

Enriching the Experience and Intellectual Life of the University:

An Overview of and Reflection on the Foundation and Role of Residential Halls, Colleges and Lodges at The Australian National University¹

Dr Ian Walker²



¹ A paper first written in 2011 – updated and expanded to mark the 75th anniversary of ANU, the 60th anniversary of Bruce Hall, and the 50th anniversary of Burgmann College in 2021

² Head, Toad Hall, ANU (2010-); formerly Head, Ursula Hall ANU (2011-2014); Principal, The Kensington Colleges UNSW, and Dean, New College UNSW; Visitor in the School of History, ANU, and formerly an Honorary Research Fellow (History of Education), Faculty of Education & Social Work, University of Sydney; President, University Colleges Australia 2014-2016; member of the Advisory Board of ‘Collegiate Way International’.

Sections

Page 3	<i>Introduction</i>
5	<i>Australia's first universities and colleges</i>
8	<i>A new national university for a post-War era</i>
10	<i>'Oxbridge in the bush'</i>
12	<i>"Invaluable in the educative process"</i>
15	<i>A 'golden age' of funding</i>
16	<i>Australia's first undergraduate mixed-gender Hall</i>
18	<i>A significant development in co-residence</i>
21	<i>Burton, Garran and Fenner Halls</i>
24	<i>Toad Hall and Graduate House</i>
26	<i>Concerns about sectarian influence, and those 'university types'</i>
28	<i>Church approaches and "signs of secular intolerance"</i>
31	<i>Ursula, John XXIII and Burgmann Colleges</i>
35	<i>Places of learning to enrich and diversify the life of the University</i>
37	<i>A New Chapter of ANU Residence – new Halls, commercial developments and partnerships</i>
45	<i>Residents' concerns and the student voice</i>
47	<i>Continuing the enrichment of the experience and intellectual life of the University</i>
51	<i>"Ambassadors for every province in the republic of the mind"</i>
53	<i>Chronological Summary</i>
54	<i>Some related papers by Ian Walker</i>

“Monolithic systems of education have little appeal for free and democratic societies, and this diversity of halls of residence and colleges should greatly enrich the experience and the intellectual life of the University.”³



Prof Joe Burton (1900-1983) as ‘Esquire Bedel’, with ANU’s first Chancellor, Lord Bruce (1883-1967), and first Vice-Chancellor, Sir Douglas Copland (1894-1971)

The Australian National University, though envisaged in Walter Burley Griffin’s plans for the national capital and, for example, in the establishment of the Canberra University College⁴, was born eventually out of the experiences and exigencies of the Second World War and the desire to harness new research and discovery for the greater good of the Australian community in the post-War years. *“What is wanted in Canberra is a university with a difference; something distinctively different, in character and function, from any institution that presently exists in Australia.”⁵* H. C. Coombs saw such a university as a kind of intellectual power house for the rebuilding of society.⁶

³ Emeritus Professor Herbert ‘Joe’ Burton ‘Residential Accommodation at The Australian National University’, *Burgmann College News* Number 1, April 1968, p.17, Noel Butlin (ANU) Archives, ‘Burgmann (Affiliated Colleges) Building’, A8144, 14.4.5.17

⁴ The ‘University Association of Canberra’ was formed by a small group of Canberra residents in 1929 and, in 1930, the Canberra University College, in partnership with the University of Melbourne, took in its first students

⁵ Sir Robert Garran ‘A National University at Canberra’, *Australian Quarterly* No.27, September 1935, pp. 9 & 11, quoted in Jill Waterhouse *University House As They Experienced It: A History 1954-2004* The Australian National University, November 2004, p.4

⁶ S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *The Making of The Australian National University* Allen & Unwin, St Leonards NSW, 1996, p.19. ‘Nugget’ Coombs was then Head of the Department of Post-War Reconstruction, and later Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia and ANU Chancellor 1968-1976



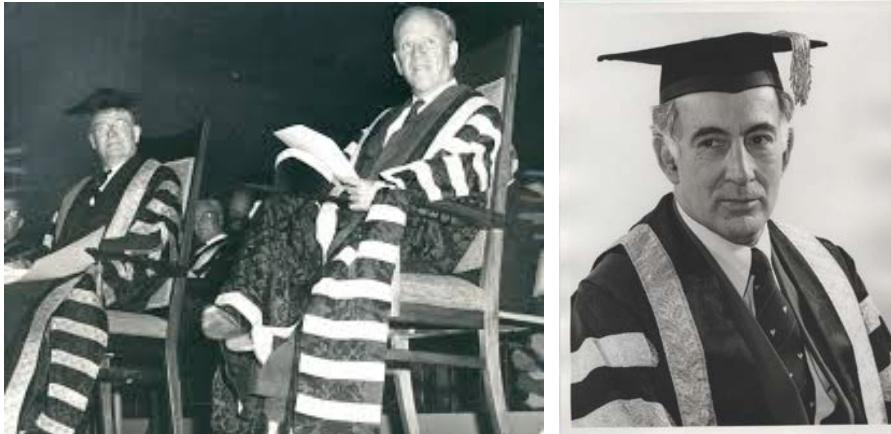
H. C. Coombs (1906-1997) and PM Ben Chifley (1885-1951) in London

The war years had brought into play a number of concerns about the vital need for scientific, social and industrial research for post-War redevelopment, new regional and global relationships, and for economic strength. These were increasingly seen as issues that were national in scope and significance. The University aimed to draw from a much wider field than the then six State universities and, as a post-graduate research institution, it saw residence as a key element of its being. It would be a university of a new era, secular in the Australian pattern, but seeking to establish a respected reputation alongside the ‘great’ universities such as Oxford and Cambridge.

Such reputational and residential aspirations were also expressed about another ‘bush’ city university – the University of New England at Armidale which, when formed in 1954, had been a university college of the University of Sydney. Some saw Armidale as being to New South Wales as Oxford is to England. Professor (later Sir) Zelman Cowen, saw something of its potential in this way when he accepted appointment as Vice-Chancellor in 1967, but later acknowledged that this was more a rationale for his acceptance and “*sort of low-grade patter. It was not on.*”⁷ Nevertheless, away from the populations of the State capital cities, both the Australian National University and

⁷ Author interview with the Rt. Hon. Sir Zelman Cowen AC (1919-2011), Melbourne, 16 March 2000; Sir Zelman became Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland, Governor-General of Australia, and Provost, Oriel College, Oxford.

the University of New England were to be universities where residence was clearly to play a particularly significant role in the achievement of their goals and aspirations.



H. C. Coombs with Lord Florey (whom he succeeded as ANU Chancellor); & Sir Zelman Cowen
(1919-2011)

Australia's first universities and colleges:

Prior to the War, university residence in Australia had largely been provided by churches in residential colleges that were affiliated with Australia's first universities – Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and the universities of Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia. The establishment of the first of these church colleges had not been without controversy, as the founders of the University of Sydney, and in particular William Charles Wentworth, were determined that a new university in a colony seeking to gain self-government would be free of the established control by the Church of England of unreformed Oxford and Cambridge and of the increasing sectarian rivalry and competition over schooling in the early Colony of New South Wales. Rather like the proposal for an Australian National University nearly one hundred years later, the University of Sydney was to be a university for a new era in a 'new world'! The University was to be "*kept entirely free from the teachers of any religion whatever*"⁸; no privileges were to be enjoyed by "*ruddy-faced chaplains*".⁹ Sydney University would be modelled more along the lines of the new (1828) University of London, and of German, Scottish and Irish institutions, with no religious tests for entry or matriculation and where teaching was conducted and

⁸ *Sydney Morning Herald* 7th September 1849, p.2

⁹ Ross *Border Church and State in Australia 1788-1872: a Constitutional Study of the Church of England in Australia* SPCK, London, 1962, p.68

examined by professors of the university, not of and in residential colleges; it would be a university “*open to all, though influenced by none.*”¹⁰



W. C. Wentworth (1790-1872) & Bishop William Grant Broughton (1788-1853); University College London – ‘the Godless College on Gower Street’.

There were strong protests about the establishment of such an “*infidel institution*”¹¹, and the first Anglican Bishop of Sydney, William Grant Broughton, would have nothing to do with it. There was, however, to be some compromise, and the first Senate of the University of Sydney included some clergy.¹² With an anticipated need for residence and supervision¹³, and with land set aside on the perimeter of the University for residential colleges, churches saw an opportunity for the moral and religious superintendence of their youth and for establishing some relationship with an institution that wished to be free of denominational influence. The Affiliated Colleges Act of 1854 allowed for colleges to be established in which not only tutorial support (“*efficient assistance in preparing for the University lectures and*

¹⁰ *Sydney Morning Herald op.cit.*

¹¹ *Ibid.* 8th October 1849, p.3

¹² The Vice-Chancellor of Sydney University (2008-2020) is an ordained Anglican priest, (The Reverend) Dr Michael Spence. From 2021 he will be Principal & Provost of University College London. The Rev'd Robert Allwood, Rector of St James' Church, King Street, Sydney, was the University's 5th Vice-Chancellor 1869-1883

¹³ Numbers at the new Grose Farm site were initially very low – it was seen as too far out of town and many thought of the University as a place of privilege and expense; some complained that there were no stables for horses of the young men and that those who rode were forced to keep their horses at neighbouring hotels!! (... inevitable university ‘parking’ problems!!)

Examinations”) would be given but in which religious instruction could take place as well. College residents, however, were required to attend the lectures of and be examined by the University. As for the University, no religious tests were to be imposed for college membership.



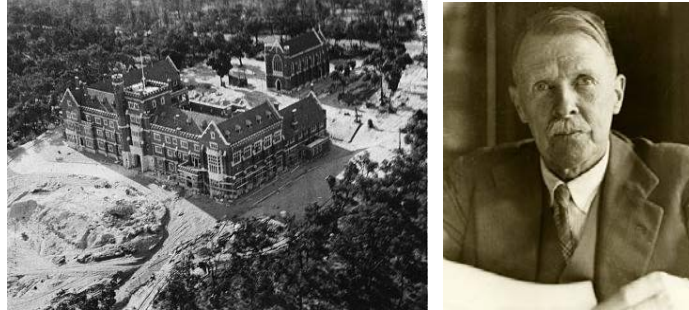
St Paul's & St John's Colleges, University of Sydney

The opening of St Paul's College (1856) and the foundation of St John's College (1858) within the University of Sydney set much of the pattern for the establishment of denominational colleges in Australia's secular first universities. Despite one of the first Sydney professors, John Smith, declaring to a Select Committee Review of Sydney University in 1859 that the existence of sectarian colleges ran the risk of alienating public support and sympathy for the University¹⁴, the establishment of church residential colleges 'on the side' began to grow into the first half of the 20th Century with, prior to World War II, St. Andrew's, Wesley and Sancta Sophia in addition to St. Paul's and St. John's at Sydney; Trinity, Ormond, Queen's and Newman at Melbourne; St. Mark's at Adelaide; Christ College, University of Tasmania; Emmanuel, St. John's, King's, St. Leo's and Duchesne at Queensland; and St. George's College at the University of Western Australia.¹⁵ By World War II, residence at Australia's universities was largely the preserve of the churches and some non-denominational colleges for women, with perhaps a more collaborative and liberal tradition established than had first been anticipated in the foundation of Sydney University. Signal for some change from the more traditional college pattern was given by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia, Professor H. E. Whitfeld, when he visited the United States in 1938 and saw what he believed to be

¹⁴ *Minutes of Evidence taken before The Select Committee on the Sydney University*, Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, Sydney, 12th October 1859, p.80

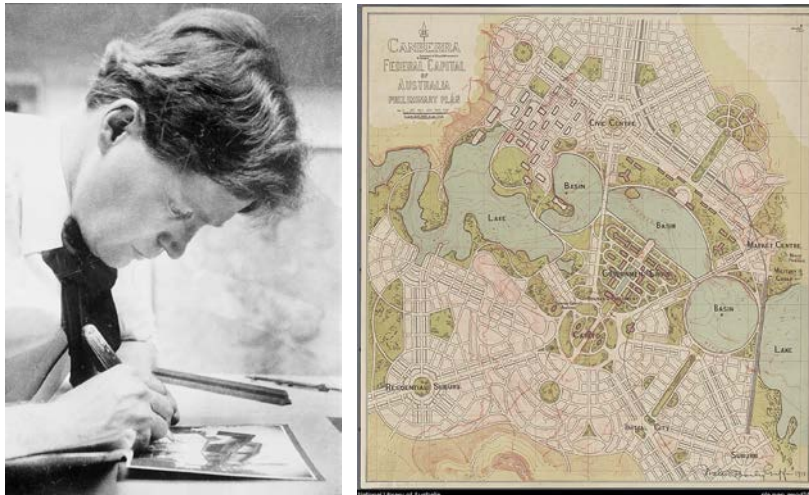
¹⁵ Janet Clarke Hall was established as a women's 'hostel' associated with Trinity College, Melbourne, in 1891; the non-denominational Women's College opened at Sydney in 1892; Women's College, Queensland, opened in 1914; Women's College (later University College), Melbourne, opened in 1937. Other colleges and halls were not established and opened until after World War II.

the value and potential in encouraging the setting up of co-operative residential halls in association with the Guild of Students. The dormitories and shared dining halls of American campuses made “*the University campus a real centre of life in the community.*”¹⁶



St. George's College UWA (1931), and Prof. H. E. Whitfeld (1875-1939)

A new national university for a post-War era:



Walter Burley Griffin (1876-1937) and his plan for Canberra (the University where it is now)

The Australian National University, founded in 1946, was the first of the ‘second wave’ of Australia’s universities. A university in Canberra had been discussed since the 1920s, with Walter Burley Griffin’s plan for the city including a site for a university at the foot of Black Mountain. His diagram for the site included a ‘Students and Faculty Terrace Settlement’ located around the area now occupied by the CSIRO and the Botanic Gardens.¹⁷ In the shadow of Black Mountain, the University was to be on Ngunnawal land, described as “... *a nourishing terrain providing water, food,*

¹⁶ Fred Alexander *Campus at Crawley: A Narrative and Critical Appreciation of the First Fifty Years of The University of Western Australia* F. W. Cheshire, Melbourne, 1963, p. 530

¹⁷ S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op. cit.* pp. 5&6

fibre and shelter; and a storied landscape where places and pathways offer history, meaning and lore.” A place of living and learning located on land where aboriginal living and learning had occurred for millennia.

While at the time not the most popular view, Professor T. H. Laby, Dean of Science at Melbourne University, proposed in 1927 that Canberra should have a great national research and residential university.¹⁸ If the University was to be a national institution it would need to provide as much as possible for the residence of those it would hopefully attract from outside Canberra and from overseas. All this was much the view of those who later brought the concept of such a university to fruition, including politicians such as Treasurer and later Prime Minister, Ben Chifley, and Minister for Post-War Reconstruction, John Dedman; scientists such as Roy Douglas (‘Pansy’) Wright and David Rivett; economists H. C. (‘Nugget’) Coombs, Ronald Walker, R. C. Mills, and S. J. Butlin; and lawyer and public servant, Sir Robert Garran. Distinguished scientists Mark Oliphant and Howard Florey, and historian W. K. Hancock were among those engaged to advise on this new venture for a new age. As Dr Coombs noted: “... *the depression and the war brought about a strong spirit of nationalism, and a desire to change things for the better. It was a creative time and social planning seemed the first essential of a new life.*”¹⁹ While some had visions of a new All Souls or Princeton, the new university was seen as “*simply mobilising an academic elite to do work of particular significance to Australia – from the development of nuclear power to our relations with Asia or the South Pacific.*”²⁰



Oliphant (1901-200), Hancock (1898-1988), and Florey (1898-1968) inspect site of ANU

¹⁸ *Ibid.* p.7

¹⁹ Jill Waterhouse *op. cit.* p.3

²⁰ Peter Coleman *Memoirs of a Slow Learner* Angus & Robertson, Sydney 1994, p.76

*'Oxbridge in the bush'*²¹:

One of the first essentials of the new University was a place for academics and research students to live. There was limited accommodation in Canberra²² and the University had to offer a congenial place that would be the centre of community life for the infant campus. Sir Keith Hancock had conceived the idea of a University House, based in part on his experience at the college of All Souls, Oxford, where he was elected a Fellow in 1923.²³ Opened by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, in 1954, University House²⁴ accommodated some 100 postgraduate students and 50 members of the academic staff and visitors, and it also served as a faculty club for the whole University. In relative terms, it was a grand design by Brian Lewis, Professor of Architecture at the University of Melbourne, though Prime Minister Robert Menzies referred to it as looking like an institution or orphanage from some angles and a seaside block of flats from others!²⁵ It was, however, by the standards of the city and the times, "*de luxe accommodation*".²⁶ Along Oxbridge lines, rooms were centred around staircases rather than opening on to long corridors – acknowledged as a better way of encouraging community and collegiality (a college rather than a hostel); larger corner flats were intended for University senior officials or distinguished visitors. As the centre of University community life, University House included meeting rooms, music and billiard rooms, a library and a large common room.²⁷ Meals were taken in the large Hall, sometimes referred to as the 'Great Hall', which also became the venue for University ceremonial occasions.

While seeking to develop a more appropriate Australian character and style, as with the foundation of Sydney University, many of the founding academics of the ANU had Oxford and Cambridge connections and there were clearly aspirations for the University to achieve the standards and status of universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and Yale. The position of 'Master' of University House was one

²¹ Jill Waterhouse *op.cit.* p.51

²² *Ibid.* p.14 Note comment of Phyllis Hohnen, wife of Registrar, Ross Hohnen: "*University House was built at a time when suitable accommodation was certainly very hard to come by and was a necessary beginning to the University.*"

²³ *Ibid.* p.7

²⁴ *Ibid.* p.37. There was some disagreement over what it should be called, with a final recommendation to the University Council that it be University Hall. The Council decided it should be University House.

²⁵ *Ibid.* p.29

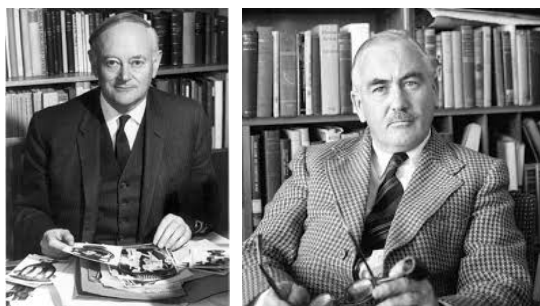
²⁶ Blanche d'Alpuget *Robert J. Hawke: a biography* Shwartz /Penguin Books, Melbourne, 1982 p.64

²⁷ Jill Waterhouse *op.cit.* p.25

of the most senior appointments in the University – indeed, a sub-committee report to the University Council recommended that the head of House should rank after the Vice-Chancellor in academic precedence.²⁸ Certainly, it seemed, the first Master, Professor Dale Trendall²⁹, fulfilled all such aspirations and, albeit a secular institution, he delivered Grace at High Table in Latin.³⁰ This college tradition would also take place in other new secular colleges and halls of the ‘second wave’ universities, such as Bruce Hall (ANU) and Philip Baxter College (UNSW).



Prince Philip opens University House; Lord Bruce (Chancellor) & PM Robert Menzies (1894-1978) on platform.



Prof Dale Trendall (1909-1995) & Prof W. E. H. (Bill) Stanner (1905-1981)

²⁸ *Ibid.* p.59

²⁹ Bill Packard, foundation Warden of Bruce Hall, referred to Professor Trendall as “*that ‘eminence gris’ of the revival of University residences in Australia*” (Speech delivered at a Farewell Dinner for Bill Packard, 28 June 1986). Blanche d’Alpuget notes in her first biography of Bob Hawke that Professor Trendall “*was a man of extremely tidy habits who, on entering a scholar’s apartment, would immediately begin to straighten up piles of books or other articles lying out of place.*” (*op.cit.* p.64)

³⁰ *Ibid.* p.51 Professor Trendall was an archaeologist and classicist, and at the time of his appointment he was Professor of Greek and Archaeology at Sydney University. He was Master from 1954 to 1969. Towards the end of his tenure as Master he expressed regret about developments at the ANU and lamented that it was noticeable that “not one of the present hierarchy from the Chancellor himself down to the Registrar has either an Oxford or a Cambridge degree”! He was increasingly concerned about pressures to (re University House) “vamp the place up” by e.g. developing the bar trade, and opening a bistro beneath the Hall. (S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op. cit.* p.196)

University House was awarded the 1953 Sulman Medal for Architecture and, giving emphasis to the central place it was to hold in the intellectual and social life of the University, it was designated as Building Number 1. It still is³¹. Part of the speech delivered by Professor W. E. H. Stanner, Chairman of the Board of Fellows, at the opening of University House represents much of the essence of the nature of collegial residence that would also characterise the future halls and colleges of the University: *“Students will come to live in this building from all corners of Her majesty’s realm, and from countries beyond, without impediment of race or creed, politics or class. We shall ask of them, and seek to give, those things without which the University is indeed lost – intellectual integrity, scholarship, a sense of values, and an instinct for good living. Without these, all else would be bricks and mortar.”*³²

“Invaluable in the educative process”:

Bricks and mortar became an increasing concern in the 1950s and 60s as the University began to grow and develop on its site, which in the early years largely centred around University House, and along Acton Ridge towards both the area of the proposed Lake³³ (especially fronting West Basin) and to Black Mountain. As one writer records: *“In 1956 the national capital was an expanse of paddocks, bush and mountains surrounding a cluster of suburbs and government buildings ...The Australian National University, almost at the centre of town, was a dozen buildings, some fibro huts, playing fields, lawns and bushland.”*³⁴ The Griffin and later Brian Lewis plans for the campus had University House facing towards what was to be the front of the University on to the Lake, with administrative and ceremonial buildings planned for the area facing West Basin from what is now the Liversidge Street/Balmain Crescent precinct. As well as a commanding position facing the Lake, Griffin also planned an axis from City Hill to Black Mountain - the civic centre of Canberra would connect along a northern boundary for the University with residential colleges. With increasing concentration on provision for the particular needs and demands of each research school, planning became much more functional and

³¹ University House was significantly damaged by rain and hail early in 2020 and has been closed, with no firm date set at this stage for completion of repair work and re-opening (Dec 2020).

³² *Ibid.* p.46

³³ Excavation work began for Lake Burley Griffin in 1960; dams were locked in September 1963, and the Lake was formally inaugurated on 17 October 1964.

³⁴ Blanche d’Alpuget *op.cit.* pp.63&64

‘parochial’ and less concerned with grand designs.³⁵ There was to be no single or consistent architectural style, with architect Robin Boyd commenting that the campus was beginning to look like Disneyland!³⁶ Landscape rather than buildings began to mark the University’s attractiveness. Direction for development began to shift to the north and to the east, especially following the amalgamation with Canberra University College³⁷ in 1960, with its Childers and Kingsley Streets precinct.³⁸ The University’s orientation was to turn more towards the City, with major entry and proposals for administrative and ceremonial buildings at the eastern end of University Avenue, which was also to be referred to as the “main spine of undergraduate activities”.³⁹



Diplomatic students at Canberra University College in 1954 – with Professors Heinz Arndt (1915-2002), Manning Clarke (1915-1991), and Joe Burton

The 1960s heralded not only significant increases in postgraduate numbers, the majority of whom were from outside Canberra and from overseas, but the University now accommodated a large number of undergraduate students. Between 1960 and 1967, postgraduate numbers increased from around 120 to 500, and undergraduate numbers quadrupled from 800 to 3,200.⁴⁰ Inevitably there was a strong imperative for more student residential accommodation.

Residence had always been considered in relation to the Canberra University College and, for a time (1949-1953), an old homestead, ‘Gungahlin’, provided limited

³⁵ S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op.cit* p.192

³⁶ *Ibid.* p.193

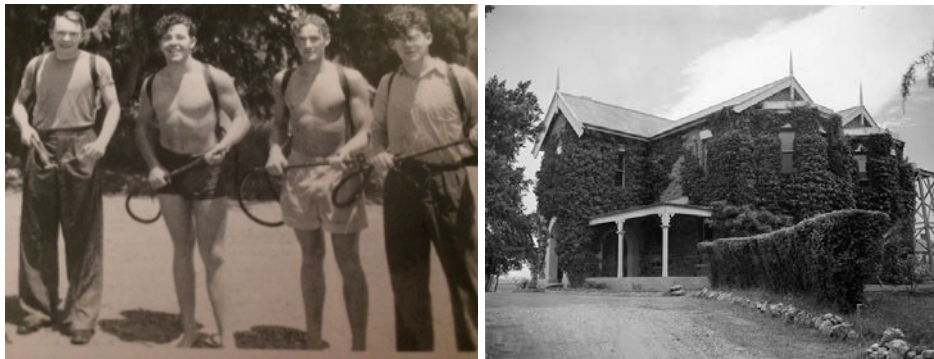
³⁷ CUC, which had catered for mainly undergraduate teaching, became the School of General Studies

³⁸ This area became the site of the UniLodge developments

³⁹ Foster & Varghese *op.cit.* pp.194 &195. Architect, Roy Simpson, appointed as site planner in 1967, commented “*This country is littered with the pathetic evidence of impoverished attempts at grandeur. We talk bravely of Versailles – and achieve suburbia. I would like to protect the University from such a result.*” Many continue to wait with interest, and perhaps some with a touch of scepticism!! See also *Campus 2030 Masterplan*

⁴⁰ *Ibid.* p.168.

accommodation for College students, mainly diplomatic cadets – including in 1950, W. M. ‘Bill’ Morrison, later Minister for External Territories, Minister for Science and Consumer Affairs and Minister for Defence in the Whitlam Government; and Richard ‘Dick’ Woolcott, later (among other appointments) Ambassador to the United Nations, President of the Security Council and Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.⁴¹ It proved to be uneconomical and too distant from the College, but recognition was given to the eventual need for appropriate campus residence, especially if there was to be any significant increase in full-time student numbers.⁴² The Principal of the College (1948-1960), Professor Herbert ‘Joe’ Burton, later noted: “*The Board of Studies and College Council, some of whom had been at Oxford and Cambridge, were convinced that colleges were invaluable in the educative process and essential to raise the academic status of the College ...*”⁴³



Bill Morrison (1928-2013 centre left) & Dick Woolcott (1927- centre right) at ‘Gungahlin’. They were among the first editors of ‘Woroni’, which began its ‘life’ at the Canberra University College.

From 1960, a group of buildings at Lennox Crossing on the Acton Peninsula, known as Lennox House, which had been purchased by the University in 1953, was used for male student accommodation. These wooden buildings had been associated with the development of Canberra since 1911 as the ‘Professional Officers Mess’, Single Men’s or ‘Bachelors’ Quarters and, from 1935 to 1960 as the Acton Guest House.⁴⁴ A

⁴¹ S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op.cit.* p.151. The lists of Hall and College alumni will include those who became leaders in a whole range of international and national institutions and activities, including former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd who met his wife Therese in Burgmann College, and Professor Glyn Davis, Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University, who spent a year in Bruce Hall

⁴² Emeritus Professor Herbert Burton *op. cit.*

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ Some junior members of the royal party were housed in the buildings for the opening of Parliament by the Duke of York in 1927; from 1944 to 1945 the United States 7th Fleet conducted part of a radio training school there for their servicemen

Warden was appointed by the University in 1963⁴⁵ and Lennox House was fully occupied by students from 1964. It later became a temporary home for John XXIII College prior to its opening on its present site on Daley Road.



A 'golden age' of funding:

With not only the ANU but other old and new universities facing the pressure of increasing enrolments after World War II, together with the need for new and better facilities (including residences), in 1957 the Menzies Government set up a Committee on Australian Universities to be chaired by Sir Keith Murray, then head of the British Universities Grants Committee. The Chifley Government had established the Mills Committee⁴⁶ in 1949 to inquire into the finances of universities, including, at the later instruction of the new Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, the position of residential colleges.⁴⁷ Some Commonwealth contribution came out of the Mills Committee, but it was the Murray Report, tabled and adopted in 1958, that saw a vast increase in provision for capital and recurrent costs of universities over the following decade – a period often referred to as the ‘golden age’ of university funding in Australia. The Report gave strong support to university residential colleges, and noted that “*the College experiment in the universities has been an invaluable one and we wish that more students had the opportunities of receiving these benefits.*”⁴⁸ Under Sir Leslie Martin, and reporting to Senator John Gorton, then Minister-in-Charge of Commonwealth Activities in Education and Research, the Australian Universities Commission was established to administer grants to universities on a triennium basis

⁴⁵ Dr Michael Gore had been a resident and Sub Warden of Bruce Hall in 1962. He later served as Warden of Garran Hall and Acting Warden of Burton Hall.

⁴⁶ Professor R. C. Mills had been Professor of Economics at Sydney University and was involved in the foundation of the ANU

⁴⁷ R. G. Menzies *The Measure of the Years* Cassell Australia Ltd., North Melbourne, Victoria, 1970, p.83

⁴⁸ *Report of the Committee on Australian Universities*, The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1958, p.54

– in the States, on a £1 for every £1 provided by State governments and from other sources.



PM Robert Menzies with the Queen and ANU Chancellor Sir John Cockcroft (1897-1967) at the opening of the Menzies Library in 1963

Australia's first undergraduate mixed-gender Hall:

This gave strong impetus for consideration of new residential accommodation at the ANU⁴⁹ and, in 1958, for the needs of students at the Canberra University College. The pressure for accommodation for undergraduate students vastly increased when the CUC amalgamated with the ANU in 1960 to form the School of General Studies (SGS). A Commonwealth Grant of £300,000 was given for the purposes of a residential college associated with the CUC. Sydney architects, Bunning & Madden, were appointed in 1958 to plan for a new residence, with construction commencing around September 1959. There had been some argument as to where it should be located, with government land on the northern side of University Avenue (outside the regarded boundary of the University) proposed.⁵⁰ There was, however, strong support for a more determined decision to have it at the western end of University Avenue (albeit described by Michael Gore, resident in Bruce Hall in 1962, as “*nought but a*

⁴⁹ New colleges were built at some of the first universities, such as St Hilda's at Melbourne University, as well as those at the 'second' universities in the period from the late 1950s to the later 1970s.

⁵⁰ Mr. T. M. Owen 'Appendix' *Bill Packard, Warden of Bruce Hall, Farewell Dinner, 28 June 1986*, The Australian National University 1986, p.24 (National Library of Australia NLP 378.1120924 P119). Mr Owen was Secretary to the Council and Registrar of the CUC from 1939; in 1960 he became Associate Registrar in the ANU until he retired in 1968

dusty track leading from Civic”⁵¹) an imposing building that would give further significance to the place of collegiate residence in the University⁵², and that would give appropriate ‘balance’ to and connection with the civic heart of the City at the other end of the Avenue. In many ways this east-west axis and nexus was true to Griffin’s original plans. Somewhat indicative of the difficulties associated with the amalgamation of CUC with the ANU⁵³, there was disagreement over what to call the first residential hall for undergraduate students. Members of the former CUC, now SGS, wanted it to be named after their Principal, ‘Joe’ Burton, while colleagues in the ‘Institute’ preferred to honour the retiring Chancellor, Lord Bruce.⁵⁴ ‘Burton Hall’ would come just a little later!



Proposed Bruce Hall – and at the time of its opening in 1961

Bruce Hall opened in 1961 as Australia’s first undergraduate residence built to house both men and women - a brave move at that time, albeit perhaps financially expedient as the University could not then afford to build separate halls for men and women.⁵⁵

⁵¹ Address at Bill Packard Farewell Dinner 28 June 1986

⁵² S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op.cit.* pp.196&206. The splendid Dining Hall, now named in honour of Bill Packard, is adorned with Leonard French’s *Seven Days of Creation* series. Similar works by French are in University House (see Jill Waterhouse pp.294-298). Winner of Blake & Sulman Prizes, Leonard French was also commissioned e.g. to design stained glass windows for the National Library of Australia, and the stained glass ceiling of the Great Hall of the National Gallery of Victoria. The original Bruce Hall series has been re-located in the new Bruce Hall Dining Room.

⁵³ It was eventually ‘accepted’ that Canberra at that time could not afford two universities - if CUC was to become a university – but amalgamation brought into play all kinds of suspicions and concerns about the merger; CUC had built, under ‘Joe’ Burton, a strong academic reputation, with staff recruits including Manning Clark and A. D. Hope

⁵⁴ S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op.cit.* p.178

⁵⁵ E.g. when co-residence was proposed in Basser College, UNSW, in 1964, members of the male student ‘House’ executive walked out of the dinner announcement in protest! In 1968, the House President recorded that “*This is the third year of Basser’s life as an integrated College and there is still an indifference to the women as members of the College*”; New College, UNSW, opened as an all-male college in 1969 and women were not admitted until 1974, with concerns from the Board that co-residence might be an excuse for co-habitation! (Interview with Dr Stuart Babbage, Master 1973-1982)



Leonard French (1928-2017)



Leonard French 'Seven Days of Creation' series in old Bruce Hall Dining Hall & re-installed in the new Dining Hall

A significant development in co-residence:

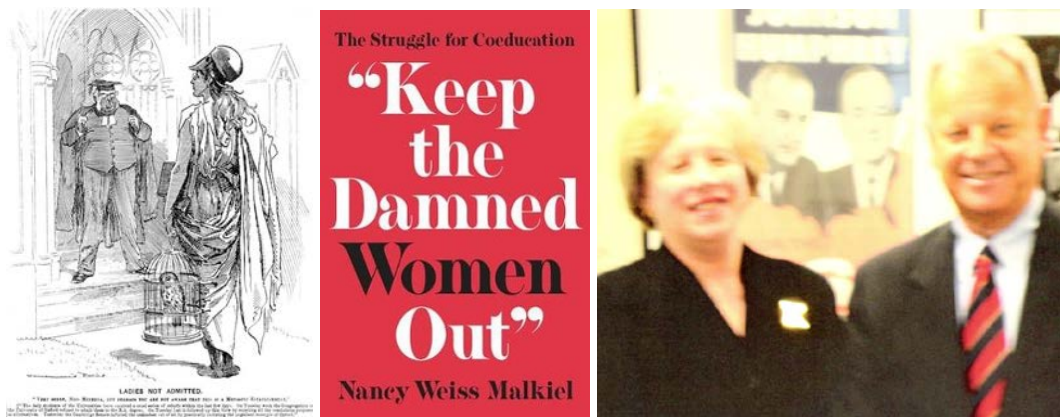
It was a bold move in 1961 to admit women into residence with men. Dr Mike Gore noted at the time that “... *there were many who wanted to **abandon the idea** of a mixed-sex hall ... conservatives in the administration of the ANU knew full well that there were no mixed colleges at Oxbridge.*” In Australian universities, women had been associated with residential colleges since the later 1800s, with Lilian Alexander the first non-resident member of Trinity College, Melbourne, and Miriam Merfield a resident of Queen’s College, Melbourne, in 1888; Janet Clarke Hall opened as a women’s annex to Trinity College in 1886, and the Women’s College at Sydney University opened in 1892.



Lilian Alexander (1861-1934); Miriam Merfield (c.1870-1944) among the men of Queen’s; Women’s College, Sydney University (with St Paul’s College in the background)

Not only was co-residence an issue in universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, but in the United States, where going to university meant, in the main, living at the

university, Ivy League universities such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Dartmouth were only just beginning to admit women – co-education and co-residence! Yale, for example, admitted women in 1969. Former Princeton Dean of the College (undergraduates) and historian, Professor Nancy Weiss Malkiel, has recorded the history of the struggle for co-education, using as a title words of a Dartmouth alumnus “*Keep the Damned Women Out*” (2016)! The message “*was very clear: women were second-class citizens. The historic role of elite universities was to train leaders – for public life, for the professions, for commerce. Leaders meant men.*” Give a place to a woman and you took away a place for a future leader!!



‘Punch’ cartoon 1896 (‘Ladies not Admitted’); Ian Walker with Prof Nancy Weiss Malkiel, Princeton 2007

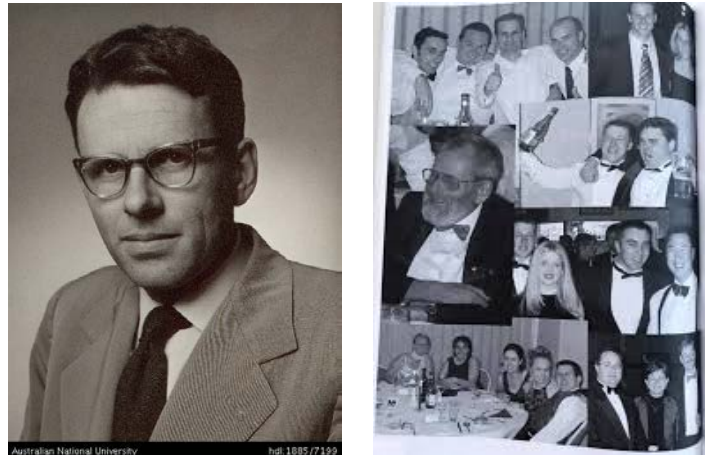
Much of the credit for successful integration at Bruce Hall is given to the first Warden, William Percival ‘Bill’ Packard, a New Zealand Rhodes Scholar, geographer and mountaineer, and, at the time of his appointment to Bruce Hall, Warden of Rolleston House, University of Canterbury NZ (1958-1960). Dr Lloyd Evans, who suggested that Bill Packard apply for the job, recalled that the University was certainly worried about a mixed hall, and specified that the men’s and women’s living quarters should be divided and that there would be “*one bath for each 50 women and one for each 100 men*”!⁵⁶ There were initially 110 men and 50 women, increasing to 100 women in 1964.⁵⁷ Women were originally housed in North Block, and the men occupied East, West and South Blocks encircling the Southern Quadrangle.⁵⁸ Visits to women could occur between 9am and 10pm, when the doors to the Women’s Block were locked

⁵⁶ Dr Lloyd Evans, Address at the Bill Packard Farewell Dinner *op.cit.* p.13

⁵⁷ Emeritus Professor ‘Joe’ Burton *op.cit.* Foster & Varghese *op.cit.* p.205 record 165 total, with an increase of 45 in 1963

⁵⁸ Dr Michael Gore *op.cit.* p.10

(each female resident issued with a key at the outset).⁵⁹ Bill Packard recalled that a double bed he requisitioned for his soon to be married Deputy Warden, Dick Barwick, was the first double bed the University had ever bought!⁶⁰ Visiting hours disappeared in 1970, and the whole Hall was re-arranged on a mixed-gender basis in 1971.⁶¹



Bill Packard (1925-2009), and Farewell Dinner

The influence of Bill Packard (Warden from 1961 to 1986) in setting the nature and style of collegiate life at Bruce Hall was clearly enormous. He established a pattern of academic, cultural, social and sporting life that recognised the fullest possible advantage of living in community on campus. It was not simply high-minded, for his experience in New Zealand had taught him that “*while bricks and mortar certainly don’t automatically make a Hall ‘per se’, they go a long way to help ...good food and hot water are as vital as things of the mind and spirit.*” At the same time “*neither will a Hall develop in the entire absence of (such things as) music, works of art, and leisure space.*”⁶² The Warden’s role was “*a blend of the academic, pastoral and administrative, with one’s status and salary derived from one’s position as Warden.*”⁶³ College Fellows were appointed on the advice of the Vice-Chancellor from University staff, CSIRO scientists and other friends of the College⁶⁴, as well as a Board that included, on the insistence of the then Pro-Chancellor, Dr Coombs, student

⁵⁹ Bill Packard, Address at Farewell 28 June 1986 *op.cit.* p.17

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op.cit.* p.207. A further Wing was added in 1971, and in 2004 the Packard Wing was opened to house mainly later-year undergraduates and postgraduate students.

⁶² Bill Packard *op.cit.* p.16

⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op.cit.* p.206. Each Fellow had responsibility for 10 students; in the more traditional sense of the word, they were referred to as ‘moral’ tutors

representatives. Bill Packard noted that he was not at first happy with that insistence, but soon realised that he was wrong.⁶⁵ The student voice and leadership would be very much a part of the value and experience of collegiate life. The Warden's Lodge was close to the Hall and, while not *in loco parentis*, members of the Hall "*felt in some sense that they were part of the Warden's extended family*".⁶⁶ They were cared for and they belonged, even if the Warden and his wife must have felt at times that they were living "*next door to Bedlam*"!⁶⁷



An early Bruce Hall 'High Table'

Burton, Garran and Fenner Halls:

With funding opportunity and in seeking to make the University as national as possible, the University set a target of having at least half the undergraduate population in residence.⁶⁸ Adjacent to Bruce Hall, along Daley Road, Burton Hall, named after the Principal of the former Canberra University College and the School of General Studies⁶⁹, opened as a fully catered residence in 1965 with places for 250 residents (initially 125 men and 125 women), closely followed by Garran Hall⁷⁰ with a further some 250 rooms for men and women. At first, Burton Hall, under the Wardenship of Geoffrey Rossiter, an historian who had worked with the Fulbright

⁶⁵ Bill Packard *op.cit.* p.18

⁶⁶ Dr Michael Gore *op.cit.* p.10

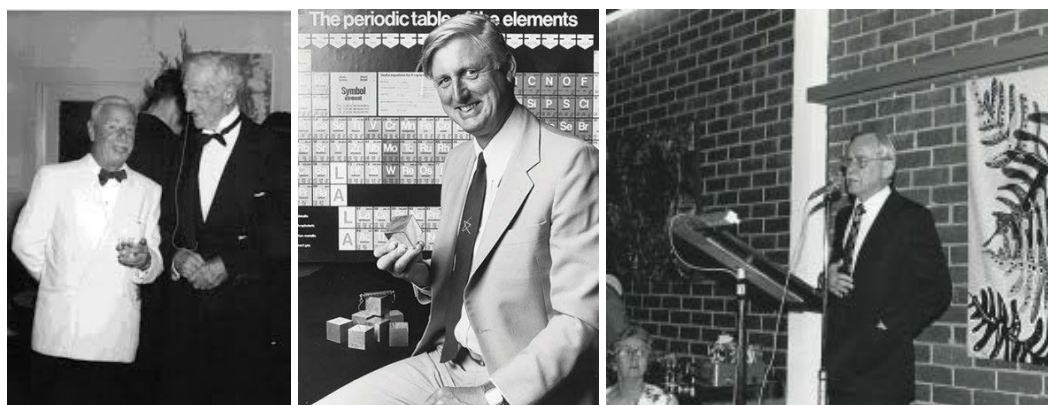
⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

⁶⁸ S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op.cit.* p.205

⁶⁹ 'Joe' Burton was a former Queensland Rhodes Scholar and economic historian. He retired in 1965 and died in 1983

⁷⁰ Named after Sir Robert Garran, lawyer, Chair of the CUC Council 1930-1953, and Chair of the ANU Interim Council 1946-1951

Foundation in Canberra for 15 years, consisted of two residential blocks which had been completed before the central administration, recreation and dining block. Residents were required to take meals in the ANU Refectory located in the old Union building, later the now demolished Pauline Griffin Building. Mike Gore recalled that “it was a long walk on a cold winter’s morning”!⁷¹ Mike Gore became Warden of Garran Hall soon after the death in 1973 of its first Warden, Dr John Short, a zoologist. For a time, each Hall had separate kitchens and dining halls in the Central Block, but in 1976 Garran Hall became self-catered, with its hall containing a multitude of cooking stations for use by its residents. This arrangement served both Burton and Garran Halls when they were combined in 1983.



Prof Joe Burton & Sir Robert Garran (1867-1957); Prof Mike Gore(1934-); Geoffrey Rossiter (1916-2004) at his Farewell



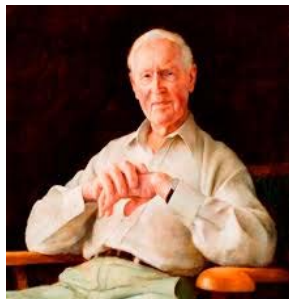
ANU 1963, looking along Daley Rd towards the site of Lake Burley Griffin, with Bruce Hall (9) and noting the land for future Hall and College development

⁷¹ B&G website ‘Memories of the sixties and seventies’



Burton Hall & Garran Hall car park 1965; Burton Football Club

Much later, in 1992, the University established Fenner Hall in two connected blocks of high-rise accommodation built in the 1960s on Northbourne Avenue and named Gowrie Hostel. It was re-named in honour of Emeritus Professor Frank Fenner, a distinguished microbiologist and first Director of the ANU Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (1973-1979). Under the founding headship of Dr George Watt⁷², the self-catered Hall provided, as with the other mainly undergraduate Halls (there would be postgraduate floors), supervised accommodation with shared facilities for some 500 students. Following a period in the 1980s when student numbers had fallen (as in other universities), undergraduate enrolments rose significantly in the 1990s. Attitudes generally to enrolment in tertiary education became increasingly favourable, and the ANU was increasingly rated well for staff-student ratios and in teaching and research; more students were attracted from overseas and inter-State.⁷³ No doubt opportunity and offer to meet demand were reasons for the University to designate a Hall for undergraduates as well as postgraduates in self-catered high-rise accommodation.



Gowrie Guest House/Hostel (later Fenner Hall); Prof Frank Fenner (1914-2010); Dr George Watt

⁷² George Watt was later Head of Ursula Hall and then Head of Pearl Jubilee College, University of Macau. Dr Hector Kinloch (1927-1993) had been Head for a few months in 1992; he was Dean of Students at ANU 1981-1984, and was a Member of the first ACT Legislative Assembly 1989-1992.

⁷³ S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op.cit.* pp.363&364

Toad Hall and Graduate House:

The University's first self-catered Hall, however, was Toad Hall, so named by its first residents because of the willows lining Sullivan's Creek at the rear of the Hall's location on Kingsley Street⁷⁴. Opened in 1974 on the former parade ground of the Drill Hall (now Drill Hall Gallery) and accommodating some 230 students, it offered an alternative to the more traditional and expensive arrangements in the catered Halls. 1974 was very much a time of protest and change; a period of '*God-professors and student ratbags*'!⁷⁵ Across Australian universities there were student protests about a range of matters that had included, of course, the Vietnam War and Apartheid, as well as academic and decision-making processes within the universities. At the ANU, students "*campaigning for four years to reduce the number of exams, and by 1973 were boycotting them ... they published an 'Exam Resister's Manifesto' ... (and) in 1974 ANU students occupied university buildings to protest against exams, as did students in the History Department at Flinders University in South Australia.*" There was a mood for "*freeing students from authoritarian control*".⁷⁶ Toad Hall's first residents would name their Hall.



Students name 'Toad Hall', and occupy Chancelry in 1974

Designed by architect, John Andrews⁷⁷, the Hall comprised seven interlocking blocks of four levels of accommodation, with each level comprising a set of bed/study rooms sharing a kitchen, bathrooms and a common room. While moving away from the more traditional collegiate pattern, the Hall was nevertheless more a 'staircase' rather

⁷⁴ Kenneth Grahame *The Wind in the Willows* – Mr Toad of Toad Hall! There were official proposals for other names honouring political or academic leaders, but the Hall "was full of extreme left wing students, anarchists, and other malcontents who threw their fists at that idea and they made all sorts of dire threats" (Richard Hines, one of the first residents – email to Ian Walker 28 Feb 2014). Among the first residents were Hilary Penfold, a former Justice of the ACT Supreme Court, and Roxanne Missingham (McAndrew), now ANU University Librarian and Chief Scholarly Information Officer.

⁷⁵ Hannah Forsyth *A History of the Modern Australian University* NewSouth Press, UNSW, 2014, Ch.4

⁷⁶ *Ibid.* p.74

⁷⁷ John Andrews, a graduate of Sydney and Harvard universities, later designed e.g. Gund Hall – the Harvard Graduate School of Design; the CN Tower in Toronto; the American Express Tower, Sydney; and residences for the University of Canberra (as well as other university residences in Canada)

than corridor community, with the shared facilities allowing for intellectual and social interaction. Along with Graduate House, opened in 1971 as a purpose-built multi-storey residence on the corner of Northbourne Avenue and Barry Drive, it became a particular alternative to University House for postgraduate students. Both places were ‘managed’ rather than ‘led’; places where students were left much to their own devices provided they met what were more the requirements of a tenancy than those attached to belonging to a collegiate residence. Graduate House, in large part under the oversight of Dr H. M. (‘Mac’) Boot, an economic historian, offered rooms with cooking facilities, but it was a residence that was more independent of the direct management by the University than was Toad Hall.

As previously noted, the decades of the 1960s and 1970s witnessed a great deal of change in the expectations and demands of young students. It was an increasingly restless period of protest and challenge of authority, during which, for example, University House came under increasing pressure to relax some of its rules and practices. The student paper ‘Woroni’ reported that “*some residents are reported not to have left the grounds of the House for over two years. Nonetheless, a small band is working towards revolt. The first signs will be claret on the foyer floor and a man shouting in the quadrangle.*”!⁷⁸ Perhaps the ‘ghost’ of future Prime Minister Bob Hawke who in 1957, as a PhD law student, had stirred the ire of House and University authorities, as well as a conference of Anglican bishops, when with other revellers he allegedly stripped naked and swam the length of the University House quadrangle pond!⁷⁹

More postgraduates saw University House as tradition-oriented, conservative, elitist and disciplinarian, and sought the alternatives of places such as Graduate House and later Toad Hall.⁸⁰ With a growing tension between maintaining tradition and yielding to financial imperatives, Sir Rutherford Robertson presided as Master over a

⁷⁸ Jill Waterhouse *op.cit.* p.195

⁷⁹ *Ibid.* p.180; also Blanche d’Alpuget *op.cit.* p.66. Blanche d’Alpuget, from her interviews with Hawke, notes it was the future PM who took to the water. She also notes that he preferred not to mention some of his similar exploits at Oxford (and presumably at the ANU), and that he got angry with her for writing about them. However, in an email received from Professor John Richards, current Master of University House, he notes: “*I ran into Bob Hawke in Boffins last night. He confirmed he was ‘the encourager’ and not ‘the swimmer’.*” (John Richards to Ian Walker, 3 February 2011)

⁸⁰ *Ibid.* p.85

somewhat inevitable period of change for University House in the years 1969 to 1973.⁸¹ In November 1998, the Governor-General, Sir William Deane, opened a re-located and carefully designed and landscaped Graduate House on land acquired from the University just to the west of University House, in an area later aptly named ‘Trendall Dale’. In 2002, Graduate House came under the administration of University House, with the Master, Professor John Richards⁸², encouraging greater interaction between and involvement of graduate students in the wider community life of the House.⁸³



Prof Sir Rutherford Robertson (1913-2001) & Prof John Richards



Residents in the old Graduate House (cnr Barry Drive & Northbourne Avenue); new Graduate House, adjacent to University House on ‘Trendall Dale’ (named after the first UH Master, Dale Trendall)

Concerns about sectarian influence, and those ‘university types’:

The rather fractious period in university and wider community life of the 1960s and 1970s also saw something of a revival of concern in student and staff circles about the place of religion in the university and any hint of undue sectarian influence in secular institutions. Any perceived threat, religious and/or political, to academic freedom was

⁸¹ *Ibid* .Ch 9; also S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op.cit.* p. 361. At the time of his appointment, following the retirement of Dale Trendall, Robertson was Professor of Botany at the University of Adelaide and was the founding Chairman of the Australian Research Grants Committee

⁸² Prof Richards was a Deputy Vice-Chancellor, former Dean of CECS, and former Rector of UNSW ADFA

⁸³ Jill Waterhouse *op.cit.* pp. 129&200

strongly opposed; any perceived advantage given to those outside the secular institute regarded with deep suspicion. In 1961 wide publicity was given to a highly controversial stoush over academic freedom and interference by the church when Sydney's Anglican Archbishop, Hugh Gough, railed against communism and the breaking-down of sexual morality, and pointed the finger at "*those who are shamelessly teaching the same soul-destroying philosophies in our universities.*"⁸⁴ He was clearly referring to the professors of philosophy at Sydney University, John Anderson – around whom had formed the Free Thought Society in the 1930s – and A. K. Stout. It was shades of the "infidel institution" of Sydney University's foundation. In defence, Anderson declared that "*in any university the fight between secularism and religion is intense.*"⁸⁵

The controversy highlighted in the early post-War and 'Cold War' decades the increasing awareness of and sensitivity to the relationship between religion and reason, the sacred and the secular, extremes of left and right, and to issues of freedom, rights, social action and protest. Staff at the ANU in the 1960s would have been aware for example of a mid-1950s issue about the proposed appointment of physical chemist Stephen Mason, then based in London, as a Fellow in the John Curtin School of Medical Research. Argument developed about his communist sympathies and whether his political opinions had flowed into his university work. He had also spoken out in Oxford against Catholicism, and this had raised strong opposition from a member of the ANU Board of Graduate Studies, Patrick Moran. It was alleged that Moran, from his time in Oxford, had kept a black-list of left-wing academics who should not be appointed to the ANU.⁸⁶ In the end, Mason was considered too risky to be offered the position, even with Howard Florey warning that the University was doing itself great harm in making such a political decision.⁸⁷ It was a time when Richard (later Lord) Casey remarked privately that the social science schools were full of long-haired communists⁸⁸, and when Robert Menzies, although seen as the 'saviour' of universities in Australia, did not have a very high regard for those 'university types'!⁸⁹

⁸⁴ *Sydney Morning Herald* 21 July 1961

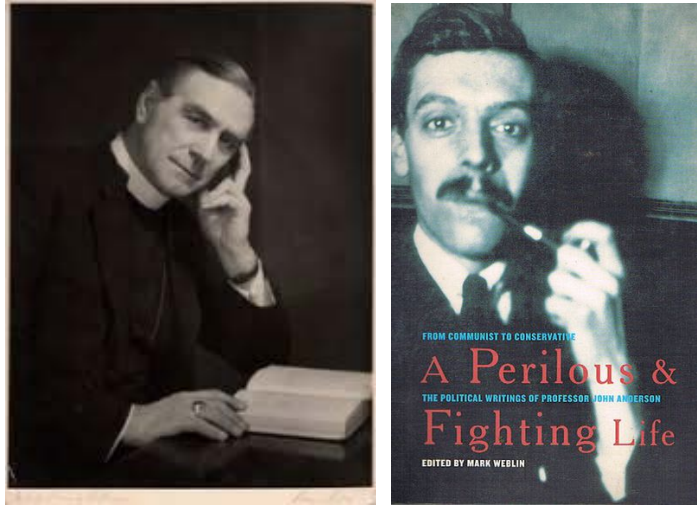
⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

⁸⁶ S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op.cit.* p.124

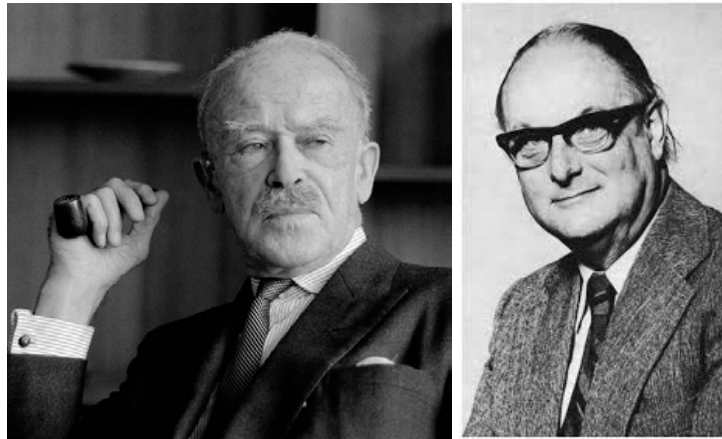
⁸⁷ *Ibid.* Mason went on to become Professor of Chemistry at Kings College, London

⁸⁸ *Ibid.* p.120. Casey was Minister for External Affairs and later Governor-General of Australia

⁸⁹ Interview with Sir Zelman Cowen *op.cit.*



Archbishop Gough (1905-1997); Prof John Anderson (1893-1962)



Lord Casey (1890-1976); Prof Pat Moran (1917-1988)

Church approaches and “signs of secular intolerance”:

This gave some context to concerns about proposals by churches to establish residential colleges in Australia’s new universities after World War II. The first ‘religious’ approaches to the ANU concerning the establishment of a college appear to have been made by the Ursuline Provincialate at the beginning of the 1960s, with the University Council recording in May 1961 that the application raised questions relating to the conditions on which the University would approve the affiliation of such colleges or halls.⁹⁰ It was noted that an affiliated college should provide accommodation for a maximum of about two hundred students and that such colleges should be located as near as possible to the University, if not within it, and not more than one and a half miles from the University’s Administrative Building. The

⁹⁰ Noel Butlin Archives ANU: A8144, 2.2.1.28, part 1: *Affiliation of Halls or Colleges* (Council) Standing Committee Minutes 12 October 1962, p.9

University appointed a committee, chaired by Professor Trendall, to consider and report on this matter. Its first report was received in October 1962, with recommendations that while it favoured such affiliation there should be certain safeguards. The safeguards did not refer particularly to religious foundations but noted, for example, matters relating to University representation on governing bodies and that the majority of residents should be full-time students of the University. At a further meeting of the Committee in December 1962, it was strongly recommended that Halls of Residence (affiliated or otherwise) should if possible “*be built on the University site in planned relation to Bruce Hall*”.⁹¹ The meeting also noted that the term “colleges” was preferred for institutions established by church bodies or other outside bodies, and “halls” for those established by and under the full control of the University.

The University Council was clearly supportive in principle of the affiliation of church and other outside sponsored residential colleges, but sought more clarification and conditions under which such affiliation could occur. With this in mind, and with the University having recently opened Bruce Hall with plans for further University-managed Halls, the Board of the School of Pacific Studies expressed concern that funds should not be diverted from the University halls of residence in order for church colleges to be built.⁹² With requests received in 1963 from the Dominican Fathers and from the Methodist Church for the establishment of colleges, concern increased among staff of the University about the conditions under which religious bodies would be granted affiliation. It was urged that, just as there was a ‘no religious test’ regulation for the University as a whole, there should also be no tests of nationality, race or religion applied in the colleges, and that this should be written into the terms of affiliation.⁹³ In May 1964, the President of the Students’ Association, Mr A. G. Hartnell, conveyed to the Registrar a motion from the Association opposing in principle the affiliation of denominational colleges⁹⁴; the Vice-Chancellor replied indicating that discussion and decision among academic boards and the University

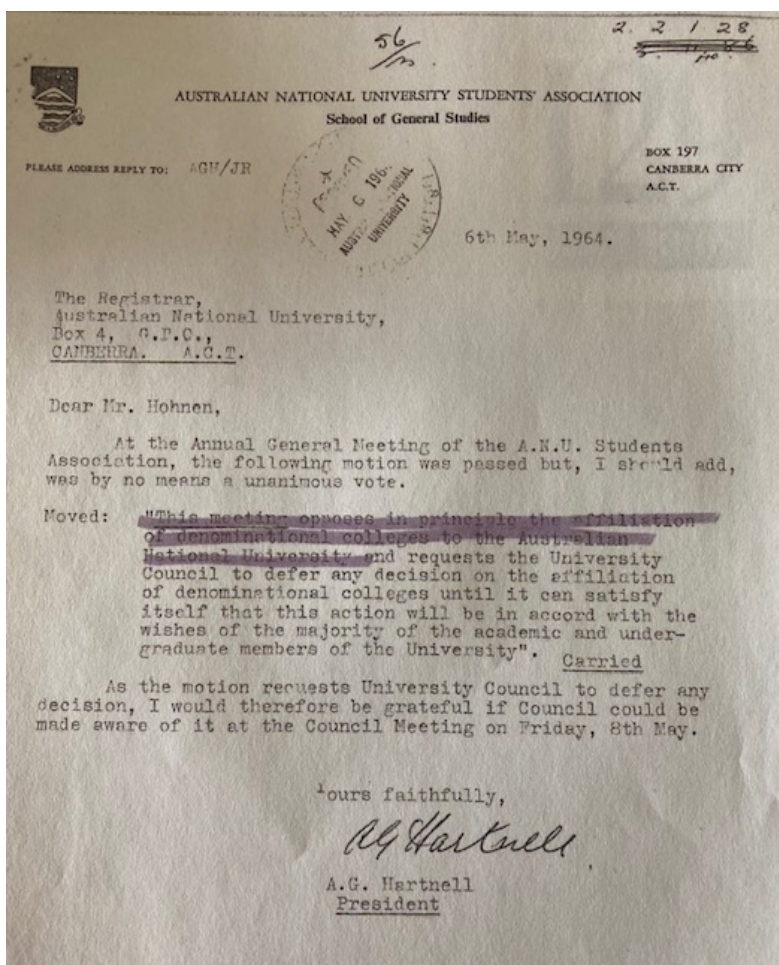
⁹¹ *Ibid.* Committee on Affiliation of Residential Colleges or Halls, Minutes 12 December 1962, p.1

⁹² *Ibid.* Minutes of the Faculty Board, R. S. Pacific Studies, 31 July 1963

⁹³ *Ibid.* Joint Faculties of the Research School of Social Sciences and Pacific Studies, 26 September 1963, p.2

⁹⁴ *Ibid.* A. G. Hartnell to Registrar, 6 May 1964. It was noted that the motion was passed “by no means a unanimous vote”

Council had accepted the principle of residential colleges, church or otherwise.⁹⁵ In a letter to Professor Robin Sharwood of the Faculty of Law, who had just been appointed Warden of Trinity College, University of Melbourne, and who had been asked by the Students' Association to give a defence of church-founded colleges, Professor Burton commented: *"Your views tally almost exactly with mine on this subject and I think it is rather sad to see signs of secular intolerance that would deny a place for denominational colleges in the life of the University."*⁹⁶



It was made very clear to the Registrar in September 1964 in a letter from the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department, Mr E. J. (later Sir John) Bunting, that *"the Government has quite firmly adopted a policy for the next triennium which will give affiliated Colleges, should there be a real demand for them, equal access with Halls of Residence to Commonwealth funds."*⁹⁷ The matter of funding for church

⁹⁵ *Ibid.* L. G. Huxley to A. G. Hartnell, 28 May 1964

⁹⁶ *Ibid.* Herbert 'Joe' Burton to Sharwood, 30 April 1965. Professor Sharwood was also a member of the Boards of University House and Bruce Hall. He was also Secretary of an inter-church committee which set the early scene for the establishment of Burgmann College

⁹⁷ *Ibid.* Bunting to Hohnen, 9 September 1964. Further background to this policy, at a time of issues around Federal aid to independent schools, is given in Ian Walker *'Dare to be Wise': Robert Gordon*

colleges continued to give rise to concern among academic staff at the ANU who saw such financial provision as a threat to the adequate provision for the establishment of what they saw as the more desirable Halls of Residence on a secular campus. Moreover, there was also the sentiment conveyed in a letter from the Registrar to the Prime Minister's Department that "*within the University, a feeling has been vigorously expressed...that colleges established by religious institutions are educationally less satisfactory than University controlled halls in that they tend to encourage segregation on the basis of religious belief ... (and that they impede) the healthy interchange of ideas which is essential in a university.*"⁹⁸ Similar issues faced other new universities such as Monash, the University of New South Wales, and the University of New England. Robert Madgwick, Vice-Chancellor of UNE, sought some advice from Philip Baxter, Vice-Chancellor of the University of New South Wales, where terms of affiliation were being determined: "*...there is a good deal of opposition here to affiliated colleges and it would help me considerably if I could be sure of my ground when I have to steer a legal document through the Council. I am not particularly animated about the affiliated colleges myself but there seems little point in opposing the inevitable.*"⁹⁹



Prof Robin Sharwood (1931-2015); Ross Hohnen (1917-2003); Sir Robert Madgwick (1905-1979)

Ursula, John XIII and Burgmann Colleges:

While the Ursulines and the Dominicans, who were also looking to establish colleges at Monash and the University of New England, began to combine in their approaches to set up colleges at the ANU and to find suitable sites, representation was made to the University by Bishop Kenneth Clements, Anglican Bishop of Canberra-Goulburn,

Menzies and the Value of Church Colleges in Geoffrey R. Treloar & Robert D. Linder Eds., 'Making History for God: Essays on Evangelism, Revival and Mission', Robert Menzies College, Macquarie University, Sydney 2004

⁹⁸ *Ibid.* Hohnen to Mr P. J. Lawler, Acting Secretary, Prime Minister's Department, 6 April 1964

⁹⁹ UNSW Archives *Affiliated Residential Colleges* FN: 59/U106Y/757/10, 63/U136/16727 Madgwick to Baxter, 3 November 1965. UNE had been approached by the Dominicans. St Albert's College was the only denominational/church college established at the University

on behalf of an inter-church committee concerning a proposal for an inter-denominational residential college. This combined churches approach reflected both the financial reality of having to raise sufficient private funds to supplement the government grants, as well as what was seen “*in these ecumenical days*” as a logical and effective way of engaging with the University.¹⁰⁰ The Methodist Church had made separate approaches, with consideration of a site in Forrest, but clearly the combined approach was seen as more realistic.

The name ‘Burgmann College’ was selected in honour of the previous Anglican Bishop of Goulburn (1934-1950) and Canberra-Goulburn (1950-1960), Ernest Henry Burgmann, a rather larger-than-life character who had been involved in a range of social and political issues, but who also was instrumental in promoting sound theological research and education, resulting in the opening of St Mark’s National Memorial Library in Canberra in 1956.¹⁰¹ Other names had been suggested, including ‘Molonglo’, ‘Southern Cross’ and ‘Phar Lap’!¹⁰² ‘Burgmann’ was no doubt a much safer bet, though Robert Menzies, no political ally, had described him as a “most meddlesome priest”!! Appropriate, however, for the new post-War era and a college in a new national university, Burgmann was recognised as someone who saw the church’s role as being the “*soul of the nation-in-making*” with a key task to find “*a language that was convincing in the world created by science, technology and political revolution.*”¹⁰³ So also the name ‘John XXIII’ for the proposed Dominican College, in honour of Pope John XXIII (1958-1963) who called together the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) which was to see changes that re-shaped the face of Catholicism to meet the needs of a new and changing world. Perhaps prescient of future college life, let alone the future Catholic world, Cardinal Montini (later Pope

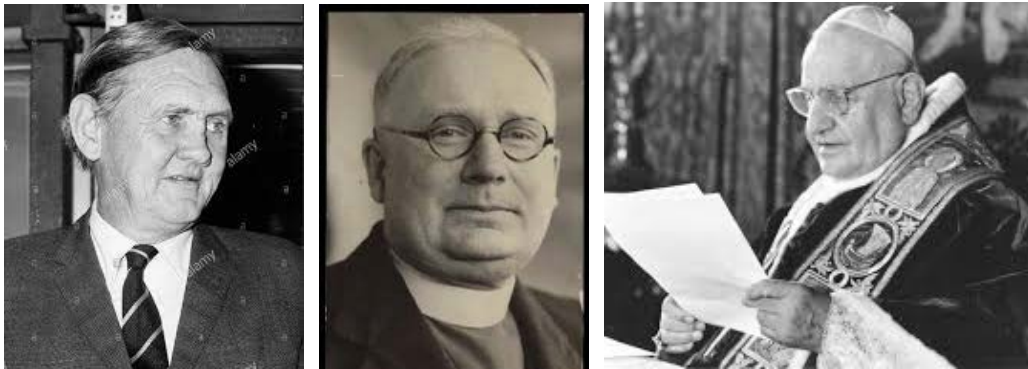
¹⁰⁰ ANU Archives: *Burgmann College News op.cit.* p.3

¹⁰¹ Bishop Burgmann’s granddaughter, Meredith, became President of the NSW Legislative Council; another granddaughter, Verity, is Adjunct Professor of Politics in the School of Social Sciences at Monash University and Honorary Professorial Fellow in the eScholarship Research Centre at the University of Melbourne ; and his great-granddaughter, Verity, is a former NSW Minister for Education. St Mark’s Library is now part of St Mark’s National Theological Centre, associated with Charles Sturt University. Intentions for Burgmann College to be a centre for theological education on the ANU campus were not realised (see reference in *The Place To Be: Burgmann College 1971-2001*)

¹⁰² Charles Price in *The Place To Be: Burgmann College 1971-2001* Burgmann College Inc., Canberra 2001, pp.6&7

¹⁰³ Archbishop Peter Hollingworth, ‘Preface’, Peter Hempenstall *The Meddlesome Priest: A Life of Ernest Burgmann* Allen & Unwin, St Leonards NSW, 1993, p.v .

Paul VI) remarked to a friend at the time of Vatican II that “*this holy old boy doesn’t realise what a hornet’s nest he’s stirring up*”!¹⁰⁴



John Gorton (1911-2002); Bishop E. H. Burgmann (1885-1967); Pope John XXIII (1881-1963)

Both the (preliminary) Burgmann College Council¹⁰⁵, formed in 1966, and those working for the setting up of the Dominican and Ursuline Colleges, faced significant concerns about raising funds and meeting cost requirements if the proposed colleges were to meet the expectations of the University. The University was clearly including the new colleges in its projections for accommodating the estimated student demand for residential places, with figures for the 1968-1972 period indicating that in 1972 there would be a total of 1,390 places available in the Halls and Colleges – 315 short of the estimated demand, calculated at 60% of the estimated number of full-time students.¹⁰⁶ In a joint letter to Senator Gorton, Minister for Education and Science, the College Councils reflected on the impact of running costs on their fees which, without the degree of assistance given to the Halls of Residence through the University budget, would have to be much higher.¹⁰⁷ With the matter of where the colleges would be located resolved¹⁰⁸, building had commenced by this time for Ursula College; John XXIII was about to call for tenders; and Burgmann was about to launch an Appeal. With co-operation from both the Commonwealth Government and the University,

¹⁰⁴ George Weigel, ‘Thinking Through Vatican II’ *First Things*, June/July 2001

¹⁰⁵ The Council represented the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Congregational Churches and the Churches of Christ

¹⁰⁶ ANU Noel Butlin Archives Centre: ‘*Burgmann (Affiliated College) Building*’ *op.cit.*

¹⁰⁷ ANU Archives: A8144, 2.2.1.28, part 3 *Affiliation of Halls or Colleges*, Letter to the Hon. J. G. Gorton, 14 April 1967

¹⁰⁸ Sites in Turner, Lynham and to the west of Black Mountain had been considered, but in the end further land along Daley Road was agreed. Charles Price in *The Place To Be* (p.7) indicates that there was some resistance from the University about this until it was found that the University did not have a permanent lease on the land and therefore the approval of the National Capital Development Commission was sought and given. The Colleges clearly wanted not only to be in line with Bruce, Burton and Garran Halls, but in close proximity to lecture rooms, libraries, laboratories, the Students’ Union and to sporting facilities

together with modifications of plans by the Colleges, the College authorities were able to proceed with building on the sites allocated on the University campus.

The Dominicans used the Lennox Hostel as a temporary residence from 1967, described by the first Head, Father Thomas Hegarty as “wooden, single storeyed and very old ... primitive ... basic ... decrepit”!! The (initially) women’s Ursula College was officially opened in October 1968, and the (initially) men’s John XXIII College was officially opened in February 1969, with an academic year fee of \$640!



Opening of Ursula Hall 1968 by Malcolm Fraser (1930-2015), with VC Sir John (Jack) Crawford (1910-1984) and first Head, Sister Angela Cooney; Malcolm Fraser opened John XXIII College in 1969, and re-visited Ursula Hall in 2012.

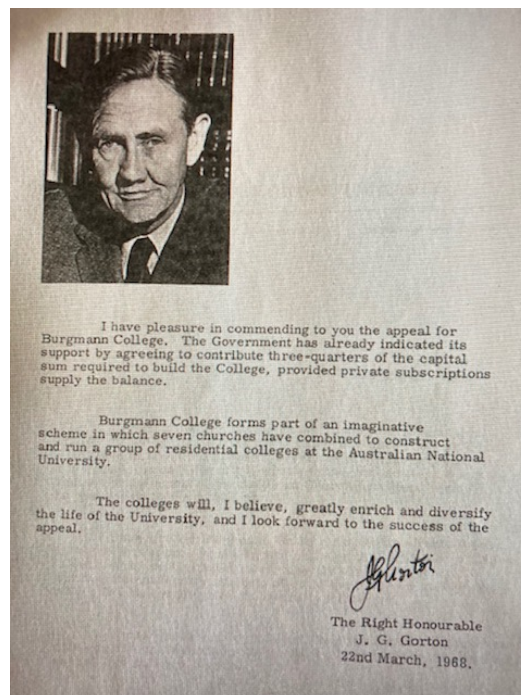
In March 1977, the Sydney Morning Herald published an interview with the first Principal of Ursula College, Sister Angela Cooney, who the previous year had been a Churchill Fellow visiting universities and colleges in Europe, the United States and Canada. In the early 1970s, Ursula College was the first women’s residence in Australia to admit men. There were economic reasons to do so, but Sister Angela noted that the founder of the Order, Angela Merici, had said “*Be always aware of the needs of the times and the need to change accordingly*”. She noted that was “*the motivating force behind our readiness to change and adopt new ideas.*” In relation to what the College offered, she went on to say: “*I hope the general economic pressures of outside society are not going to force us eventually to become (just) another ‘dormitory’ in order to survive.*” Perhaps a continuing wise and prescient warning!

John XXIII College continues to be operated under the Dominican Order, though now with lay headship. The Dominicans ceased to operate St Albert's College, UNE, in 2001, and Mannix College, Monash University, in 2003. The Ursuline Order, which had first opened a 'House of Studies' in Canberra in 1958, ceased to operate Ursula College in 2004. Under University ownership and management, the College became Ursula Hall.¹⁰⁹



John XXIII College and Chapel 1970

Places of learning to enrich and diversify the life of the University:



Letter of support for the Burgmann College Appeal from Prime Minister John Gorton (he became PM in January 1968)¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁹ A Sydney faith-based (non-Catholic) residential college came close to purchasing Ursula College in 2003. Reflective of the secular-sectarian debates of the mid 1800s and of the 1960s & 1970s, it seems the proposal was ditched by the Chancery with last-minute concerns about the potential of the College becoming a base of more strident religious evangelism on campus. This is an episode worthy of further research.

¹¹⁰ ANU Archives: "Affiliation of Halls or Colleges' Part 3, 2.2.1.28

Burgmann College opened in 1971 as the first church-sponsored residential college in Australia to be designed and built as a fully integrated co-residential institution.¹¹¹ The first Master, Dr David Griffin¹¹², was encouraged to do part-time work in the University in order to ensure that he would not be isolated from wider University life. The Council's desire was *“to appoint a person of academic standing to demonstrate that Burgmann was to be more than just a residence. It was to be a place of learning, where the University's teaching was supported and where learning about life in a general sense was encouraged.”*¹¹³ This, of course, has been and continues to be very much the mark of leadership in and character of university collegiate residences. As was and is the case in other such colleges and halls, *“counselling and friendly support made all the difference in helping a student through a particularly rough patch which might otherwise have resulted in disaster.”*¹¹⁴



Burgmann College; Prof David Griffin (1929-2017)

While not accommodating the estimated target of 60% of full-time students in 1972, the Halls and Colleges were able at this time to exceed the University's earlier expectation of half the full-time undergraduate students living on campus.¹¹⁵ The Colleges, as the Halls, were open to students of all faiths or none. The establishment of University owned and managed Halls of Residence and of affiliated denominational Colleges on the campus gave practical and essential support to the development of Australia's national university, as well as the collegiate communities

¹¹¹ *The Place To Be op.cit.* p.135

¹¹² At the time of his appointment, David Griffin was a Reader in Plant Pathology at the University of Sydney. He left Burgmann College in 1974 to be Professor of Forestry at ANU

¹¹³ David Griffin *The Place To Be op.cit.* p.15

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.* p.22

¹¹⁵ S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op.cit.* p.206 (see also p.12 of this paper)

enriching the experience and intellectual life of their residents and of the University as a whole. This is still true and arguably even more so with the changes that have come to colleges (and halls) “*during the past 30 years from within, especially through diversity in residential mix, volunteerism and deepening environmental activism.*” ¹¹⁶

*A New Chapter of ANU Residence – new Halls, commercial developments and partnerships:*¹¹⁷



By the 1990s, times were changing for universities in Australia (as elsewhere), including for the ANU. The term applied to University House of ‘*Oxbridge in the Bush*’ could in many ways have been applied to the University as a whole. As noted in the ANU’s 50th anniversary history, the “*concept of universities as communities of scholars was as old as universities themselves. As they had grown, the communities had been extended to include supporting non-academic staff who, in recent times, usually outnumbered the academics. Thus the fabric of Oxbridge colleges included porters and scouts, as well as masters and wardens. Notwithstanding their distance apart in a well-defined hierarchy, all were expected to give the college their allegiance. The ANU had inherited this tradition of community.*”¹¹⁸ There had been, of course, the student protests that gave context to the opening and naming of Toad

¹¹⁶ Dr Philip Dutton, Principal, Burgmann College ANU, ‘Give it that bold college try’ *The Australian* 14 April 2010

¹¹⁷ This section will be an overview, with a future need for a fuller history of the developments at the ANU and across Australia’s universities

¹¹⁸ S. G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese *op. cit.* pp.292-293

Hall in 1974 as a more non-traditional and managed place of residence – perhaps more a residence of scholars than a scholarly residence in the more ‘traditional’ sense! Twenty years after the 1974 occupation of the Chancelry, it was occupied again as part of a National Day of Action against university fees, reflective of government policies, funding, and, with for example new pressures of student numbers and demand, the developing more corporate nature of the universities. While the 1974 and 1994 “generations took a stand on matters of principle, the issues of the 1990s related more to the pockets of the protesters than to their hearts and minds.”¹¹⁹



Protesting students hold a ‘formal dinner’ in the Mills Room of the Chancelry 1994

While the ANU maintained much of its special character borne from its establishment as a smaller research, national and post-War ‘new regional and world order’ institution, inescapably it became more corporate and commercial, more competitive and more ‘consumer’ focused as successive governments developed greater control of funding and fees, with inter-related connections with industry, the professions and with commerce. Since the 90s, courses and career outcomes increasingly have become public measures of university success as students and their parents seek university places for better prospects of employment. Old ‘collegiality’ has been clouded and even derided as out of touch with the new demands of the marketplace. Higher education was seen as having “*two primary purposes: workforce planning and economic growth.*”¹²⁰ Former ANU Vice-Chancellor (1982-1987), the late Professor Peter Karmel, lamented the abolition, under the Dawkins Reforms of 1988, of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission which he believed removed an

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.* p.369

¹²⁰ Hannah Forsyth *op. cit.* p.98

essential protective buffer against political interference by government in the affairs of the universities.¹²¹



John Dawkins (1947-) & Prof Peter Karmel (1922-2008)

Following the Dawkins Reforms¹²², universities in Australia came to offer comprehensive programs across a large range of disciplines, with total student enrolments increasing from 300,000 in 1989 to 1.4 million in 2017.¹²³ As well as a more diverse domestic student demographic, governments and universities embarked on the development of a massive international student program, which was fees rather than aid based.¹²⁴ In 2017 about one third of Australia's higher education students came on a student visa, compared with one twentieth in 1989.¹²⁵ International student demand was for accommodation close to if not on the campus, and, with very limited funding resources and initially with a view that accommodation is not university core business, universities seized opportunities for residential companies to provide new, larger-scale accommodation facilities.¹²⁶

The development of commercial and 'Purpose Built Student Accommodation' (PBSA) has been described in three stages: (1) residential 'Build-To-Sell' apartment projects with limited aspects of purpose built design; (2) from 2010, national and global investors/operators delivering "*grade assets of scale, coupled with enhanced levels of services*"; and (3), post COVID, the offering of a wider range of tenancy periods and

¹²¹ <https://www.uow.edu.au/-bmartin/dissent/documents/sau/sau04.pdf>

¹²² John Dawkins was Minister for Employment, Education & Training in the Hawke government, 1987-1991

¹²³ Gwilym Croucher & James Waghorne *Australian Universities: A History of Common Cause* UNSW Press, UNSW, 2020, p.179

¹²⁴ Ref. Colombo Plan 1950 -

¹²⁵ *Ibid.* pp.180 & 182

¹²⁶ E.g. Campus Living, UniLodge, Urbanest, Iglu etc.

“more focus on physical and mental well-being with support in both areas increasing.”¹²⁷ From 2007, the UniLodge Company developed, in partnership with the ANU and the ACT Government and in an area of West Civic referred to as the ‘ANU Exchange’, four Residential Lodges – Davey, Kinloch, Warrumbul and Lena Karmel.¹²⁸ Along with residences at the University of Canberra, UniLodge also operates ninety studio units in Academie House on Marcus Clarke Street, Acton.



Davey and Lena Karmel Lodges



Opening of Lena Karmel Lodge 2012, with then ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher, ANU VC (2011-2016) Prof Ian Young, and Lena Karmel

In 2004, Burgmann College opened its Village for postgraduates and later year undergraduate students, as did Bruce Hall in the same year with the opening of the Packard Wing. The modular use of shipping containers formed the Laurus Wing of Ursula Hall, also for postgraduate/graduate students. Officially opened towards the end of 2009, the studio units of the Laurus Wing have been referred to as ‘Chubby’s Cubbies’ after the ANU Vice-Chancellor (2001-2011) Professor Ian Chubb.

¹²⁷ Savills Research (Conal Newland & Paul Savitz) *Australian Student Accommodation 2020* December 2020 p.2

¹²⁸ Named after Lieutenant Matthew Davey RANR (an ANU graduate doctor killed in a helicopter crash in Indonesia in 2005); Dr Hector Kinloch; ‘Warrumbul’ an indigenous word meaning ‘youth’; and Lena Karmel, wife of former ANU VC Peter Karmel)



Burgmann Village; Packard Wing; Laurus Wing

With undersupply of accommodation particularly for first year guarantee undergraduate students in 2010 and 2011, the University made arrangements for supervised residence in places such as the Carotel Motel (Watson), the City Gate Motel (Dickson – now demolished), ‘Unigardens’ (Bruce), the Rex Hotel (across from the old Fenner Hall on Northbourne Avenue), and the Lyneham Motor Inn (Lyneham), which for a Semester, under the honorary Headship of Ian Walker, was re-badged ‘Lyneham Hall’, with the ‘Lyneham Llama’ as its symbol!



‘Lyneham Hall’ (2011)



Welcome to Lyneham Hall residents (at University House) Semester 1 2011

In 2016, the University signed a 30-year concession agreement with investment management firm H. R. L. Morrison & Co, involving provision of ‘hard’ facilities

management services for most of its older and new residences, and an upfront payment to the University that helped to fund the ANU ‘Kambri’ development. In 2019, AMP Capital purchased the ANU’s student accommodation concession from the investors managed by H. R. L. Morrison, on a 34-year concession basis. The University maintains responsibility for operations such as pastoral care, applications and admissions, marketing and resident programs. With the stated aim of ensuring quality accommodation facilities, there are, of course, return obligations of ensuring occupancy and cost efficiencies - a return on the investment that has placed and places a range of pressures on staffing and other resources and on the ongoing character and nature of residential life, albeit with the provision of more and varied accommodation options and more centralised coordination of services.

Coinciding with the concession arrangement, was a gift of some \$200m from ANU alumnus Graham Tuckwell and his wife Louise for the rebuilding of Bruce Hall¹²⁹, where Graham Tuckwell had been a resident, and for an adjacent ‘Wright Hall’, named after a First Fleet convict ancestor of Louise Tuckwell, Joseph Wright (1767-1811). This amount was in addition to the \$50m given in 2013 for the establishment of the Tuckwell Scholarships, with return on the investment in the new Halls to enable the continuation of the scholarship program.



1788 painting of First Fleet ship *Scarborough* that brought Joseph Wright to Sydney; memorial dedicated in 1988 (Joseph was buried in the old Sydney cemetery, the site of the Sydney Town Hall);

Louise Tuckwell

¹²⁹ A great deal of controversy surrounded the demolition of the old Bruce Hall, especially among alumni. <https://www.smh.com.au/opinion/demolishing-bruce-hall-a-sad-indictment-on-the-anu-20160603-gpanlx.html> For some sense of continuity, the new Hall has incorporated a number of features of the old.

The Tuckwell Scholarship Program provides an amount each year for the length of the scholar's ANU undergraduate degree program (full-time) to cover on-campus residential costs, books and general living expenses. One of the conditions of the Program is that scholars must live in an ANU Hall, College or Lodge in their first year, and they are very strongly encouraged to stay in residence for their first three years of study. The first scholars commenced in 2014, with two of the Scholarship's graduates, Marcus Dahl (2014 scholar, Ursula Hall) and Lachlan Arthur (2015 scholar, John XXIII College) awarded the 2020 Australia-at-Large Rhodes Scholarship and 2021 South Australia Rhodes Scholarship respectively.



Rhodes Scholar (2021) Lachlan Arthur, former Academic Adviser at John XXIII College, with the Governor of South Australia HE the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC

The new Bruce and Wright Halls were officially opened in 2019, along with the new Fenner Hall within the 'Kambri' development. 'Wamburun Hall'¹³⁰, initially referred to as SA5, had earlier been opened opposite the Laurus Wing of Ursula Hall and housed the displaced residents of the old Bruce Hall during the demolition and construction of the new Hall.¹³¹ Wamburun Hall is now operated by UniLodge, with a 'hybrid' arrangement with UniLodge for the operation of Bruce, Wright and Fenner Halls¹³².

¹³⁰ 'Wamburun' – an Aboriginal name for the black cockatoo

¹³¹ <https://the-riotact.com/bruce-hall-is-dead-long-live-bruce-hall/195671>

¹³² The old Fenner Hall on Northbourne Avenue has been operated by UniLodge as 'Gowrie Hall' (its previous name as a hostel), but has closed at the end of 2020. There was a deal of student opposition to the move to Kambri, and there have been issues to resolve with the nature of the facilities of the new Hall. <https://anuobserver.org/2017/03/26/fenner-likely-moving-to-union-court/>



Wright and Bruce Halls (2019)



Official opening (Feb 2019) of the new Bruce Hall (cutting the ribbon) by HE Lady Cosgrove, and Wright Hall by HE General Sir Peter Cosgrove (Governor-General), along with the Chancellor, VC, Graham & Louise Tuckwell, the Hall Presidents, and the Head of each Hall (Katrina Boyd & Samitha Ramanayake)



Wamburun Hall & (new) Fenner Hall

Currently under construction and scheduled for opening around 2023 is a residential village adjacent to Burgmann College, to cater for undergraduate and postgraduate students, including for families.¹³³

¹³³ Some delay occurred as a result of the impact in 2020 of COVID-19.



SA8 student village

Residents' concerns and the student voice:

As in previous decades, and as noted, for example, in 1974 and 1994, the student voice was heard in protest in relation to particular matters of residential life during the period 2010 to 2020. This, of course, is hardly unusual or unexpected in university life, and this paper has already referred to protest by residents of Basser College UNSW in 1964 about the admission of women, and by the first residents of Toad Hall about what name the “new student residence” would be given. The first recorded student protest in America took place in a residence Hall dining room at Harvard University in 1766, when students protested about a particularly bad meal with butter that “*stanketh*”, and, although required to eat in Hall, they staged a ‘strike’ the next day by having breakfast in Boston! It was referred to as the ‘Great Butter Rebellion’!¹³⁴

In 2014, the ANU Interhall Council endorsed a ‘strike’ or boycott of Open Day over announced changes involving things such as a centralised application system, new criteria to reduce the number of returning residents, and a 5% fee increase for catered residences and a 7% increase for self-catered. There was expressed concern about the impact of the increases on affordability, and about the overall impact of changes on the individual character and culture of the Halls. In 2019 another Open Day ‘strike’ was called in protest particularly about a decision to remove the position of Deputy Head in some of the Halls and the consequent impact on the work of the Heads as

¹³⁴ <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2012/04/harvards-long-ago-student-risings/> - referred to in a speech by Ian Walker to the NAAUC HRC Formal Dinner, University House, University of Melbourne, 2 December 2019 *Planting seeds and ideas for something better: a reflection on leadership in university residential communities*

well as on the increased demands and pressures on student leaders, especially in the light of the recommendations of the then recent NOUS Review. In a subsequent forum, the Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tony Foley, commented that “*we tried an experiment, didn’t we, about the pastoral care ... and I don’t think there is anyone in this room who doesn’t think that experiment was a failure.*”¹³⁵ One of the outcomes was the establishment in a number of the ANU Halls of the position of Residential Wellbeing Coordinator.



Presidents and residents in protest 2014 and 2019

The resident student voice was also very engaged in responding to the Human Rights’ Commission Report on Sexual Assault & Harassment (2017)¹³⁶, with former Bruce Hall Senior Resident and 2021 Rhodes Scholar, Freya Willis, commenting “*My proudest memory of my time at ANU was gathering together students on the lawns of ANU Chancelry to voice our pain, concerns and desire for change to the Vice-Chancellor in the wake of the release of the Australian Human Rights Commission’s ‘Changing the Course’ report into sexual assault and sexual harassment on university campuses ... It was an empowering demonstration of strength and solidarity.*”¹³⁷



Rhodes Scholar (2021) Freya Willis

¹³⁵ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-13/anu-suicide-support-students-on-campus-canberra/11505138>

¹³⁶ <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/sex-discrimination/publications/change-course-national-report-sexual-assault-and-sexual>

¹³⁷ <https://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/two-anu-students-hitting-the-rhode-to-oxford>

Continuing the enrichment of the experience and intellectual life of the University:

At the laying of the foundation stone of University House, John Dedman, who had been Minister for Post-War Reconstruction and had introduced the Bill in the House of Representatives to establish the ANU, noted that the “*halls (of the House) and the common rooms will in effect prove to be a great catalyst (for) a fusion of ideas in interrelated fields of research.*”¹³⁸ His words reflected much of the nature of residential scholarly communities, and something of what Joe Burton had written about the contribution that the diversity of halls of residence and colleges would make to the University. They would be places of learning as much as of living, of intellectual engagement across cultures and across various levels of a range of disciplines.



John Dedman (1896-1973)

Such contribution to the experience and intellectual life of the University was expressed by ANU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Chubb, in 2008 when he said that “*if I could get ANU to be a wholly collegiate university tomorrow, I would do it. I would do it because I believe that a leaning community where people can study together and live together is one that can provide additional benefits to the students that go way beyond the acquisition of knowledge and skills derived in the classroom.*”¹³⁹



Prof Ian Chubb AC & Dr Don Markwell

¹³⁸ Jill Waterhouse *op. cit.* p.18

¹³⁹ Reported in a speech by Dr Don Markwell (now Master, St Mark’s College, Adelaide) to the 2008 NAAUC Conference at UWA, where Markwell was then Deputy Vice-Chancellor:
<http://collegiateway.org/news/2008-markwell-naauc>

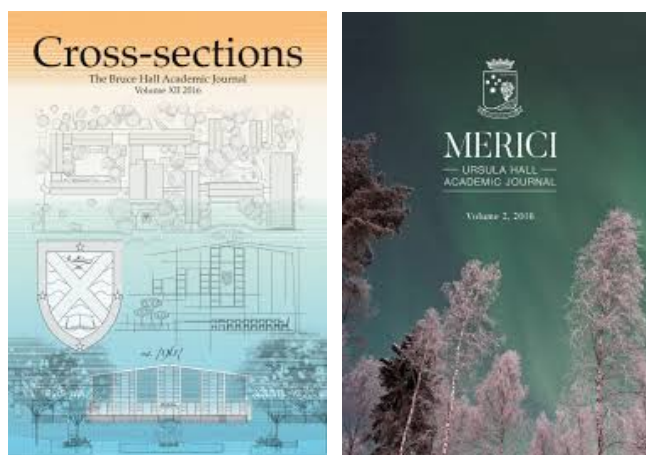
Professor Chubb set up a ‘Review of the Role of Halls, Residential Colleges and Lodges in the Academic Life of the University’ in 2009, which in its objectives stated that the “*University is committed to a high quality and enriched educational, cultural and social experience for all its students. Halls, Residential Colleges and Lodges play a pivotal role in achieving this goal.*” The Review Report noted (p.5) that “*many student residents expressed the desire to see the balance between academic and non-academic activities in the residences redressed with greater emphasis being given to academic initiatives.*” In the same year, an ACER research briefing, supported by the Association of Heads of Australian University Colleges & Halls Inc. (AHAUCHI, now University Colleges Australia), noted that “*students living in residence are equally, and in many instances, more engaged than others, particularly in terms of participation in active learning and enriching experiences, their interactions with staff, and their perceptions of support.*” It further noted that “*... many colleges offer supplementary academic programs that can have a direct impact on learning and development outcomes ... By relating to the student as an individual, immersing them in an intellectual climate, providing for greater informal contact with academic staff, linking learning with people’s lives, and exposing them to enriching academic contexts, colleges can play a very important role in shaping student expectations and their sense of what they would like to achieve.*”¹⁴⁰

Since 2009, with an increase in the number and variety of residential options, and also with a number of administrative and pastoral reviews and arrangements, there has developed a greater level of collaboration in such areas as training, policy development, and wellbeing support across the Halls, Houses, Colleges and Lodges – in part more recently spurred on by the 2017 Australian Human Rights Commission Report on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in Australian Universities, the 2018

¹⁴⁰ Hamish Coates & Daniel Edwards *Engaging College Communities: The impact of residential colleges in Australian higher education* AUSSE Research Briefings, Vol.4, June 2009 pp.1-3

NOUS Review of ANU residences¹⁴¹, and by the impact of COVID-19.¹⁴² Again, there is a separate Division of Residential Experience.¹⁴³

Much in line with, for example, the intentions of the 1854 Sydney University Affiliated Colleges Act, the words of John Dedman and Professor Bill Stanner in the foundation and opening of University House, the sentiments of Professor Joe Burton, the pioneering work of Heads such as Bill Packard and Sister Angela Cooney, and the aspirations of Professor Ian Chubb, ANU residences have and continue to foster individual and collective engagement in the experience and intellectual life of the University. Residential student leadership development and activity, as well as sport, social and cultural events, combine with the appointment of Fellows and Early Career Academic and Associate Fellows; guest speakers, panels, forums and ‘High Tables’; academic dinners, mentoring and awards; Journal Clubs and academic journals, such as ‘Cross-sections’ (Bruce Hall) and ‘Merici’ (Ursula Hall); 3 Minute Thesis and research presentations; HDR and parent support groups; link activities with ANU and College academic, library, counselling and career support teams; and ‘Community Spirit’ and a range of health and wellbeing programs. As ‘24/7’ communities, there is an ever-increasing focus on ensuring resident safety and critical incident support.



¹⁴¹<https://services.anu.edu.au/news-events/review-of-anu-residences-response-to-sexual-assault-and-sexual-harassment>

¹⁴² A great deal of consultative and collaborative effort across campus and residences continues to be put in to responding to the issues highlighted in the AHRC and follow-up NOUS Reports, including with the role of the newly established Respectful Relationships Unit.

¹⁴³ A Review in 2010 resulted in the Division of Residential & Campus Communities, prior to the Division being absorbed into the Division of the Registrar Student Life following a further Review in 2013.



HDR Group at Toad Hall; ANU UniLodge Community Spirit Program

At the opening of a new Wing of St. John’s College at the University of Queensland in August 2006, then Commonwealth Education Minister and now ANU Chancellor, the Honourable Julie Bishop, noted that residential college communities feature in all the finest institutions ... with their *“high degree of individual attention and interaction for students, the sense of intellectual engagement beyond the classroom, and the focus on student welfare, character values and extracurricular activities.”*¹⁴⁴ Engagement, a sense of belonging and being known, and ‘placed-based’ community and connection are key aspects of the enriching role of residence in the student experience – aspects that can play a vital part in whatever becomes the ‘new normal’ of university life and learning beyond COVID-19.¹⁴⁵ With Government emphasis on ‘job ready’ graduates, residences are well-placed to offer, for example, a range of programs and activities that promote and develop the ever-increasing demand for ‘soft skills’.

One of the first Tuckwell Scholars (2014), a former Residents’ Committee President and Senior Resident at Ursula Hall, member of the Executive of the National Association of Australian University Colleges (NAAUC), recipient of the 2018 ANU Tillyard Prize, and 2020 Australia-at-Large Rhodes Scholar, Marcus Dahl, has written *“there is absolutely no way in which I could successfully describe my year at Ursies in 2014 on a page like this ... to describe how much this place means to me ... I have ANU and Ursula Hall to thank for encouraging me to be myself and maintain my*

¹⁴⁴ https://stjohnscollegefoundation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/The_Johnian_Vol_10_Number_2_2006-8.pdf

¹⁴⁵ Much of 2020 was dominated by the impact of and reaction to COVID-19, with most domestic students off campus for much of the year and international students unable to arrive or come back.

passion for law outside the classroom, because that is what made me work harder and care more about achieving.”¹⁴⁶



ANU Chancellor (2020-) Julie Bishop; Marcus Dahl with Rowena Wedd (Ursula Hall Deputy), Ian Walker, and VC Brian Schmidt 2018

“Ambassadors for every province in the republic of the mind”:

In November 2019, current ANU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt AC FRS, commented: *“We are fortunate that ANU already attracts some of the world's best students - our responsibility is to create an experience that is as enriching as possible, going well beyond our course offerings. Our ambition is that every student will have the opportunity to live on campus as part of an intellectually rich environment that extends their thinking beyond their own discipline. Another of our responsibilities in preparing our students for life and leadership is to avoid our campus becoming a homogenous bubble.”*¹⁴⁷ The ANU Halls, Houses, Colleges and Lodges have had and have a significant place and part to play in the experience and intellectual life of the University. Such a place and role cannot be taken for granted in a University that prides its position as among the world’s top higher education institutions. Good university residence is neither merely managed accommodation nor, as Sister Angela Cooney cautioned, just dormitories, no matter what the number and quality of beds, buildings and facilities. The opportunity to live on campus is an opportunity of engagement and enrichment that both supports and enhances the University’s role of teaching and research, as well as a transformative experience of personal and intellectual development and of life-long and global friendships and connections.

¹⁴⁶ Letter to Ian Walker 2014, and ANU news article: <https://law.anu.edu.au/news-and-events/news/ursula-hall-johannesburg-anu-law-scholar-pursues-passion-law-global-stage>
¹⁴⁷ <https://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/a-great-university-is-first-made-by-its-students>

In 2012 and 2016 the ANU hosted conferences of University Colleges Australia (UCA) which, in 2016, combined with the second conference of Collegiate Way International.¹⁴⁸ Attendees Professor Martyn Evans, then Principal of Trevelyan College, Durham, and Professor Tim Burt, then Master of Hatfield College, Durham, had referred in an article in the proceedings of the first CWI Conference to words of T. S Eliot: “*We read many books because we cannot meet enough people*”; they commented: “*In collegiate life we certainly read, but we do more than read – we can actually meet and converse with exponents of almost every form of scholarly interest in the wider world, ambassadors for every province in the republic of the mind.*”¹⁴⁹



Prof. Martyn Evans & Tim Burt (seated left) @ CWI/UCA Conference ANU 2016

In 2020, ANU residences, in the context of COVID-19, were described as potentially the ‘cruise ships’ of the campus. In the role they play in enriching the experience and intellectual life of the University, they might also be described as ‘embassies of the republic of the mind’.

January 2021

¹⁴⁸ The first CWI conference was held at Durham University UK in 2014.

¹⁴⁹ H. M. Evans & T. P. Burt (Eds.) *The Collegiate Way: University Education in a Collegiate Context* Sense Publishers, Rotterdam 2016, Chapter 7, p.77

Chronological Summary

- 1856 **St. Paul's College**, University of Sydney – Australia's first residential college
- 1946 **ANU** established – the first of the 'second wave' of Australian universities
- 1949-1953 Canberra University College uses '**Gungahlin**' for accommodation
- 1953 **Lennox House** operated by the ANU - from 1960 this building became known as 'Lennox House', after David Lennox (1788-1873), pioneer bridge builder, New South Wales and Victoria.
- 1954 **University House** opened by Prince Philip
- 1961 **Bruce Hall** opened as the first undergraduate Hall
- 1965 **Burton Hall** and **Garran Hall** opened (combined as Burton & Garran Hall in 1983)
- 1967 **John XXIII College** opened in the Lennox Huts as temporary accommodation (officially opened in 1969 in building adjacent to Ursula College)
- 1968 **Ursula College** officially opened (owned & managed by the University from 2004 as Ursula Hall)
- 1971 **Burgmann College** opened
- Graduate House** opened on cnr. Northbourne Ave & Barry Drive
- 1974 **Toad Hall** opened
- 1992 **Fenner Hall** opened in former Gowrie Hostel
- 1998 **(New) Graduate House** opened adjacent to University House (administered by University House from 2002)
- 2004 **Burgmann Village** and **Packard Wing** (Bruce Hall) opened
- 2007-2012 **Davey, Kinloch, Warrumbul & Lena Karmel Lodges** opened
- 2009/2010 **Laurus Wing** (Ursula Hall) opened
- 2010/2011 **Temporary accommodation** provided for excess number of students
- 2017 **SA5** opened – became **Wamburun Hall** in 2019

2019	Opening of (new) Bruce, Wright and (new) Fenner Halls
2019-2020	Gowrie Hall operated by UniLodge in former Fenner Hall building
2023	Anticipated opening of SA8

Some related papers by Ian Walker

Church, College & Campus: the Sacred and the Secular in the Foundation of Denominational Colleges in Australian Universities, with particular reference to certain colleges in universities established in the period 1945-1975 PhD Thesis, UNSW, 2002, [UNSW Library & UCA Website](#):

<https://universitycollegesaustralia.edu.au/members/research-papers>

“Dare to be Wise”: Robert Gordon Menzies and the Value of Church Colleges in Geoffrey R. Treloar & Robert D. Linder (Eds.) ‘Making History for God: Essays on Evangelicalism, Revival & Mission – in honour of Stuart Piggin, Master of Robert Menzies College 1990-2004’, [Robert Menzies College](#), Sydney 2004, Part 1 [National Library of Australia Bib.ID 3416822](#)

“A Great Emporium of False and Anti-Church Views”: The Foundations of Anglican Residential Colleges in Sydney’s Secular Universities in *The Role of Catholic Colleges in the Modern University – Papers from an International Colloquium*, [St. John’s College, University of Sydney](#), Anchor Books Australia, Sydney, 2008.

“Educationally less satisfactory”: some controversy in the establishment of church residential colleges within the Australian National University – an Address to the Friends of the Church of St. John the Baptist, Canberra, May 2009, [National Library of Australia Bib.ID 5078584](#)

From Colleges to Commercial Investment: collegiality, challenge and compromise in the provision of Australian university residence 1856-2016 [UCA Website op.cit](#)

“Cultivating the worst form of sectarianism”: conviction and controversy in the establishment of denominational colleges in Australian universities, with particular reference to the University of Queensland and to the centenary of St. Leo’s College Paper to mark the centenary of St. Leo’s College UQ, 2017, [UCA Website](#):

<https://universitycollegesaustralia.edu.au/members/archives>

‘Such Friends’: why Australian university collegiate residences still matter [UCA Website \(Research Papers\) op. cit.](#) 2018, and Collegiate Way International ‘Featured Publications’: <http://www.collegiatewayinternational.com/publications.html>

'Head First': The Foundation Heads of ANU Houses, Colleges and Halls [UCA Website \(Archives\)](#) *op. cit.* November 2019

"The World as our Encyclopedia": the Importance of International Students Collegiate Way International – Newsletter, July 2020, Vol.1



Photo by Toad Hall resident (2019-2020) Roslyn Reyes