



UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE

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A living history

From the moment I first walked into University College, I felt a powerful sense of its history. Our 85th Anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on and commemorate events that have shaped our College and the principles on which it was founded. It is also a time to honour the many people who have left their mark and capture their stories. From the earliest days of First Nations Peoples 65,000 years ago to the establishment of a residential college for women in 1937, there has been a linked focus on connection, kinship and education. Our students, like those who came before them, care deeply about the College and its history. It is a formative place for these bright and promising young women and men.

The College's success and longevity is testament to what strong leadership, coupled with a tenacious and progressive approach, can achieve. For the College to remain a leader, it needs to adapt to the times. Accordingly, in 1975, the College Council charted a new direction when men were admitted as residents, for the first time. This was the most profound change since the College was founded, one that had a lasting and positive impact on our community.

In 2015 the Council made another strategic decision to increase the size of the College from 200 to over 300 students. This saw the largest capital works project undertaken in the history of the College – the UC Redevelopment Project. By continuing to have an eye on the future, UC has stayed true to its progressive heritage.

This publication highlights some of the records, photographs and stories from our College archives, a unique

collection representing our community's treasured memories. We have focused on the past five years. This is, of course, a mere slice of the College history, but an important chapter in its dynamic, ever-changing story.

I hope you enjoy reading our 85th anniversary celebration publication.

Dr Jennifer McDonald
Head of College



A brief history of UC

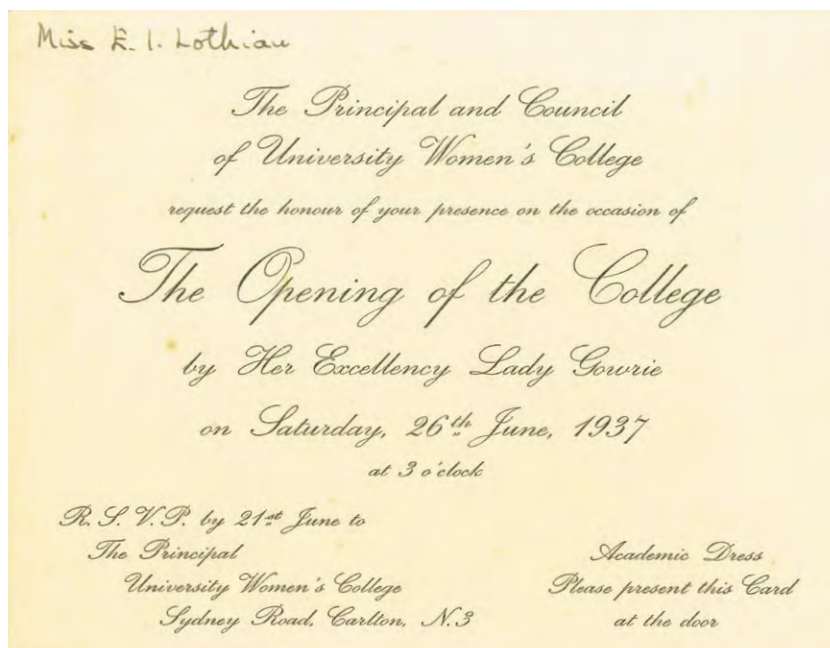
Plenty has happened over the last 85 years.
Below we highlight some of the key events across the decades.

1917

- ‘Wanted – A Women’s College’: a group of women associated with the University of Melbourne set up a Provisional Committee to establish a non-denominational college for women equal in status to the existing four men’s colleges of the University.

1930s:

- **1933:** After 16 years of struggle, the Provisional Committee was granted by Act of Parliament five and a half acres of Crown Land to establish ‘A Residential College for Women at the University of Melbourne’. Architect Kingsley Anketell Henderson designed the College Master Plan.
- **1936:** A fundraising campaign began and the Foundation Stone was laid.
- **1937:** University Women’s College opened with the first wing named after founder and benefactor, Dr Georgina Sweet. There were just nine students and Miss Susie Williams was appointed Principal.
- **1938:** A third storey was added to Sweet Wing, creating a total of 25 rooms. Following Miss Williams’ retirement, Dr Greta Hort was appointed Principal. Mrs Eilean Giblin was elected as the first President of the inaugural College Council. The College motto adopted by the Council was ‘Frappe Fort’. If translated literally this means ‘Strike Hard’, although the Council preferred to interpret it as ‘What you do, do with a will’.
- **1939:** Ellis Wing, named after founder and benefactor Dr Constance Ellis, was completed.



First intake of students with Miss Susie Williams at the official opening



Opening of Fraser North block 1958



Male students enrolled from 1976

1940s:

- **1939-1945:** After World War II broke out in Europe, further developments were restricted. Funds or approval for building projects and support staff were difficult to obtain.
- **1947:** Miss Myra Roper was appointed Principal.

1950s:

- **1953:** Syme Wing, named after founders and benefactors, Misses Eveline and Kathleen Syme, was opened.
- **1958:** The north block of the Fraser Wing, named after benefactor, Miss Sarah Jane Fraser, was opened. 126 students were in residence.
- **1959:** The main entrance to the College was relocated to its present location on the eastern side of Sweet Wing. Williams Wing, named after the first Principal, Miss Susie Williams, was opened.

1960s:

- **1960:** Leitch Hall, named after benefactors Sir Walter and Lady Leitch, was completed. Dr Angela Milne was appointed Principal.
- **1963:** Roper Wing, named after the third Principal, Miss Myra Roper, opened. 132 students were in residence.
- **1967:** Mrs Margaret Russell-Smith was appointed Principal.

1970s:

- **1975:** University Women's College was renamed University College after the College Council decision to admit male residents.

- **1976:** The first cohort of male students (40) was in residence.

- **1979:** Mrs Heather Hewitt was appointed Principal.

1980s:

- **1985:** Fraser South Wing opened. 164 students were in residence.
- **1986:** The Head's Residence, designed by architect Daryl Jackson, was built.
- **1987:** A third floor was added to Syme Wing.



Head's residence built in 1986



Redevelopment project



Opening of Syme Dining Hall in 2017

1990s:

- **1990:** The Greta Hort Memorial Library, named after the second Principal, opened.
- **1996:** The Graduate Apartments for graduate students and visiting academic guests, opened.
- **1997:** Hewitt House, named after the sixth Principal, Mrs Heather Hewitt, opened. It provided additional apartments for academic visitors. 213 students were in residence.
- **1999:** Dr Susanne Pearce was appointed Head of College.

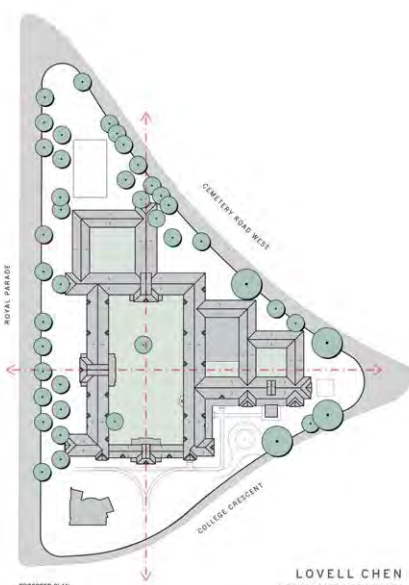
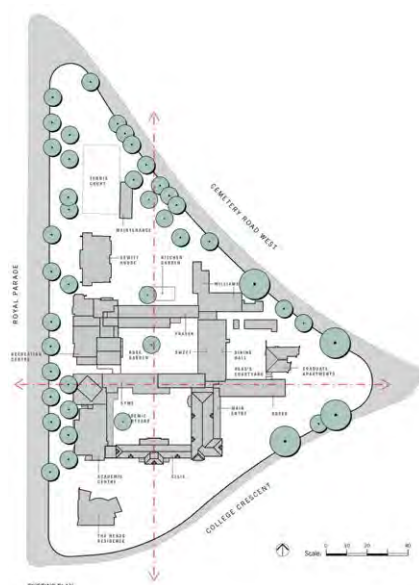
2000s:

- **2001:** The Academic Centre, now the Leitch Academic Centre, opened.
- **2002:** Dr Deborah Seifert was appointed Head of College.
- **2008:** The Recreation Centre, now Leggatt Wing, named after Lady Dorothy Leggatt, College Founder and Council President, opened. 221 students were in residence.
- **2008:** Dr Jennifer McDonald was appointed Head of College.
- **2009:** The armillary sphere sundial, gifted by Professor John Lovering AO and Mrs Kerry Lovering OAM, was installed at the College’s main entrance.

2010s:

- **2010:** The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden was established.
- **2011:** Inaugural Art and Design Week was held. Perimeter Fence Project (Stage 1) began.
- **2013:** Following a bequest from Miss Lena McEwan FRCS FRACS the perimeter Fence Project (Stage 2) was completed.
- **2014:** Lovell Chen architects were appointed to design a new Master Plan for the College.

- **2016:** The UC Redevelopment Project began, the largest capital works project since the College first opened its doors in 1937. The Williams and Roper Wings were demolished to make way for the project.
- **2017:** The Syme Dining Hall was officially opened, completing the first part of the project.
- **2017:** A delay in the project meant the College community was spread across two campuses with a temporary campus established at UniLodge on Swanston Street. 258 students were in residence.



- **2017:** The AC Courtyard was renamed the Giblin Courtyard to honour College Founder and first Council President, Mrs Eilean Giblin. The Rose Garden was renamed McEwan Courtyard in honour of benefactor, Miss Lena McEwan.
- **2019:** The official opening of the UC Redevelopment Project took place, introducing the community to our 190 ensuite rooms, Seminar Centre and common rooms.
- **2019:** The UC men’s cricket team won their first premiership since the inception of intercollegiate sports, 98 years ago.



Cricket team 2019



Design studio

2020s:

- **2020:** The Design Studio opened and women’s cricket was officially recognised as a sport on the intercollegiate calendar.
- **2020:** The COVID-19 pandemic was declared (WHO, 11 March). Youth workers were introduced to offer additional support to students overnight.
- **2020:** Our Kitchen Garden celebrated its 10th anniversary.

- **2020:** The armillary sphere was returned to the College entrance after being temporarily moved during the project. 320 students were in residence.
- **2021:** We welcomed the largest ever cohort of students at UC: 346 residents.
- **2022:** Syme and Fraser Wings were newly refurbished over the summer break.



Front of College with re-instated sundial

Growth, challenge and a sustainable future

Growth

In February 2015, the UC Council set a new strategic direction to expand the College from 200 to over 300 residents. Lovell Chen architects were commissioned to design a new master plan for the UC Redevelopment Project with state of the art facilities, including a new dining hall, kitchen and ensuite rooms. Their design realised the vision of the original 1933 Kingsley Henderson masterplan. It created a central unifying courtyard and buildings that respond to the scale, materiality and style of the original 1930s Sweet and Ellis wings. All buildings were designed according to Passivhaus principles, with a focus on reducing energy consumption and cementing the economic sustainability of the College into the future.

By late December 2015, work on the UC Redevelopment Project was well underway. The College dining hall was temporarily relocated to Leggatt wing and a portable kitchen set up on Elm walk. Academic and administrative staff were relocated to Ellis wing, while kitchen and facilities staff were located in additional portables on Elm Walk. The pre-existing dining hall, Williams and Roper wings were then demolished.

In March 2016, as the project came to life, we welcomed a much smaller cohort of 154 students. Due to extensive building works, dust and noise on site, the patience, flexibility and good will of both students and staff were tested. Nevertheless, they persisted. The Syme Dining Hall including the Mural Room and kitchen was opened in March 2017.



Official opening of the UC Redevelopment Project, 2019

One of our earliest residents, Mrs Lesley Falloon OAM (UC 1938), led the opening ceremony, together with Mrs Anne Cronin OAM, Council President. Lesley spoke fondly of her college experience saying "I couldn't have chosen a better entrance to adulthood than through the gates of University Women's College."

Challenge

2017 and 2018 were challenging years, due to significant delays in the construction project. With the support of our bank, Korda Mentha were appointed to provide Development Management Services to oversee the appointment of a replacement builder and help deliver the project. Unable to accommodate all students on one campus, we moved seventy students (in 2017) and ninety students (in 2018) offsite to a second campus in Swanston Street. Those students who lived at 'Swannie' enthusiastically embraced and made a significant contribution to all aspects of college life. Without these additional cohorts (which even inspired 'Swannie envy') our College would have been a much less dynamic place. It is a powerful reminder that UC's best asset is its people.

Finally, in August 2019, the new buildings were completed with the Official Opening by the University of Melbourne Chancellor, Mr Allan Myers AC QC. As our community celebrated

the end of this momentous journey, our 2019 Student Club President, Erica Roche observed in her address:

"What this redevelopment actually looks like is growth, in both a literal and figurative sense. For many of us here tonight, living in a college has meant more to us than a roof over our heads. It has given us life-long friends, an understanding of community living, exposure to and interaction with a myriad of opinions and a sense of belonging. And this has been far more significant in our development as students, and young people in general, than the physical description of a building can really do justice."

Reflecting on how lucky we were to witness the beginning of this new chapter, Erica noted:

"This building can of course be considered just as an arrangement of bricks and concrete, but I encourage you to consider it more as an environment within which big things are possible. The growth of this college opens doors, quite literally, to an even greater number and variety of students that will both shape, and be shaped by, this place we call home. That is incredibly exciting."



Syme Dining Hall roof construction

As our students hosted guest tours of their new ensuite rooms, there was much excitement. Our growth into a larger college has brought with it many benefits, not least, winning the 2019 intercollegiate cricket cup for the first time since its inception 98 years ago!

We acknowledge the vision and leadership of the College Council in undertaking this transformative redevelopment. Despite significant challenges, they stayed the course. Our students experienced constant disruption, noise, inconvenience, and setbacks as completion dates were extended. They worked with us to maintain a strong and diverse cohort with a positive energy and spirit, supported by our wonderful staff team, who never faltered in the face of daily challenges. In the spirit of our founders and motto *Frappe Fort*: 'What you do, do with a will', the resilience of the College Council, students and staff prevailed!

A sustainable future

The ultimate success of this large undertaking has prepared the College for a sustainable future in all its dimensions: the student experience, academic and wellbeing programs, and college facilities.

As we celebrate our 85th anniversary, we live in uncertain times and operate within a rapidly changing strategic landscape. The viability, strength and sustainability of the College is more important than ever, as we face a highly competitive student accommodation market. Purpose Built Student Accommodation Providers (PBSAs), the University of Melbourne's own accommodation offering and the Melbourne colleges, all compete aggressively in this space. Large, well-resourced and highly competitive colleges and private providers with modern facilities will outperform those with ageing facilities, fewer students and limited resources. This will create greater segmentation in the market; where some will thrive, while others will be left behind.

Our College is well placed to meet these challenges. By dramatically improving our offering with a larger cohort, specialist staff and wonderful new facilities, our reputation is increasing. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has seen a significant increase in mental health issues presenting in young adults under 25 years of age. This requires constant high levels of support. Our specialist Student Wellbeing Coordinator and overnight youth workers have gained the trust and respect of so many students, increasing their ability to proactively seek help. This has resulted in a decline in the number of critical or escalated incidents. We will continue to re-imagine and adapt our living and learning programs, technology and resources to meet the needs of our students.

Fortunately, there remains a strong appetite for the college experience. As we pursue the objectives of the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan adopted by the College Council, we will build a strong platform from which to achieve leadership in all facets of UC's governance and operations, well into the future.

The pandemic of our lifetime

The World Health Organisation's declaration of a global pandemic in early March, 2020 changed every aspect of our lives, and of course the impacts were also considerable for the students and staff at University College.

After welcoming 320 students to the college community in February 2020, many returned home within a month to ride out what we all thought would be some temporary uncertainty. Due to the border closures still to come, many students were not able to return until the following semester, or even 2021.

For those who remained, college life was suddenly very different. Facebook, Zoom and other social platforms became a key part of everyday communication for students, staff and Council members. All High Tables and formal events were cancelled. Many student events (from bake-offs to boot camps) were shifted online to keep the on and off campus communities connected.

The staff and student Iso-lympics was formed; a competition themed around a different task each week, designed to inspire connection and inspiration during lockdowns.

From 19 July the government introduced a mandatory mask policy in metro Melbourne. The new guidelines meant that all students living in colleges were now required to wear a mask upon leaving their own room.

All communal areas were reconfigured to ensure social distancing and capacity limits and a ban on visitors was introduced. Sanitiser stations and bottles were dotted around high volume areas, temperature testing stations were established and safety screens installed at reception.

Cleaning increased to three times per day in all communal areas and bathrooms. Kitchen staff were isolated from the rest of the College community in order to ensure continuity of this essential service.

Food service then operated from the Mural Room and Dining Hall, not the kitchen servery. To avoid large group gatherings, longer meal service times were introduced and the Dining Hall configuration was altered to ensure social distancing.

Staff had to begin working from home where possible, with a weekly webinar series (UC Weekly Drop-In) created to stay connected with our student cohort. With wellbeing becoming an increasingly important focus for the College, youth workers were introduced to offer additional support to students overnight.

Tutorials, mentoring, academic and wellbeing support programs all moved online, as did our Open Day in August. As a result of this extra load, steps were taken to expand the wi-fi capacity around College to ensure it could cope.

Despite the upheaval, in 2021 we welcomed the largest ever cohort of students (346) to UC. At varying stages throughout the year the restrictions eased, only to be re-introduced, but College events were able to be held at various times. Some in-person events returned, with external guests welcomed back for the first time in over a year for our Donor Reception. All events were adapted for a COVID-normal environment (such as small, al-fresco High Table dinners in the Roper Courtyard).

In 2022 we welcomed back international students for the first time in two years.





KEY PANDEMIC DATES IN MELBOURNE

11 March, 2020: The World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.

16 March, 2020: The Victorian Government declared a State of Emergency for four weeks to 'flatten the curve' and give the Victorian health system its best chance of managing COVID-19. Non-essential gatherings of over 500 people were banned.

20 March, 2020: The international border was closed to non-residents (reopened 21 February, 2022). Social distancing rules introduced.

30 March, 2020: The first lockdown was announced, with people only being allowed to leave their homes for four reasons: food and supplies, medical care, exercise, and work or education.

23 July, 2020: Face coverings became mandatory whenever residents leave their homes.

2 August, 2020: A state of disaster was declared and metropolitan Melbourne shifted to Stage 4 restrictions including a 5km rule and overnight curfew.

METRO MELBOURNE LOCKDOWN TIMELINE

First lockdown: 31 March, 2020 – 12 May, 2020. 43 days

Second lockdown: 9 July, 2020 – 27 October, 2020. 111 days (some Melbourne postcodes go into lockdown earlier on June 30)

Third lockdown: 13 February, 2021 – 17 February, 2021. 5 days

Fourth lockdown: 28 May, 2021 – 10 June, 2021. 14 days

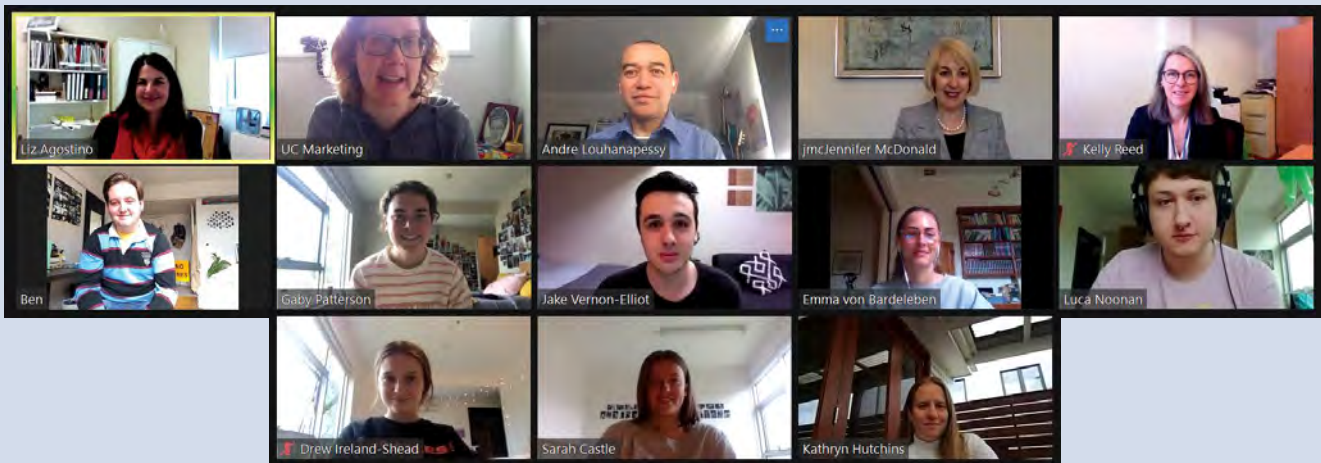
Fifth lockdown: 16 July, 2021 – 27, July 2021. 12 days

Sixth lockdown: 5 August, 2021 – 21 October, 2021. 78 days

Total: 263 days in lockdown



College life was suddenly very different. Facebook, Zoom and other social platforms became a key part of everyday communication for students, staff and Council members.

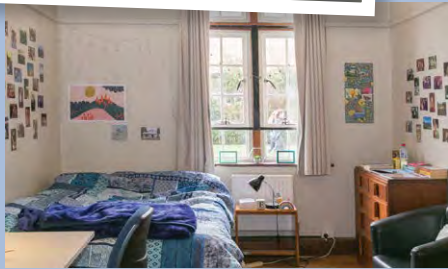




Then and now

A lot has changed during 85 years at University College – from fashion to architecture and everything in between. Here we look back at just how much things have changed.





The who's who of College wings

When naming our buildings, facilities and spaces, University (Women's) College has a practice of commemorating important individuals who have contributed immensely to the development of the College. Here's a snapshot of the founders and benefactors after whom our residential wings are named.



SWEET WING

Dr Georgina Sweet OBE DSc (1875-1946)

The first wing of University Women's College was named after primary founder and benefactor Dr Georgina Sweet. Dr Sweet chaired the Provisional Committee set up in 1917 and for the next sixteen years gave 'unsparingly thought, time and money' to secure a site and funds. A public building appeal was launched in 1936, to which Dr Sweet gave £1,000.

In 1938 when the President and Deputy President of the newly constituted College Council were abroad, she took on the role of Acting President and guided the College through legal incorporation, including the framing of the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

It was in gratitude for her substantial contribution to the building fund, maintenance and scholarship bequests that the Council resolved to name the first wing after her.

ELLIS WING

Dr Constance Ellis MD (1872-1942)

The 'South Wing' was opened in 1939 and a year later was named by the College Council after Dr Constance Ellis, who was the first woman in Melbourne to take the degree of MD.

Dr Ellis served on the Provisional Committee of the proposed University Women's College while leading a full and varied career as a physician and pathologist at the Queen Victoria Hospital. She was appointed to the first Council of the College in 1937, a position she held until her death, and bequeathed £6,000 unconditionally to the College.



In December 1942, the College Council resolved that in recognition of this bequest, for her service to the development of the College and the contribution of her rich collection of books, that the previously named South Wing should be named the Constance Ellis Wing.

SYME WING

Eveline Syme (1888-1961) & Kathleen Syme OBE (1896-1977)

The Syme Wing was named after cousins Eveline and Kathleen Syme. They were both active members of the Provisional Committee which fought to make a residential college for women attending the University of Melbourne a reality. After the University (Women's) College was established, they continued to be very involved in the College. They sat on the first Council, chaired various subcommittees and also served as President of the Council (Eveline 1941-1946, Kathleen 1947-1953). Both Eveline and Kathleen donated to the College and endowed scholarships.





FRASER WING

Sarah Jane Fraser

Miss Sarah Jane Fraser was an early Classics graduate of the University of Melbourne, a teacher of English and an outspoken advocate for women's tertiary education. She died in England in 1931 and her will provided for the bulk of her estate '...to be held upon trust for the Council or Governing Body of the proposed Women's College which is to be affiliated with the University of Melbourne...' Her bequest of £38,000 facilitated the completion of the 'Third Wing', which the Council resolved to name after her in recognition of her bequest.



ROPER WING

Myra Roper AM (1911-2002)

Miss Myra Roper was Principal of University Women's College from 1947 to 1960. Under her leadership the College more than trebled in size. She maintained a high standard of

scholarship and close association with the students. She also continued the policy of 'a liberal discipline' introduced by her predecessor, Dr Greta Hort.

"Miss Roper has taken a prominent part in the civic life of Melbourne. She has ably represented the College on the University Council and her association with dramatic, literary and art circles has been reflected in the broad outlook of those connected with the College." – Council minutes



College' in 1917, arguing the need for a non-denominational residential college for women. Lady Leggatt was elected as a student representative on the Provisional Committee which worked for the next twenty years to achieve their goal.

After the College was established, Lady Leggatt continued to work in its support and was one of the first Governors to be appointed. She chaired a Building Appeal Committee in 1949, was appointed to the College Council in 1950 and was President from 1954 to 1955.

WILLIAMS WING

(NOW CLOSED)

Susie Williams (1875-1942)

Miss Susie Williams was the first Principal of University Women's College, acting in this role until a permanent principal could be formally appointed. In her 18 months tenure she established standards for the College that set it apart from the other colleges as a welcoming and caring scholarly community. Students from all backgrounds were inspired to develop their full academic and personal potential. Having set the College on a firm foundation and successfully exceeded the expectations of the founders and the public, she then stepped aside to make way for a permanent appointee, Dr Greta Hort.



LEITCH HALL

Sir Walter and Lady Leitch

Leitch Hall, opened in 1960, was named to honour the significant contribution to the College of Sir Walter and Lady Leitch. It was completed at the cost of £20,000. The hall was subsumed in the 2001 redevelopment of the Academic Centre, when additional tutorial rooms, a lounge, and a floor of ensuite residential rooms above were added.

LEGGATT WING

Lady Dorothy Leggatt (1893-1973)

Lady Leggatt was involved with College for a period of more than fifty-five years. She was the first woman to edit the Melbourne University Magazine and wrote the article 'Wanted, a Women's



Newnham College, image from [darkhearttravel.com](https://www.darkhearttravel.com)

A home garden tended by individuals

The founders of University (Women's) College had an ambition to ensure it was set in a beautiful natural environment which always felt accessible to its students. While gardens at academic institutions were not typically noted for their beauty, this focus on the importance of the garden may have been inspired by a women's college, founded in the early 1870s in England.

Anne Clough, the first Principal of Newnham College in Cambridge, regarded a garden as essential to a woman's education. She set up a volunteer gardening committee. They planted hedges and gravelled entrances with serpentine paths among shrubs, a croquet lawn, blossoming trees and buildings trimmed with beds of roses, irises, and jasmynes. This complemented Newnham's buildings, which had a delightful country house character, very different to the severe, often Gothic design of the traditional men's colleges.

The inspiration for the domestic charm of Newnham – the idea that it need not be sacrificed to Spartan suffering in the cause of learning – reflected the college's enlightened attitude to women's opportunities and came to a great extent from the first Principal, Anne Jemima Clough ... seeing the students' evident happiness both in their occupation and in their surroundings, that this serenity of contact with natural things was important. (Jane Brown, Eminent Gardeners, p.81)

University Women's College founder, Eveline Syme, as well as the first three Heads of the College, were all Newnham College graduates. As residents, they had experienced the comfort of its buildings and the beauty of its gardens. It may not have been a coincidence, therefore, that the first buildings constructed at University Women's College (Ellis and Sweet Wings 1936–38) bear a striking resemblance to Newnham College. They are built of similar materials, with warm red bricks and white painted casement windows, on the scale of an



Tree planting to mark a special occasion



Lady Dorothy Leggatt

English country house, rather than a grand baronial hall. The importance of the garden is also apparent as one of Australia's foremost landscape designers, Edna Walling, was consulted by Eilean Giblin, President of the first College Council, to do the design.

The College archives contain thirteen of Edna Walling's letters, handwritten under her letterhead from her home at 'Sonning' between October 1936 (five months before the College opened) and June 1938. Included with the letters is the original preliminary sketch plan for the College gardens, drawn in Edna Walling's characteristic style.

Her vision was: "the chief effect will be lawns and beautiful trees." It is hard to trace how much of her original design remains, however, as the correspondence ends in 1938.

Due to financial constraints, Edna Walling's vision was not fully realised, but the commitment of the founders never faltered and an enthusiastic group of volunteers set about establishing the gardens themselves. While our records do not give us a complete picture of the origins of the garden, it appears to have been a home garden tended by individuals.

Lesley Falloon, a resident in 1938 recalls:

"seemingly elderly ladies working and drifting knowledgeably around the garden – one of these workers was Miss Edna Walling, another, Miss Nina Bagot who cared for the garden for many years..."

Over the years, many other individuals (including Council Presidents and members of the Past Students Association) arranged working bees to help in the garden. Husbands and children joined in to plant trees and shrubs. Again, Lesley Falloon recalls:

"When the Syme Wing was about to be opened, the area between Ellis and the new Syme wing was just a wilderness of heavy grass and weeds. So Lady Leggatt organised working bees of ladies who matted the rock-like ground – one with a new baby in her basket. Soil and manure were brought by trailer by Lady Leggatt and a garden was established along the walls of the two wings."

In the past 85 years, there have been many changes, but the intention has always been ensuring that our students were 'surrounded daily by so much beauty at this impressionable age – they will leave college with a love of plants and gardens that will last throughout their lives'. (Interview with Heather Hewitt, Principal 1979–1999, *Your Garden*, February 1997).

Heather's first love was roses and she was responsible for planting a remarkable collection, with a special focus on old roses, many of which remain part of our gardens today.

The garden continues to evolve and in 2010 we established an organic kitchen garden. Opened by alumna Stephanie Alexander (UWC 1958), it is named in her honour. Each year, as part of our kitchen garden program, student volunteers from the College's Sustainability Committee work with our gardeners. They harvest the summer produce and help with the winter plantings. They also collaborate with our chefs in bringing fresh food from the garden to the kitchen as part of our 'paddock to plate' initiative.

With the completion of the UC Redevelopment Project in 2019, landscaping to complement the College's beautiful new façade and buildings commenced. The turning circle at the front of the College was reinstated, with the armillary sphere sundial once again taking pride of place. The front garden was replanted with perennial beds and lawn. Pathways were installed at the front entrance, which wind their way to the Roper apartment on the eastern side of the College and past the northern lawn mound to the Mural Room courtyard. This courtyard features a herb garden, in close proximity to the kitchen. At the centre of the newly established



Students harvesting our kitchen garden produce

Roper Courtyard are two beautiful garden urns surrounded by a formal display of potted plants, including cymbidium orchids. The cloister walk is landscaped with frangipanis.

In 2021, a native food garden was established at the rear of the kitchen, with a focus on indigenous herbs and plants, including finger lime and lemon myrtle. First Nations people have farmed sustainably for thousands of years and by studying their traditional practices we can grow edible food that is good for people and the planet. Hugelkultur composting also began in the south west corner of the College garden, ensuring all garden waste can now be composted onsite.

In 2022, the Fig Tree Garden was established in honour of Lorrie Lawrence (UWC 1957), former resident and well known garden designer. Generously

giving of her time and design wisdom, Lorrie assisted with many garden beds at UC, including the rose gardens. Some of her favourite spring plants have been refreshed and replanted including wisteria, camellia Williamsii 'Waterlily', daffodils, freesias, grape hyacinths, carnations and clematis. This initiative was supported by funds from College alumna, Governor and benefactor, Marli Wallace (UWC 1958).

The history of so many people enriches our beautiful College gardens and their efforts continue to make it a joy for our students today.

As Lesley Falloon (1938) noted:

"It brings back memories for all who have lived in College, of the favourite quiet areas, the personal view out of one's windows and how we joyously embraced each space full of hope, youth and enthusiasm."

First Nations history – a sense of place across time

In March 2022, Head of College, Dr Jennifer McDonald, invited Wurundjeri Elder, Uncle Bill Nicholson, and his partner Aunty Cathy, to deliver a Welcome to Country (Tanderrum) and to perform a smoking ceremony at the College's commencement reception. This was a first-time honour for the UC community and an important step towards acknowledging the history of our country and respecting the land on which the College stands.

In delivering his welcome, Uncle Bill invited us to the land of the Wurundjeri people and asked to join and unite with the Traditional Owners of this land in the spirit of mutual respect.

Following his visit, we asked Uncle Bill to tell us more about the First Nations Peoples who are known to have lived and learned through kinship and story on this site for over 65,000 years:

The lands that University College is located on are the lands of the Wurundjeri people, who have lived and thrived on this landscape for thousands of years.

It's difficult to know what the exact Wurundjeri population was before the colonial invasion, but what we do know is, with the lores of the land dictating the

populations, it was very much in sync with what the land could provide. Wurundjeri land was one of the most fertile areas of the whole continent, which allowed for one of the highest populations of Aboriginal people in what is now called Australia.

The smallpox epidemic of 1803 devastated Wurundjeri's structured society, followed by the arrival of Batman's people and the introduction of cattle, sheep, pests, and weeds, the impacts of which still resonate to this day. Wurundjeri numbers declined so fast that eventually only 18 Wurundjeri people were recorded by the government in 1863.

Wurundjeri people have a very special connection to the land and are connected to a larger family structure now called

the Kulin Nation, taking up most of Central and South-Central Victoria.

This connection to country is felt on both a physical and spiritual level. Meaning, that life is fulfilled through an understanding of, and responsibility towards, the physical and spiritual world, including flora and fauna and the Earth's energies and gifts from Bunjil, like water and fire.

Lore dictated that we are not above the world around us but responsible for it.

This is the responsibility we would like everyone to take on today, to care for this sacred land and respect each other. This lore was never ceded and never will while Wurundjeri people are still here.

Wurundjeri Elder, Uncle Bill Nicholson Jnr



From then to now

Dr Margaret Williams (later Williams-Weir), a member of the Malera/ Bandjalang People in northern New South Wales, made history in 1959 when she became the first Aboriginal graduate of an Australian university. While studying at the University of Melbourne she was a resident at University (Women's) College, where she was supported by funds from the Australian Heads of Colleges Association.

Current UC third year student Kaytlyn Johnson is a proud Palawa woman from Wynard, Tasmania. She has won several awards for her leadership (including the 2022 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year); inspiring young people to develop new skills, connect with their community and campaign for change. She is a recipient of the Ann Miller Indigenous Scholarship.

We are proud to have supported indigenous students throughout our history, and will continue to improve our support in the future.



"I know, as a student from an area with limited opportunity, that we have just as much potential as students elsewhere... You don't have to do what everyone else is doing. You CAN break the trend and you CAN be the first to accomplish something, because the proposed limits that are perpetuated onto young people in our areas do not exist."
 Kaytlyn



The Ann Miller Indigenous Scholarship

In 2008 Ann established a scholarship for a student at University College. Originally it was available to any student studying any discipline. However, when Ann attended the Scholars Dinner in 2014, the keynote speakers were two indigenous women: Dr Margaret Williams-Weir and Dr Misty Jenkins, resident adviser in 2006. Both were from rural Australia, were first generation university women and had successful careers.

"A few days after this dinner I contacted College to begin discussions about changing the scope of my scholarship so I could support other indigenous people to fulfil their dreams. My scholarship is now for an indigenous woman, studying any discipline at the University of Melbourne and supports the duration of their stay in College. I have established a happy relationship with each of these young women and it has been (and still is) a joy to watch their development." Ann Miller

Alumni memories

Over 7,000 students have resided at UC across its 85 year history – and we know that many have strong memories of their time with us. Here, some of our alumni reflect on what UC meant to them and just how much things have changed over the decades.



Michael Botha and Sophie Clark

“After I went to UC my brother (Michael Botha) and cousin (Katie Botha) followed suit. Michael met Sophie Clark at UC in Freshers year in 2012. They subsequently dated and now live in Ireland where they are studying medicine as mature age students. On a recent holiday back to Melbourne, Michael sent Sophie on a scavenger hunt, ending in the Heritage Room, where he asked Sophie to marry him. They have been together for 11 years. Thank you UC for providing not only my amazing friends, but a gorgeous wife for my brother!”

Martine Botha (UC 2008)

“I met some of my dearest friends at UC. I remember fondly the fresher week, room parties, and just hanging out in the halls together.”

Cyn Hatch (UC 1990)

“During my time at UWC women had a curfew and could only be out overnight after supplying the address of her ‘hostess.’ Some of us felt the inequity keenly, as the men did not have the same rules. One night, at the end of the 10.30pm curfew, a girl kissed her boyfriend goodnight at the College door. The then Principal, Myra Roper, sighted this and emerged from her flat to rebuke them. This caused some controversy amongst the students at the time. The girl and boy married and had children. She became Lord Mayor of Melbourne and he was Director of The National Gallery. History moves quickly!”

Vicky Rousseau (nee Massarik) (UWC 1962)

“I was an exchange student from Southern California for only one term, but it was an amazing experience at UC. That year we had a Mexic’O’ themed orientation week and it made me feel a little closer to home. I introduced authentic margaritas to UC and everyone loved them. I enjoyed learning the dance and attending all the balls. I remember playing pool and card games in the library, and especially the friendliness of the community. UC will always have a special place in my heart. I visited UC in 2018 to attend an Aussie friend’s wedding, whom I met there. The new dining hall and renovations are fantastic. Thank you for the incredible memories. Here’s to creating many more amazing memories for everyone who has lived in UC! Congrats on 85 years!”

Krystal Roberts (UC 2007)



Mark and Yvonne Carr

“I have fond memories of my brief time at University College, not least that while there, I met my future wife Yvonne, a music student.”

Mark Carr (UC 1976)

“I have fond memories of UC day - eating popcorn and fairy floss in the sunshine and jumping on trampolines in the middle of the day. Memories of Lygon Street dinners, late night snacks and movie sessions, trivia nights, getting all dressed up and occasionally attending class. Wearing thongs and shorts under our gowns to high table, lining up for dinner and playing a pink lady in Grease. Making new friends and exploring a new city on the number 19 tram. Seems like so long ago and on the 10th anniversary of being at UC I’m thinking about these times more and more!”

Lauren Gomes (UC 2012)

“Miss Myra Roper was the Principal during my time at UC. Her expectations of you were quite clear from the outset. You were expected to achieve in your academic pursuits and contribute to College life but there was no doubt in her mind that you would eventually be successful in life. You would also have no doubt as to the meaning of ‘appropriate dress’. For important College occasions, such as High Table, a frock was mandatory. Her piercing gaze would let you know if you had succeeded in this challenge. Fast forward to today and my granddaughter once asked me “What is a frock?”

Marli Wallace (UWC 1958)

“I arrived at UWC on a Saturday in March 1954. I had only come from Geelong but it might as well as have been Tallangatta for all I knew about Melbourne. My first lecture was on the following Monday in the New Arts building at 8.45am. I had no idea where that might be but Biddy Sutton, a third year student, kindly came over with me to show me the theatre.

My choice of subjects were physics, chemistry, pure and applied maths. Miss Myra Roper, the UWC principal at the time, thought that somewhat inappropriate for a young woman and suggested I swap a maths for a more feminine subject. I duly enrolled in zoology – in fact I enjoyed it so much that I did it for a second year.

In third year I did a double major in physics, making it my only subject. However I wasn’t sure where it could lead. A friend suggested I talk to someone she knew at the museum



Left to right: Mary Chan, Prue Brown (nee Williams), Lorrie Lawrence (nee Wood), Marli Wallace (nee Ryan) and Ann Dufty.

who had a physics background. I followed this up. His advice was: “do a typing course in your spare time and that should ensure you get a job!”

However I did discover that an acquaintance of mine was a hospital physicist at Peter Mac. He showed me around and I was hooked. I talked to the head physicist and told him I’d like to work there. His reply was that he didn’t normally hire women because they just went off and had babies. But the position was advertised and I got the job! I loved it. Incidentally Miss Roper’s advice to study zoology bore fruit as the biology and genetics I learned was a very good grounding for hospital physics.

Dr. Martin gave me a couple of wonderful projects including the measurement of possible airborne radioactivity over Melbourne following the Maralinga tests (A thousand-fold increase!)

In the next couple of years I spent an evening a week as a physics tutor at UC. I look back and marvel at the way the strands of my life over those years came together to give me such an experience – one for which I will be forever grateful.”

Carmyl Winkler (nee McRae) (UWC 1954)

“My most memorable day has been rowing day. It was exciting to see everyone getting up early, showing the college spirit and supporting our friends rowing on the day, it was such a fun and unique experience.”

Maddi Rees



What our students say

We've worked hard to build a community of like-minded, authentic and friendly individuals who call UC home. Here's what our current students have to say about their time at UC and why they've loved it here so far.



“I love the student groups such as the queer community where you can do things together specifically relating to that group. I also adore the receptionist, RTs and youth workers. They feel like a big sibling sometimes that will always help you out and listen.”

Alyssa Fraser



“I love that there is always a group of friends who share similar interests to you, no matter what interests they may be!”

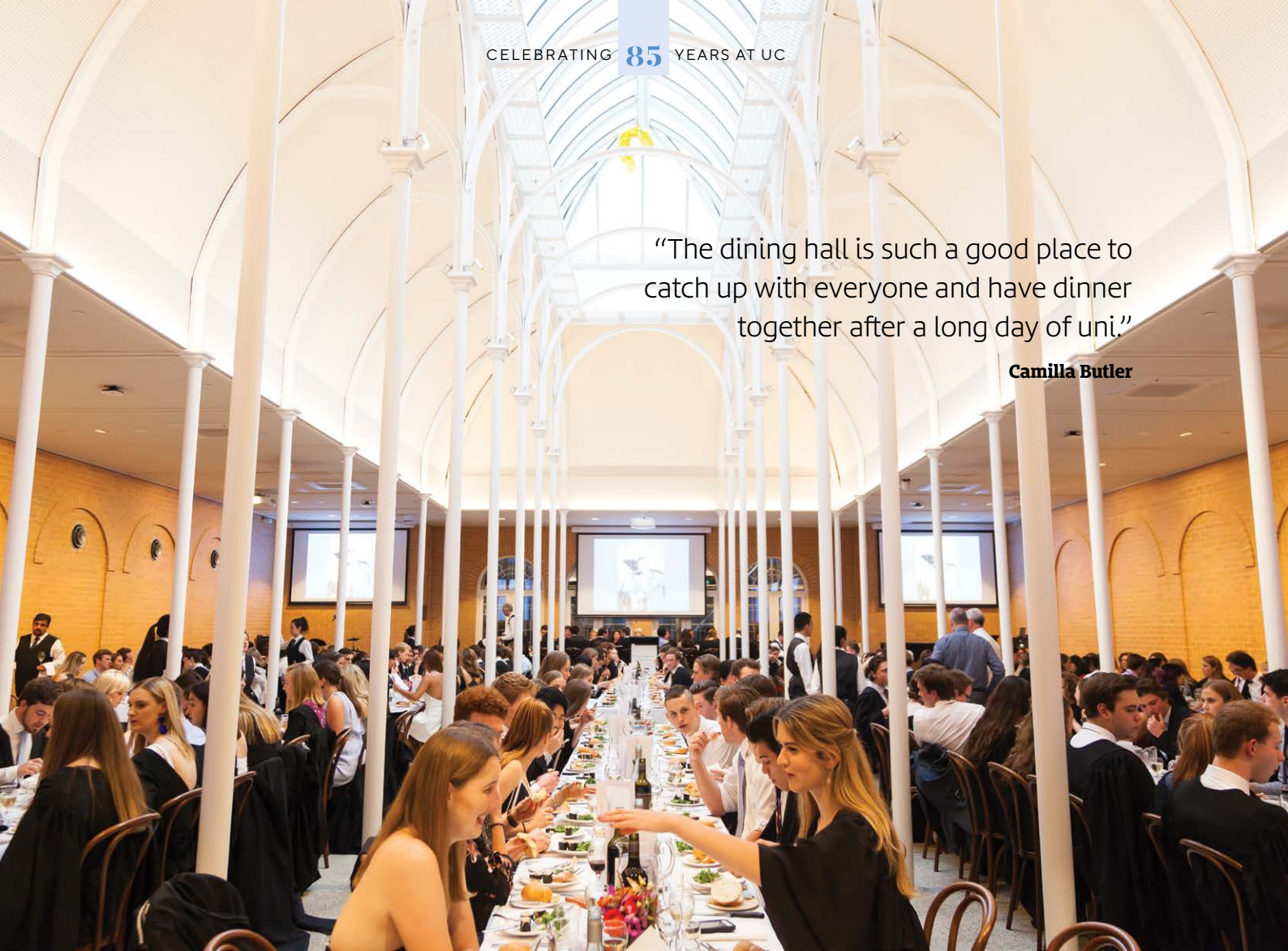
Thomas Mowbray

“Being an international student I had no problems mixing in and making friends at college. I love that the whole community comes together for any UC-related event whether it be sports or any other event. To sum it up, I love the vibrant, friendly and comfortable culture at UC.”

Mehul Sharma

“The dining hall is such a good place to catch up with everyone and have dinner together after a long day of uni.”

Camilla Butler



“UC is a great place for your studies as well as sport, creative arts, and social aspects, with a diverse range of people and a super inclusive, relaxed vibe. My most memorable experience at college so far was probably O-Week because it pushed me outside my comfort zone, to try new things and meet new people. And I love the picnic benches around college, especially in summer, because they are a nice place for everyone to catch up and hang out at the end of the day.”

Molly Woolcock

“My favourite event would have to be O-Week because it was full of activities and good vibes and I loved meeting everyone.”

Ned Sullivan

“My most memorable experience at college this year was the first few weeks of settling in at the beginning after O-Week. It was such a fun and exciting time meeting more and more new people, as well as starting my new university classes. In general it was a very fun and exciting experience.”

Sophie Lange



“I love how UC feels like it can be a place for anyone. People are always friendly and inclusive. Almost everyone you pass in the hallways gives a smile and says hello. The sense of community is extremely strong and there’s help for anyone in any circumstance if they need it.”

Jasper Cohen

“UC feels like home because it’s accepting of everyone – and because of that, it attracts authentic and like-minded people. I haven’t really felt like I belonged anywhere, until I came to UC.”

Lulu Fitz



Anniversary celebrations reach new heights

To celebrate our 85th Anniversary this year, we decided to try something a little different. Using a makeshift compass and some flour, we mapped out a giant 85 on the lawn of the Giblein Courtyard. Then we gathered a bunch of enthusiastic students and staff and had them stand on the shape while we captured the image with a drone from the air. Thanks to everyone who joined in.

Frappe Fort

'What you do, do with a will.'



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

40 College Crescent
Parkville Victoria 3052 Australia
+61 3 9347 3533
unicol.unimelb.edu.au