



ORMOND COLLEGE
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

GIFTS THAT LAST A LIFETIME

2025 Community Impact Report





Ormond College acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which the College sits, the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation. The Wurundjeri People are the people of the Wurun, the river white gum, who have been custodians of this land for thousands of years. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders – past, present, and emerging.

A message of thanks

I'm thrilled to share this year's Impact Report, which highlights the many ways your generosity has shaped our College in 2025.

Inside this report, you can read the facts and figures on donations to the College over the past year. Among the highlights: \$1.6m given to scholarships through Annual Giving, direct donations, Gifts in Wills and pledges and \$669,000 donated to capital programs.

While it's easy enough to cite dollar figures over a calendar year, it's much harder to measure the real impact of this kind of generosity. Gifts of education cause ripple effects that continue across lifetimes and generations. Donor and Ormond alumnus Adrian Fonseca is a case in point (p.11).

It doesn't take long for the ripples to start at Ormond, though. As you'll read in these pages, our students are seizing every opportunity with both hands. They are already making huge contributions to the community – both within the College and far beyond it. PhD candidate Skye Holmwood (p.6) is advancing neuroscience research through the Florey Institute and deepening our understanding of Alzheimer's disease. And it seems possible that Dan O'Regan (p.8) – hailing from country New South Wales – caused a statistically significant spike in interstate tourism after landing the lead male role in last year's College production of *Chicago*!

Thanks to everybody who donated to the much-needed upgrades on the Junior Common Room (JCR) in 2024 and 2025. The works are complete and the JCR is now fit for a wider range of purposes – while retaining its sentimental and heritage charm.

The Campaign for Ormond, our most ambitious fundraising effort since 1881, is well underway now, too. You can read more about those plans, and their progress, on page 16.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to making this community exceptional over the past year. In my first full year as Master, it has been a privilege to witness your generosity, and its far-reaching impact, firsthand.

Dr. Areti (Ari) Metuamate
Master and Head of College



“

Gifts of education cause ripple effects that continue across lifetimes and generations.”

IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

KEEPING ORMOND ACCESSIBLE THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

\$1.43 MILLION

distributed in scholarships and financial assistance in 2025

\$179K+

Western Chances, Skyline Foundation and The Smith Family Non-Resident Scholarships Awarded by the College

\$14,187

average scholarship value in 2025



23%



of student community received financial assistance in 2025

100%

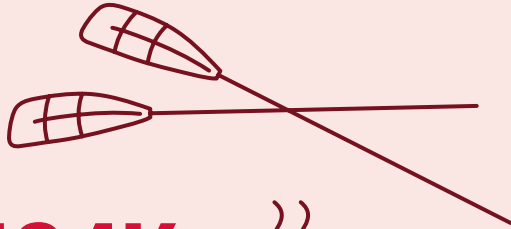
scholarship funds go directly to supporting students

19



First Nations students received a combined total of \$185,951 in financial assistance

JCR REFURBISHMENT



\$164K 

raised through Annual Giving for JCR works, restoring the floor, upgrading the kitchen and replacing furniture

THE GIFT OF TIME

89 students and alumni have joined networking platform Ormond Connect

85 alumni have participated in in-person mentoring and career networking for students

10 students secured job interviews, internships or full-time paid employment through alumni networks

32 alumni have served in voluntary roles on council and committees

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY

\$1.6 MILLION



to scholarships through Annual Giving, direct donations, Gifts in Wills and pledges in 2025

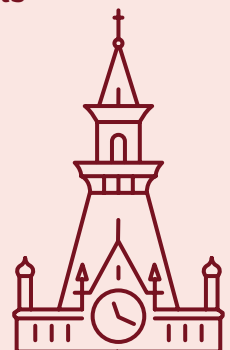
\$669K+



to capital programs through Annual Giving, direct donations, gifts in Wills and pledges in 2025

545 DONORS

- 267 alumni; and
- 206 past or current parents
- 72 friends of the College and staff
- 79 alumni and friends have left a gift in their Will to the College



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



What a year!

MATHIAS

Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Finance and Economics, Second Year



I grew up in West Melbourne and come from an Ethiopian background. The College environment and traditions were pretty foreign to me at first, but everyone was very welcoming. Over time, it started to feel like home.

One of the biggest highlights has been meeting so many new people and getting to know students from different courses and backgrounds. Some of the College events have also been great experiences, like the benefactors' lunch, where you get to meet people who support the College and hear about their careers.

In the long term, I'd love to study abroad and complete an MBA. Being at Ormond has been so helpful; you get to meet people studying all sorts of subjects, and you also learn more about different career paths through alumni and professionals at College events.

Gray Family Tasmanian Scholarship

KATE

Bachelor of Arts, Second Year

When I found out I'd been accepted into Ormond, I was ecstatic! I'd always wanted to study at the University of Melbourne, but I come from a rural area in Victoria and was concerned about financial barriers.

Financial assistance has taken away so much stress. It means the world to me that I can be here in Melbourne, at uni, and able to connect with the broad community and college life.

One of the best experiences I had last year was being involved in our major production, *Chicago*. I was on the set team and worked backstage. I loved getting to know so many people and formed some really close friendships.

This year, I was an O-Week leader and I'm also one of the three heads of the Rural Students' Club. We have big plans to create a safe and welcoming place for Ormond's rural students. We want to help non-rural students understand more about the rural experience, too.

McKean Clarke Scholarship

OLIVER**Bachelor of Arts, Second Year**

I grew up on the Mornington Peninsula, attending the local public school, Dromana Secondary College. There were real opportunities for students looking for them and I chose to get involved with anything and everything on offer. It's a mindset that I've brought to Ormond: making the most of every opportunity.

The College really promotes a culture of student influence and leadership. We truly get a say in shaping what we want Ormond, and our peers, to stand for.

My goal in 2026 is to give back as much as I can to a College that has provided me with so much – from holding multiple College jobs to involvement in sport, orientation and leadership.

Hugh Collins Scholarship

**MATT****Bachelor of Biomedicine, Third Year**

One of the reasons I applied to Ormond was because of my father. He went to the University of Melbourne, but not to a college. He used to talk about being jealous of the connection and community among his peers who went to Ormond!

I grew up moving around all over the place, because of my parents' work. I went to many different schools before the age of 12, and didn't always feel like I belonged to any one place. Coming from a background where I couldn't always find my people, college life sounded amazing.

In my first two years here, I competed in basketball, footy and athletics teams. This year I'm hoping to captain the basketball team and I'm head of Ormond's Indigenous Students Committee.

Financial assistance for College feels like a burden has been dramatically lifted off my shoulders. It means I can allocate more time to my studies and to contributing to the College in meaningful ways.

Pompey Elliott Rural Scholarship

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Skye Holmwood

Parkville's renowned biomedical research precinct drew graduate student Skye Holmwood from Canberra to Melbourne. Now she's living the dream – walking from home every day to the Florey Institute lab, where she's undertaking a PhD on Alzheimer's research.

The graduate community at Ormond is really friendly; really lovely and inclusive with lots of social stuff going on. At Ormond, you get to meet so many different people working in all sorts of different fields. It's great to get out of my science bubble.

I'm probably in the lab more than I should be sometimes. I'm really curious and motivated by the work I'm doing and the purpose behind it. It doesn't always feel like work.

My PhD is in neuroscience with a focus on Alzheimer's disease. It's looking beyond the one or two proteins that researchers have mostly focused on over the past 20 or 30 years to investigate a much wider range of proteins and all of the metabolites in the Alzheimer's brain, compared to healthy control brains. I have heaps of data, over 600 brains' worth

of data, and I'm using bioinformatics and coding to try to find a good protein target – or multiple! – to develop therapies to cure Alzheimer's.

Last year, I participated with some other Ormond grads in the Q4Impact program. The program was a series of weekly workshops where we learned about communicating research and the whole pipeline of research translation, too. It was cool to hear about the other students' research – ranging from speech pathology to linguistics.

The whole thing ended with a pitch competition at the Wade Institute. I was thrilled to win the People's Choice Award and the Overall Best Presentation Award! It was a great experience and this year, I'll be the student in charge of organising Q4 for the next group.

It's such a privilege to be here at Ormond. I know a lot of the grads are in the same boat as me – we couldn't be here without financial assistance. It feels pretty special walking through the gates after work, and having all these awesome people to talk to. It feels like I'm in a very lucky position.

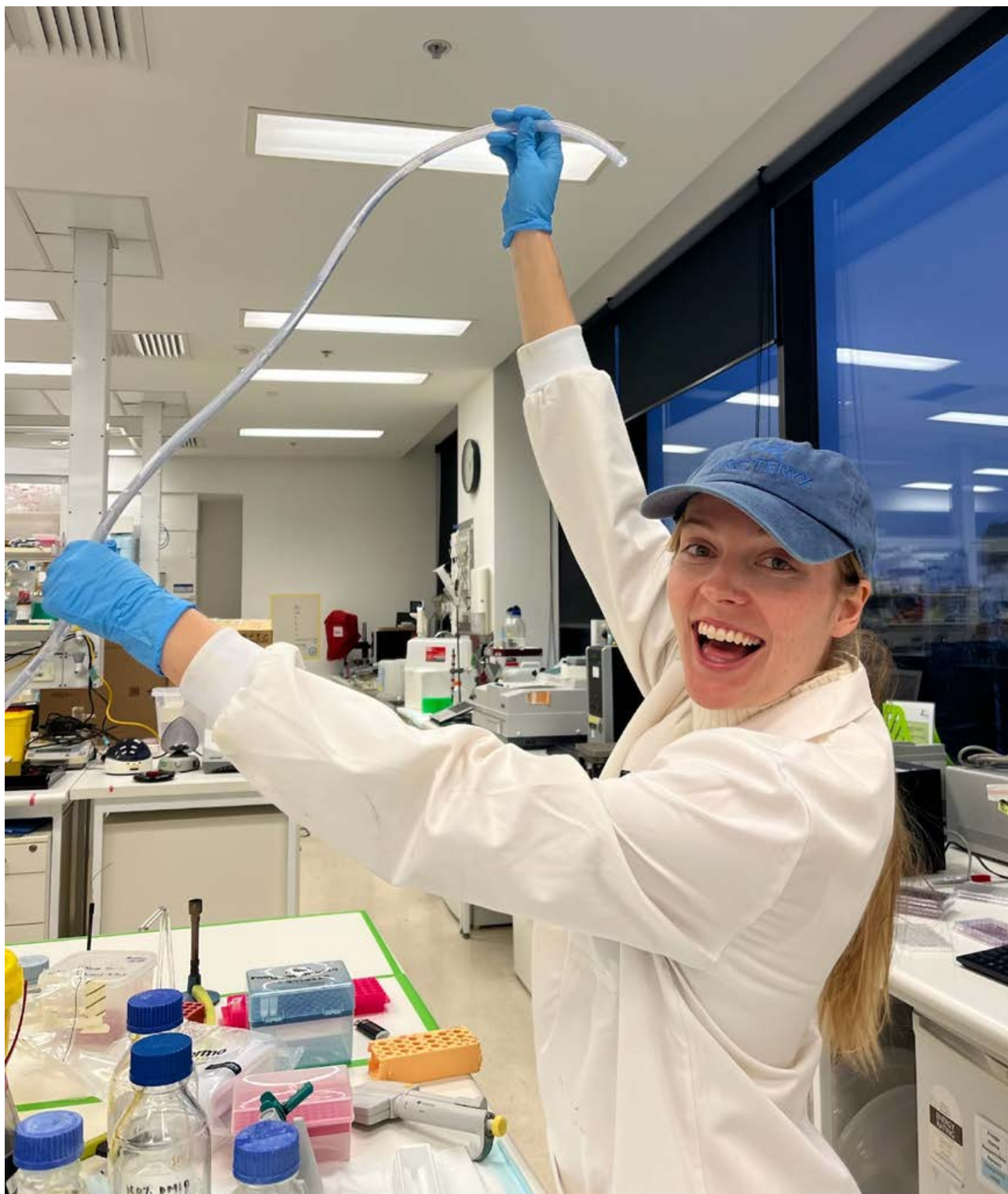
Richard and Verna Gutch Scholarship



“

I'm probably in the lab more than I should be sometimes. I'm really curious and motivated by the work I'm doing and the purpose behind it. It doesn't always feel like work.”

– Skye Holmwood



Above: Financial assistance enables Skye to continue her PhD research.
Left: Presenting at the Q4Impact pitch competition.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Dan O'Regan

Dan O'Regan had never performed in a musical until he came to Ormond. He auditioned for *Chicago* in his first year and scored the lead male role. The Commerce student from Scone, New South Wales, says starring in *Chicago* was the highlight in a year of many highlights.

I struggled a little bit at the start of my first semester at College. I was so busy with uni work, and getting used to a new city and new people, but things kind of fell into place when I started doing the musical.

I was sceptical about auditioning. I love plays, I did Drama at school, and I'm in some bands, but I'd never been in a musical before. A couple of people encouraged me to try out for *Chicago*, though, and it was honestly the best decision.

I'm studying a Bachelor of Commerce, mastering in Engineering. It's pretty full-on. Somehow, I found I was better able to focus academically when I had outlets for music and creative stuff.

Lots of family and friends travelled down to see me in *Chicago*. My old boss, her husband and their sons; my uncle and aunt; my best mate – I think in the end there were 20 people or something who came down from New South Wales! It was hilarious.

Playing on the rugby team has been another great connection to home. I grew up playing rugby and I've met a lot of other people here that way. It's been great.





“

I think one of the biggest positives is meeting a whole range of people with a whole range of views and a whole range of experiences.”

– Dan O’Regan



The academic program is awesome, too. Sometimes I don’t feel like going to tutes on Thursday nights but then I say to myself, *come on, mate*. I mean, it’s amazing academic support right at your doorstep.

Joe, the calculus tutor, is an absolute weapon. He really cares about us, and our learning, and I know a lot of us are so grateful for that.

Coming back for my second year, I really wanted to help new students settle in and make friends. I’m keen to soak up as much as I can of this place. I think one of the biggest positives is meeting a whole range of people with a whole range of views and a whole range of experiences. I think it just makes for better people, and I’m so lucky to get the chance to do it.

OCA Scholarship

Top left: Things fell into place for Dan once he started rehearsals for the Ormond musical.

Above: On stage in Chicago.

PHILANTHROPY SPOTLIGHT



“

Being at Ormond means belonging to a community – something that is truly special.”

– Wendy Carter

WENDY CARTER

As the parent of two Ormond students, Wendy Carter has seen firsthand how the College can shape young people’s lives. By supporting the Ormond Campaign, she hopes more students – not just her own – can experience the same opportunities.

My daughter Kate attended Ormond during the first two years of her university life, beginning in 2024. She’s now passing the baton to her younger brother, Jack, who has just begun his first year at Ormond. So far, he is having a fabulous time.

My daughter has met some incredible people at the College. It’s given her the opportunity to meet people from many different walks of life, but importantly, people who share similar values. I am sure these relationships will become lifelong friendships. In this modern age, when so much of life is digital, being at Ormond means belonging to a community – something that is truly special.

Ormond has such a rich history and an extraordinary campus. We wanted to help not only preserve its beautiful buildings, but also support the modernisation and expansion of facilities that enhance students’ learning and social life. Seeing our daughter’s experience at Ormond reinforced for us how special the College community is through the friendships it fosters, its culture of learning and intellectual curiosity, and its strong sense of belonging. Supporting this campaign felt like a meaningful way to help ensure that future generations of students can enjoy that same experience.

ADRIAN FONSECA

Philanthropy is in Adrian Fonseca's (1992) DNA. In 2025, the Sydney-based businessman hosted fundraising events for Ormond at his home and has also made a significant contribution to the Campaign for Ormond College.

It's a privilege to be able to give back. I was the beneficiary of philanthropy myself; it was one of the reasons I was able to attend College. I would say that the networks, relationships, and opportunities that I had at Ormond really kick-started my career – firstly in the law, then in investment banking, and then in business. So, it's something I think of as a high honour.

It's also in my family's DNA. My parents migrated to Australia when I was a child. They didn't have huge means, but they always had a vision and a core value around philanthropy: you give what you can. It's part of our ethos.

I'm a huge believer in colleges – in the opportunities they provide for young adults and the role they perform in the ecosystem of universities. People who have attended college, or work as part of a college community, understand how vital they are and how meaningful they are. They can make a real difference to people's futures.

I'm excited about Ormond's current campaign and the transformation underway. I encourage everyone to visit the College, and talk to Ari, Gareth, and the team. You'll quickly see that Ormond changes lives.

I'm delighted to be able to make a significant contribution to the campaign. I hope it generates further momentum. Having experienced Ormond myself – I know it's an incredible place. If my family can expand the opportunity for more individuals to come, and change lives, then that is very fulfilling and also gives us a deep sense of pride.



Above: Adrian with his wife, Nancy; son, Alex; and daughters Sophia and Olivia.



COMMON GOOD

Following summer works, the JCR is back up and running – and it's looking terrific.

The refurbishment of the Junior Common Room (JCR) is now complete, and it's a pleasure to see students once again filling the space with life – and to smell the aroma of freshly brewed coffee!

Our vision for this campaign was to cultivate a more flexible environment, adaptable to a wide range of functions, without sacrificing the heritage elements and the spirit of the JCR. Understanding that the JCR holds a special place in the hearts of students

and alumni alike, we have ensured its most beloved features – the carved benches, oars, honours board, and crest – retain their rightful prominence.

The heritage jarrah floors, which have faithfully withstood many a raucous smoko, have been meticulously repaired over the summer. While restoring the timber, we also took the opportunity to upgrade and repair the sub-floor services. Similarly, the original Chesterfields have been replaced with new pieces in the same classic style, complemented by contemporary modular sofas that offer easy reconfiguration (and don't scratch the floorboards!)



Left: The refurbished JCR is now suited to a wider range of purposes.

Below: Interior plan of the new JCR.



Modern functionality was a priority. We have doubled the number of power outlets and introduced a sophisticated perimeter lighting system. With adjustable levels and a dedicated low bar light over the servery, students can now tailor the ambience to suit their needs (dim lights for movie nights; bright lights when the smoko is over and it's time to go home.)

The JCR has long been a place for morning news and spirited debate. This tradition lives on in the 'news hub', near the cafe, equipped with an upgraded TV and daily newspaper deliveries.

Perhaps the most striking upgrade lies in the cafe and servery. Featuring a new breakfast bar and 24-hour snack facilities – essential for those emergency 2am swotvac toasties – the area is finished with display cabinetry and counterfronts that echo the diagonal patterns of the vestibule ceiling. Even the Ormond crest has been reimagined, now set against a bronze mirror.

Finished with a fresh coat of paint in a warm, inviting hue, the JCR is now a contemporary space that honours both its heritage and its community. We are deeply grateful for your generous support in making this possible.





The Campaign for Ormond College

Ormond stands proudly as one of Australia's leading colleges. We are a vibrant academic community where students live, learn, and develop life-long friendships and connections. To remain at the forefront, Ormond must continue to evolve, and we need the help of our community to do that.

The Campaign for Ormond College is our most ambitious undertaking since the College's foundation. Together, we will revitalise key heritage spaces, create new places for learning and wellbeing, and expand access for students who otherwise could not be here.





Top: The new Student Centre will replace the O-Wing.

Above: The expanded Dining Hall will enable the whole community to dine together.

Left: The new facilities will include dedicated spaces for students to meet with each other and with mentors.

The campaign centres on three priorities.

1 Together at the table: Expanding our beloved Dining Hall so the whole community can once again gather together at the table – preserving the spirit, tradition, and energy at the heart of Ormond life.

2 Spaces for growth and success: Building a new Student Centre to replace the outdated O-Wing, creating a state-of-the-art hub for mentoring, co-curricular enrichment, a modern gymnasium, wellbeing support, and dedicated spaces where students will meet alumni mentors, test ideas, and develop the skills to make a meaningful difference.

3 For all means and none: Growing our scholarship program to increase financial assistance; opening Ormond's doors wider to talented young people from regional, remote, and underrepresented communities.



With Heritage Victoria approval secured and detailed plans in place, we are delighted to share that the campaign is well on its way to reaching its target. We look forward to launching the community phase later this year.

If you would like to find out more about the campaign, please contact the Executive Director of Advancement, Gareth Crowe, at gcrowe@ormond.unimelb.edu.au.

2025 DONORS

We are grateful for every gift from every donor.
Thanks for your commitment to our College in 2025.

Your generosity is transforming students' lives.

ENDOWMENT BENEFACTORS & MAJOR SUPPORTERS

Ormond's enduring strength is rooted in a proud tradition of philanthropy. We honour the vision and generosity of those whose significant and sustained contributions continue to enrich the lives of our students and strengthen our College community.

- Mr D S Abraham AM
- Mr P G & Mrs A Allard
- Dr P J Allen
- Mr J R Balderstone & Mrs D L Balderstone
- Mr N J & Mrs D E Bertalli
- Mr R M Bishop
- Mr W Bisley
- Dr A J Bothroyd
- Ms E J M Bridger
- Assoc Prof A M V Brooks
- Mrs M Cairns
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- Dr G A Clarke
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- Dr P A Foster & Assoc Prof J McBain AO
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- Dr M P Garrett & Mrs M L Claisse
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- Dr C J R McGrath
- Dr C R McLennan
- Mr A G Michelmore AO & Mrs J H Michelmore AO
- Mr R L Milne AO
- Mr H D Mitchell
- Prof R F Moulds
- Dr M L Murnane-Griffiths AM
- Ms M L Padbury
- Mr J & Mrs A K Paterson
- Mr R & Mrs B Paterson
- Mr W & Mrs H Paterson
- Mr K E Richards OAM
- Dr G S M Robson
- Mrs R Smith
- Mr B T Stewart
- Mr R T Stewart
- Mr J T Stewart
- Ms H Sykes & Mr M Fitzpatrick
- Mrs M Swinburne
- Prof H R Taylor AC & Assoc Prof E Dax AM
- Mr P A Wade & Mrs S Wade
- Mr J M Walter & Mrs C M Walter AM

SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES & PRIZES

Ormond College expresses sincere thanks to the following donors for their generous contributions. These gifts have been designated to fund scholarships, bursaries, endowments, and prizes, providing essential support for resident students and academic programs.

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- Mr J W Bate

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- Dr G A Clarke
- Hon Associate Justice D M B Derham KC
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- Dr P A McBain & Assoc Prof J McBain AO
- Dr C R McLennan
- Mr H D Mitchell
- Dr M L Murnane-Griffiths AM
- Mr J & Mrs A K Paterson
- Mr R & Mrs B Paterson
- Mr W & Mrs H Paterson
- Dr R E J Smith
- Mr R T Stewart
- Dr C S Sutherland OAM



RENATE KAMENER SCHOLARSHIP

The College is grateful for the contributions received from the following donors, towards the Renate Kamener Indigenous Scholarship. This scholarship enables an Indigenous student to reside at Ormond while pursuing studies at the University of Melbourne.

- Ms K A Abrat
- Dr S J Borthwick
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- Mr P Winslade
- Mr H Zwier

1881 CLUB

The 1881 Club is Ormond College's bequest society facilitating alumni and their families to make a gift to the College after their death. We are so grateful to 1881 Club members past and present for their generosity.

- Mr D S Abraham AM
- Dr W Anderson
- Dr P M Ashton
- Mr N J & Mrs D E Bertalli
- Mr W Bisley
- Mr R J Bugg
- Ms L R Cain
- Mr S L Carland
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CAPITAL PROGRAM

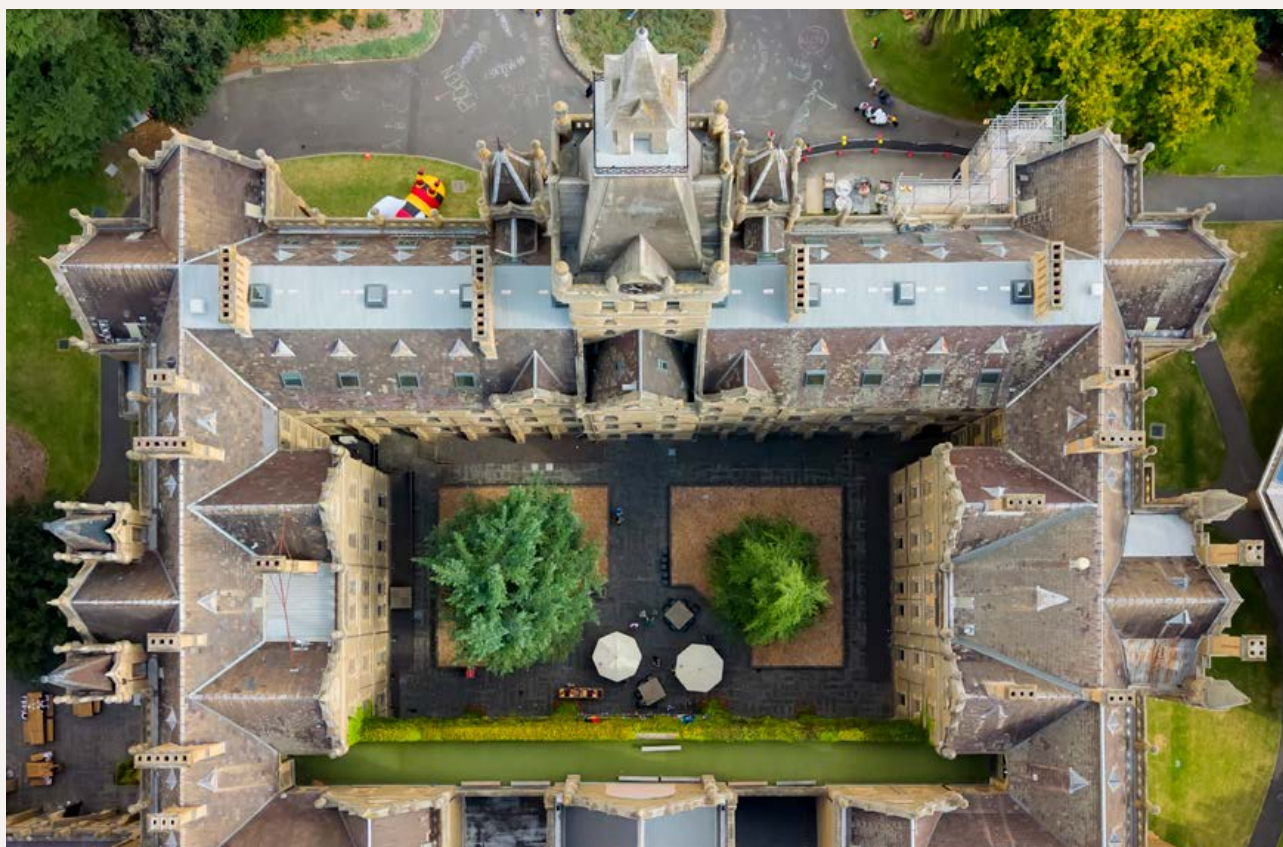
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