves lives – from tackling global health challenges and pioneering new treatments, to shaping policy and advancing biomedical discovery.'

Prof. Sawyer was formally inducted at the Academy's 2025 Annual Meeting and Gala Dinner in Canberra, joining a community of more than 500 Fellows who continue to shape the future of health and medical research in Australia and beyond.

Another impressive Goldsworthy achievement

Janet Clarke Hall warmly congratulates **Prof. Anna Goldsworthy** on her appointment as the new Artistic Director of the Australian National Academy of Music, commencing in January 2027.

Anna is a former Residential Tutor and a distinguished Fellow of the College. Between 2011 and 2024 she held the position of our inaugural Kenneth Moore Memorial Music Scholar, offering intensives, masterclasses, and valuable mentorship to our music students, and annual concerts for our wider community.

An acclaimed pianist, author, librettist, festival director, and educator, she has made an extraordinary contribution to Australian cultural life and has been a superb ambassador for the College in and beyond Australia.

Since 2022, Anna has been the Director of the Elder Conservatorium of Music at the University of Adelaide, the first woman to hold this prestigious role.

We are proud to celebrate this latest achievement in Anna's remarkable career and look forward to her return to Melbourne and to seeing how her vision and creativity shape the future of music at ANAM.



Prof. Anna Goldsworthy

Australia Day Honours 2025. Congratulations to these two great achievers.

Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in the General Division
Emeritus Prof. Gillian Triggs AC (1964)
For eminent service to humanitarian and human rights law, to international relations, to social justice advocacy, and to tertiary legal education and research.

With her extraordinary list of achievements stretching back decades, we are proud to acknowledge Gillian's most recent roles (2019-2024) as United Nations, Assistant Secretary-General and as Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division
Mr Roger Maxwell Blythman OAM RFD
For service to the community, and to the church.

This honour reflects decades of service through leadership roles in the Australian Defence Force, the legal profession and the Anglican Church of Australia. Roger is a trustee of the Vera Moore Foundation which generously provides scholarships for JCH students. He is also trustee of the Peggy and Leslie Cranbourne Foundation which funds the College's Artist-in-Residence.

Our Legacy

Green Impact and the Environmental Sub-Committee



L - R: Kiera Walpole, Connor Meldrum, Leila Sceney

From March to October 2025, a group of green-minded JCHers participated in a University of Melbourne engagement program focusing on sustainability in the College and the University. This structured program was designed to help us understand the individual and corporate impact of actions we take on the world through listed activities in an extensive toolkit of sustainability projects.

The Green Impact program has been taken up by students and industries globally, with the Australasia-Pacific area overseen by the 'Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability'.

How does Janet Clarke Hall come into this?

In March, I attended several introductory events and information sessions about Green Impact at the University of Melbourne and decided this was a great platform for the College to increase its sustainability policies and focus on what areas need addressing. I created 'Janet's Green Bean Team' through the University of Melbourne Green Impact dashboard and immediately got to work with our Environment delegates, Leila Sceney and Kiera Walpole. Our aim was not just to win the Green Impact Cup but to explore how the College addresses the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals while having some fun!

From small actions such as carrying a reusable mug, to larger actions such as collecting all 10c bottles/cans used within the College and donating the funds to charity, the College's participation was aimed at making conscious, sustainable choices in so many areas. It involved awareness of the right retailers, energy use in the building, food waste and keeping a circular economy of clothes swaps, refurbishing old electric applications (and furniture), vegetable planting and more. All these activities apply to the individual consumer and prompt corporations to make changes in their environment policies and products.

Both staff and students made extensive efforts in the areas of sustainability and responsible consumption, including the creation of a College thrift zone whereby all materials are taken to appropriate recycling centres for sorting for reuse/resale/recycling. We read the University Sustainability Plan 2030 and ensured that paint which was too old to use was brought to 'Paint Back' in Aberfeldie for recycling.

In due course JCH plans to work alongside Trinity College in using their Gaia composting machine so that any food waste from either college can be turned into useful, natural fertiliser for local gardens. Most successfully, the Environmental Sub-Committee managed in just a month of can collection to raise \$126.10 for the Australian Conservation Fund.

Other activities included gardening, bushwalks at Dights Falls and Mount Dandenong, installing a garden waste bin, giving students reusable lunchboxes, College share tables and tea towels for the kitchenettes. We also enjoyed the movie 'Future Council' about students on a road trip across Europe seeking solutions to the climate crisis.

For years to come, I hope JCH will be able to keep improving the standard of green activity, promotion and sustainability just as we have done this year with Green Impact!

Connor Meldrum (2024)



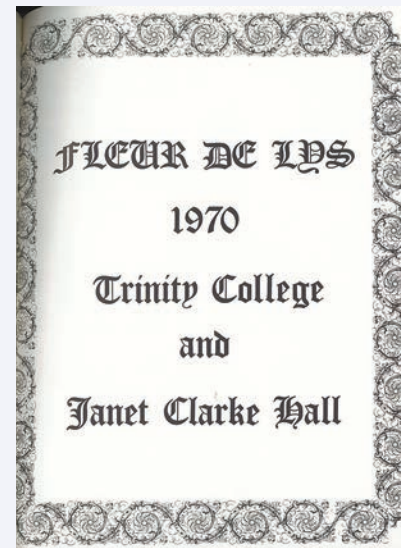
Connor planting a seedling

Tiger Lily Rag: a different kind of 'first'



▮ Saskia Peachey

Tiger Lily Rag, the JCH student magazine, was born in 1973, coinciding with the College's initial move to accommodate a co-educational student body. The admittance of men to JCH, the final severing of the eighty-year-old ties between JCH and Trinity, went without fanfare, given that the restrictions on separating genders were already loosening during the 1960s. The *Tiger Lily Rag* was a symptom of this growing misalignment between the two colleges. The magazine was a reaction to the views and values expressed in *Fleur de Lys*, which was, until 1973, a joint publication. *Tiger Lily* was named for the first flower Alice talks to in *Alice Through the Looking Glass* (as the flower tells Alice, the flowers can talk 'when there's anybody worth talking to' – perhaps a subtle dig at their former partners!). In addition to the values, there was a sense from JCH that the College was still being treated as an



offshoot of Trinity, despite formal separation in 1961.

A pervading theme of both *Fleur de Lys* and *Tiger Lily* in the early 1970s was the sense that times were a-changing, and colleges, bastions of the old world, either had to



change with them or slowly die. Co-ed was a seismic shift around the College Crescent, while more subtle adjustments in views and attitudes of the colleges took place – JCH used to mandate a 'housewifery' course for its all-female student body, which included questions like 'how would you launder a) napkins, b) a woollen jumper and c) silken stockings?'. This was quietly retired in the '60s. The 1972 *Fleur de Lys* contained multiple articles discussing the rise of share housing as the preferred student housing solution. The mood evoked a kind of existential curiosity and excitement, with a few stalwart defenders of tradition.

The first edition of *Tiger Lily Rag* was explicitly an 'expression of present College and female autonomy', and evidence that 'JCH had moved away from being an appendage'. It also explicitly cited the 'politics and chauvinism' of *Fleur de Lys* as a reason to found *Tiger Lily*. Trinity College in the 1970s was considered one of the more conservative colleges, which was one of the reasons the move to co-ed by Janet Clarke Hall marked a clear break from the parent institution. The creation of a student magazine for JCH was a physical manifestation of the changes that were being embraced by some

colleges and resisted by others. In style, *Tiger Lily* had more in common with the fanzines and punk publishing of the '70s (antecedents to modern zines) than with the formal editorial style of *Fleur de Lys*. Poems, illustrations, and collage were interspersed across the spread of articles, and the writers mused on everything from the history of Victoria Market to the study of botany in Alaska. One of the first male students in JCH, **Tim Thwaites (1973)** wrote in *Tiger Lily* about getting stuck in the women's bathroom after going in there when in a rush and having some of his female co-residents enter while he was in the shower. Though he wrote 'being a male chauvinist pig at JCH is fun' and derided having to listen to chatter about 'how to get rid of scaly skin [and] who has lost weight recently', these comments were clearly made tongue-in-cheek, and the overall tone of his piece is one of admiration for the 'incredible people' at JCH.

Tiger Lily came into being in a time of flux. Wider progressive social trends (feminism, student radicalism in the Vietnam War years, First Nations rights, early LGBTQIA+ activism) were disseminating throughout Australian society. The colleges, bastions of older social orders, were

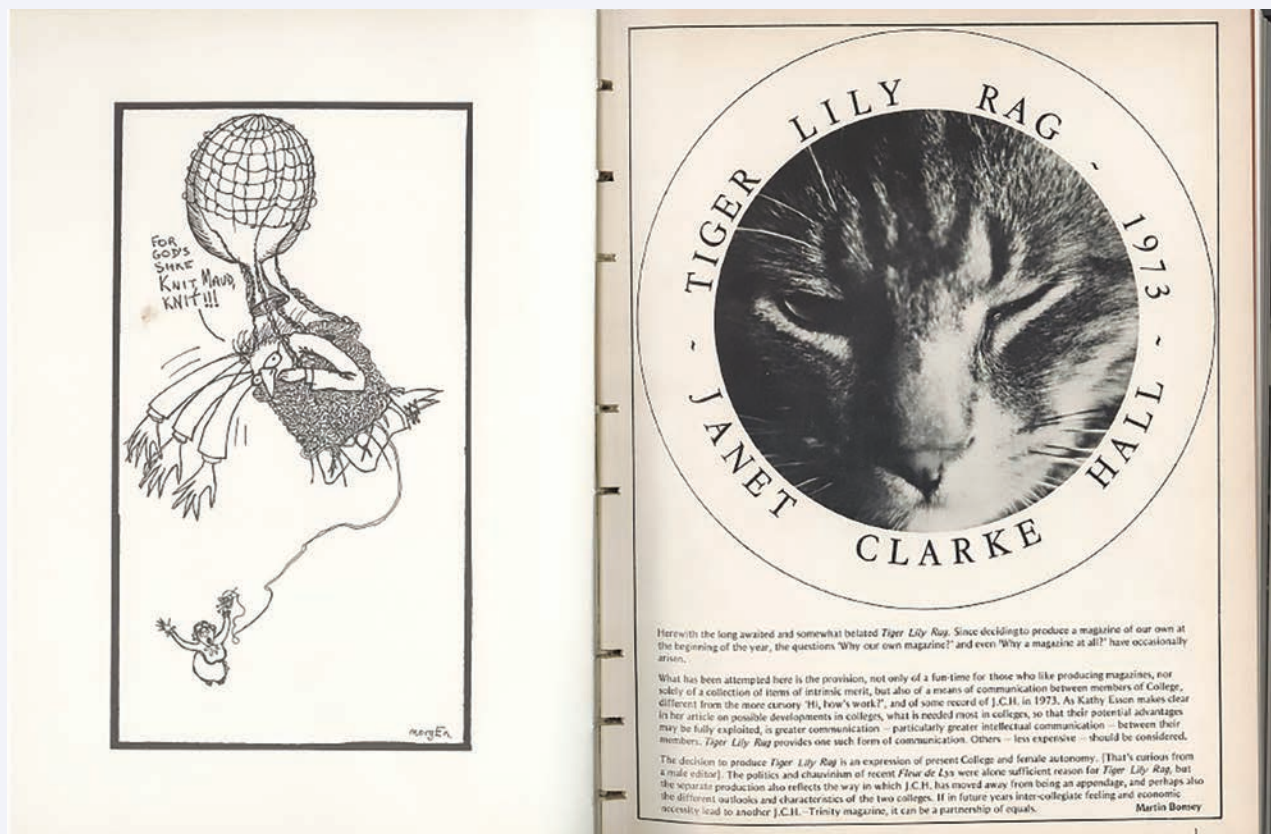
trying to integrate social revolution into tradition. JCH was embracing the new world as it emerged.

The magazine was and is an important measure of the changing attitudes amongst students. Clearly, despite the initial animosity to Trinity that was the impetus for founding *Tiger Lily*, it has grown to represent the full range of student experience. It is an independent chronicle for a student body that has always acted with conviction, ensuring that individuals have the freedom and right to form their own views.

With hindsight, the changes that were so agonised over in the '70s – the move away from many traditions, the removal of strict gender segregation, and the growing independence of young people when attending university – were not the death knell for colleges. JCH managed all these shifts with aplomb, always ahead of the curve and forward thinking.

As we approach our 140th anniversary in 2026, we are looking towards the coming decades that will undoubtedly be full of new challenges. I have no doubt the student body and JCH will continue the legacy of approaching the new with considered, open-minded creativity and intellect.

Saskia Peachey
College Librarian



A Legacy of Generosity, A Future of Promise

Why I believe in the power of philanthropy and the spirit of Janet Clarke Hall.



▮ Bronwyn Neeson

When I joined Janet Clarke Hall this year as Director of Advancement, it was with a deep sense of excitement and responsibility. Having spent over fourteen years in leadership positions working in corporate, government, education, and not-for-profit organisations, I have long been drawn to roles that combine purpose with impact. Most recently, as Head of Marketing and Engagement at ELTHAM College, I worked on initiatives that placed community engagement, philanthropy, and long-term sustainability at the heart of institutional growth.

But Janet Clarke Hall is something quite extraordinary. From the outside looking in, I could already sense the strength of this community – a community defined not only by its academic rigour, but also by the warmth of its people and the enduring love alumni feel for their time at JCH. It is rare to encounter an institution that is at once steeped in tradition and simultaneously so forward-facing, shaped by the feminist principles upon which it was founded and inspired by the achievements of its remarkable alumni – humanitarians, Nobel prize winners, world-renowned authors and scientists, musicians, and leaders in industry across the globe.

What first drew me here, though, was the College's unwavering belief in equity of access. Janet Clarke Hall is unique among Australia's residential colleges: two-thirds of our students receive scholarship assistance, supported by the largest per-capita scholarship fund of any residential college in the country. From its very beginnings in 1886 as the Trinity College Hostel, when the first four female students were admitted on scholarships, JCH has embodied the conviction that the

residential college opportunity must be accessible to excellent young people with talent and ambition, regardless of socioeconomic background. This founding principle continues to drive the College's mission today.

This proud philanthropic history is woven into the very fabric of the College which was renamed in 1921 to honour its benefactor Janet, Lady Clarke, who gifted £5,000 towards the building of a permanent house of residence. She was a staunch supporter of Dr Alexander Leeper, first Warden of Trinity College, who pioneered the idea of a collegiate experience for women at university in Australia.

Today we are a home for all students, having opened the College to men in 1973 when Dr Eva Eden was Principal. As a community, we hold fast to values of equality, diversity, and inclusion, providing a supportive environment where students and staff can be their authentic selves, where rigorous debate and respectful enquiry are encouraged, and where young people flourish personally, socially, and academically. Having had the pleasure of meeting a number of our alumni now, the strongest common thread amongst them is the friendships they made that still endure today, decades on from when they called the College home.

Looking ahead, we are embarking on an exciting new chapter. Our *Strategic Plan 2024 – 2029* sets a bold vision: to become Australia's first need-blind College, meeting 100% of demonstrated financial need and offering sector-leading transformative opportunities to the most promising young people, regardless of their circumstances.



▮ Bronwyn Neeson, Dr Spencer-Regan, Prof. Sawyer

Achieving this vision will require us to grow our endowment and secure scholarship funding in perpetuity. But our ambitions extend beyond scholarships. Philanthropy can help us preserve and enhance our beautiful heritage-listed building, strengthen academic and personal development programs, and expand participation – reaching young people who may never have imagined university or college life as being within their reach. It can also enable us to grasp opportunities for service, leadership, and capacity-building, fostering the next generation of socially minded, resilient, and trailblazing leaders.

In short, philanthropy makes all the difference. Because of our intentionally small and close-knit size, we cannot rely on economies of scale. What we

can rely on, and what has always set us apart, is the generosity and belief of our alumni and friends who understand that education is one of the quickest ways to disrupt generational poverty, and that a college like ours can play a pivotal role in this ecosystem.

As I embrace this role, my purpose is to nurture these bonds of generosity, to tell the stories of our impact, and to ensure that together we can sustain and strengthen this College for years and decades to come. At its heart, advancement is about community – honouring the past, meeting the needs of the present, and building the future.

I look forward to connecting with many of you in the months ahead, and to working alongside you to ensure that

Janet Clarke Hall continues to be the remarkable place it has always been – a place of opportunity, belonging, and transformation. Your support ensures that JCH will continue to disrupt disadvantage, nurture brilliance, and change lives for generations to come.

Bronwyn Neeson
Director of Advancement

Looking Ahead

Celebrating 140 years of Janet Clarke Hall.
Honouring our history.
Inspiring our future.

In 2026, Janet Clarke Hall will celebrate an extraordinary milestone: 140 years since its founding as Australia’s first residential college for women and one of the oldest such institutions in the world. It is a history defined by courage, philanthropy, academic excellence, and the unwavering belief that talented young people, regardless of their background, deserve equal access to a world-class education and an intentional and supportive residential community.

As we prepare for this celebratory year – a year of special events and reflections – we look towards the next 140 trailblazing years and are also beginning a renewed effort to capture and share the stories that have shaped the character of this College. These stories – humorous, heartfelt and deeply human – remind us that, while much has evolved, the essence of Janet Clarke Hall remains constant: a close-knit home where friendships are formed, confidence is found, and lives are changed.

To begin this storytelling journey, we are honoured to share these treasured memories from **Prof. Adrienne Clarke AC (1955)**, distinguished alumna, JCH Fellow, and one of Australia’s most respected scientific leaders.



Memories of JCH, 1955

Prof. Adrienne Clarke AC

The first formal dinner in the Dining Hall

We were the first-year students – Freshers, around twenty of us in total – and were absolutely overawed by the experience of our first formal meal in the Dining Hall. It was 1955.

A gong called us to assemble in the Dining Hall at 6.30 pm. The Hall was arranged with the High Table at the far end on a raised platform. Two rows of five tables were set parallel to the High Table with a clear central aisle, each table seating eight. We stood behind our assigned seats to await the arrival of the Principal, Miss Bagnall. She, the Senior Tutors, and other dignitaries then proceeded down the aisle and ascended the platform to take their places at High Table. They wore their academic gowns and the coloured hoods denoting their degrees from the universities they had attended. (We, being undergraduates, wore plain black gowns.) Miss Bagnall then recited the Latin Grace, ‘*Benedictus Benedicat per Jesum Christum Dominum Nostrum, Amen.*’ and we all sat down.

The role of two Freshers at each table was to wait on their table. We collected the plated food from the kitchen behind the Hall, and for each person we ‘served from the left and cleared from the right,’ as instructed.

The first course was a sort of greyish soup, not very tasty but edible, with stacks of bread and butter to help it down. The main course looked delicious: roast lamb, roast potatoes with gravy, pumpkin, and peas. We were shocked to discover that the gravy was actually chocolate sauce! The final course was ice cream topped with the same gravy. It was all, of course, a joke played on us,



Adrienne Clarke in 1957

probably to see how we would react. We didn’t react at all beyond a furtive glance at the other Freshers. We were so intimidated we said nothing.

It didn’t take long to recover our confidence and slip into the rhythm of College and University life. We had a wonderful three years at JCH, made lifelong friends, and had enormous fun. We all did well academically and went on to professional lives in an era in which it was not the norm for women to forge careers.

Thank you to fellow Freshers in 1955 and lifelong friends, Janice Collins and Diana Alexander for corroborating this memory and funny experience shared at the College. We are now all 88, or soon to be, but the memories of that wonderful part of our lives remain vivid and consistent.

More interesting memories from the first days

On our first day, we were allocated a study shared with another student, who was deliberately not an existing friend. We had to make new friends. We were shown the bathrooms, shared by about eight of us, and then introduced to the sleeping arrangements.

Most Freshers slept on an open verandah, dormitory style. The room was open to the elements on one side, with only a fly screen and a roll-down canvas blind for protection. The beds were arranged in two rows. The best choice was a bed by the wall because when it rained, those closest to the blind often got wet.



Prof. Adrienne Clarke at JCH in 2025

We Freshers came into College a few days before the other students to be trained in cooking and housekeeping. This was part of the Manifold Bequest. We had to master these arts, and our proficiency was established through formal examination. We were given a book on housekeeping to read as preparation. The written examination focused on care of household linen and removal of common stains. The cooking exam was held in a special laboratory-like kitchen. We were given ingredients and a menu: beef tea, beef olives, mashed potatoes and peas, and for dessert, a chocolate blancmange.

I had no concept of what a beef olive might be – it was nothing my mother had ever prepared – so I simply copied someone who seemed to know what she was doing. After preparing the meal, we then had to eat it for dinner.

We had one student from Thailand who was allowed to prepare a Thai meal, which smelled absolutely delicious, much better than our classical English offerings! Once we had completed this housekeeping and cooking assessment, we were joined by the second- and third-year students, and even some older medical students who were often in college for all six years of their course.

The first JCH event we experienced all together was the infamous chocolate gravy formal dinner, at the time a little disorientating, but now a distinct and treasured memory from the most special of places in my formative years.

Honouring 140 years and the decades still ahead

Stories like these help us see how far we have come, from verandah dormitories and beef olives to the inclusive, intellectually vibrant College we know today, all while remaining true to our deepest values.

As we prepare for our milestone anniversary, we do so with gratitude for the generations who have shaped Janet Clarke Hall into a place of confidence, curiosity, and connection. Their resilience, humour, and ambition continue to echo through the College.

In 2026, we will celebrate this rich heritage while looking boldly to the future. Our *Strategic Plan 2024 - 2029* charts a path toward a transformational goal: to become Australia’s first need-blind College, ensuring that every deserving student can join our community, regardless of financial circumstance. This is a vision only possible through continuation of the philanthropic spirit that has shaped the College from its earliest days.

Next year we invite you to celebrate with us and share in marking the transformative impact of Janet Clarke Hall. Today the College stands proudly as the home of an exceptional and diverse community of scholars and leaders. And our ambition has never been clearer: to nurture, inspire, and empower the thought-leaders and change-makers of the future in an on-campus residential community that encourages students’ academic success, intellectual and personal growth, social responsibility, and a powerful belief in their own potential.

140 years of opportunity. 140 years of belonging. 140 years of changing lives. Let us honour it and build on it together.

Bronwyn Neeson
Director of Advancement

Obituaries



Barbara Roff (Edgley, 1956)
2 November 1937 – 3 February 2025

Barbara was born in Sydney in 1937 to John and Mary Edgley. John joined up in 1939, and Mary, 2-year-old Barbara and her younger brother Andrew moved to Melbourne, to stay with Mary's sister and her family. Barbara attended St Catherine's School in Toorak. In 1946, Mary was informed that John had been killed in Singapore four years earlier.

Barbara went to Melbourne University and lived in JCH, one of only three women in her year to study Commerce, despite admonishments that it was a boys' subject and that if she *must* go to university, she should study Arts instead.

Barbara was self-described as 'non-sporty', but she was the Outdoor Representative at JCH. She joined Peninsula Country Golf Club as a teen and golf became a life-long passion, until MND took her mobility in her final months.

At University Barbara met Philip Roff from neighbouring Trinity College. Many of Barb's special qualities came to the fore during their courtship – her stoicism, loyalty and perseverance, especially in the context of Philip's rowing, where she would wait for hours on some riverbank for him to come streaming past.

After graduating, Barbara became one of the first two female non-scientists

working across Fitzroy Gardens at ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries).

Philip won the Rhodes Scholarship in 1960, which stipulated that a scholar couldn't marry for the first two years. Barbara spent those two years in the Finance Department of Oxford University Press and in bookshop, Blackwells – and on new and exotic riverbanks.

They were married in the New College Chapel in Oxford and remained in England for a few years. Philip taught at Radley College, and Barbara had two children. They moved back to Australia in 1966 and three more children followed. Philip taught and became Principal at Scotch College in Adelaide and then at Scotch in Melbourne. He was well-lauded and mildly revolutionary in those roles and Barbara actively supported him in his work.

Barbara completed a DipEd and studied Science at Monash but stopped to manage Philip's educational management consultancy, which they ran successfully until their retirement.

She took great pleasure in her relationship with her eight grandchildren. She loved to travel, taking rudimentary camping trips to France and Spain in the UK days, camping in the Flinders Ranges, and frequently visiting a diaspora of children in the States, the UK, and Europe. She rode a Chilean horse around the Grey Lake in 2022, but COVID intervened before she got to the Galapagos Islands. Her last journey was to Arnhem Land in the middle of 2023.

Diagnosed in early 2024, Barbara handled MND, which gradually robs you of the ability to do things for yourself, with enormous dignity. She maintained her self-determination and her sense of humour. Although she had moments of sadness, she wasn't depressed. Her children took turns at her bedside, day and night, during her final year.

Caroline Roff
Daughter



Narelle 'Anne' Borland (Haydon, 1951)
18 September 1933 – 11 February 2018

Anne was a leader in many ways and managed to combine having five children on whom she doted, with significant veterinary work.

She was born in Maffra, Victoria, went to MCEGGS in 1947 (Councillor & Boarding House Captain), and then to the University of Melbourne in 1951, residing in JCH – as did her two sisters, **Elsbeth Hallowes (1954)** and **Peta Colebatch (1964)**. She moved to the University of Sydney to complete her veterinary degree, as it was not possible to do that in Melbourne at that time, and then worked for a year at an inner Sydney vet practice.

In 1958 Anne married Robert (Bob) Borland and they moved to Deloraine, where she became the first female vet employed by the Tasmanian Government. Her first daughter, Sally-Anne, was born in 1959, followed by a year in the UK doing locum work, and then moving to Sydney with new baby Jacqueline in 1961. She established and ran her own veterinary practice in Forestville, Sydney, and children followed in quick succession (Susan 1962, Angus 1963), so it was a very busy household!

When Bob moved to Cambridge UK for his PhD in pathology in 1965, Anne did part-time vet work at a research facility, and her youngest child, Laird, was born in 1966. In 1970 she returned to East Gippsland, becoming the first female vet employed by the Victorian government as the District Veterinary Officer with the Department of Agriculture. At that time the principal focus was on implementing the brucellosis eradication campaign in East Gippsland, so she

covered a wide area from Stratford to the border near Genoa, including the high country from Dargo through Omeo/Benambra to Suggan Buggan, blood testing the cattle.

Being a DVO was tough work, and prior to 'retiring' at age 55, Anne branched out into cashmere goats, which required protection from foxes and resulted in her introduction to Maremma dogs which remained a lifelong interest. She never stopped working as she transferred her attention to farming and raising cattle, goats, breeding dogs and encouraging the local birdlife to settle around the house and garden.

In the last few weeks as she was dying, she took delight in the birth of new pups to a favourite Maremma dog. By that time, she had a large brood of grandchildren and even great-grandchildren, and somehow kept track of them all and always remembered birthdays!

Dr Peta Colebatch
Sister



Miss (Elizabeth) Ann Shanahan
25 May 1937-12 January 2025

My mother was an extraordinary person. I know everyone says that about their mum, and everyone is right because mums are extraordinary, but my mum was next level. She was a unique, phenomenal, contributive human. Mum didn't understand rest, and her life was about purpose and serving others.

Known as Ann or Miss Shanahan – never Elizabeth – she held tight to the tradition that medical specialists always went by their maiden name and by 'Miss' and 'Mr', none of this 'Dr' stuff. It

belied her quarter of a century of training to become one of Australia's best cardiothoracic surgeons.

As a child, she had wanted to be a lawyer but her highly influential and most adored father, Thomas Shanahan, thought lawyering was 'a job for mugs' so she set her sights on medicine in the fifties, only to come back to law in the eighties. She practised both professions concurrently for some 25 years.

At medical school, she was one of only a handful of women. She resided at Janet Clarke Hall and later moved to Trinity, first as a tutor and later shared with her husband, Ian McKenzie, the warden's cottage where they resided as senior medical students.

While they topped their graduating medical class together, Mum caught the wave of a feminist era which saw her clean sweep the scholarships desperate to attract women into the surgical profession. She actually had to give some of it back!

Mum loved her time in Canada and the United States, and she tells the most outrageous stories of her wild adventure, blind to discrimination. Mum just ploughed through attitudes towards women in medicine and ploughed through attitudes to different skin colours as well.

Ann's medical skills were second to none. At medical school she won countless clinical and exhibition prizes. She was awarded a Fulbright scholarship, the American Association of University Women Overseas Scholarship, the Patterson Traveling Fellowship and the National Heart Foundation of Australia Overseas Fellowship, and, finally, she picked up the Paul Dudley White Research Fellowship of the Massachusetts Heart Association.

She studied and worked at Harvard, Massachusetts General Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. She practised as a thoracic surgeon from 1971 until 2004 across Cabrini, Dandenong Hospital, Moorabbin, Southern Memorial, Dandenong Valley Private, Monash, Prince Henry's and the Alfred. She also taught at Monash from 1974 to 1985.

She was loved by her patients and their families and by her students, but she

gave up teaching to become a student herself in '85, this time in Law, graduating in '89. While studying in Clayton at night she continued as a surgeon during the week, and when she graduated and joined the Victorian Bar she operated on her patients on the weekends.

The Bar was not for her, and she joined the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in 1991, serving on the tribunal for almost 30 years, offering the unique combination of medical and legal expertise.

Following a diagnosis of kidney cancer, it was in the last months and weeks of her life that I saw just how loved Mum was by those with whom she had every-day contact – not just the surgeons or the lawyers but the secretaries, tip staff, nurses and cleaners, as well as the people who helped her look after her home and the garden she so loved because it was where life would always flourish.

Zoe McKenzie MP
Daughter

The College acknowledges, in sympathy, those deceased alumni of whom it has become aware since the previous edition.

Together with the accompanying obituaries, the College has also learned of the following deaths in our community:

Celia Hopkins Burgess (Steeper, 1958)
16 June 1939 – 7 November 2022

Barbara Flora Bennett (1955)
19 July 1936 – 23 November 2023

Judith Harding (1950)
23 July 1931 – 10 August 2024

Jennifer Kaye (Paxton-Petty, 1955)
12 February 1938 – 10 August 2025

Donations and Scholarships

2025 Donations and Scholarships

The College is deeply grateful to the following for their support of scholarships in 2025:

The Cybec Foundation
The May Dunn Trust
The Peggy and Leslie Cranbourne Foundation
The Vera Moore Foundation
The William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund
The Reid Malley Foundation
The family of Cecily Faith Statham
The family of Mary & James Walker
Penelope and John Swain
Web of Hope Foundation
An anonymous trust

The College is deeply grateful to alumni and friends for their donations to the College in 2025. It acknowledges donations from:

Dr Sally Adams
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The College gratefully acknowledges bequests generously promised by:

Ms Julie Ager
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Dr Hugh Gundlach
Mrs Susan Morgan OAM
Ms Margaret Richardson AM
Ms Shelley Roberts
Mrs Susan Sypkens
Ms Pera Wells

Anonymous testators

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The funds provided by donors allowed the following College scholarships to be awarded in 2025:

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Alexander Hanigan
Tia Jegen
Mia McNaughton-Venturin
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Wanwue Tarpeh

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Janet Reid (Malley) Scholars

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Emma Weiser

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Nora Bateman Rodin
Zoe Bespalov
Stella Byrne
Hannah Crompton
Emily Hanlon
Amelia Harper
Molly Harris
Faryal Hasan
Khadija Klein

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Wanwue Tarpeh

Cybec Foundation Scholar

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Tobias Kingston-Brown

Mary White Scholar

Emma Weiser

Peggy and Leslie Cranbourne Artist-In-Residence

Ms Alice Pung OAM

Anonymous bursary recipients

(College bursaries are kept confidential to the College, the donor and the recipient.)

The College has endeavoured to report accurately on all donations and apologises for any errors or omissions in this list.

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(Administrator, Anglican Diocese of Melbourne)

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Mr Justin Pascoe

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