

FIRST PUBLISHED
IN 1934

ARSA

THE AUSTRALIAN --- RHODES REVIEW

Michaelmas Term 2023



Australian Rhodes Scholar Class of 2023

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to the Michaelmas edition of the *Australian Rhodes Review* and an update on what has been a busy year for Rhodes Scholarship in Australia.

The 2023 National Dinner was held on 18 March at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney and it was a sold-out event. We were honoured to have Noel Pearson as our guest speaker. The evening was particularly special with **Bede Jones** (TAS & St Anthony's 2017) sharing his reflections on being our second Indigenous Rhodes Scholar, and on the impact the Scholarship has had in his life. We were also delighted that some of the most senior members of our community were able to attend, including the Honourable Chief Justice **Andrew Bell** (NSW & Magdalen 1990), the Honourable Justices **Angus Stewart** (Natal & Corpus Christi 1992), **Jeremy Kirk** (AAL & Magdalen 1994) and **Richard Cogswell** (TAS & St Peter's 1974), **Mike Fitzpatrick** AO (WA & St John's 1975), Trustee of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust, **Ben Gauntlett** (WA & St John's 2003), then Disability Discrimination Commissioner and **Don Markwell** AM (QLD & Trinity 1981), former Warden of Rhodes House. Some photos from our wonderful evening of camaraderie and conviviality are on page 8. An audio recording of Noel's speech can be found [here](#).

I was also delighted to meet the 2023 Rhodes Scholars one the same day in Sydney during their Welcome and Orientation Session. As always, **Peter Kanowski** (AAL & St John's 1983) did an excellent job as facilitator.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the longstanding contribution of **Graham Craig** (South Africa-at-Large & Brasenose 1974). After 10 years, Graham is retiring from his role as ARSA Treasurer and ARSA State Secretary for Victoria. We are seeking expressions of interests for both roles.

Heartiest congratulations are extended to **Marnie Hughes-Warrington AO** (TAS & Merton 1992) who the Rhodes Trustees have selected to receive the George Parkin Service Award 2021-22. The Award recognises extraordinary voluntary service to the Rhodes Trust or its affiliated organisations over time. The Warden presented Marnie with her award at the Coming Up Dinner in November 2023. Marnie's reflections on George Parkin and the amalgamation of The University of South Australia and the University of Adelaide "*Creating Adelaide University*" can be found on page 23.

Our feature article on page 18 is written by **Hannah Tonkin** (SA & Balliol 2005) the inaugural New South Wales Women's Safety Commissioner. **Lauren Skinner** (SA & Green Templeton 2022) shares her reflections as Scholar in Residence on page 12.

I am pleased to announce that **Godfrey Nkajja**, the inaugural recipient of the John Poynter Scholarship has recently been accepted into a PhD program at the University of Queensland. Godfrey arrived in Australia in September 2022 from Uganda to study for a Master of Molecular Biology. You can read about what Godfrey has been up to on page 19. I am also pleased to announce that the 2023 recipient of the John Poynter Scholarship is Ms Tanzeela Wazir from India. Tanzeela is applying for a Master of Clinical Psychology degree at the University of Melbourne's School of Psychological Sciences.

As 2023 draws to a close, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you and yours for a merry and safe festive season, and a happy new year 2024.

I do hope that you enjoy reading this edition of the *Review*.



Dr Chloe Flutter
(NSW & Hertford College 1999)

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S UPDATE

The normal biennial cycle of meetings of National Secretaries from all Rhodes constituencies resumed this year after a COVID-induced hiatus. As with the previous meetin in 2019, I joined with Marnie Hughes- Warrington in sharing experiences, perspectives and good practices with my 24 National Secretary counterparts. The Rhodes House team was also very helpful. Given the diversity of the Rhodes constituencies, some of the challenges are different from those we face (e.g. managing the thousands of applications each round in India and West Africa). But many are similar – reaching as broad a pool of prospective good candidates as possible; assessing applications in the era of generative AI; supporting committees' capacity to assess candidates' achievement relative to opportunity; managing candidates' expectations in an increasingly litigious environment.

The timing of Australian selection rounds now lags behind most other constituencies. We plan to bring them forward a month from next year, in part to ensure that AAL Scholars can meet the new Oxford application deadlines. We will also collaborate with a number of 'like' constituencies, such as Canada and New Zealand, to share experiences of strategies for further strengthening diversity in our candidate pools.

The meeting also marked the retirement of a number of long-serving Secretaries, notably **Elliot Gerson** (Connecticut & Magdalen 1974) and **Peter Goldson** (Jamaica & St Johns 1985), each of whom have served more than 25 years in the role. You may recognise some of your contemporaries from the official group portrait of National Secretaries below (for a list of Secretaries, follow the [links](#)).



National Secretaries in front of the new glass pavilion at Rhodes House, June 2023

National Secretaries Week also provided an opportunity for me to meet most of the Australian Scholars-in-Residence, both at Rhodes House and around the 120th Reunion. As usual, it was a pleasure to hear of the many joys of Oxford life, and informative to hear of some of its contemporary challenges. The former would be familiar to you; amongst the latter is the issue of funding for the 4th year now required by many DPhil programs, and which many Australian Scholars are pursuing. Helping address the resultant funding gap is one of the issues on the Rhodes House agenda.

As I write, the Australian Class of 2023 have arrived in Oxford and, in most cases, the courses and colleges of their choice. It was a delight to welcome almost all of them to the National Dinner in March, and an orientation event earlier that day.

This year’s applications closed on 8 September 2023, and elections were between 20 October 2023 (WA) and 16 November 2023 (Australia-at-Large). I thank all of those who are assisting in this selection round, as Advisors, or Committee or Secretariat Members. Since the last ARR, **Andrew Burnett** (Cape Province & University 1970) has kindly taken on the Western Australian Secretary’s role and **Merlin Crossley** (VIC & Magdalen 1987) the NSW Secretary’s role, as **Jen Martin** (NZ & LMH 1993) steps away to assume the Presidency of the Royal Australian College of Physicians. We are looking forward to another selection round in which the strength and qualities of Rhodes candidates both impresses and humbles us.



Professor Peter Kanowski
National Secretary for Australia
(AAL & St John’s 1983)



Australian Scholars-in-Residence with Peter Kanowski, at Rhodes House June 2023

L-R: Lauren Skinner, Calum Braaham, Pat Maclean, Maddy Macgregor, Claudia Paul, Ben Jones, Peter Kanowski, Mudith Jayasekara, Jesse Schelfhout, Lachie Arthur, Siobhan Tobin, Sarah Short, Nick Salmon, Rosemary Kirk, Kathryn Woodward

AUSTRALIAN ALUMNI EVENTS

VICTORIA

Our 2022 end-of-year celebration was hosted by **Mark Cassidy** (QLD & New College 1995) at Melbourne Connect. We welcomed Joy Lee, Executive Director of RSA & ARSA, and **Harrison Jones** (VIC & Balliol 2023), Victoria's scholar-elect. Guests included University of Melbourne staff who operate the John Poynter Scholarship, executives from the Oxford University Society of Victoria and BCG staff who manage the RSA & ARSA accounts.



Photos from the 2023 end-of-year celebrations at Melbourne Connect, the University of Melbourne

Forty-six Senior Scholars and guests gathered on 26 July 2023 to bid ‘*bon voyage*’ to **Harrison Jones** (VIC & Balliol 2023). The event took place at Graduate House at the University of Melbourne.

Professor **Ann Nicholson** (VIC & St John’s 1988) delivered the Acknowledgement of Country and spoke about the Victorian selection process which resulted in the award to Harrison Jones. The number and quality of applications was pleasing with initial interviews done online. Ann thanked the selectors and noted that selection in 2023 will be chaired by the newly appointed Governor, Her Excellency Margaret Gardner who was formerly Vice Chancellor of Monash University.

Dr Laura Hilly (AAL & Magdalen 2023) introduced the guest speakers and through the evening spoke about the reunion in Oxford a few weeks prior.



Our guest speaker was Justice **Mark Moshinsky** (AAL & Magdalen 1989), a Federal Court Judge and Acting President of the Australian Law Reform Commission. His talk entitled “*Thinking, Fast and Slow’ and judicial decision making*” addressed the application of Nobel-laureate Daniel Kahneman’s dual process model. Our mind has two distinct operating systems which Kahneman calls System 1 and System 2. System 1 represents fast, intuitive and effortless choices whereas System 2 represents deliberate, difficult ones. Justice Moshinsky described his experiences of endeavouring to form a decision using System 2 and coping with the impulses from System 1.

Harrison’s speech was entitled ‘*Reflections on Place and Purpose*’. In it, Harrison spoke about places that have had meaning for him and the purpose motivating the things that he has done. Harrison graduated in law and politics at Monash University and spent this year undertaking his graduate year with a law firm in Melbourne.

The evening concluded with Rhodes Trustee, **Mike Fitzpatrick** reporting on the activities of the Trust and the 120th anniversary celebrations.

Submitted by: **Graham Craig** (South Africa-at-Large & Brasenose 1974)

NEW SOUTH WALES

Newly appointed NSW State Social Secretary **Grace Henry** (NSW & Keble 2020) organised a delightful send off for 2023 NSW Rhodes Scholar **Sarah Hayne** (NSW & Jesus 2023) on 1 September. We were also delighted that Mudith Jayasekara (NSW & 2022) was able to join us and receive a belated send off by the NSW Scholar community. Over fifty Scholars (and their partners) from 1974 to 2022 joined in the merriments. We are grateful to the **Hon. Chief Justice Andrew Bell** who very kindly hosted the event in his private garden at the Supreme Court of NSW.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Australian Rhodes Scholar Association (SA Chapter) held its Annual General Meeting on 30 August 2023 at Singapore House. The evening marked a wonderful occasion to catch up with colleagues and farewell our newest scholar, **Bridget Smart** (SA & St John's 2023). Bridget will be pursuing further study in applied mathematics and statistics during her time in Oxford. We were also delighted to be joined by **Lauren Skinner** (SA & Green Templeton 2022) who just happened to be visiting Adelaide, and provided updates on her time in Oxford to date. The evening concluded - as is tradition - with the sharing of the COVID-safe loving cup!

Submitted by: **Alyssa Fitzpatrick** (SA & Magdalen 2013)

TASMANIA

Sam Climie (TAS & LMH 2023) writes:

I will be studying a MSc in Environmental Change and Management and living at Lady Margaret Hall. I was awestruck when I first saw the historic buildings and town of Oxford. As I walked through the ancient institution that has housed and trained world-renowned scholars, I simply couldn't believe that I would soon be starting my own journey here. I was equally impressed with Rhodes House, both the warm welcoming feel (greatly contributed to by Mary) and its sleek design. I hope to make the most of my time at Oxford. It certainly feels like a place of inspiration and growth.

Submitted by: **Jess Radford** (TAS & St Anthony's 2004)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Rhodes Scholars in Western Australia met for the annual farewell dinner in Perth on 31 August 2023 at *Chez Pierre* in Nedlands. It was a wonderful evening sending off two very impressive scholars on their way to Oxford. **Riley Faulds** (WA & Worcester 2023) is planning to balance his passions for climate and agricultural science with creative writing. **James Leigh** (AAL & Jesus 2023) is a medical doctor planning to make a big impact in medical research and policy. Both are avid hockey players although it is still to be determined if they'll ply their talents for the Blues this year.



Submitted by: **Richard O'Halloran** (WA & Brasenose 2017)

The dinner featured some old tales, new faces, and the obligatory discussion on the state of the mining industry. Any scholar who finds themselves on this side of the Nullarbor should contact me at ohalloran.ra@gmail.com to be included on the social calendar.

2023 NATIONAL DINNER

The much-anticipated National Dinner was held after a 3-year hiatus on 18 March 2023. Over ninety Senior Scholars and guests gathered at the Museum of Contemporary Art for a lively evening of animated discussion, friendship and reminiscing, with indigenous Scholar **Bede Jones** as the MC. Uncle Lloyd Walker from the Gujaga Foundation gave the Welcome to Country. Her Excellency the Governor of NSW Margaret Beazley (who was accompanied by her husband Mr Dennis Wilson) spoke about her experiences as Chair of the NSW scholar selection panel and she then introduced the 2023 Scholars Elect.



The guest speaker for the evening was Indigenous lawyer, academic and community leader Noel Pearson. Mr Pearson is from the Guugu Yimidhirr community of Hope Vale on the Cape York Peninsula. He shared his experiences as an Indigenous student and leader, as well as forward putting an impassioned case for the affirmative in the 2023 Australian Indigenous Voice referendum. An audio recording of Mr Pearson’s speech can be found [here](#).

Bede Jones then gave a very personal speech about his background as an Indigenous person and shared his reflections on how transformative the Rhodes Scholarship has been for him. Many attendees commented on how moved they were by Bede’s honesty and insight into the life and the community's expectations of a young Indigenous person.



A selection of photos from the National Dinner





CLASS OF 2023

WELCOME AND ORIENTATION SESSION

A welcome and orientation session was held for the 2023 Scholars-Elect on 18 March 2023 at BCG’s Sydney office. **Susan Scott** (Rhodes Fellow & Somerville 1985) **Anna Oldmeadow** ACT Co-Secretary (AAL & University 2005) and Mike Fitzpatrick were the guest speakers. Newly appointed New Zealand National Secretary **Duncan McGillivray** (NZ & St John’s 2000) and WA State Secretary **Andrew Burnett** also attended the session.

Peter facilitated a discussion on the “*role*” of a Rhodes Scholar and how one brings his or her personality, skills, motivations and personal history to that role. Recently returned Scholars **Oliver Gales** (TAS & SEH 2020), **Grace Henry** and **Michael Rees** (AAL & St John’s 2019) and Scholar in Residence **Marcus Dahl** (AAL & SEH 2020) shared their perspectives on making the best of life in Oxford.



SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

LAUREN SKINNER (SA & GREEN TEMPLETON 2022)

For me, my experience at Oxford has been a long time coming. I decided in my early teenage years that I wanted to be an Oxford student, and I was accompanied throughout my final year of school by an Oxford University postcard taped to my desk – a motivating gift courtesy of my sister and now brother-in-law. While I had hopes of attending Oxford immediately following high school, one of my teachers kindly pointed out to me some of the logistical and financial challenges associated with that and suggested that I instead set my sights on postgraduate study at Oxford, where there were more opportunities for scholarships, such as the Rhodes scholarship. Seventeen-year-old me did a quick Google search and decided that, yes, that sounded good – I would simply get a Rhodes scholarship.

Fast forward a couple of years and university was somewhat of a reality check. I realised that Rhodes scholarships are actually quite competitive, and I recall that I used to read the online Rhodes bios only to freak myself out and decide that these people were supremely impressive superhumans with whom I could not compete. For some time, I dismissed my Oxford as out of my league and focused instead on graduating and being employed. Still, at the back of my mind as I joined committees and applied for internships and entered myself into essay competitions, was the fact that, one day, I wanted to study overseas. Towards the end of my undergraduate studies, I was given advice that – based on my grades and resumé – Oxford was not a pipe dream, and I began to think more seriously about applying. And so, the resume building continued, with more committees, speaking engagements, reaching out to mentors, and generally over-committing and over-exerting myself as required. And then, via Zoom one day in the spare room in my share house in Canberra, all of my wildest dreams came true: I was going to be a Rhodes scholar.

It took a long time for this to sink in for me. During a Rhodes orientation event last year, I recounted to my cohort of scholars that, during my first week in Oxford, I had a dream that I was asked to come in and re-interview for my scholarship, as the panel had a few further questions for me. Over the year between my selection and travelling to Oxford, I checked the Rhodes website countless times to see if my name was still there, and each time it was I felt a small shock of surprise.

So, given all these years of dreaming about those dreamy spires, how has the real Oxford stacked up? From a young age, I think my interest in Oxford came from my impression (largely thanks to Philip Pullman) that it was a magical city in which the true idea of a university continued to exist; it was a place of intellectual curiosity, of people with big ideas, a place where great minds would converge to debate, discuss, and determine the answers to life's greatest questions. From a young age, I have loved to learn, and the idea of a whole city of people dedicated to learning thrilled me.

This past year has not disappointed teenage me. The Oxford of my dreams has translated well to the Oxford that is now my reality. Perhaps I have not discussed Shakespeare or required as much Latin as I may have thought (this is lucky, I know very little about Shakespeare and can speak no Latin), but I have learnt so much. I now have friends from across the globe with whom I have learnt and grown as we have discussed and debated and learnt from one another's lived experiences. I have learnt to code, taken Arabic and Spanish classes, joined the Oxford AFL club, rowed for the first time ever (including on the hallowed waters of Henley), experienced an Oxford ball, dined at many college formals, witnessed day five of an Ashes test match, worked in a British pub, seen three musicals in London's West End, and have travelled to ten different countries. It has been a year full of learning – about myself, about others, and about the world; but, at the same time, it has been a year full of fun.

In some respects, it has been a far cry from the resumé building years I experienced previously. In a recent phone call with my sister, I expressed frustration that I felt like I wasn't achieving anything; there were no obvious lines to add to my CV. Perhaps this feels like an odd sentiment to express when you are undertaking a postgraduate degree at one of the world's best universities. To a large extent, this feeling arose due to the fact that I recently transferred to an MPhil, which meant that while I was enjoying my summer and wandering the streets of Prague, most of my friends were submitting their theses. However, to some extent, this also represents a broader sentiment I have grappled with since my election as a Rhodes scholar. This was something I had worked towards for such a long time, that when I achieved it, I spent a long time thinking, well what next?



Athens in May



My sister and I on a road trip in Albania

At some point leading up to my departure to Oxford, I decided that my *'what next'* was to enjoy myself and to do the things that I wanted to do. I have an extremely strong desire to pursue a career in which I am contributing to the good of the world around me, and Rhodes has only strengthened that, but I have worked hard over this past year to accept that there will be a time for this, and that it is ok to experience the world and enjoy myself in the meantime. And enjoy myself I have. While I have continued to grapple with the high-achiever, perfectionist side of myself that is desperate to apply for the next internship or say yes to my millionth commitment this week. I have worked harder on investing in relationships,



The Oxford AFL team after our grand final win in Birmingham

taking time to build friendships, and saying yes to experiences that will never make it to my resumé. Coming in to my second year at Oxford, I am excited to experience Oxford life from a place of security, stability, and community that was not present this time last year. I will be on the AFL club committee and on my college boat club committee; I will be taking Arabic classes again; I will, at some point, write my thesis; and I am currently tossing up between visiting friends in Southern Africa, a language school in Jordan, or taking my £600 Ford Focus for a spin through southern France and Spain.

And, most of all, I'll continue to work on spending a little less time thinking, *'but what's next?'*.

WARDEN'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

In April 2023, the local Rhodes community was delighted to welcome the Warden of Rhodes House **Elizabeth Kiss** (Virginia & Balliol 1983), her husband Jeff Holzgreffe and Frewyeni Kidane, Director of Advancement and Engagement – International, to Australia. Although her visit was brief, Dr Kiss was able to meet with Scholars in Perth, Sydney and Melbourne.

PERTH

The Perth event was held at St George's College. It was organised by RSA Director Glen Power (WA & Magdalen 1992), Andrew Burnett and Richard O'Halloran.



SYDNEY

Patrick Forth (Zimbabwe & Keble 1981) and his wife Jules graciously hosted Dr Kiss at their beautiful home in Sydney's lower north shore. Later in the evening, Dr Kiss met with former National Secretary Marnie-Hughes Warner, and NSW State Secretary Merlin Crossley and Jen Martin NSW State Secretary Emeritus.





MELBOURNE

The alumni gathering in Melbourne was similarly well attended. It was held at Dame Café in the CBD and was kindly hosted by Mike Fitzpatrick and his wife, Helen Sykes; with Mike's assistant Vicki Groat organising the event.



CONGRATULATIONS

Heartiest congratulations to the following Scholars.

Ian Jackman (NSW & University 1995) and **Catherine Button** (AAL & Magdalen 1999) on their appointments as judges of the Federal Court of Australia.

Susan Scott (Rhodes Visiting Fellow & Somerville 1985) on being awarded the Blaise Pascal Medal for Physics by the European Academy of Sciences in Brussels. It is the first Blaise Pascal Medal ever awarded to an Australian. This prestigious international award recognises her research in General Relativity, Cosmology and Gravitational Wave science.

SCHOLARS IN THE NEWS

Rhodes Scholars are often in the news and making news. Here is a sampling of both.

Sarah Bachelard (AAL & Balliol 1990) delivered the [sermon](#) at the service for the start of Parliament.

Simon Chesterman (AAL & Magdalen 1997) published his first work of general fiction, [Artifice](#).

Danielle Clode (SA & Balliol 1990) has recently [published](#) *Koala: A Life in Trees*. She was also featured in a Yale University [podcast](#) *When we Talk about Animals* and the *All Creatures* [podcast](#).

Ed Doddridge (TAS & Magdalen 2012) was [interviewed](#) on ABC Radio National's AM about a *'mind boggling fast reduction'* in the amount of sea ice in Antarctica, describing the decline as *'gobsmacking'*.

Emilie McDonnell (TAS & University 2016) published two articles on the treatment of refugees in the United Kingdom in The Independent, entitled *'The UK is completely abandoning its duties towards refugees'* which can be read [here](#) and *'Want to solve the small boats crisis? Here are the workable options'* [here](#).

Elizabeth Stone (AAL & University 1998) was [interviewed](#) in the Sydney Morning Herald *"Girls have to be welcomed as full citizens": Sydney principal takes over elite UK all-boys school*.

Jennifer Robinson (AAL & Balliol 2006) and Keina Yoshida have written a new book about how the law fails women [How Many More Women](#). Essential reading for anyone left wondering how, in 2023, women are still being silenced. You can also listen to an interview with Jennifer and Keina [here](#).

Tamson Pietsch (AAL & New College 2003) published [The Floating University](#) which sheds light on a story of optimism and imperialist ambition in the 1920s.

Yasmin Poole (AAL & Wadham 2022) was featured in an [article](#) 'How Aussies are firing up the Voice debate in London' in *The Financial Review*.

Laurance Splitter (VIC & Magdalen 1973) has published a new book entitled [Identity, Reasonableness, and Being 'One Among Others': Dialogue, Community, Education](#) which represents his attempt to apply ideas and arguments from analytic philosophy – which he studied as a Rhodes Scholar – to a range of social, political, and educational issues that are troubling our world.

Tom Snow (VIC & Magdalen 2000), Chair of Snow Medical and of Equality Australia is participated in a conversation about allyship for gender equality. This is part of the University of Sydney's Science in Australia Gender Equity program.

John Tasioulas (VIC & Balliol 1989) Director of the Institute for Ethics in AI at Oxford University, has been awarded an [AI2050 Senior Fellowship](#) by Schmidt Futures.

Malcolm Turnbull AC (NSW & Brasenose 1978) authored an article entitled 'The Libs are all right' in *The Monthly*.

Malcolm Whyte (QLD & Balliol 1947) was featured in the [Canberra Times](#).

Thom Woodruff (AAL & St Antony's 2014) authored an article entitled '[If it wasn't for welfare, I would never have become a Rhodes Scholar](#)' in *The Monthly*.

APPOINTMENTS

Benjamin Gauntlett (WA & St John's 2003) was appointed as Deputy Commissioner to the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC).

Subho Banerjee (AAL & Brasenose 1996) was appointed Deputy [Commissioner of the Australian Public Service Commission](#).

Mark Cassidy (QLD & New College 1995) was appointed Deputy Vic-Chancellor (Research) of the University of Melbourne.

Patrick Forth (Zimbabwe & Keble 1981) was appointed as Teach For Australia's new board member and Chair.

Benjamin Rimmer (VIC & Balliol 1997) was [appointed](#) as Deputy Secretary, Higher Education, Research and International Group in the Department of Education.

Rachel Swift (AAL & Green 2004) was appointed General Manager Strategy, Innovation & Ventures at HCF Australia.

NSW WOMEN'S SAFETY COMMISSIONER



My first ten months as the inaugural NSW Women's Safety Commissioner have been inspiring, challenging, sometimes humbling and occasionally devastating.

This is a brand-new role – the first Women's Safety Commissioner in any Australian state or territory. It was established to help address the scourge of domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) and to ensure that victim-survivors are properly supported as they navigate the system in NSW.

We have all heard the seemingly constant news reports of another woman killed by a current or former intimate partner in Australia. We have probably heard the shocking statistics, including that one woman is killed every week by a current or former intimate partner, and that one in five women have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15. We may also know that domestic and family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women in Australia.

While anyone can experience (or perpetrate) DFSV, the overwhelming majority of cases of DFSV involve violence against women. This is why my role is focused on "*women's safety*". That said, I acknowledge that no single term suits all situations and people, and I am committed to taking an inclusive and intersectional approach to my remit as Women's Safety Commissioner.

My role is to provide leadership and oversight across the whole of NSW government to improve the response to DFSV, in particular by enhancing integration in the system and breaking down siloes between service providers. I work closely with government policy experts, researchers, non-government organisations, businesses and broader civil society to facilitate a more holistic response across the community.

It has been important for me to meet and consult as widely as possible with victim-survivors of DFSV, as well as frontline workers who are at the coalface of the response every day. I want to hear their stories, amplify their voices, learn from their expertise and ensure that their perspectives are incorporated into policies and programs across the community.

One of my key priorities is to promote a stronger focus on primary prevention, which is critical if we are to improve the shocking statistics in the long term. The overwhelming majority of our budget and attention goes to crisis response – responding to DFSV incidents, supporting victim-survivors and holding perpetrators to account. Crisis response is of course crucial (and remains seriously under resourced), but we need more focus on preventing violence before it occurs.

It became clear to me early in the role that DFSV can happen to anyone. Incidents occur in every suburb, every community and every profession. A recent national survey conducted by ANROWS found that while 91% of Australians think violence against women is a problem in this country, almost half think it does not happen in their town or suburb. The belief that it does not happen to "*people like me*" is simply incorrect. Shifting community attitudes is key to addressing this problem.

Before I started this role, I spent many years living and working overseas, first as a student at Oxford and then working for the United Nations (UN) in various places around the world. My UN work took me from conflict zones in Ukraine to refugee camps in the Middle East, working with genocide survivors in Rwanda and prosecuting war crimes in Bosnia.

Now my work will take me across NSW and Australia, from working with remote Aboriginal communities to advocating for people with disability, supporting refugee and migrant women, and talking to sports clubs, faith leaders and students about their role in addressing violence against women. My previous global experience will stand me in good stead to make a real difference in my current role.

DFSV is prevalent in Australia, but it is preventable. I see my role as NSW Women’s Safety Commissioner as an opportunity to contribute to meaningful change. I would welcome input and feedback from the Rhodes community across Australia as I continue this journey in the coming months and years.

Hannah Tonkin (SA & Balliol 2005)



JOHN POYNTER SCHOLARSHIP

AN UPDATE FROM MR GODFREY NKAJJA, 2022 RECIPIENT OF THE JOHN POYNTER SCHOLARSHIP

Society always quotes that *‘Behind every successful man is a strong woman behind him’*. I’m changing this quote to *‘Behind Godfrey’s success is the amazing generous ARSA behind it’*. ARSA gave me a golden opportunity to kick start my career and actualize my career objective of assuming responsibility in research and treatment of genetic disorders. Their generosity left a permanent mark on my heart and I will live to always say THANK YOU! with the biggest smile.

I started my Masters in Molecular biology at The University of Queensland (UQ) in 2022 and the best part of being an international student is the adventure that comes along as you pursue your academics. UQ has opened me up to new experiences, knowledge and a beautiful life. The high-level knowledge and practical skills I have obtained during my studies have greatly strengthened my career goal and helped me function more efficiently in my research professional.



Compared to my previous studies, I have witnessed the strong focus UQ has over teaching excellence, I have been able to establish crucial professional networks with prominent researchers like Professor Jürgen Götz (Director, Clem Jones Centre for Aging Dementia- Queensland Brain Institute). Joining his laboratory opened a door for me to be part of the high calibre research outputs from UQ, I have gotten an opportunity to co-author a research paper that has just been submitted to a highly ranked journal *‘Science Translational Medicine’*.

Due to the skill-sets I have accumulated, I have been given an opportunity to join the Götz laboratory as a PhD candidate on an earmarked scholarship. My project will focus on using ultrasound to deliver gene editing machinery into the brain with the aim of using this strategy as a gene therapy to mitigate the genetic cause of Alzheimer.

With such progress, my family and academic mentors are super proud of me and the contributions I'm making to the Alzheimer's community. Australia's natural wonders didn't give me a chance to feel homesick, I have visited the Gold-coast, Mt Coot-tha, Opera House and I got a chance to watch the FIFA Women World Cup live at Suncorp- Brisbane.

I have enjoyed the hospitality and lively culture of Southbank, and most importantly, I have made good friends.





2023 RECIPIENT OF THE JOHN POYNTER SCHOLARSHIP

Ms Tanzeela Wazir from India was awarded the scholarship in 2023. She will undertake a Master of Clinical Psychology degree at the University of Melbourne. Tanzeela met with **John Poynter** (VIC & Magdalen 1951) via Zoom in July 2023.



Tanzeela meeting online with John Poynter

FUNDRAISING APPEAL

The calibre of John Poynter Scholarship applicants to date has been exceptional, with the Universities of Queensland and Melbourne granting Godfrey and Tanzeela respectively full fee waivers. The University of Melbourne also invited one of the runners-up to consider directly applying for a PhD Scholarship at its Law School.

Given the success of the first two years of the John Poynter Scholarship, ARSA is seeking your support to build on the generosity of decades of past Scholars in Australia and fund the John Poynter Scholarship in perpetuity.

ARSA currently has an endowment of approximately \$700,000 from past donations from the Australian Rhodes community. At current spend, these funds will allow selection of John Poynter Scholars for seven to ten years only. To offer the Scholarship in perpetuity, the Australian Rhodes community will need to raise further funds: raising a further A\$1.5M would allow the appointment of a 2-year Masters scholarship every second year; a further A\$3M will allow the annual selection of a 2-year Masters student in perpetuity.

Funds donated to the John Poynter Scholarship go directly to funding the Scholarship. The University of Melbourne generously provides gratis administrative assistance, while Rhodes House actively promotes the scholarship with relevant national secretaries and applicants. If you would like to make a gift to support the John Poynter Scholarship please use the link <https://giving.unimelb.edu.au/johnpoynteraward> or URL: <https://go.unimelb.edu.au/2mws>



All donations are tax deductible.

CREATING ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY: NEW METHODS, AND MUCH CONSULTATION

I often think about the ways in which George Parkin transformed the will of Cecil Rhodes into the Rhodes Scholarships, and how generations of Scholars have continued to innovate to ensure that the selection criteria, excellence, and global reach go hand in hand. They teach us much about the ways in which we can use our talents to the full.

Parkin argued in *The Rhodes Scholarships* (1912) that it took new methods and much consultation create a world-leading innovation, and I think his advice holds true today. I did not know Parkin's advice when I applied for the Scholarship. I was a 21-year old with the big belief that I wanted to contribute to education. I had only the sketchiest notion of how I was going to do that, but I took into the interview the value that I still hold today, that higher education makes the single biggest difference to the health and prosperity of individuals and their communities. I credit the Rhodes Community for teaching me so much about how we can make that difference, and for sharpening my understanding of how excellence and inclusion belong together.

Few changes are as big as the one I am currently part of, the creation of a new university—Adelaide University—from the amalgamation of The University of South Australia, and the University of Adelaide. It is so big that friends and family have asked with knotted brows whether I might cease to exist and whether higher education is a dangerous place to be right now. I am grateful for their concern, but while it is a big change, it is also simple in a way.

Remember this: universities exist to change the world, not to confirm it.

When we think about change, we often home in on how to do it, rather than why we are doing it. Opting for the what over the why can set down future paths that are often more operationally complex and less inspiring and successful than they might be. There are two ways in which we want to change the world with Adelaide University. The first is by ensuring that more people reap the benefits that a university qualification brings. Second, we have a lot of work to do to grow and to improve the complexity of Australia's economy. Australia's economy has become less complex over time, and that spells the growth of poverty and social exclusion. That's not good for any of us.

Universities play a critical role in supporting ideas, culture, and the growth of high-value jobs and firms. As research institutions, universities also have to walk the walk and to test—as Parkin and generations of Scholars have—new ideas for strengthening and diversifying social and economic activities.

None of this is at the cost of education or research excellence. I have worked on big enough projects in higher education to know that excellence and inclusion are not mutually exclusive. Diversification often drives improved performance. Which brings me to Rhodes. We believe unashamedly in excellence, and I believe unashamedly in excellence. I believe that there are excellent students at every high school in Australia, but that not all of them have had the opportunity to develop their talents to the full. I want to contribute to the creation of a university that develops the talents of students in such a way that many more have the opportunity to apply to Rhodes and to gain admission to Oxford. I also want to surprise Oxford by showing how our discoveries and approaches to partnership, impact, translation and commercialisation can value add to society and to the economy. To get there, we need to follow Parkin's advice: to test the new, and consult. This is a great opportunity for us to innovate in ways that better support the aspirations of students, staff, and the community.

Artificial Intelligence is changing work and education at a rapid pace, for example, and it is wonderful for university research to shape the ways in we can stretch and recognise the capabilities of students. And it is a magnificent opportunity to listen to them, and to ask how it is we might change the world for the benefit of Australia and the world. I told you I was a 21-year old with a big belief. I still hold that big belief in education. I have been the beneficiary of it, and I want generations of scholars to come to look back and to say that they too were inspired to try the new, and to consult for a better world.

Marnie Hughes-Warrington AO (TAS & Merton 1992)

NEWS FROM RHODES HOUSE



120th anniversary celebrations

2023 has been a big year for the Rhodes Trust, marking the 120th anniversary of the Rhodes Scholarships, the 20th of The Mandela Rhodes Foundation and the 5th of the Schmidt Science Fellows programme. Senior Rhodes Scholars were warmly welcomed back to the newly renovated Rhodes House from 29 June to 1 July 2023.

The Rhodes Trust hosted more than 100 events across Oxford to mark the fellowship, leadership and impact of the Rhodes community, bringing together people from across continents.



The event included keynote topics from healthcare and education to global politics and artificial intelligence. Scholars also had the opportunity to discuss the Scholarship's history, its trailblazers and its place in today's world. Scholars who brought their families were also able to enjoy tours, adventures and model making across the three days.

Staff were thanked for their efforts over the busy long weekend with a visit from a local ice-cream company. Of course, it was pouring down on the day!





THE BIG BUILD IS COMPLETE

After three years, the big build is complete with Rhodes House boasting new open spaces for Scholars, state of the art conference facilities, a beautiful garden pavilion and accommodation for Alumni, Fellows and visiting guests to stay. A gallery of photos taken after the completion of building works at Rhodes House can be found [here](#).



“It is the spectrum of colour, not the colour, that makes colour worth having. And it is the cycle, not the instant, that makes the day worth living”
– Henry Mitchell.



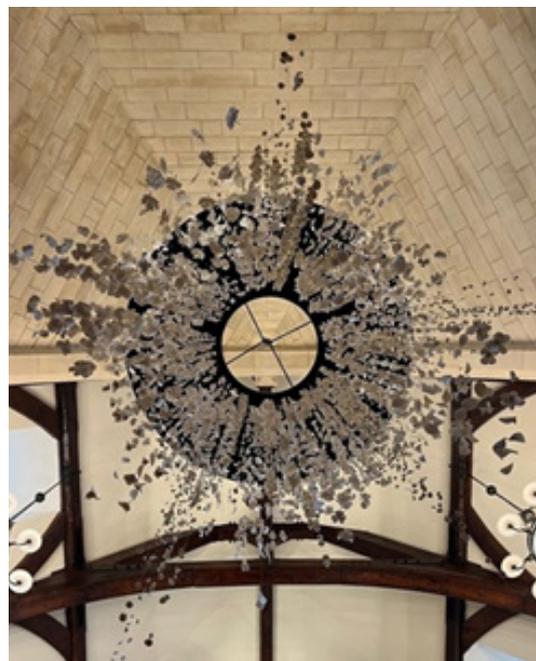
Photos of gardens by Neil, Rhodes House Gardener

120 YEARS OF RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS SEEN THROUGH THE VISUAL ARTS

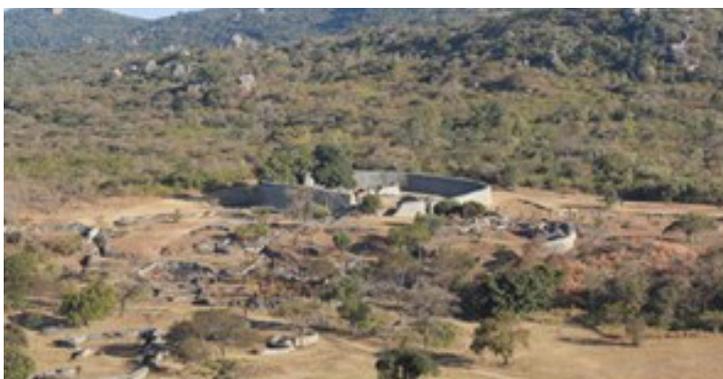
Leading artists were also invited to create installations at Rhodes House to commemorate its reopening and to stimulate thinking and debate during the 120th celebrations. The pieces are meant to encourage reflection on the Rhodes Scholarship, its complex and difficult past, its vibrant present, and its future full of hope. Here are some of the pieces that were on display.



Floating Garden by Valéria Nascimento in the vaulted main hall at Rhodes House



The World Reimagined A groundbreaking display of 18 globes in the gardens of Rhodes House.



Living with the legacy of Cecil John Rhodes Photography exhibition by Professor Shadreck Chirikure. This exhibition is a response to the question: "Cecil John Rhodes: Hero, Villain, Ruthless Exploiter or Unjustly Accused?"

BOOKS BY RHODES SCHOLARS

Find out about recent or forthcoming books by Rhodes Scholars at <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/impact-legacy/book-listing-page/>

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SCHOLAR IN 2023?

[The Times Higher Education](#) featured the profiles of **Marinos Bomikazi Lupindo** (South Africa at Large & St John's 2022) and **Summia Tora** (Afghanistan & Somerville 2000) who share their experiences on applying for the Rhodes Scholarship, the values of the Scholarship and studying in Oxford.

THE RHODERS SOCIETY CELEBRATING YOUR WILL AND YOUR LEGACY

As the Rhodes community goes from strength to strength, we remain linked by our shared experience and the desire to make a difference in our world. The Rhodes experience has shaped all our lives in so many different ways, instilling in us not only knowledge but also a sense of responsibility to give back. It's in this spirit that we're delighted to update you on the Rhodes Society—a foresighted group of Scholars and Friends of the Trust who have chosen to leave their lasting legacy by including the Scholarships in their Wills and estate plans.

By remembering the Scholarships in this way, members of the Society ensure that future generations of young Scholars will have access to the same transformative opportunities that we were able to enjoy.

This past year has seen two exciting initiatives. We are thrilled to announce our first-ever Co-Chairs of the Rhodes Society—**Ann Colbourne** (Newfoundland & Corpus Christi 1980) and **Kameel Premhid** (KwaZulu-Natal & LMH 2013). Both Ann and Kameel exemplify the spirit of generosity and dedication that defines our community. Together, they are working to engage, educate, and inspire alumni to consider leaving their own legacy in whatever way might be meaningful to them and by doing so ultimately strengthening the future of the Scholarships.

This past June also saw the members of the Rhodes Society gather in Oxford to celebrate the 120th Anniversary of the Trust. Ann, Kameel and Trustee **Andrew Banks** (Florida & St Edmund Hall 1976), were able to thank Society members in person for their support. It was an intimate and joyous occasion with the reception held in the beautiful surroundings of the new Glass Pavilion.

Thanks to the current and future members of the Rhodes Society who are creating their 21st century legacies, the Scholarships will remain a beacon of intellectual curiosity, leadership, and positive change for generations to come. Ann and Kameel would each be happy to engage with Scholars individually to talk about how they imagined their own impact and how their decision to include the Scholarships in their Wills reflected their own values and hopes for the future.



Members of the Rhodes Society celebrate the 120th reunion in the stunning newly built Glass Pavilion at Rhodes House

If you would like a confidential conversation, please contact Tillie Shuster at the Trust (tillie.shuster@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk) and she can provide you with more detailed information or connect you with Ann or Kameel.

Tillie Shuster, Strategic Project Director



Rhodes Society Co-Chairs Kameel Premhid (KwaZulu-Natal & Lady Margaret Hall 2013) and Ann Colbourne (Newfoundland & Corpus Christi 1980) with Trustee Andrew Banks (Florida & St Edmund Hall 1976)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SCHOLARS-ELECT FOR 2024

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Oliver Douglas, University of Adelaide, History

TASMANIA

Billy Blackett, University of Tasmania, Education

NEW SOUTH WALES

Annalise Awkar, Macquarie University, Media

VICTORIA

Rachel Niesen, Monash University, Medicine

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Caleb McKenna, University of Western Australia,
Engineering

QUEENSLAND

Jeremy Hunt, University of Queensland, Medicine

AUSTRALIA AT LARGE

Emerald Gaydon, University of Queensland, Physics

Sam Goldberg, University of Sydney, Law

Lilli Ireland, Australian National University, Conservation

VALE

We acknowledge the passing of **Malcom (Mick) Swinburn** (NSW & Brasenose 1960), **John Corbett** (QLD & St Catherine's 1965), **Clive Hildebrand** (QLD & Wadham 1960) and **Rawdon Dalrymple** (NSW & University 1952).

Malcom (Mick) Swinburn (NSW & Brasenose 1960)

16 November 1937 - 23 January 2023

Malcolm (Mick) passed away peacefully with his family in attendance at North Shore Private Hospital.

Loved husband of Meryl (deceased). He is dearly missed by his children, Elizabeth, John and James, and their partners Mark, Karen and Kath as well as his nine grandchildren, siblings Doug and Eddi, many relatives and friends.

The Order of Funeral Service in Thanksgiving for Mick can be found [here](#).

John Corbett (QLD & St Catherine's 1965)

18 December 1940 - 8 April 2023

An eminent neurologist, Rhodes Scholar and founder of Corbett Neurophysiology Services, 82-year-old Professor John Corbett served the Gold Coast for three decades in the fields of neurology, neurophysiology, and sleep medicine. His passing closes a medical, scientific and business career that spanned more than 50 years in the UK, US and Australia.

Born in Brisbane in 1940, John Corbett excelled in his early studies becoming Dux of his primary school and a captain of Gregory Terrace. The recipient of an Open Scholarship to the University of Queensland, he graduated in 1964 with a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery.

In 1965, Professor Corbett was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and spent the next nine years at the University of Oxford, where he completed his PhD in Neurophysiology. He also became the inaugural BMA Research Fellow, an Oxford Don and published more than 50 articles in learned academic journals. New opportunities tempted him away from Oxford and in 1973 he took up senior neurology appointments at Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital in the US.

Returning to Australia in 1974, he fulfilled a Senior Neurology role at the Royal Brisbane Hospital before launching his private neurology clinical practice in Sydney. His expertise proved invaluable in the medical arena and the law, culminating in more than 5,000 medico-legal reports and regular appearances as an expert witness. He was involved in placing the first ever CT machines in Australia into the North Shore Private Hospital and other locations.

In the 1980s, Professor Corbett decided to try his hand at business and industry. To this end he worked in the field of mining of minerals – clay, tin and gold and he was an innovator in the development of ultrasonic engineering applications for piling, earthmoving, mining and mineral processing. His next foray was Weapons Training Systems, involving high level contracts with the Australian Army and various international contracts, such as the USA Army. He was regarded as the saviour of the Kemtron and Lomah groups. Like everything he turned his mind to, he proved to be a successful businessman but he missed the challenges medicine had given him and ultimately, resumed his medical career.

Professor Corbett launched Corbett Medical Services on the Gold Coast in 1994, operating out of the magnificent family home, Surrey House, in Southport. He was also a founding member of SNORE Australia, which became Australia's largest provider of Level 1 sleep studies.

In 2000, John and Lorraine purchased a 156-acre botanical estate at Springbrook adjacent to the World Heritage Rain Forest and spent 22 years fulfilling his love of nature, he worked tirelessly on beautifying the land. He could then be found on the weekends on a tractor plowing fields and planting tree farms.

He received the Australian Centenary Medal Award in 2001 for Distinguished Service in the Field of Medicine. In 2011, Epilepsy Queensland presented him with its Flame Award for his years of services and support.

In 2021, Professor Corbett was diagnosed with the terminal condition Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. He is survived by his devoted wife Lorraine, much loved daughter Vanessa, son-in-law Sean, and grandchildren Brooke and Harrison.

A true gentleman of wisdom and compassion, who will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Clive Perry Hildebrand (QLD & Wadham 1960)

27 October 1937 – 25 June 2023

Clive Perry Hildebrand died peacefully in Brisbane on Sunday evening, aged 85. Dearly beloved husband to Nita, and brother to Aileen, Robert and Kathi. Loving father to Anna, Peter, Greg and Denzil, and father-in-law to Allayne, DukSoon, Hans and Michelle. Doting grandfather to Caitlin, Elias, Georgia, Helena, Isabella, Jack, Madeleine and Rosie.

Clive was born in Gladstone Queensland in 1937, educated at Yeronga State and Brisbane Grammar Schools and the University of Queensland.

His career as a mining executive took him around the world. After retiring, Clive took up the directorship or chair of a number of public companies and other organisations, including Chair of the Sugar R&D Corporation. Clive also served as National President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) and as President of AIIA's Queensland branch. He is remembered as an innovator who improved AIIA's governance and practices.

Clive's ongoing involvement in higher education was recognised in 1999, when he was awarded a DUniv (Doctor of the University) by Griffith University. He was also a member of the State Ministerial advisory body on public health, Health Promotion Queensland.

Clive touched the lives of many and enjoyed high jinks at his SNAFU club. He was an avid letter writer, played guitar, loved a singalong, and rowing on the Brisbane River. Clive will be remembered as a generous and loving family man who adored his wife Nita.

Rawdon Dalrymple (NSW & University 1952)

6 November 1930 – 29 September 2023

Rawdon Dalrymple was born in Sydney on 6 November 1930. He was educated at Shore School in North Sydney and the University of Sydney. He was selected as the New South Wales Rhodes Scholar for 1952 and graduated from Oxford with first class honours in PPE. Rawdon joined the Department of External Affairs in 1957 and went on to appointments as Ambassador to Israel, Indonesia, the United States and Japan.

His public service as a diplomatic representative was recognised in his appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia in January 1987. Rawdon retired from the Foreign Affairs Department (by then the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) in 1994. In May 2007, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science by the University of Sydney. The award cited (among other things) his place as one of Australia's most distinguished post-war diplomats.

Rawdon's passing is mourned by his wife, Rossie, children David and Laura, grandchildren Gilbert, Ambrose and Louis, along with wider family and friends.

Read more [here](#).

ARSA MEMBERSHIP FEES

Join your peers and become a member of ARSA in 2023/4, if you have not already done so. ARSA has been in existence for over 90 years and its activities (including the National Dinner, various State based events and the publication of this newsletter) can only thrive with Scholar support.

The fees continue to be \$80 for ordinary memberships and \$40 for discounted memberships (for Scholars elected more than 40 years ago, or within the last 6 years). ARSA also offers Scholars the opportunity to pay three years' worth of membership fees at once. This payment option will limit how often ARSA asks to you to renew your membership. It will also ease the administrative burden on you of paying fees annually.

ARSA offers two simple payment options. You can pay online with a credit card via the online payment platform [Trybooking](#), or by direct credit.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

ARSA is seeking expressions of interest for ARSA Treasurer and VIC State Social Secretary. Please contact [Joy Lee](#) for more information or if you have questions.

NEWS FROM YOUR FELLOW SCHOLARS

Thom Woodroffe (AAL & St Antony's 2014) has commenced a new role with the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade as Principal Adviser to the Australian Ambassador to the United States, after serving for over three years as Kevin Rudd's Chief of Staff at the Asia Society. During his last few months with the Asia Society, he was instrumental in establishing a new China Climate Hub which will provide intelligence and rapid response analysis on the state of China's climate action. In that context, he also was recently asked by The Economist to contribute to their "[By Invitation](#)" section on the state of US-China climate cooperation.



The Australian Rhodes Review (ARR) is jointly published by the Association of Rhodes Scholars in Australia Inc (ARSA) and Rhodes Scholarships in Australia Pty Ltd (RSA).

The ARR is distributed free of charge to the community of Rhodes Scholars in Australia. The material published in the ARR is supplied by numerous contributors and published in good faith. ARSA, RSA and the Editor do not make any representation, or assume any responsibility, in relation to the accuracy or completeness of the information supplied. Any views or opinions expressed in this material are the solely the views or opinions of the relevant contributor.

The Editor welcomes any personal or professional updates that you would like to share with your fellow Scholars. Click [here](#) to submit your pictures and news about careers, family, awards and appointments, travel, etc.

© Association of Rhodes Scholars in Australia Inc and Rhodes Scholarships in Australia Pty Ltd.

In the spirit of reconciliation ARSA and RSA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Photo on coverage page of the Australian Rhodes Scholars Class of 2023

L-R: Sarah Haynes (NSW), Sam Climie (TAS), James Leigh (AAL), Bridget Smart (SA), Max Kirkby (AAL), Harrison Jones (VIC), Riley Faulds (WA) and Sai Campbell (AAL)