

# Lion

THE WESLEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



## Unstoppable!

The rise and rise of Wesley Cross Country

*A very Wesley family*  
Purple blood runs deep

*A Passage to India*  
The Mayo College exchange

*Rohan's adventurous journey*  
An immersive exhibition



WESLEY COLLEGE

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA - SINCE 1866



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Celebrating the remarkable strength of Wesley Cross Country in the APS competition since 2012.

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Editorial

Welcome to the December edition of *Lion*.

Looking towards our 160th anniversary next year, on page 6, we spotlight a Wesley family whose own story is intertwined with the story of our school. Five generations of the Hartnett family have attended Wesley College, starting with 12-year-old William Parker Little, who was Pupil Number 38 in 1866. We thank John Hartnett (OW1959) for providing us with much of the information on which the feature is based.

Our cover story for this edition investigates the remarkable strength of Wesley Cross Country in the APS competition since 2012. Our girls' team won the premiership for a startling 11 years in a row from 2012 to 2023, and this past winter season, our boys won the competition for the ninth consecutive year. We spoke with Head Coach of Athletics and Cross Country, Tim O'Shaughnessy and past and current team captains to uncover the secrets of their unparalleled success. A key one was Tim's 'small steps' approach. To Wolfgang Cotra-Nemesi (OW2023), that meant 'stacking days and weeks of training over years to improve; to chisel away at the marble statue of yourself.' Sometimes good things take time...

Another wonderful example of that sits behind our story on page 8. In the late 1990s, a firm friendship formed between an Australian and an Indian - Peter Rosenberg (OW1963) and a revered teacher, Raghu Raj Singh. The two men often passionately discussed forging closer ties between Australia and India and long envisioned setting up an exchange program for students and teachers between Wesley and Mayo College, often called the 'Eton of the East' in Rajasthan state, India.


Knowing these things develop slowly, Raghu suggested they start with reciprocal cricket tours between Old Wesley and Old Mayo teams, beginning with great success in early 2019. This year marks the long-awaited flowering of that partnership, with the start of the student exchange program. Our story offers a look-in on a life-changing experience for our Year 10 students Audrey, Harry, Ekam and Max.


My predecessor as *Lion* editor, Dawson Hann, knows about things developing slowly. Over the past 25 years, he has drawn on his well-lived Wesley life and his frequent travels to inform the 'writing of a poem now and then'. The result is the publication of his first poetry collection, *Bottled Oddities: The Collected Poems of Dawson Hann* by London publishers Austen Macauley. Lyrical, insightful, funny and profound, his poetry is deeply affecting. You'll find our review of the collection on page 33.


Sometimes good things take time. In a world that foregrounds instant gratification and an instant response, it's easy to lose sight of that, isn't it?

Wishing everyone in our community a warm and wonderful festive season.

Paul Munn, *Lion* Editor and Features Writer

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Wesley College occupies the lands of many Traditional Custodians: the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation, Gunai Kurnai, Dja Dja Wurrung and Gunditjmara. We also recognise our ongoing partnership with the Bunuba people as traditional custodians of the Yiramalay Studio School. We offer our respect to their Elders, both past and present, who have cared for and cultivated this land, its waterways and the surrounding communities for many thousands of years and we acknowledge these groups as part of one of the world's oldest surviving cultures.

To find further information and news about Wesley College, visit our website at [wesleycollege.edu.au](http://wesleycollege.edu.au)



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Principal's lines



Principal Nick Evans with Max, Ekam, Harry and Audrey outside the Mayo College museum

Anyone who has been to India never forgets the experience.

It is an all-consuming overload for every sense. The colours, the smells, the sounds, the traffic, the press of people, the spectacular scenery, the vast and vibrant cities, the poverty, the wealth, the food, the languages: India entrances, spellbinds and challenges in a way few other countries can. As four Wesley students have found out this term.

These four students are the inaugural exchange students to Mayo College, Ajmer. Mayo College is one of the oldest and most famous schools in India. It was founded in 1875 by Earl Mayo, then Viceroy of the British Raj. His intent on founding the school was clear; he wanted an 'Eton of India'. At that time, India was under the direct rule of the British, a period known as the Raj.

Within the Raj, there were a substantial number of smaller states with their own rulers who were given a degree of independence, known as the princely states. Mayo College was founded with the express purpose of educating the scions of these states and those who helped them rule.

The first student at Wesley College was Freddie Binks from Bendigo who turned up with one suitcase a day early and spent the night on his own in a dormitory. The first student at Mayo College was His Highness Maharajah Mangal Singh of Alwar, who arrived on the back of an elephant, with 300 servants and a travelling menagerie of camels, horses and tigers. Mayo has continued to have a very close association with many of the royal families of India and many distinguished Indians have attended the College. In 1987, Mayo College opened Mayo Girls' School across the road from the boys' school. Both are fully boarding and have an astonishing array of cocurricular activities.

Wesley was very pleased to welcome our first Mayo exchange students in May this year. Our Mayo students lived in the boarding house at Glen Waverley while here and ticked off many of the activities expected of a visitor to Victoria: the Great Ocean Road, surfing and caving at Lochend, the Healesville Sanctuary and of course, football at the MCG.

The hospitality extended to the Wesley students over past weeks at Mayo has

been extraordinary. Each were taken by their Mayo buddies home for Diwali. While their buddies did exams, they were shown many of the sights of the neighbouring states, including of course, the Taj Mahal. They returned to Mayo for classes and to participate in the festivities for the 150th anniversary of Mayo's founding.

India is more than simply a feast for the senses. It is also the largest democracy in the world and a rapidly growing economy. The relationship between India and Australia will be of essential importance to both countries over the next century. There will be increasing economic, cultural, political, social and sporting ties between the two countries. Wesley will have its first overseas student from India enrolled at the College next year and the children of Indian migrants are already attending the College in ever-increasing numbers.

To have a relationship with a school like Mayo, and in a country of such importance to Australia, is wonderfully exciting.

Nick Evans (OW1985)







# Unstoppable!

The rise and rise of Wesley Cross Country

**We celebrated another remarkable cross country milestone at the end of this year's winter sports season with our Boys' Cross Country team securing their ninth consecutive APS Premiership.**

Cheered on by a passionate crowd of purple and gold in a thrilling final round at Yarra Bend, the boys edged out all challengers to again finish the season undefeated. It's just the latest emphatic winning streak, following on from the girls' incredible run of eleven consecutive premierships from 2012 to 2023.

The extraordinary growth and dominance of Wesley Cross Country in the APS competition since 2012 is exceedingly rare, and none of it has happened by chance.

The seeds were quietly sown when Tim 'Tosh' O'Shaughnessy arrived as Head Coach of Athletics and Cross Country back in 2009.

He knew getting to the top was going to be hard work and he adopted a small steps approach. 'It was just about improving season by season. It took three years before we won.'

So, what's been the winning ingredient? Speak to the team captains from across the years and the word that keeps coming up is consistency.

'Tosh's unique coaching style centres on long-term consistency,' says Cameron Gatt (OW2012). 'I remember witnessing the steady improvements each week and year, both in myself and in my teammates.'

Wolfgang Cotra-Nemesi (OW2023) offers his own instructive metaphor about Tim's approach: 'It's about stacking days and weeks of training over years to improve in an aerobic-based sport, to chisel away at the marble statue of yourself and your goals.'

Lousia Lazar (OW2023) still applies the lessons she learnt while on the team to her life today: 'Consistency is the key to improvement. If you put the work in, you never know where it can take you.'

No slouch as a runner himself back in the day - Tim won a Victorian 1500m Championship while still in high school and went on to compete internationally - he brings decades of knowledge and experience as a fitness and running coach, right up to the Olympic level. But it's the way he forged a sustainable team culture as part of that consistency that's made all the difference. 'For me, the most satisfying part of the success is the sustainability,' he says.

***'Consistency is the key to improvement. If you put the work in, you never know where it can take you.'***

'Tim's built a strong and self-sustaining culture around the Cross Country and Athletics teams,' confirms Adam Pyke (OW2013). 'Younger athletes are able to seamlessly integrate with older athletes and quickly learn the best way to improve their running with the support of an entire team.'

'I call it learning by osmosis,' says Tim. 'They don't even realise they're doing it.'

Current Girls' Co-Captain Sienna from Year 12 sees it like this: 'We learn and share a lot with each other. The senior athletes - both boys and girls, really take pride in mentoring the younger runners. The support and camaraderie are truly special.'

Co-Captain Khushi adds, 'At Wesley, we're fortunate that our captains have always shared close friendships. The bond between the boys' and girls' captains flows through to the younger students, building a team that supports one another in sport, in personal achievements and through challenges. That connection makes us stronger both on and off the course.'

***'I call it learning by osmosis,' says Tim. 'They don't even realise they're doing it.'***

'Wesley is definitely an outlier,' says coach Saskia Lloyd (OW2020). 'All our Year 12 runners will keep running next year and we'll run with them. It's not a question of "Are they going to quit?"'

It just doesn't happen! Everyone from Wesley just keeps running.'

Inevitably, the unparalleled depth of talent that's nurtured amongst these blended generations of committed Wesley runners - students, coaches and OWs alike - means that at the top end, the stars keep emerging.

Case in point is Year 11 student Finn, who won the Under 17 Australian Cross Country Championships in August this year. But the achievements only escalate from there.

'Our 2019 captains (Adam Spencer and Sophie O'Sullivan) both went to the Olympics in the same year - that's very rare!' says Saskia.

'And there's other people who have gone even higher. Jemima was our captain and now she's winning medals.'

Jemima Montag (OW2016), Cross Country Captain in 2016 and Commonwealth Games Gold medallist in 2018, took out the Bronze in the race walk at the Paris Olympics last year. She's very clear about what her Wesley years gave her.

'Training with Tosh was the perfect launch pad into my Olympic career,' she says. 'I finished school fresh and injury-free, with a whole toolbox of skills in sports psychology and race preparation that have paved the way for success on the world stage.'

A formidable legacy is building, and it's being sustained by the spirit of community. It may be a counterintuitive notion for what seems to be a highly individualised sport, but the powerful impression with this group of athletes and coaches is that first and foremost, they work as a team, one that has bonded like a family.

Boys' Captain Max from Year 12, who described the moment of victory this year at Yarra Bend as both 'pure joy and relief', credits the team's victories to this culture of trust and mutual support.

'The secret to our success is the strong culture the entire squad has built over the past decade. We know we can rely on each other and trust everyone will give their all.'



- (L-R)**
1. Logan Janetzki (OW2022)
  2. Cameron Gatt (OW2012)
  3. Adam Pyke (OW2013)
  4. Sophie O'Sullivan (OW2019)
  5. Adam Spencer (OW2019)
  6. Wolfgang Cotra-Nemesi (OW2023)
  7. Jemima Montag (OW2016)
  8. Jhye Hatfield (OW2023)
  9. Hamish Donohue (OW2024)



# A very Wesley family



A very Wesley family: The Hartnetts gathered in the Nye Quadrangle at St Kilda Road - named after John's great uncle, the Rev Edward Nye (OW1884)

**For our great school and our generational Wesley families, history flows together; the school helps shape the character of family, and family helps shape the character of the school.**



The start of the Hartnett line: John and Sophia McCutcheon were wed by Wesley founder the Rev D.J. Draper in 1863

As we head towards our 160th Anniversary next year, we're featuring a Wesley family who is the living embodiment of this, their purple bloodline flowing all the way down through the generations from our very beginning...

Like all family trees, the Hartnett's is winding and complexly connected, the Hartnett family of today stemming from three main branches: the McCutcheons, Littles and Nyes.

The family's Wesley story begins in 1863, when the school site was still 10 acres of timbered ground. John McCutcheon and Sophia Little, the great-great-grandparents of today's Wesley generation, were married by the Reverend D J Draper, Methodist minister and a key founder and benefactor of the College.

Sophia's nephew, 12-year-old William Parker Little, started when the school opened in 1866, as Pupil Number 38. Since then, more than 70 of his relatives have attended Wesley across the generations.

John and Sophia's son, Walter B. McCutcheon (OW1876) was a founding member of the Old Boys' Society (forerunner of the OWCA) and was the 16th President of the OWCA in 1912.

Prominent in the family's early association with the College is the Reverend Edward Nye (OW1884), College Dux in 1884 and

Walter Powell Scholar in 1886. Teacher and College Chaplain for 30 years from 1909 to 1939, he also wrote our first official history: 'The History of Wesley College 1865-1919'. St Kilda Road's Nye Quadrangle is named after him.

One of John and Sophia's grandsons was Major General George Vasey (OW1907), who led major campaigns for the Australian Army in the Mediterranean and Papua New Guinea during WWII. General Vasey served as the 18th President of the OWCA in 1914.

***'During my initial interview with him, Mr Frederick mildly rebuked me for not addressing him as "Sir"!'***

Walter's grandson, Andrew McCutcheon MP (OW1949), served as Attorney-General and Planning Minister in the Victorian Labour Governments of the late 1980's and early 1990's.

John Harnett (OW1959), grandson to Walter's brother Henry, started at Wesley in Grade 6 in 1953 and was a prefect in his final year. He was followed by his brothers Ralph (OW1961) (dec) and Bruce (OW1968) (dec), who were keen members of the school Athletics team. Ralph was a champion high jumper.

'When I started at Wesley the headmaster was Mr W H Frederick, who was related to my uncle Harry,' says John. 'My uncles

John Maurice McCutcheon (OW1916), Harry McCutcheon (OW1921) and Hugh McCutcheon (OW1926) all attended Wesley. During my initial interview with him, Mr Frederick mildly rebuked me for not addressing him as 'Sir'!



John in his final year at Wesley



John Harnett (OW1959)

All of John and Ralph's children went to Wesley. John's daughter Jillian (Hartnett) Campbell (OW1987), was in the first intake of girls at the St Kilda Road Campus in 1982, son Andrew (OW1990) was the Leader of the Concert Band and member of the First VIII rowing crew and son Richard (OW1993), who married Sheree (Bryant) Hartnett (OW1993), a Glen Waverly graduate, in the St Kilda Road Chapel in 2005, was a prefect and Captain of the First XI (Premiers in 1993) and a member of the First XVIII Football team. He also served on the OWCA Executive Committee from 2016-2018.

Ralph's son Robert (OW1993) was also a keen rower and a member of the Second VIII rowing crew and daughters Deb (Hartnett) Binek (OW1996) and Katherine Hartnett (OW1998) were also dedicated athletes; passionate gymnasts, they both served as Captain of the Gymnastics Firsts.

The living connection to Wesley, forged at the birth of the school itself, remains strong and unbroken, with the fifth generation of the family having attended, or now at school: Ned (OW2024), Angus in Year 11, Holly in Year 9, Charlotte in Year 8 and Henry in Year 7. And next year, on Wesley's 160th anniversary, two more of Pupil Number 38's relatives will start their own Wesley journeys, when we welcome Levi into Year 5 and Leah into Year 7... and so their story continues.



Rev Edward Nye (OW1884) with other Wesley staff in 1932



Harry McCutcheon (OW1917), nephew of Rev. Edward Nye



William Parker Little's nephew, John (Jack) Little (OW1918)





# The Mayo College exchange a passage to india



**This year marked the beginning of an exciting new exchange program between our school and Mayo College, a highly regarded boarding school in Ajmer, India.**

In May, we hosted five Mayo students in Melbourne for four weeks, and four of our Year 10 students - Audrey and Max from Glen Waverley and Ekam and Harry from St Kilda Road - have just come back from an enthralling seven-week experience at Mayo.

Known as the 'Eton of the East', Mayo College is one of India's oldest and most respected private schools. Mayo's grounds are huge, spanning some 187 acres, and the facilities are amongst the best of any school in India.

With a shared belief in a liberal, holistic education, the two schools make for a very cohesive partnership. 'Mayo celebrates all the achievements of their students, which is the same as Wesley,' says Harry. 'It creates a stronger school spirit.'

The friendship between the two schools has grown from an enduring friendship between two people - Peter Rosenberg (OW1963) and revered Mayo College teacher Thakur Raghu Raj Singh. From as far back as the late 1990s, the two men envisioned a long-term relationship

between Wesley and Mayo involving both student and teacher exchanges.

Wesley alumni Jack Ayerbe (OW1963) and Frank Opray (OW1963) later became enthusiastically involved, and the group established reciprocal cricket tours between Old Mayo and Old Wesley teams from 2019, paving the way for this year's pioneering student exchanges.

**'Mayo celebrates all the achievements of their students, which is the same as Wesley,' says Harry. 'It creates a stronger school spirit.'**

Aside from experiencing boarding school life, attending regular classes and being part of the school's 150th anniversary celebrations last month, the students got to see, smell, hear, touch and taste greater India in all its diversity from a local's perspective. Highlights included experiencing Diwali - the five-day 'Festival of Lights' while on homestay with their exchange buddies, staying in a family palace-cum-boutique hotel in Dungarpur and taking a week-long sightseeing tour of some of the beautiful sites, landmarks and culture that the Golden Triangle has to offer.

'The celebrations there are all next level,' says their accompanying teacher, Lisa Somerfield. 'The fireworks, feasts and

amazing clothing are on a whole other scale!'

As always, it's the personal connections the students made that meant the most. Ekam's favourite part of the daily routine was eating meals in the mess, despite the challenging spice levels in the food. 'It's such a great feeling to share your meals surrounded by all your friends, laughing and talking about the day,' she says.

As well as bonding with the local students and teachers, the students shared the experience with other exchange students from Perth, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Belgium.

'The group was always laughing, playing and chatting and it was absolutely magical to watch how close they all were, despite coming from four different continents,' says Lisa.

For Max, this was very special. 'Even though we are all from different places,' he says, 'we are all the same as people; we live, we laugh, we love... and I really find beauty in that.'

Audrey says the exchange has been 'transformative and joyful' and recommends other Wesley students apply for it next year. 'It's an unforgettable opportunity to step outside your comfort zone and see the world through someone else's eyes. I've learnt so much - not just about India, but about myself and what I'm capable of.'



Audrey is welcomed to Mayo College Girls' School



Lakeside dinner in Dungarpur



Visiting the Mayo College amphitheatre



Audrey and Ekam getting mehndi done



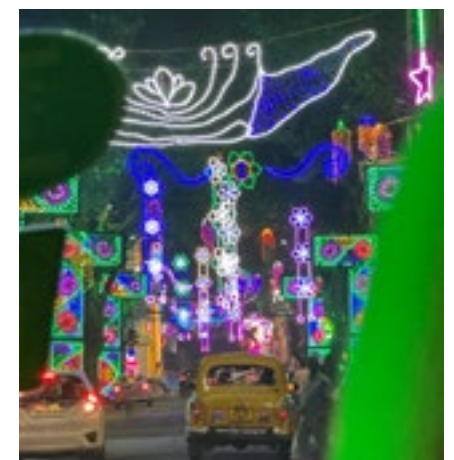
Visiting the Mayo College stables



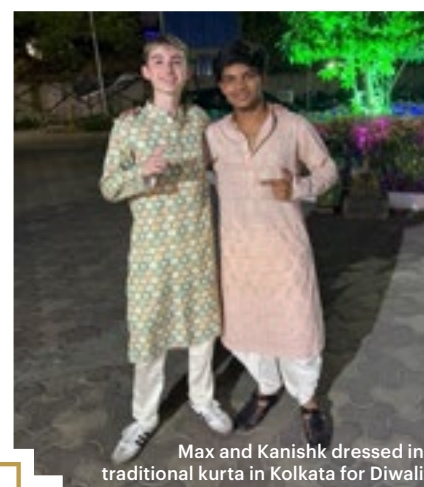
Nainika and Audrey lighting Diyas (oil lamps) for Lakshmi Puja during Diwali



Siddhant, Harry and Tvishmaan celebrate Diwali in Dungarpur



Kolkata lit up for Diwali



Max and Kanishk dressed in traditional kurta in Kolkata for Diwali



With new friends at the Agra Fort



# Rohan’s adventurous journey



Wandering in a sea of fog: Rohan and his prize-winning landscape photograph, *The Sublime*

It’s been a year of remarkable achievement for Year 12 Glen Waverley student Rohan. His long-term, passionate involvement in the scouting movement has been recognised by Scouts Australia, who this year awarded the keen Venturer the prestigious King’s Scout Award - the highest honour a Venturer Scout can achieve, requiring extraordinary dedication, resilience and leadership. From adventurous journeys and outdoor skills to personal development and community service, the award recognises excellence across every dimension of scouting.

These experiences as a scout - and as a Wesley student, having progressed all the way along the Outdoor Ed pathway from Chum Creek to Lochend camp, Clunes, Camp Mallana and then Yiramalay - have instilled in him a deep love for the natural world. It’s an affinity that found expression in his stunning art installation *My Journey*, which featured at this year’s Visual Arts Graduate Exhibition at Glen Waverley in September.

*My Journey* was a personal reflection on identity, memory and connection to nature through the lens of Rohan’s outdoor experiences.

‘Using multiple media including photography, lino prints, painting and mixed-media sculpture, I explored the idea of physical and psychological journeys, drawing inspiration from artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, Tony Albert, Max Dupain and Caspar David Friedrich,’ says Rohan. ‘These works were not created in isolation but developed in response to real moments in my life, shaped by hiking, camping and personal milestones in scouting.’

Perhaps the most visually affecting element in the installation was his stunning landscape photograph *The Sublime*, taken during a trek in New Zealand’s Southern Alps. Powerfully atmospheric, the piece is a nod to the sublime romanticism of Caspar David Friedrich’s 1818 romantic masterpiece *Wanderer above the Sea of Fog*.

‘I purposefully took this photograph at the summit called Harris Saddle as I looked out over the sea of fog. Like in the painting, I stood in awe at the great vastness of the natural world in all its beauty in front of me,’ he says. ‘The viewer becomes the wanderer, gazing across terrain that is beautiful but also overwhelming.’

The piece was subsequently entered in the Melbourne Royal Art Competition and Exhibition in the Spotlight Maker’s Pavilion at this year’s Melbourne Royal Show. Excitingly, it was awarded First Prize.

Rohan’s immersive exhibition was a fitting testament to the adventurous journeys he’s taken in exploring both the great outdoors and his own sense of self.

‘Through integrating personal experience, historical influence and environmental awareness, I hoped the viewer left with a sense of where I have been and where I might go next,’ says Rohan.

Wherever that is, we can be sure it will involve the natural world. ‘Spending time in beautiful landscapes, in quiet and serene environments, provides me with the opportunity to reflect,’ he says, and a broad smile lights his face: ‘It’s also a good time to have fun with my friends and enjoy what a beautiful world we live in.’



Rohan amidst his artworks

# 'Come on Wesley'



Philip Powell (OW1973) and his book *Come on Wesley*

Philip Powell’s (OW1973) new book *Come on Wesley*, tells the epic story of the College in WWII and the military service of over 1,800 OWs and former students of MLC Elsternwick.

Phillip’s book covers the full history of the war, beginning with Prime Minister Robert Menzies’ (OW1910) declaration of war in September 1939 and concluding with the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay. OWs enlisted across the services and served in significant military actions, from the skies of Europe to the jungles of Asia and the Southwest Pacific and from the North African desert to the mountains of Greece and Syria.

It provides a comprehensive list of the OWs who served. Be it commando missions or major battles, flying fighter aircraft or large bombers, sailing small ships to mighty battleships, OWs were involved at all levels of rank. The book also documents the deaths of 152 OWs and at least 60 who saw the war out as Prisoners of War.

It’s a fine companion to Philip’s 2019 book *Come on Lads* about the service of OWs in WWI. Copies of the 227-page book can be purchased by emailing Philip at [pjphistory@gmail.com](mailto:pjphistory@gmail.com)

## Posthumous recognition for Wesley’s wartime hero

In the September 2023 edition of *Lion Online*, we profiled Bruce Dowding (OW1932), a former Wesley College student, teacher and war hero.

Dowding arrived in Paris in 1938 to study French at the Sorbonne but joined the British Army as an interpreter when war broke out and was captured near Calais in 1940. He escaped a POW camp and under the alias André Mason worked for British Intelligence organisation MI9, organising the exfiltration of hundreds of Allied servicemen to Spain before being recaptured, tried and executed by the Nazis in 1943.

In 2024, the Toulouse Museum uncovered a previously lost recommendation memo

from the Museum of the Order of Liberation indicating Dowding had been posthumously nominated for the French Resistance Medal in 1947 by General Charles de Gaulle for his extraordinary courage and service in occupied France.

Following this discovery, the Toulouse Museum worked with the French Government to have the medal formally presented to Dowding’s family in Australia, finally recognising his remarkable contribution... long overdue recognition for Wesley’s wartime hero.

The Dowding family have donated the medal along with other memorabilia and papers to the Shrine of Remembrance.

## Gavin Scott Cowan (OW1906)



Gravestone of Gavin Scott Cowan (OW1906)

If you visit Nagambie Cemetery, you will find the grave of Gavin Scott Cowan (OW1906), who died in July 1916, six months after being discharged from the 23rd AIF battalion.

He tried to enlist in 1915 but was initially rejected due to his poor physical condition. However as they were short of numbers, he was later accepted. On the ship to Egypt, he fell ill with pneumonia and was sent back to Australia and discharged.

He is the only OW on our honour roll who is not listed on the CWGC or AWM records as a war casualty, as presumably the authorities assessed his death was not due to war service. At the foot of the grave, his name is engraved in the stone with the words ‘late 23rd Battalion’.

It is probably one of the sadder stories of our WWI casualties. A man who wanted to do his bit but was just physically incapable. Lest we forget.



1947 Resistance Medal, posthumously awarded to Bruce Dowding (OW1932)





Campus snapshots

They're creepy and they're kooky...



Annabel (Year 12) as Uncle Fester with the ensemble

There's something mysteriously irresistible about stepping into the world of *The Addams Family* - a place where the weird is wonderful, the macabre is musical and love comes in all forms (even if it's wrapped in cobwebs!). And so it proved for the students lucky enough to be involved in Glen Waverley's Senior School production of the show in Term 3 this year.

The show was spectacular, bringing a truly gothic, yet funny, atmosphere to Cato Hall. The principal cast led the production with remarkable dedication; their commitment to their characters, their vocal and physical storytelling and their willingness to take creative risks brought depth and humour to every scene. This was matched beautifully by the ensemble, whose energy, discipline and unity gave the show its heartbeat. Whether dancing, haunting, reacting or supporting, they elevated every moment on stage, creating a world that felt creepy and kooky in the best possible way.

Drama Prefect Keira (Year 12) got to play Wednesday. 'I did a lot of work on staying true to the character without becoming an imitation of the original,' she says. 'A major plot point is that Wednesday has changed as a result of growing up, which can be challenging to portray, but it was really fun!'



Phoebe (Year 12) as Morticia

Fun was clearly being had all around. 'It's been a joy to bring this story to life with such an extraordinary group of students and staff,' says Director Marcus Pinnell.



Matthew (Year 10) as Puglsey

At its heart, the show is about family, about learning to accept, embrace and even celebrate the differences that make us who we are. Heartening then, to see the spirited cast practise the same in their approach to the production.

'What I enjoyed most was being part of the collective effort from students across Years 8 to 12,' says Olive (Year 11), who also played Wednesday as a member of the alternate cast. 'I loved watching students from different year levels grow, become closer and share in the pride of the performances.'

Seussical JR. delights at Elsternwick



The cast in action

Elsternwick's delightful Term 3 production of *Seussical JR.* brought together an enthusiastic and dedicated cast who rose to every challenge of Ahrens and Flaherty's imaginative and memorable score. Filled with vibrant ensemble numbers like 'Oh, the Thinks You Can Think!' as well as the emotional richness of songs like 'Notice Me' and 'Horton', the music demanded versatility and focus. The Middle School student performers embraced each challenge with open hearts and a willingness to give their all.

You don't often get the chance to play an elephant in life, so when Raife (Year 8) was given the plum role of Horton, he trumpeted his delight. 'Playing Horton was an unforgettable experience that helped me grow in confidence and gave me memories and friendships that I will carry for the rest of my life,' he said.



Dylan (Year 9) as The Cat in the Hat



Raife Johns (Year 8) as Horton the Elephant

Whether learning vocal parts, choreography or exploring character, the cast approached rehearsals with curiosity, energy and determination. Their growth was remarkable, and they brought the fantastical world of Seuss to life with joy, colour and authenticity.

'The students developed grit, tenacity and a genuine sense of pride in what they accomplished, whether on stage, backstage, behind cameras or follow spots, helping with makeup and costumes or welcoming our community

to The National Theatre,' said Musical Director and Co-Producer Alisa Porteous, PYP Head of Learning for The Arts. 'This production of *Seussical JR.* stood as a celebration not only of their talent, but also of the growth and learning that come from creating theatre as a community.'

For June (Year 6), who was part of the ensemble, taking part was 'one of the highlights of my year and maybe, even the best part!' she said. 'I'm new this year, and the musical has been a great experience to make lots of new friends. I loved it so much!'





Campus snapshots

Mikayla makes history with Triple Honour Colours



Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) and Mikayla show off their Triple Honour Colours for Cricket, Football and Athletics

Year 12 Glen Waverley student Mikayla made Wesley sport history this year, becoming the first Wesley girl to be awarded Triple Honour Colours for Athletics (2024), Cricket and Football (2025).  
When presenting Mikayla with her award at the Sports Assembly back in September, Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) shared with her a delightful symmetry: he also received Triple Honour Colours for Athletics, Cricket and Football in his final year!

No surprise that sport has always been a big part of Mikayla’s life. Playing backyard cricket when she was little led to playing for the local boys’ team at age 10, moving to a girls’ team at 12 and in addition to club and Wesley cricket, playing for Victoria Metro for the past three years.  
‘I only decided to pick up footy in Year 10 at Wesley. Since then, I’ve loved playing and wish I had started earlier,’ she says. ‘I did a lot of Athletics in primary school and decided to get back into it in Year 11.’

‘Through Wesley sport, I’ve learned to be disciplined, resilient and willing to take every opportunity presented to me. I’m very grateful to have led both the cricket and footy teams as Captain this year.’  
Which of the three is more in her heart?  
‘I love all three, but I have to admit... cricket is my favourite,’ she says. ‘For the opportunities it has given me to advance my skills, travel to compete and meet so many new people.’  
‘I’m currently playing premier cricket for Prahran and am preparing for the U19 Nationals in Perth this month as part of Victoria Metro. I hope to continue to play footy next year, hopefully with some of the Wesley girls, as well as continue to pursue cricket and see where it can take me into the future.’



Mikayla in action

Celebrating Science at Wesley



Chia (Year 8) viewing stem cells at MCRI

This year’s National Science Week celebrations at Elsternwick were launched with a bang as Mr Basaraba fired a water-powered rocket to spark curiosity and ignite critical and creative thinking in our younger learners.  
Following the theme of Decoding the Universe - Exploring Nature’s Hidden Language, PYP students participated in engaging incursions, from coding with e-bots to investigating how new innovations and technologies are developed to meet real-world needs.  
Prep to Year 2 students explored sustainability and pollution, linking their learning to the College focus of creating a more sustainable future. Middle School learners investigated patterns in nature through the Fibonacci sequence and DNA, creating bracelets, exploring the uses of

environmental DNA and extracting DNA from various plants.  
Excitingly, selected students from Year 7 to 9 visited the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute (MCRI), where they heard from Professor James McNamara and worked alongside researchers who are currently developing new medicines with the use of robotics and working on stem cell treatments to treat and cure cardiovascular diseases.  
A highlight of the week was the ‘Bake it Blue’ fundraiser, which saw students and staff across the Elsternwick Campus raise money for MCRI. Through the efforts of Junior and Middle School Leaders, an impressive \$821 was raised.  
It was a fantastic week of curiosity, discovery and connecting classroom science to real-world research.

Stars, in your multitudes



‘One Day More’ by the ensemble

There is a reason the much-loved *Les Misérables* is never out of production. It’s the complete musical, an epic human story with a sweeping score that hits the audience with intense bursts of turmoil and tenderness, hilarity and heartbreak, and then ends with a profound proposition: ‘To love another person is to see the face of God.’ What’s not to love..  
Well, it’s also a profound challenge. All the more impressive then, that the Adamson Theatre Company’s sold-out production at the St Kilda Road Campus in August was such a triumph.



Francesca (Year 12) as Eponine

The double casting meant that a significant number of young performers had the rare opportunity to take on some of the most coveted roles in musical theatre: Jean Valjean, Javert, Eponine, Fantine, Thenardier... What’s noteworthy here is that the Company filled these roles with able young players two times over. The score alone is not for the faint-hearted; it’s one thing to hit the notes and the phrasing of these very challenging songs, it’s quite another to tell the story in the songs on top of that. These young performers managed it with aplomb.  
Stars, every one of them. From the principals to the supporting cast members, the dance group and the ensemble - every performer worked together to make the central human story and the wider world of post-revolution France come to colourful, vibrant musical life. This doesn’t just happen - a huge amount of work was done by the cast in rehearsal.

Mattie, who played the central role of Jean Valjean, says he ‘watched endless performances from different Jean Valjeans, including Simon Gleeson and Josh Piterman (OW2003), who both played Jean Valjean on the West End. It was incredible when I learned they were both coming to run workshops with us. I got so much out of these experiences, not only about my character, but about the entire show.’

For Fran (Year 12) who played Eponine, this production was special as it was her 11th and last show with the ATC. ‘I loved being able to have my own moments on the stage, particularly through my individual song ‘On My Own’. This was very emotional for me, as it was such a heavy song to perform, but also such a moment of clarity, as my first solo performance in Adamson Hall was back in Year 6.’



Elle (Year 11) as Fantine

Directors Hayley McNalley and Marcus Pinnell, their production team and all the young players, both on stage and in the orchestra, should feel hugely proud of creating such a powerful, polished show. One gets the feeling this moving and exciting production will be talked about for years. It was gob-smackingly good.





## Campus snapshots

### A wonderful world for girls



A great partnership: Mary (Year 11) with Fira (Year 2)

Now in its fourth year at Glen Waverley, the wonderful Wonderous World Project focuses on inspiring girls in our Junior School to pursue their passion in science. The inventor of the project, Blair Odom, PYP Head of Learning for Science and Technology, calls it ‘a celebration of our scientists.’

Coinciding with National Science Week in Term 3, the project involves selected girls in Years 1 to 5 creating a presentation on any science topic of interest, while being guided and mentored by a Senior School student. This partnership helps both individuals develop a relationship that involves trust and responsibility.

The Junior School students are carefully paired up with mentors who support them to develop their ideas, take notes, create a poster and produce an oral presentation. The Year 11 and 12 students volunteer to help the younger students develop their interests, and it helps them develop their own leadership skills.

One partnership that worked particularly well this year was between Mary (Year 11) and Fira (Year 2) who collaborated on a presentation about butterflies. The pair had about 10 meetings between Term 2 and Term 3 to develop their project.

‘I’ve enjoyed getting Fira involved in science and helping her to build confidence,’ said Mary.

‘Mary helped me a lot,’ smiled Fira.

They proudly showcased their work at the presentation evening, when all the students had an opportunity to share their learning with parents and teachers.

### Mere trash? Mosaic treasure!

We are thrilled to share the success of a truly special project at Elsternwick this year, where creativity, community and sustainability came together in a vibrant celebration of art.

As part of our ongoing commitment to environmental awareness and creative learning, we welcomed renowned Australian artist Pamela Irving as our Artist in Residence. Known for her whimsical and expressive mosaic works, Pamela guided our students through an unforgettable artistic journey centred around the theme of Sustainability.

With the generous support of our school community, we collected a wide array of unwanted and broken china and ceramic pieces - items that might otherwise have ended up in landfill. Instead, these fragments were given new life as part of a permanent art installation on our campus.

The common motif for the beautiful pieces will come as no surprise - we now have five magic mosaic lions located around the campus!



Making mosaic magic with Artist in Residence, Pamela Irving

### Campouts return to Yiramalay



Yiramalay Induction Group 67 at Windjana Gorge

The COVID years meant that overnight camps couldn’t fit into a shortened Induction program at Yiramalay, and when things returned to normal, they somehow fell between the cracks. Excitingly, the camps have now returned, and all involved have been reminded of how much they can enhance the program, for both the local students and the Wesley Year 10 inductees.

This year, camps at places such as Mimbi Caves, Windjana Gorge, Moon Rock and Manning Gorge have given local students the opportunity to

share their prowess in spear making, animal tracking, boomerang shaping, barramundi fishing, bush weaving, trap building, damper making and storytelling, just to name a few.

‘I’ve witnessed a Melbourne student being successfully coached in the art of barramundi fishing land their first ever fish - a barramundi no less!’ says Induction Coordinator, Kym Adams. ‘I’ve seen a group tell stories around a roaring campfire which was lit by a student who was shown how to set a fire for the first time in their life. And I’ve eaten the

lightest and most delicious damper, dripping with butter and golden syrup, made by a group of Melbourne students under the tutelage of a local girl.’

Time and again, the pride of our Melbourne inductees was outshone by the joy and satisfaction of the local students, who revelled in the confidence that came from being recognised as on-country experts.

Two-way learning has always been, and will continue to be, a central pillar of the Induction experience.

### The powerful principle of community



Learning and growing at Clunes

At the heart of the Wesley at Clunes experience lies one powerful principle: community. For our young people at Clunes, especially those stepping out of their comfort zones for the first time, the opportunity to live, learn and grow within a tight-knit community can be transformative.

Unlike traditional schooling environments, Wesley at Clunes encourages students to take responsibility not only for their own learning, but for the wellbeing of others around them. Living independently in shared houses, managing household duties and contributing to community projects fosters a sense of ownership and interdependence. Students learn that their actions matter - not just to themselves, but to the people they live and work with every day.

The Clunes experience also helps young people develop empathy, resilience and a deeper understanding of what it means to belong. Through daily interactions, shared challenges and collaborative achievements, students build meaningful connections that often last well beyond their time at Clunes. For many, it’s their first real taste of what it means to be part of something bigger than themselves.

Ultimately, community at Clunes is more than just a structure - it’s the foundation of the program. It shapes the way students grow - intellectually, emotionally and socially.

It teaches them how to contribute, how to listen and how to lead. And most importantly, it helps them discover who they are, through the people who surround and support them.





Campus snapshots

State Champions



Nick Evans and Sabeena DeBono with our A Grade Debating champs

Congratulations to Year 12 students Skye, Eva, Ethan, Magnus and Jemimah on winning the A Grade Debating Association of Victoria (DAV) Grand Final - Wesley's first A Grade victory in decades.

The team secured victory by three points to two against Melbourne High School, one of Victoria's debating powerhouses.

The team progressed through five initial rounds, then seven knockout rounds to reach the Grand Final.

Along the way, they defeated formidable opponents including Scotch College in the semi-final and Melbourne High in a closely contested final - both schools renowned for debating excellence.

The DAV Competition, which 250 schools compete in, tests critical thinking, public speaking and quick reasoning under pressure. Teams receive their 'secret topic' just an hour before their debate and must prepare a compelling argument and live rebuttal, without computers or reference material, for a panel of five judges and a live audience.

For the Grand Final, Wesley argued the negative side of the topic, 'We would prefer a world where it is impossible to lie'.

Debating Team Manager, Ewan Brown, highlighted one of the key strengths of Wesley's championship team: 'Our team is coeducational, which brings a range of perspectives and creates more nuanced arguments. They approach topics more holistically, examining issues from many angles.'

Coach Olivia Camillin (OW2023) said, 'I am so incredibly proud of this team for the unending hard work they put into debating this year. Each member of the team worked tirelessly to make this win possible. They are constantly improving, and their work has paid off!'

The value of being involved



Honouring Stuart: Mareli (Year 11), Grant and Heather Hollaway and Ethan (Year 12)

'Give a busy person something to do and it gets done.'

Ethan from Year 12 has certainly been a very busy person this year, so he was speaking from experience when he used this statement to open his Hollaway Oration at this year's Arts Awards assembly in September.

Ethan won last year's Hollaway Memorial Prize for Debating, established to honour the memory of long-time staff member and keen debater Stuart Hollaway, who tragically lost his life in a climbing accident in 2015. The prize is awarded annually to a student who has made a significant contribution to the debating program and public speaking. This year's prize was awarded to Mareli from Year 11.

It's now ten years since Stuart's passing, and both his mother Heather and brother Grant were very happy to be welcomed as special guests for the oration. Ethan used his address to encourage his peers to get involved, citing the many studies that have found students' active involvement in broader school life is beneficial to their academic achievement.

He was well qualified to talk about what it's like 'keeping busy' with extracurricular pursuits in the midst of Year 12: aside from spearheading WiSSH Week and organising the new Year 12 study area as Charities and Community Prefect, he also had lead parts in the play and in the musical, performed with three different choirs, did debating, went on music camps, went to Generations in Jazz, played school tennis... you get the idea!

'When we know we have less time to do something, we prioritise,' he said. 'When we're involved, we're focused. We're productive. We gain knowledge and better grades and even more valuable, we gain skills to use in everyday life. That's the value of being involved.'

Wesley goes to France

Over the September break, 19 enthusiastic Year 11 French students from the Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road campuses, along with three French teachers, travelled to France for the 2025 College France Study Tour. The adventure began in the sunny South of France, where students spent a week at CMEF (Centre Méditerranéen d'Études Françaises) in Cap d'Ail, attending language classes and exploring Nice and Monaco. Kristian from the St Kilda Road Campus described CMEF as a highlight, especially enjoying the soccer tournament and disco with international students.

The group then travelled to Lyon to experience life at Lycée Assomption-Bellevue, the College's French partner school. Students connected deeply with their French peers and even taught them AFL. Aarav from the Glen Waverley Campus reflected that the exchange provided valuable cultural insight that will benefit his French studies. In and around Lyon, students enjoyed a cooking class with a French chef and explored the medieval towns of Annecy and Pérouges.

The tour concluded in Paris, where the students visited iconic landmarks including the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and Montmartre. Yolande from the St Kilda Road Campus loved the city's energy and opportunities to speak French with locals. Tour Coordinator Carolyn Harden praised the students' curiosity and engagement, calling the trip an unforgettable learning experience.



The Eiffel Tower in Paris was a highlight

Calling all rescue robots...



Natalie and Heidi (Year 7) trial 'Gizmo Glider'

Gizmo Glider. Bubblecups the Fairy. Cuboid. McPlowerson... No, not the names of characters from the latest fantasy TV show for kids, but the names given by Middle School students at St Kilda Road to the robots they built and programmed for their Robotics class.

Robotics at Wesley is an enrichment program offered to students with strong kinetic, abstract or spatial reasoning, based on ability testing.

'This year we had 21 students from Years 7 to 9 take classes once a week. We also had a few who coded in their own time,' says Joey Clapper, who coordinates the Enrichment program.

The students worked together in small teams to design, engineer and program a robot that can autonomously navigate an obstacle course to rescue a 'victim'. They go on to participate in the 'Rescue

Line' part of the RoboCup Junior Australia competition, which brings together hundreds of students from schools across Victoria.

'Beginning Robotics, you're kind of thrown into the deep end, but in a good way,' says Natalie (Year 7). 'We started with building and then programming... you have to figure out a lot for yourself, so I think common sense is a big factor.'

'Yes, robotics helps to build engineering and coding skills, but also requires a high level of problem solving,' says Joey.

There's another key skill the students readily nominate as well. 'Teamwork's extremely important. If we don't have it, the robot won't move very well. If you collaborate, you make a good robot,' says Natalie. Lenny from Year 7 agrees: 'I feel like mostly it's teamwork, as well as persistence and creativity.'





# Chair report



The past six months as Chair of the Wesley College Foundation have been both energising and rewarding. It has been a genuine pleasure to connect with so many in our community - to celebrate the impact of philanthropy and to welcome new supporters. What has stood out most to me is the depth of commitment across our donor and volunteer community and the shared belief in the enduring value of a Wesley education.

This year has reminded me of the importance of keeping stewardship at the heart of our work. More than raising funds, we focus on creating connections between our supporters, their passions and the shared Wesley story. Every gift we receive - whether modest or transformational - represents both trust and partnership and our responsibility is to honour that generosity with care.

In our ongoing efforts to strengthen engagement with supporters, the Foundation team and I always welcome your feedback and ideas on how we can best demonstrate our appreciation for the vital role you play in supporting a Wesley education. As more alumni, parents and friends of the Wesley community join the Foundation through financial contributions and by sharing their time and expertise, we will continue to grow stronger together, reaching new heights for the benefit of Wesley students.

Our calendar of events has been an important part of this journey. A recent highlight was the evening with international theatre star, Josh Piterman (OW2003), which brought our community together in celebration of the arts.

Another standout was the 17th Annual Wesley College Foundation Business Breakfast in September, which gathered alumni, donors and business leaders for a powerful conversation on cybersecurity. Moderated by Graeme Samuel AC (OW1963) and featuring experts Lahra Carey, Adam McCarthy and Shannon Sedgwick, we unpacked the realities of cyberattacks and highlighted the importance of preparation, resilience and responsibility. The event offered practical insights for organisations while also reflecting Wesley's commitment to preparing students as responsible digital citizens, ready to navigate the online world with confidence and care.

Our fundraising focus is sharpening. We are proud to highlight STEM scholarships as a flagship area of donor

support, recognising that investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics will empower the next generation of Wesley graduates to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Beyond scholarships, our efforts are also directed towards facilities and buildings that will sustain Wesley for the long term - ensuring that the opportunities available to students today are not only preserved but expanded for future generations.

The impact of this collective support contributes to the long-term sustainability of Wesley and the life-changing experiences of our students. As we approach Wesley's 160 year anniversary in 2026, the Foundation is thrilled to be a catalyst to celebrate the impact of generous supporters and share ways our community can continue to strengthen a Wesley education.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be hosting our Grand Prix Breakfast once again on Thursday 5 March 2026. Later in the year, we will hold our annual Giving Day on Friday 1 May and the College's signature celebration, the Founders' Day Gala, will be held on Saturday 2 May, honouring our heritage while projecting our vision for the decades to come.

Thank you to all who have contributed in 2025. Your generosity ensures that Wesley continues to be a place where young people are challenged, inspired and empowered to make their mark on the world.

**Marianne Stillwell**  
Chair, Wesley College Foundation

### Wesley College Foundation Partners

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our Partners towards the College's philanthropic priorities and the Foundation's program and initiatives

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# Giving 2026 Day

SAVE THE DATE – Friday 1 May, 2026







# *With* Deepest *Gratitude*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all donors and partners whose generous contributions to the Wesley College Foundation's philanthropic priorities reflect the strength and spirit of our Wesley community.

Your support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and the future of the College. We also sincerely acknowledge the members of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society, who have chosen to leave a legacy by including the Wesley College Foundation in their Wills.

Every partner, donor and bequestor plays a vital role in shaping the future of our College. Your generosity not only strengthens our community but also inspires others to give. Each contribution, no matter the size, helps create opportunities, enrich learning experiences and leaves a lasting legacy for future generations.

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17th Annual Business Breakfast: We’ve been hacked! Now what?



Guest speaker Lahra Carey in conversation

On Wednesday 11 September, members of the Wesley College community gathered for the 17th Annual Wesley College Foundation Business Breakfast, an event that brings together alumni, donors and business leaders in the spirit of shared knowledge and opportunity.

Just as our supporters continue to gift future generations of Wesley students the power of education, the Foundation seeks to provide our community with thought-provoking conversations and practical insights.

This year’s theme - *We’ve been hacked! Now what?* tackled one of the most



Jack (Year 12) introduced our guest speakers

pressing issues of our time: cybersecurity and how organisations can prepare for the increasing possibility of an attack.

Moderated by **Graeme Samuel AC (OW1963)**, the panel featured three experts with decades of experience across communications, risk and cyber resilience:

- **Lahra Carey** – Communications Strategist and Principal, narrative
- **Adam McCarthy** – Deloitte Australia, Defensive Cyber Operations Leader
- **Shannon Sedgwick** – Partner, National Cyber Security Practice, MinterEllison

Through a gripping real-world case study of a cyberattack, panellists unpacked what happens when a crisis strikes and what businesses, schools and organisations must do to respond.

Key takeaways included: be prepared, rehearse regularly, know your risks, show you’ve acted responsibly and focus on resilience rather than perfection.

These themes align closely with Wesley’s own commitment to preparing students as responsible digital citizens. Students and staff take part in simulations that help them recognise the warning signs of phishing attacks, building awareness through interactive exercises rather than passive instruction. This practical approach ensures they are well-equipped



Nick Brass (OW1997)

to navigate the online world with confidence and care.

The morning left guests with a deeper appreciation of the complexities of cyber risk, but also practical guidance to take back to their organisations.

In many ways, the theme mirrored the mission of the Wesley College Foundation: preparing for the future, protecting what matters most and ensuring continuity for generations to come. By sharing knowledge and investing in education, our community helps safeguard not only the security of institutions but also the opportunities of Wesley students, today and tomorrow.

Honouring generosity, celebrating success



Josh Piterman (OW2003) with Principal, Nick Evans (OW1985)

The *Les Misérables* Principal’s Drinks in August was a special occasion, bringing together members of the Wesley College Foundation community - donors, partners and bequestors - whose support continues to strengthen a Wesley education.

Special guest at the event was Josh Piterman (OW2003), a shining example of how philanthropy enriches the Wesley experience - his career in the performing arts reflecting the transformative influence of community support. Like many students, Josh benefited from the encouragement, expertise and generosity of those who champion both the arts and education at Wesley.



Laini Liberman, Elaine Mastos and Peter Mastos (OW1990)

The Wesley College Foundation’s stewardship program is dedicated to formally recognising this generosity. From celebrating gifts of every size to honouring Nicholas Circle members who have contributed \$1 million or more during their lifetime or through their Will, acknowledging supporters is a joyful part of the Foundation’s work.

The *Les Misérables* Principal’s Drinks was an expression of this stewardship in action - a moment to thank and celebrate those who make such opportunities possible. Fittingly, the evening shone a light on the performing arts, the success of our students and Josh’s remarkable achievements. His talk and the stunning student performance of *Les Misérable* in Adamson Hall that followed made it a very special evening for all.



Geoff Allen AM (OW1960) and Christine Hubay

He shared how his journey to the West End and his own triumphant turn as Jean Valjean began at Wesley with the Adamson Theatre Company, reminding us of the power of the arts and the importance of the support that makes it all possible. Getting his start at the ATC, Josh went on to sing with the Ten Tenors, play lead roles in *West Side Story*, *Cats* and *Hairspray* and become the only Australian to play Phantom of the Opera and Jean Valjean in London.

He spoke fondly about his ATC mentors and his formative Wesley experiences. ‘They really imparted a sense of belief in me that I could truly pursue this,’ he said. ‘I wouldn’t have had the life I’ve had, the magic experiences, the wonder of playing these roles on the West End stage, if it wasn’t for what this school gifted me.’



Toni Joel OAM and Berry Liberman (OW1996)



Susie Rodgers-Wilson (OWCA HLM) and Peter Rodgers-Wilson (OW1965)



Nicki Lefkovits (OW1990), Janine Lambourne and Phil Lambourne (OW1980)





# Triumph at the Trott



Looking forward to an afternoon of football at Harry Trott Oval

On Saturday 5 July, members and guests of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society came together for a Collegians FC Home Game Lunch at the Harry Trott Oval. Collegians started slowly but gradually found their rhythm, producing a solid first half against a strong Old Scotch team.

The premiership quarter was marked by momentum swings, but the Collegians finished strongly to open up a four-goal lead. Old Scotch fought hard late in the game, but Collegians showed great determination, holding on for a well-earned victory.

It was the team’s first win of the season at the Trott, with the final score Collegians 9.7.61 triumphant over Old Scotch 7.7.49. A beautiful winter’s day and the vibrant atmosphere created by the large home crowd made it a wonderful afternoon of community and celebration.

# SABS visit to the Hellenic Museum



SABS members and guests outside the Hellenic Museum

In late October, Sapere Aude Bequest Society members and guests enjoyed a private tour of the Hellenic Museum, housed in the old Royal Melbourne Mint, William Street, Melbourne.

Prior to the tour, Kenneth Park reflected on the legacy of Walter Powell and his involvement in the foundation of Wesley College during the heady days of Victoria’s gold rush. The Royal Mint Building occupies the site of the original Exhibition Building in

Melbourne where the fundraising to build Wesley College began in 1858. The current exhibition, *Rituals: Gifts for the Gods*, offered a fascinating insight into how ancient civilizations expressed devotion through art and ceremony. Each display, from intricate offerings to powerful depictions of deities, revealed the profound ways creativity and belief have shaped human history. Our exceptionally knowledgeable tour guide brought the artifacts to life with engaging stories and reflections, leaving us with a deep appreciation for the enduring human need for connection, meaning and reverence.

We enjoy welcoming Sapere Aude Bequest Society members and guests to our events to connect, celebrate and thank those who so generously support the College. Their involvement helps inspire others to consider leaving a legacy through a gift in their Will.

# A lifelong connection honoured



The Honourable Peter Nixon AO (OW1946)

It is with deep gratitude and fond remembrance that the Sapere Aude Bequest Society acknowledges the passing of The Honourable Peter Nixon AO (OW1946) on the first of May this year.

During his years at Wesley College, Peter formed lifelong friendships, enjoyed rich experiences and developed a deep passion for the Richmond Football Club. A proud boarder, Peter followed a family tradition; his father Percival (OW1918) and his sons Mark (OW1977) and Christopher (OW1980) were also boarders and his daughter Joanne married fellow boarder, Peter Christie (OW1974).

After leaving Wesley, Peter pursued a successful career in the private sector alongside managing his farm

in Gippsland. However, he is best remembered for his dedicated service to the community. Peter represented the Division of Gippsland in the Australian House of Representatives from 1961 to 1983 as a member of the National Country Party (NCP). During this time, he held several ministerial portfolios, including Minister for the Interior (1967-1971), Shipping and Transport (1971-1972), Postmaster-General (1975), Transport (1975-1979) and Primary Industry (1979-1983). In recognition of his significant contributions to the Australian parliament and the wider community, Peter was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia on 26 January 1993. Peter’s connection to Wesley remained strong throughout his life. He was a loyal and dedicated member of the College

community and served with distinction on the Wesley College Foundation. In 2015, he was honoured to act as one of the patrons of the campaign to fund our new boarding facility at the Glen Waverly Campus, Learning in Residence. We are honoured that Peter chose to remember the College in his Will, leaving a bequest towards the Scholarship Fund which helps provide opportunities for students who might not otherwise be able to attend Wesley College. This generous bequest is a testament to his belief in the power of education and community. We extend our sincere condolences to Peter’s family. Sapere Aude, Peter Nixon - you will be remembered as a proud Old Wesley Collegian.



## Become a member of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society

The College we know today owes much to the values and vision of our founders and importantly, inspiring acts of generosity through gifts and bequests over many generations. Thank you to all that have left a gift to the College in their Will.

The Sapere Aude Bequest Society (SABS) was established in 1996 to honour those that have remembered Wesley College in their Will. If you wish to notify us of your bequest to Wesley College, we would be honoured to welcome you as

a member of SABS and to share with you our exciting calendar of events and functions. We are delighted that so many alumni, current and past parents and members of our wider community have experienced the breadth of our SABS events this year.

For a confidential discussion on leaving a Bequest to the College, please contact **Prue Lowther**, Bequest Manager at [prue.lowther@wesleycollege.edu.au](mailto:prue.lowther@wesleycollege.edu.au) or +61 3 8102 6213



# Wesley Gala Night

A Golden Celebration





# President’s report



The last few months have set the scene for several initiatives by the OWCA, including a gender inclusive OWCA Fellowship gift for OWs receiving this honour, recognition for generational families with students currently at the College and more frequent engagement of Past Presidents of the OWCA. These activities aim to continue the OWCA’s evolution as both a modern institution and a critical auxiliary association of Wesley College.

Following the recent recognition of immediate Past President Kate Evans (OW1998) as a Fellow, the Board felt it timely to establish a gender inclusive Fellowship gift. While the Fellows tie remains a gift for gentlemen receiving the honour, a ladies gift is in development. Both will receive a Fellow’s pin to be worn at College and OWCA functions. This is a legacy item which the Board proudly endorses and supports. More details about recognition for generational families will be revealed as part of next year’s 160-year celebration of the College.

In July, the OWCA hosted a dinner for past presidents, with nearly all living attending and providing sage advice which has been shared with the Board for reflection. Events such as this, along with other recent actions, are important as we work to reinforce the OWCA as a modern institution that will stand the test of time. By embracing our community’s wisdom, the OWCA is taking steps towards realising this goal.

Our affiliates continue to be well supported with great attendance at the new Collegians Car Club events and many enjoying the driving (and lunching) on their drive days. The OWCA has recently provided sponsorships for the OW Bowls Club and the Collegians X Hockey Club as part of our strategic plan to maintain strong support for these groups.

The Collegians X Hockey Club continues to be a powerhouse affiliate in all that they do, warmly embracing OWs and creating a place for them to reconnect. Their strength, both on and off the field, was evident this year as they claimed the Men’s Premiership. With a vibrant, inclusive culture and outstanding leadership, they continue to demonstrate how strong off-field values drive on-field success.

Despite fighting gallantly towards the end of the season and a triumphant final victory, the Collegians Football Club were unable to retain their Premier Division status and have been relegated to the VAFA B-division. I would like to recognise the hard work of volunteers associated with Collegians and congratulate them on a hard-fought season.

It is in times such as these that we, as a community, must band together and provide even greater support to ensure they are returned to the Premier division. If you can assist by volunteering your time, providing sponsorship or just coming along as a spectator and cheering each week, I encourage you to do so.

Board members Jen Taylor (OW2023) and Oscar Leeton (OW2024) joined me in presenting to Year 12 students at Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road campuses on their transition to university and what to expect in their lives as OWs. These programs cement the role of the OWCA in the life of our youngest members and highlight the importance our organisation can have in your life beyond school. We will continue to engage with our young leavers across the College in this way.

The annual Wesley College Gala saw a strong turnout of OWs, demonstrating the strength of our community and continued desire for engagement. I strongly encourage OWs to consider attending future Gala events.

As we look toward 2026 and the 160-year anniversary celebration of the College, please consider how you may wish to engage and participate in events throughout the year. Mark your calendars, rally your year groups and prepare to celebrate the school that we all love. I look forward to seeing you there!

Yours in purple,

**Tom Pewtress (OW2018)**  
**OWCA President**  
**#oldwesleycollegians**

# OWs shine on the international stage



Kieren Barber Wilson (OW2016) and Walt Mather (OW2016) at the Tribeca Film Festival

Walter Mather (OW2016) and Kieren Barber Wilson (OW2016) recently returned from New York, where their film *Grass – Even Better* was selected for the Tribeca Film Festival.

Launched in 2002 by Robert De Niro and partners, Tribeca is a leading celebration of independent film and a vibrant hub for storytellers worldwide.

While still in school, Walt and Kieren built a YouTube following of over 15 million viewers. Their production company, Dynamic Visuals, has since grown into a tight-knit studio producing hundreds of videos each year.

‘Being at Tribeca was a surreal experience,’ recalls Walt. ‘Keiren and I have been making films since we were kids, so to be part of such a renowned festival was a huge milestone and something we’ve wanted for a long time. Standing on stage and speaking about our project alongside incredible directors



Kieren and Walt in New York

was one of the most nerve-racking and exhilarating moments of our career so far.’

Kieren added, ‘Going to New York has always been a dream. To have our first festival be one of the world’s biggest was unbelievable. Walt and I have dipped our toes in almost every role of filmmaking, from cinematography to lighting, visual effects and sound design. But Tribeca has lit the fire and reminded us both why we became filmmakers in the first place.’

Watch this space!

YOUR OWCA

OWCA Board

President

Tom Pewtress (OW2018)

Vice President

Alessia Francese (OW2016)

Treasurer

Rob Lancaster (OW1982)

Secretary

Emma Carney (OW1989)

Board Members

Frank Opray (OW1963)

Alex Iljin (OW1982)

Kunal Rastogi (OW2002)

Rick Morris (OW2004)

Luca Jolson (OW2022)

Jen Talyor (OW2023)

Oscar Leeton (OW2024)

Key contacts

Address and email updates | Lion stories | Social media, OW updates and connections | Birth, Marriage and Death notices | Grant enquiries from Affiliates | Administrative enquiries | Academic transcripts | Event enquiries | Calendar enquiries | owca@wesleycollege.edu.au

Interested in becoming involved in the Board? Contact:

President of the OWCA | owca@wesleycollege.edu.au

IGFF

Sexual Abuse Prevention

A partnership between the College and IGFF to provide support to former students who may be suffering as a result of historical abuse.

Practical welfare and therapeutic referrals

Providing trauma-informed and confidential support to Survivors and Secondary Survivors

Engagement with the National Redress Scheme

Supporting Survivors, families and communities impacted by Institutional abuse

Professional advocacy and mediation

Help Health Hope

1300 12 IGFF (1300 12 44 33) | igff@igff.org.au | www.igff.org.au

30 DECEMBER 2025



2025 Past Presidents' Dinner: Honouring Leadership



On Thursday 24 July, 12 past presidents of the Old Wesley Collegians Association gathered in the Cato Room for a special evening with current President Tom Pewtress (OW2018), Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) and Head of the OWCA, Jo Bandy-Renkin (OW1996).

The 2025 Past Presidents' Dinner was a heartfelt celebration of the leadership and legacy that has shaped our Association since its founding in 1882. The evening offered a chance to reflect on the remarkable evolution of the OWCA, reconnect with past presidents and honour their enduring impact across generations. With the role represented from the 1970s through to 2025, including two of our three female presidents, it was a powerful moment to give thanks and acknowledge the

legacy of leadership - from our very first president in 1882 to our 102nd president today. The time, dedication and vision of these leaders has laid the foundation for what the OWCA has become. Each has played a vital role in guiding our community, strengthening our values and fostering the connections that continue to enrich us all. It was an opportunity to reflect, reconnect and celebrate the enduring impact of their combined service.

OWCA Past Presidents			
1882-1883 W E Johnston	1923 T C Adamson	1955 W B Watson	1983 N A Evans
1895-1896 J W Springthorpe	1924 W F Morrow	1956 T J Liley	1984 G L Newton OAM
1897-1898 F Meyer	1925 F W Eggleston	1957 E R Smail	1985 J B Westacott OAM
1899 J E Nhill	1926 D Knight	1958 K W Norman	1986 I S Heffernan
1900 A E Tankard	1927 A T Evans	1959 R W Venn	1987 W R Mitchell
1901 A R Edgar	1928 W A Ince	1960 J S Peters	1988 J H M Gellie
1902 A E Tankard (2nd Term)	1929 G E Dickensen	1961 A D Pearce OAM	1989 I R Dakin
1903 H Lemme	1930 H J Stewart	1962 R B Lumley	1990 D S Crow OAM
1904 W R Thomson	1931 F B Hartnell	1963 D O Oldfield Snr OAM	1991-1992 R W Ball
1905 H H Oakley	1932-1933 A C D Rivett	1964 L E Lesser	1993-1994 P L Sandow
1906 W H G Cox	1934-1935 R W Chenweth	1965 H D Stewart	1995-1996 P S Harrison
1907 T R B Morton	1936 A J Sinclair	1966 T G Rapke	1997 R W Ball (2nd Term)
1908 H R Rush	1937-1938 C W Miers	1967 J C Habersberger AO	1998 J Dobson
1909 H V Champion	1939 C W Nye	1968-1969 J W Ball	1999-2001 D O Oldfield Jnr
1910 A V M Anderson	1940 S Harper	1970 B R Gregory	2002-2004 F J Opray
1911 E L Gault	1941-1942 W J Ball	1971 D A Davis	2005-2007 W C Crothers
1912 W B McCutcheon	1943 D F Uren	1972 R D Rivett	2008-2010 S E Wagstaff
1913 J W Parnell	1944 R Lockwood	1973 G C Wagstaff	2010-2012 T C J Loakes
1914 G B Vasey	1945-1946 L R Cole	1974 J E Barry AM MBE	2012-2017 S Hudson
1915 H G DeGruchy	1947 J S McCann	1975 L S Davis	2017-2019 B R Danks-Woodley and J P Ayerbe OAM
1916 F D Michaelis	1948 K T Adamson	1976 L N Ley	2019-2020 J P Ayerbe OAM (2nd Term) and K Evans
1917 F Knight	1949 C Brooks	1977 J J Blake	2020-2024 K Evans (2nd Term)
1918 Sir John Grice	1950 I S Alexander	1978 L D Hibbins	2024-Present T Pewtress
1919 A T Danks	1951 K W Hecht	1979 I G Unkenstein	
1920 R H Fetherston	1952 G A Bitcon	1980 L J Hicks	
1921 E Nye	1953 W O McCutcheon	1981 A N Stewart	
1922 G A Syme	1954 H M Williams	1982 B W Lockwood	

Dawson's Bottled Oddities



Having received universally positive but non-committal responses from publishers when he approached them about publishing his collection of poems, Dawson Hann - Wesley legend of the English classroom and the Adamson Theatre Company, former editor of the *Lion* - was understandably thrilled when he opened a letter from London publishing house Austin Macauley offering him a contract.

‘The Board was keen to comment on the emotional response your words invoked,’ read the letter. ‘Many were impossible to read with dry eyes - unique while communicating the profound impact poetry has had on your life.’

There is surely no more emphatic a validation of a writer’s work than that.

*Bottled Oddities: The Collected Poems of Dawson Hann* is the result of Dawson having ‘written a poem now and then’ over the past 25 years. As the title implies, the blurb on the back cover aptly positioning the collection thus: ‘They sit upon a shelf of life’s varied experiences, inviting you to sample, through compelling imagery and a diversity of poetic forms, the meaning the poet has extracted from a remarkably rich life of travel and human engagement.’

As a Wesley teacher for over 40 years, human engagement has obviously been the stuff of life for Dawson, and many of the poems are inspired by interactions with colleagues and students, within

the classroom and without. There’s the overriding sense that, aside from travel and his obvious love of literature, the poet’s relationships with others have provided an opening to an understanding of the self.

Not that making sense of yourself and the world you live in is always a serious business. Here’s the opening stanza to a poem sparked by an ‘infelicitous utterance’ made by a colleague:

**“To do here was,” she said, exactly like that, Leaving me upended in a grammatical vat, No strategies to hand that might help me find Just what exactly was on her mind.**

‘I truly bless the four decades of the perspectives, both mature and less so, which surrounded me at Wesley,’ says Dawson. ‘Not forgetting the humour too, of course. There are ways in which a teacher’s life is full of fun. And fun is what empowers expression (and poetry).’

Getting things published isn’t easy, but the obvious quality of the work - and another passionate believer in it - have helped it happen. On the dedication page, Dawson states he is ‘forever indebted to a former student and lifelong friend, Ian Thomas (OW1982), for his unqualified faith in the merits of this collection and who worked tirelessly as my agent and editorial assistant to see it through to publication’.

A well-travelled man, Dawson offers us many poems about journeys, into the Outback, South East Asia and across the



United States of America. But perhaps the most affecting journeys he offers us are those into memory and matters of the heart. There’s an undercurrent of nostalgia for warmer, simpler times in this collection.

Near the end, *Du Temps Perdu* lovingly reflects on the ‘lives lived close’ in the neighbourhoods of vanished years... of recipes in yellowing exercise books, of homemade preserves passed through gaps in backyard fences:

**It seemed so simple, then, but it always does in a world apart; Bottled oddities slipped cannily through fences round the heart.**

To dip into this collection of oddities is to taste a variety of extraordinary stories drawn from ordinary life and to be warmed by their sustaining glow - the harvest of a Wesley life well-lived.

You can order your copy of *Bottled Oddities* at [amazon.com.au](https://www.amazon.com.au)

**Bottled Oddities**  
*The Collected Poems of Dawson Hann*

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**BOOK LAUNCH**

Monday 2 March  
Cato Room,  
St Kilda Road Campus

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For more information, contact:  
[wesley.events@wesleycollege.edu.au](mailto:wesley.events@wesleycollege.edu.au)





The Spirit of '79 lives on



The boys of '79 in front of the 'Welcome to Coober Pedy' sign before leaving 'civilisation' to trek across the Simpson Desert

The Spirit of '79 was very much alive when eight OWs set off to cross the Simpson Desert, 46 years after their school days came to an end.

For those unfamiliar with 'The Simpson', it's one of Australia's largest and most iconic deserts, stretching across South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland. It's a true embodiment of the Aussie Outback, with endless red sand plains and dunes, including the world's longest parallel sand dunes.

After a series of well-organised planning sessions, the group departed Melbourne in mid-July in four 4WD vehicles, heading for the heart of Central Australia. Two of the vehicles were ex-Australian Army Land Rovers, affectionately known as 'Perenties' (named after one of Australia's largest lizards). Both were owned by car enthusiast Craig Joel (OW1979), who was joined by co-driver Peter Evans (OW1979) in one, while Andrew Watson (OW1979) and I shared the other.

Built for rugged performance rather than comfort, these manual-drive beasts came with no air conditioning, sound systems,

or cruise control - a stark contrast to the brand-new, feature-packed INEOS Grenadier driven by Jeremy Fox (OW1979) and his co-driver Stephen 'Bum' Hyde (OW1979).

Straight out of the showroom, the Grenadier delivered a plush ride, though a few pit stops were needed to tighten bolts rattled loose by thousands of kilometres of rocks and potholes. The fourth vehicle was a near-indestructible petrol-powered Toyota HiLux, piloted by David Hoyle (OW1979) with Rob Mellor (OW1979) as co-driver. The HiLux didn't skip a beat, handling everything the Simpson threw at it without so much as a cough, splutter or backfire.

Over the course of two weeks, the group covered more than 5,500 kilometres of bitumen, rock, sand and an abundance of dust. Each evening, the Outback silence was broken by stories from decades past. Tales from the football field, rowing sheds and classrooms mingled with memories of parties and interactions with the girls from MLC and Korowa during the daily tram and train commutes to school. Despite the passage of time, the bonds forged in youth were unmistakable.

The group quickly shifted from 'work mode' to full-blown adventurers. While not physically taxing in the traditional sense, spending long days behind the wheel, navigating dune after dune and soaking in the vast beauty of the Outback set the stage for evenings around the fire, where each pair took turns cooking and cleaning (skills we may not have picked up during school camps at Chum Creek). Though now in our 60s, this young-at-heart crew understood the value of staying active and embracing the opportunities our great land provides. By journey's end, talk of future adventures had already begun, perhaps another Simpson crossing, or new terrain in the Kimberley, Broome or even Cape York. Time will tell.

A special thanks must go to Craig Joel for his tireless enthusiasm throughout the trip. From leading early prep meetings to navigating a particularly wet desert (thanks to Queensland storms that turned dry creeks into surging rivers), Craig's leadership and commitment to ensuring both safety and enjoyment played a huge role in making this adventure one to remember.

Mark Jenkins (OW1979)



Parked outside of the RAAF Woomera Range Complex in South Australia



Approaching the 30+ metre sand dune nicknamed 'Big Red' on the eastern edge of the Simpson Desert



The famous Pink Roadhouse in Oodnadatta



One of the few luxuries of the trip!



Celebrating our successful crossing of the Simpson Desert at the Birdsville Hotel





OWCA REUNIONS

Prep VIII 73rd Year Reunion



Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road (OW2024) 1 Year Reunion



Elsternwick Silver Stars Lunch





OWCA REUNIONS

St Kilda Road (OW1985) 40 Year Reunion



St Kilda Road (OW1990) 35 Year Reunion





OWCA REUNIONS

Glen Waverley (OW1995) 30 Year Reunion



St Kilda Road (OW1995) 30 Year Reunion



Cato vs OWCA Ladies Golf Day



OWCA vs OSCA 2025 Golf Day



OWCA vs OSCA 2025 Golf Day Results

- Winner: OSCA**  
(Aggregate of the top 10 individual stableford scores)
- H J Kroger 4 Ball Best Ball Trophy**  
Won by Steve Dauterman (Parent) and Douglas McQualter (OW1950) (44 points)
- Dr John Kennedy Handicap Trophy**  
Won by Steve Dauterman (Parent) (41 points)  
Runner-up: Ian Lockwood (OW1985) (32 points)
- R W Chenoweth Championship Trophy**  
Won by Steve Dauterman (Parent) (74 strokes)
- Nearest the pin**  
4th hole: William (Year 12)  
11th hole: Scott Booth (OW1985)  
14th hole: Peter Johnson (OW1995)
- Longest drive**  
7th hole: Richard Kloe (OW1988)





OWCA AFFILIATES

Collegians Football Club



Sam Hibbins (OW2011) and Corey Cassidy (OW2010) are chaired off

Season 2025 was one of challenge and resilience. With injuries to key players, our depth was tested across all grades, yet the spirit of the club never wavered. Our Under 19s began strongly, sitting just outside the finals with four rounds to play.

As senior injuries mounted, several young players stepped up, with many doubling up in Reserves and U19s to ensure no games were forfeited. Their commitment showed the strength of our culture and the bond across all teams.

The Thirds, led superbly by coach Tom Penberthy (OW2009), enjoyed an outstanding season. They battled through to a Grand Final, falling just short but doing the club proud.

A huge thank you to Senior coach, Jordie McKenzie, for his strong leadership through very testing times. With six losses by under seven points and a draw, only a little luck eluded us and it could have been a very different season.

This year we also farewelled two greats of our club; Sam Hibbins (OW2011), our 2023 Premiership Captain who played 211 games and Corey Cassidy (OW2010), a premiership player with 127 games.

Congratulations to all our Best & Fairest winners and club award recipients for their outstanding seasons. Although we didn't field a women's program in 2025 as part of a reset, some exciting progress has been made under the leadership of Hannah Singleton (OW2014) and Amelia Peck (OW2018). Collegians have developed a Gender Equity Program endorsed by the AFL and are one of only two VAFA clubs to achieve Women's and Girls Charter accreditation. This sets a strong foundation for the future of women's football at our club.

To our members, volunteers, coaches, medical staff and committee, your tireless efforts are the backbone of this club. Although we will unfortunately compete in Men's Premier B in 2026, we welcome the challenge. Recruitment and retention are already underway and planning for a strong rebound season is well advanced. We look forward to coming back stronger.



Sam Hibbins (OW2011) and Corey Cassidy (OW2010)



2025 award winners

We welcome new players, volunteers and supporters who would like to help off-field in committee roles, small roles or as sponsors - everyone can contribute to the club's future success.

For enquires relating to Collegians Football Club or to get involved, please contact President Andrew Kenneally (OW1989) on 0499 490 580 or email akenneally29@gmail.com

**A special thank you to our valued sponsors for their continued support:**

- Bastion
- Bendigo Bank East Malvern
- Big Wet Spring Water
- Jefferson Automotive
- JGC Electrical
- KOR
- Media Republic
- Mercedes-Benz Waverley
- OWCA
- Selwyn Allen Funerals
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- Texco
- Total Facility Maintenance
- Sports Clinic Melbourne

**JOIN THE WESLEY SUPPORT SQUAD**

**SUMMER MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE**

Including t-shirts, caps, camping chairs and umbrellas

\*This is supporter wear only and not part of the College's official sports uniform

Shop online at: [wesleysupporters.shop](https://wesleysupporters.shop)

Collegians Car Club



Collegians Car Club members at the 2025 OWCA Auto Day

Are you passionate about cars and cruising the roads with like-minded enthusiasts? The Collegians Car Club is the perfect place to turn that passion into lifelong memories.

Whether you're into classic cars, modern performance machines or anything in between, our club offers a welcoming environment where all car lovers are celebrated. From scenic drives and social gatherings to car shows and community events, there's always something exciting happening. Officially started in 2025, the club is founded on friendship and collaboration, providing its members with an opportunity to share the love of motoring.

We enjoyed a fantastic day in August with members gathering in Melbourne before setting off on a scenic drive through the

Yarra Valley. Around midday, the group arrived at the historic Launching Place Hotel, a popular country pub owned by Neil Shankley (OW1982). The group were treated to a cold beer and a hearty lunch of generous pub favourites. Stories from past drives were shared, future events were planned and plenty of new friends made for a wonderful day out.

Our next major event is the 2026 Collegians Car Show to be held on Sunday 15 February 2026 on the Ross Gregory Oval at Wesley's Glen Waverley Campus. This event is proving increasingly popular, with over 60 entrants joining in 2025. Vehicles of all types were on show, making for a very interesting and exciting day. To register your interest as a participant, please contact President Brad Gavin (OW1995) via email at [collegianscarclub@gmail.com](mailto:collegianscarclub@gmail.com) to secure your spot.



Lunch at the Launching Place Hotel



Scenic drive in the Yarra Valley

The club offers member benefits including VicRoads Club Plate registration and your chance to participate in organised club days and community events. Hit the accelerator on fun and camaraderie! Become a member of the Collegians Car Club today and experience the joy of the open road with friends who share your passion.

For more information or to sign up, visit our Facebook and Instagram pages or use our club email address.

**2026 Auto Day**

Sunday 15 February, 10.00am

Ross Gregory Oval

Glen Waverley Campus

**Join Collegians Car Club today!**

Connect with fellow Wesley alumni and friends who love classic, vintage and street-rod vehicles. For just \$50 a year, enjoy exclusive drive days, social events, VicRoads Club Permit support and receive a club cap and sticker.

Whether you're a returning member or new to the club, now is the perfect time to join. As a VicRoads-registered club, we make it easy to add or renew your Club Permit Scheme.

Follow us on socials [@collegianscarclub](https://www.facebook.com/collegianscarclub) and join the ride!

**Sign up today**



OWCA Bowls



OWCA Bowls members proudly wearing their new Wesley vests

The OWCA Bowls season commenced on 3 September with a successful outing at MCC Swinburne. We entered two teams - one victorious (22 to 8), and the other won on the last end by four shots (22 to 18). This was followed by our annual match against the West Brighton Club where we were able to retain the trophy.

We finished last season on a high. Although we finished in fifth position, we

were number one in rank order, before losing momentum after lunch. This result is our best in several years and we hope to claim the prize in 2026. Our team looked fabulous in new vests supplied by the OWCA committee. We thank them for their ongoing support.

If you would like to join us, please contact me. We are always looking for new blood to boost the ranks. Our match days are

2026 MATCH SCHEDULE:

**Wednesday 14 January**  
OW v OCG and Old Scotch  
at MCC Swinburne

**Wednesday 11 February**  
OW v OM, MCC and Old Scotch  
at MCC Swinburne

**Sunday 29 March**  
OW v APS Inter Schools  
at Glen Waverley Bowling Club

always enjoyable outings. All games commence at 11am and conclude at 2pm, with a break at around 12.30pm for lunch.

Please note, the OWCA Golden Lions Chauffeur would be happy to help with transport if you are not easily mobile.

**Richard Sluggett (OW1972)**  
**Co-ordinator OWCA Bowls**  
**Mobile: 0403 023 288**

OW Cricket Club

With the footy season winding down and the smell of spring in the air, the Old Wesley Cricket Club is gearing up for what promises to be our most exciting season yet. Following last year's triumphs, on and off the pitch, momentum is high and expectations even higher. The headline? Our 1st XI is heading into Division 1!

After a dominant season capped off with a Grand Final win on the St Kilda Road Front Turf, the boys in purple and gold have earned their place among the MCC competition's top tier. This season the team is hungry to prove they belong and are ready to take on the challenge. It's the result of years of steady building and the journey is only just beginning. Meanwhile, our 2nd XI will continue their rise in Division 4. Last season saw the emergence of a tight-knit group that mixed enthusiasm, loyalty and plenty of cricketing potential. With another year together, they're poised to be serious contenders.

Off the field, the OWCC continues to thrive as a club where anyone, from

seasoned OWs to sons, fathers and fresh faces, can find their place. Our community culture remains the heartbeat of the club and we're proud of the friendships, families and fun that make this more than just a cricket team.

Coach Kyle Clarkson returns to steer pre-season and in-season training, while Ollie Browning (OW2011) steps in to coordinate a fresh calendar of social events. From BBQs and pub nights to a buzzing presentation evening, there'll be plenty of opportunities to get involved if you're wielding the willow or cheering from the sidelines.

We're calling on all OWs, whether you've played before or are curious to don the whites, to get involved. Training runs are on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at the Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road campuses respectively, followed by dinner and a drink nearby. We'll also be doing some pre-season sessions at Junction Oval. For details on joining, reach out to Rick Morris (OW2004) on 0438 081 886. It's going to be a big year. Go Lions!

**Ben Symon (OW2012)**



2024-2025 Division 2 Premiers



OW Cricket in action

Collegians X Hockey Club



2025 Premiers - Men's First Hockey team

It was another rewarding and successful year for Collegians X Hockey Club. The growth of the club, both on and off the field, has been really encouraging to see and is a credit to the players, coaches and supporters who continue to give their time and energy.

This season, we were delighted to welcome Bryce Tereszkiwicz (OW2020) to the club. Bryce made an immediate impact and enjoyed a fabulous year, bringing a burst of youth and enthusiasm that lifted those around him. His contribution was felt both on the pitch and socially, helping to strengthen the culture that makes our club such a unique and welcoming place.



2025 Women's Hockey team

On the women's side, Brittany Collins (OW2012) once again led the charge. Under her guidance, the team has been competitive all year, showing great determination and plenty of promise for the future. The mix of skill, effort and camaraderie has made them one of the most exciting parts of the club to watch this year and they should be incredibly proud of their efforts.

The men's teams also achieved great success. The Seconds finished the regular season in third place, putting together strong performances and showing resilience throughout. Although disappointed to bow out in the first final, the team can take confidence in the depth and potential they have built for next year.



2025 Men's Seconds Hockey team

The men's Firsts were outstanding this season. Finishing two games clear on top of the ladder, they dominated their competition and proved themselves as the benchmark team. Their dominance carried through to the Grand Final against Frankston, where they sealed victory with a 3-1 scoreline. Two early goals in the first quarter gave them control, before adding a decisive third in the final term. This triumph marks the club's first premiership in 13 years, celebrated in front of a strong crowd of past members and supporters, with many more tuning in via the live stream. A sensational achievement and a testament to the team's ability to maintain momentum all year.

The strength of Collegians X Hockey Club lies not only in results but also in the friendships, community and inclusive spirit that continues to grow stronger each year. The club is enormously appreciative of the ongoing support from the OWCA, whose encouragement and backing helps us thrive. Off the pitch, our members enjoy a vibrant social calendar and the bonds formed here extend well beyond game day.

Looking ahead, the club is already preparing for the mid-week summer competition and is keen to welcome anyone interested in playing. Whether you are an experienced player looking for a fresh challenge or someone completely new to the sport, Collegians X Hockey Club provides a fun, social and supportive environment. It is more than just hockey, it is about belonging to a community that values teamwork, spirit and friendship.

**Come Play Hockey**

**Contact: Scott Booth (OW1985)**  
**Mobile: 0418 553 212**  
Search 'Collegians X' on:  





OWCA AFFILIATES

OWCA Cross Country

The 2025 season was another great one for the OWCA Cross Country team. Across each of the 12 events, OW runners showed up, gave it their all and came away with plenty to be proud of: many personal bests, several individual wins and some great team results.

Highlights included our Women’s Open team coming first at the Tan Track relay and the OWCC club achieving the team win at the Brighton 8km, being first to get four runners across the line. Adam Pyke (OW2013) had another fantastic season, picking up Athlete of the Year for the sixth time since 2015. He did it in style, winning all six races he entered this year.

As for the Club Championship, the OW Open team finished fifth, which is a step up from last year and a solid result, especially since we’re a smaller club compared to some that have multiple teams in the Open division.

OWCACC competes against ten other APS clubs in the Associated Public Schools Old Collegians Amateur Athletic Association (APSOC). From April to September, there are runs on- and off-road at some great locations around Melbourne, with distances from 4km to 21km. The events are for everyone and the afternoon teas afterwards are always a good chance for a chat and to meet other runners.

If you’re thinking about joining, everyone is welcome, including friends and family of OWs together with current students. The next season starts in April 2026, so there’s plenty of time to get ready.

If you would like some further info or want to get involved, please get in touch with **Adrian Pile (OW2000)** at [adrian.pile@bigpond.com](mailto:adrian.pile@bigpond.com) or check us out on Instagram and Facebook at [@OW.cross.country](#)



Start of the 5km at Westerfolds Park

A Chorus Lion



A Chorus Lion in full voice



Celebrating Maggie's birthday

A *Chorus Lion* is a community group of Wesley parents (past and present), their friends and one OW!

New members are always welcome to join us and enjoy our Wednesday night weekly rehearsals, held during term time in the Stillwell Recital Centre at the St Kilda Road Campus.

Choir Director Maggie has a range of warm up activities that challenge both

our brains and our breath. For example, saying the following tongue twister fast: 'Betty Botter bought a bit of butter, but the bit of butter Betty bought was bitter, so Betty bought another bit of butter to make the bitter butter better.' I find it's much easier when the words are in front of you!

We have four groups: sopranos, altos, tenors and basses, and sheet music for a range of songs is provided. We practise for 90 minutes then adjourn to the Prahran Hotel for a quick wind down.

We perform at school functions, aged care facilities and have a couple of concerts for our families and friends. It's a fun, rewarding group to be a part of - please let me know if you'd like more information, or come along to join in the fun.

**Susie Rodgers-Wilson**  
(OWCA Honorary Life Member)

**Community Relations Officer**  
Email: [susierw52@gmail.com](mailto:susierw52@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 0419 898 933

Collegians Ski and Snowboard Club



Lachlan Ferguson (OW2010), Julian Peters (OW2014) and Tim Hodges



Mike Ferguson (OW1971), Marianne Stillwell and Vaughan Rosier

Season 2025 has delivered lots of snow from go to whoa!

With opening weekend on King's Birthday commencing with open runs and snow, to a closing over Grand Final weekend, members, friends of the Club and guests have enjoyed months of quality skiing including an epic blizzard in late August.

The Club continues to support the Wesley Snowsports program with accommodation during Interschools and Nationals racing. With many celebrations on site, the Lodge provides a social and relaxed environment for visitors.

The Lodge race co-ordinator, Vaughan Rosier, hand-picked two dream teams

this year to compete in the Club Team Challenge races late in August.

The combined team of Julian Peters (OW2014), Cameron Peters (OW2017), Annabelle Williams and Lachlan Ferguson (OW2010) delivered the goods defending and retaining the 'Shaggy Cup' for the fastest cross-discipline team and Vaughan Rosier, Mike Ferguson, Holly Ferguson and Leigh Delahoy won the Over 30 Masters division for skiing.

The Club continues to develop the standard of accommodation with new carpets complete now throughout the lodge and bunk rooms. Wesley-affiliated individuals and families are invited to consider joining us in 2026 for school holidays, university, club and school racing, family getaways, and social groups.



To make a Lodge booking

Contact the booking officer: [bookings.collegians@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.collegians@gmail.com), listing your connection to Wesley College (past student year, enrolled children or staff member).

You will then be provided with a login to the Collegians Ski Club site, where you can make a booking at any time, subject to availability.



Connect with your OW network

- Gala Dinners
- National and International events
- Regional and International contacts
- Foundation events
- Join our OW global business directory
- Reunions
- Affiliate Groups
- Founders' Day Lunch




**Instagram:** @oldwesleycollegians  
**Facebook:** Old Wesley Collegians Association  
**Share your news:** [owca@wesleycollege.edu.au](mailto:owca@wesleycollege.edu.au)  
**Website** with contacts and calendar: [www.owca.net](http://www.owca.net)





Births

 The young Lions with this symbol next to their photo have already applied to enrol as a future student of Wesley College. We look forward to welcoming them.



**ARCH**  
To Alice (OW2011) and Simon Keenan in April 2025, a daughter, Chloe Elizabeth, a niece for Peter (OW2008) and Sam (OW2014)



**BARCHAM**  
To Alistair (OW2009) and Nicole in June 2025, a son, Wyatt



**BRENT**  
To Sam (OW2001) and Rebecca Pickering in September 2025, a son, Benjamin, a brother for Penny



**COLEMAN**  
To Chris (OW2008) and Becky in May 2025, a daughter, Sophie Kate, a niece for Bradley (OW2003) and Gerard (OW2006)



**DEMPSEY**  
To Kate (OW2012) and Ellie in April 2025, a daughter, Summer Maree, a sister for Pippa



**FAHIE**  
To Alistair (OW2010) and Amelia in July 2025, a son, Freddie George, a nephew for Thomas (OW2007) and Amelia (OW2008)



**FORD**  
To Oliver (OW2008) and Edwina in March 2025, a son, Frank, a nephew for Charlie (OW2006)



**HIBBINS**  
To Sam (OW2011) and Jess in June 2025, a son, Charlie Sloup, a grandson for Mark (OW1978), a nephew for Jack (OW2015)



**KHOO - ROTH**  
To Jade (OW2010) and Remy (OW2010) in June 2025, a son, Cassius James



**KOSSMANN**  
To Phil (OW2011) and Sophie in March 2025, a daughter, Sienna Maria, a niece for Giulia (OW2008)



**KUS**  
To Jimmy (OW2010) and Amanda in October 2023, a daughter, Marigold, a sister for Samson, a niece for Ed (OW2005), Hayley (OW2007), Henry Howson (OW2011) and Lily Howson (OW2013)



**LODER**  
To Kate (OW2006) and Matt McLellan in September 2025, a son, Monty, a grandson for Tim (OW1976), a nephew for Jim (OW2004)



**LODGE - SARROS**  
To Thomas (OW2010) and Rebecca (OW2010) in June 2025, a son, Sol Emerald Sarros, a nephew for Stephanie Sarros-Griffiths (OW2004), Natalie Sarros (OW2007) and Charlie Lodge (OW2008)



**MASON**  
To Ben (OW2010) and Maddy in May 2025, a son, Levi Rich, a nephew for Vanessa (OW2007) and Annabel (OW2012)



**NEWMAN**  
To Julian (Yano) (OW2011) and Emily in May 2025, a daughter, Pia, a granddaughter for Paul (OW1978), a niece for Luke (OW2009)



**ONG**  
To Kenny (OW2011) and Rachael in July 2025, a son, Sebastian



**ROSS**  
To Charlotte (Crompton) (OW2011) and Anthony in September, a son, Leo



**SANDS**  
To Aurora (OW2009) and Hugh Brophy in August 2025, a daughter, Odette Briar, a niece for Ivo (OW2007)



**SMORGON**  
To Daniel (OW2010) and Emily in July 2025, a son, Raphael Louis, a grandson for Norman (OW1976), a nephew for Brad (OW2004), James (OW2006) and Todd (OW2013)



**STONE**  
To Andrew (OW2002) and Ashleigh in July 2025, a son, Lachlan Raine Randall, a brother for Harper, Jack and Peyton, a nephew for Nick (OW1999)

ENROL

YOUR CHILD

AT WESLEY



We are always delighted to welcome children of alumni to the College. Due to increasing demand for a place at Wesley, we recommend you register your application for enrolment as early as possible.

**Don't leave it too late.**  
**Apply today**

**Applications can be completed online by visiting**  
[wesleycollege.edu.au/enrol/domestic-applications](https://wesleycollege.edu.au/enrol/domestic-applications)

Applications by OWs to enrol their child at Wesley are prioritised based on the date of receipt and many families apply when their child is born.

As valued members of the Wesley community, the application fee is waived for applications from OWs.





Weddings



**ANDERSON – GILLIES**  
Courtney (OW2016) and Campbell (OW2016)  
on 28 February 2025



**CHALONER – PILLINGER**  
Tate (OW2018) and Sienna (OW2018)  
on 23 November 2024



**KEETON – DOWN**  
Athol (OW2014) and Bryanna on 17 May 2025



**KHOO – ROTH**  
Jade (OW2010) and Remy (OW2010)  
on 18 September 2024



**MCKAY – VAN LUNENBURG**  
Maddeleine (OW2011) and Dean  
on 3 October 2025



**ROBINSON – BOLTON**  
Jeremy (OW2013) and Madison  
on 18 October 2025

Engagements



**JONES – FARRELLY**  
Eliza (OW1998) and Benjamin



**LAMBROPOLOUS – DIAMATARIS**  
Perry (OW2013) and Dana



**PARSONS – BOUCHER**  
Haydn (OW2008) and Amber

Deaths

**ADAMS**  
Kerry (OW1955) on 26 May 2025

**ALLEN**  
Donald Ian (Ian) AM (OW1955) on 10 November 2025, brother of Geoff AM (OW1960), uncle of Jake (OW1989) (dec) and Georgie Raik-Allen (OW1987), great uncle of Isaac Raik-Allen (OW2018), Matilda Raik-Allen (OW2020), Zander (OW2021), Luca (OW2023) and Gabriel Raik-Allen (OW2024)

**AUSTIN**  
Russell (OW1958) on 5 December 2023, father of Richard (OW1983) and Nicholas (OW1987) (dec)

**BAILIE**  
Ian John (OW1978) on 5 July 2025, son of David (OW1954)

**BIGGS**  
Margaret Gwenda (Lethlean) (MLC Elsternwick 1950) on 25 April 2025, sister of Keith Lethlean (OW1947) (dec)

**CLARKE**  
Anthony (Tony) Montague (OW1959) on 26 October 2025, son of Kenneth (OW1927), father of Simon (OW1987)

**DOWLING**  
David Ronald (OW1958) on 24 June 2025, brother of Richard (OW1962) and Gregory (OW1969)

**FIELD**  
Eric Stanwell (OW1951) on 17 May 2025, brother of Frederick (OW1948), cousin of Robert (OW1947) (dec)

**FOLLEY**  
Alistair Macpherson (OW1957) on 20 September 2023, brother of David (OW1960)

**GEORGE**  
Kenneth (Past Staff) on 23 August 2025

**GUILD**  
Ian Alexander (OW1959) on 19 July 2025

**HAHN**  
Beatrice Annabel (Anna) (Reddrop) (MLC Elsternwick 1947) on 25 July 2025, mother of Vivien Allen (Hahn) (Cato College 1978) and Wendy Smith (Hahn) (Cato College 1979)

**HANSFORD**  
David Eric (OW1950) on 11 October 2025, father of Peter (OW1978), Ian (OW1980) and Stuart (OW1984)

**HARTLEY**  
Frank Thomas (OW1959) on 24 January 2025, brother of Jonathan (OW1961) and Wesley (OW1964)

**HILLBERG**  
Scott Andrew (OW1985) on 28 June 2025, father of Sienna (OW2021) and Nick (OW2022)

**HOWIE**  
Jill Celeste (Past Staff) on 3 October 2025

**LINDSAY**  
Rev Kenneth (Ken) Lindsay (former School Chaplain) on 23 September 2023

**LITTLE**  
Rodney (OW1956) on 16 July 2025, cousin of David (OW1947) and Eric (OW1955)

**MCCARTHY**  
Michael (OW1957) on 22 May 2025, brother of Catherine Michell (McCarthy) (MLC Elsternwick 1959) and Margaret Lynn (McCarthy) (Elsternwick MLC 1963), uncle of David Michell (OW1983), Belinda Michell (Cato College 1985), Chris Michell (OW1985) and Jonathan Michell (OW1994)

**MCNAB**  
Roslyn (Cole) (Elsternwick MLC 1971) on 7 September 2021

**MENCE**  
Ian Robert Brodi OAM (OW1955) on 26 July 2025

**MILLMAN**  
Jordana Renee (OW1993) on 20 September 2025, mother of Ruben (current student), sister of Julian (OW1990) and aunt of Daniel (OW2020)

**RATTRAY-WOOD**  
Robert Laurence (Laurie) (OW1953) on 2 September 2024

**ROGERS**  
Ian David (OW1953) on 29 June 2025

**RUBENSTEIN**  
Ralph (OW1955) (date unknown), brother of Mervyn (OW1959)

**SCHMIDT**  
Rohan Alister (OW1985) on 17 July 2025, son of Graham (OW1951) (dec), brother of Jeremy (OW1983) and Nick (OW1985), uncle of Charlotte Omond (OW2016), Maggie Omond (OW2019), Blake (OW2021) and Annabelle (OW2023)

**SHERRARD**  
David Gordon (OW1958) on 8 April 2025, son of Leslie (OW1926) (dec), brother of Peter (OW1956), father of Geoffrey (OW1992)

**SIMMONS**  
Rosalind (Elsternwick MLC 1961) on 7 August 2025, daughter of Aubrey (OW1931)

**ST JOHN**  
Donald James Bourne (James) AO (OW1953) on 25 August 2025, brother of Richard (OW1958) and Andrew (OW1961), father of David (OW1980) and James (OW1985)

**WATSON**  
Linda (Paul) (Cato College 1977) on 24 June 2025, sister of Sonia Harkin (Paul) (Cato College 1983)

**WEBSTER**  
Joyce (Gillard) (MLC Elsternwick 1945) on 30 July 2024

**WEBSTER**  
Norman Kenneth (OW1966) on 15 October 2025, brother of Peter (OW1967) (dec), David (OW1970) and Anthony (OW1973)

**WEBSTER**  
Peter Grant (OW1944) on 7 August 2025, son of Clarence (OW1914), father of Andrew (OW1971)

**WERNER**  
Neil Francis OAM (OW1950) on 19 August 2025

**WOOD**  
Alexander Sandford (OW1945) on 4 October 2025, son of Carl (OW1915) (dec), brother of Edwin (Carl) (OW1946) (dec), father of Peter (OW1975) and John (OW1977)



PROF. DONALD JAMES BOURNE (JAMES) ST JOHN AO (OW1953)

12/06/1936 - 25/08/2025



James was born and raised in Melbourne and started at Wesley College in 1947 in Form 6. He excelled at his studies and was awarded the honour of Dux, or second in form, in almost every year at Wesley. This set him up for a lifetime of learning and teaching. He fondly remembered his school masters Eddie Wells (the Junior School Headmaster), Mr Andrews, Mr Tapp, Mr Williams in 1947, Mr Chesterfield in 1948, Mr Wells in 1949 plus Miss Krome for French, Mr Coonan for Art and Mr Nall for Greek and Roman History. James enjoyed his school days and continued his association with the school through hockey with Old Wesley until 1964.

He completed his medical studies at the University of Melbourne and trained in gastroenterology at leading hospitals in Melbourne and London before returning

to Australia in 1969. In 1977 he became the first full-time Director of Gastroenterology at The Royal Melbourne Hospital and retained that position until he retired in 2001. During this time, he trained many gastroenterologists, including Peter Tagkalidis (OW1985). He had a particular empathy for his patients and was known to reassure them with his signature line, 'Your job is to relax, my job is to worry'.

His interest in gastroenterology went deeper than just patient care and he concurrently had an intense research program into the causes of gastrointestinal bleeding and the development of Australia's bowel cancer screening methods. Over the course of his career, he held many senior professional roles including President of the Gastroenterological Society of Australia and he authored 194 research papers published in international medical journals, with his last one published in 2023, a testament to his endless contribution to knowledge.

After retiring, he became Senior Clinical Consultant in the National Cancer Control Initiative (2001-06). Through his persuasive arguments about the clinical research data on gastrointestinal bleeding, he led the profession to convince the Australian government to introduce the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. In 2017, he was awarded an Officer of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) 'For distinguished service to medicine, to medical research, as a gastroenterologist, to innovative public health cancer screening programs, and as a mentor to young clinicians'.

Beyond medicine, he was passionate learner of history, politics and language. He learnt Latin and French at Wesley which gave him the ability to understand not only medical terminology, but the origin of words in English, and the scientific names of plants. He is perhaps the only person who has read a Latin dictionary while holidaying on the beach at Aireys Inlet. His care for the environment led him to become a passionate conservationist and he enthusiastically supported the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

James was also a caring family man and with Margaret, his wife of 63 years, they raised four kids, including David (OW1980) and James (OW1985), and he was very proud of all his 14 grandchildren and step-grandchildren. James is survived by his brothers Richard (OW1958) and Andrew (OW1961).

James passed away peacefully at age 89 and leaves a legacy that is saving thousands of lives thanks to his lifetime of work to implement the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. Millions of Australians between the ages of 45 and 74 are now routinely invited to do the 'poo test' which detects the very early stages of bowel cancer. This simple test has already saved thousands of lives by enabling the early primordial cancer to be removed and prevent its progression into lethal stages.

How would he like to be remembered? If you have received your free test kit for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program but haven't yet done it, he would be keen for you to do it. It might just save your life.

Contributed by James St John (OW1985)

KENNETH GEORGE (PAST STAFF)

12/03/1953 – 23/08/2025



Ken joined Wesley College in 1993 as a teacher of English, Humanities and Religious Studies, later adding VCE Legal Studies and Business Management. As Curriculum Director across all three campuses, his analytical mind and passion for education guided significant Years 7-10 curriculum reform, ensuring consistency and quality.

As Head of Religious Studies, he created a 10-week Year 9 program at St Kilda Road that became a student favourite. A Life Member of the Common Room

Association, Ken was admired for his intellect, humour and love of politics, education and classical music.

A gifted organist, he performed at Hamer Hall and Melbourne Town Hall. Ken spent ten rewarding years at Wesley before becoming Principal of Taylor's College in 2010.

Contributed by June George

PETER GRANT WEBSTER (OW1944)

25/11/1926 – 07/08/2025



Peter was the first child and only son of Clarence (OW1912) and Mona Webster. His sister, Anne (Bachelard), was born in May 1930. After attending Mont Albert Central School, Peter attended Wesley during WWII from 1941 to 1944. For two of those years, while the US Army occupied Wesley's St Kilda Road property, Scotch College and Wesley shared Scotch's premises in Hawthorn, with the Wesley students attending from 1.00pm - 7.00pm.

During those two years, Peter recalled walking home from school in virtual darkness when a 'brownout' was in force. Streetlights were permitted to shine only a small shaft of light to avoid detection from enemy bombers.

Peter represented Wesley in both First XI Cricket and First XVIII Football with some success. He recalled on one occasion, during a nets training session,

being called over by legendary coach PL Williams to consult with him about team selection for the forthcoming match. While standing together behind the cricket nets, a ball was skied into the air. After telling the coach to stand aside while he prepared to catch it, he misjudged the ball's flight and the ensuing broken nose resulted in his omission from the following match.

Immediately following his matriculation, Peter enlisted in the RAAF and was posted first to Shepparton and later to Toowoomba, finally returning home during 1946. He commenced a Bachelor of Laws at Melbourne University in 1947, graduating in 1950. In 1952, Peter married his dear wife Barbara (nee Haines) and three children followed - Andrew (OW1971), Christine and Elizabeth, who passed away in November 2016. Elizabeth's husband, Andrew Wildsmith, was a teacher at Wesley from 1991-2018.

After being admitted to legal practice in 1951, Peter commenced working with his father at his firm of Pearce and Webster Solicitors, where he remained until his retirement in 1994, having been a partner for almost 40 years. He was regarded as a highly competent commercial property and probate practitioner. Both he and his father were appointed as legal advisors to Wesley College, a role which they undertook for many years. Like his father, Peter was also a member of the Wesley College Council, as well as the College Executive for some years.

Peter pursued numerous interests following his retirement. He gave much of his time to serving others,

both professionally and as a volunteer, holding positions on numerous other committees both within and outside the Uniting Church. In retirement, he became somewhat of a rail enthusiast, as well as an avid bushwalker.

At the Thanksgiving Service for Peter's life held at Koonung Heights Uniting Church, Rev Dr Mark Lawrence, former Moderator of the Uniting Church, spoke of Peter's contribution to the Synod of the Uniting Church, not just as its Legal Advisor for many years but as a member of several committees within the Church Synod. He noted that Peter was one of the architects of the Victorian Government legislation which lead to the formation of the Uniting Church in 1976.

Peter will be remembered by his family as a funny, intelligent, loving and caring husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who was devoted to his family. His family are immensely proud of his enduring legacy.

Contributed by Andrew Webster (OW1971)

DAVID ERIC HANSFORD (OW1950)

27/12/1932 – 11/10/2025



David, an avid and talented cricketer, has been run out for 92.

One of the best APS cricketers of his generation, David played for the Wesley XI from Year 9, initially as a leg spinner but later as an all-rounder, captaining the team in 1950.

He was a key member of the 1949 Premiership team which, apart from being undefeated, had the rare distinction of beating rival Scotch College outright on day one, with David taking 11 wickets.

David was subsequently recruited by Melbourne Cricket Club and rose

to captain the club. He played in the Victorian 2nd XI and may have become a test cricketer had National Service not interrupted his development.

David later moved to Tatura and became an outstanding batsman in the Kyabram and District Cricket Association.

David is survived by his wife Genevieve and four children, including Peter (OW1978) and Ian (OW1980).

Contributed by Peter Hansford (OW1978)





# 2026 Calendar

## January

### An Afternoon at the Cricket

Friday 30 | 4:00pm  
Rose Garden, SKR

## February

### SKR & GW (OW2016) 10 Year Reunion

Friday 6 | 7:00pm  
The College Lawn Hotel, Prahran

### SKR & GW (OW2021) 5 Year Reunion

Friday 13 | 7:00pm  
The College Lawn Hotel, Prahran

### OWCA Auto Day

Sunday 15 | 10:00am  
Ross Gregory Oval, Glen Waverley

### OWCA Brisbane Event

Friday 20 | 6:30pm  
Brisbane Club, Brisbane, QLD

### SKR (OW2006) 20 Year Reunion

Friday 27 | 7:00pm  
Rose Garden, SKR

### SKR (OW2001) 25 Year Reunion

Friday 27 | 7:00pm  
Cato Room, SKR

## March

### Grand Prix Breakfast

Thursday 5 | 7:00am  
TBC, Albert Park Lake

### GW (OW2006) 20 Year Reunion

Friday 13 | 7:00pm  
Coates Pavilion, GW

### GW (OW2001) 25 Year Reunion

Friday 13 | 7:00pm  
Alexander Room, GW

### 2026 Head of the River

Saturday 21 | 7:00am  
Nagambie

### Chum Creek 75th Birthday Celebration

Sunday 22 | 11:00am  
Chum Creek

### SKR (OW1976) 50 Year Reunion

Friday 27 | 7:00pm  
Cato Room, SKR

### Boat Race Dinner

Monday 30 | 6:30pm  
Leonda by the Yarra

### Careers Night

Tuesday 31 | 5:30pm  
Middle School, GW

## April

### SKR (OW1966) 60 Year Reunion

Friday 10 | 12:00pm  
Cato Room, SKR

## May

### Giving Day 2026

Friday 1 | All Day

### Founders' Day Gala, Celebrating 160 years of Wesley

Saturday 2 | 6:30pm  
Palladium at Crown

### APS Golf

TBC  
Victoria Golf Course

### OWCA AGM

Wednesday 6 | 6:30pm  
Waugh Room, SKR

### Golden Lions Founders' Day Lunch

Saturday 9 | 12:00pm  
Cato Room, SKR

### OWCA New York Event

Thursday 21 | 6:30pm  
TBC, New York, USA

### OWCA London Event

Thursday 28 | 6:30pm  
TBC, London, UK

## July

### OWCA Generations Breakfast

Friday 31 | 7:30am  
Cato Room, SKR | Alexander Room, GW |  
Prest Room, ELS

## August

### OWCA Canberra Event

Friday 7  
TBC, Canberra, ACT

### SKR (OW1986) 40 Year Reunion

Friday 21 | 7:00pm  
Cato Room, SKR

## September

### OWCA Perth Event

Saturday 19  
TBC, Canberra, ACT

### OWCA Asian Events

TBC, Asia

### OWCA Mornington Peninsula Lunch

TBC, Mornington Peninsula

## October

### Elsternwick Silver Stars Lunch

Friday 2 | 12:00pm  
Fitchett Hall, Elsternwick

### GW (OW1996) 30 Year Reunion

Friday 16 | 7:00pm  
Alexander Room, GW

### SKR & GW (OW2025) 1 Year Reunion

Friday 23 | 7:00pm  
The College Lawn Hotel, Prahran

## November

### OWCA Sydney Event

Saturday 7  
TBC, Sydney, NSW

### SKR (OW1996) 30 Year Reunion

Friday 13 | 7:00pm  
Cato Room, SKR

### OWCA/OSCA Golf Day

TBC

### OWCA Geelong Lunch

Friday 27 | 12:00pm  
TBC

### OWCA x Cato Ladies Golf Day

TBC

## December

### Donors & Volunteers Thank you event

Thursday 10 | 6:30pm  
TBC



## An Afternoon at the Cricket

**Friday 30 January  
4:00pm to 6:30pm**

Rose Garden  
St Kilda Road Campus

Bookings:

[https://events.humanitix.com/  
cricket-afternoon](https://events.humanitix.com/cricket-afternoon)

## Chum Creek turns 75!

**Sunday 22 March  
11.00am - 2:00pm**

**CHUM CREEK  
VICTORIA**

All welcome



## Golden Lions Founders' Day Lunch

A special gathering  
welcoming all OW leavers  
from 1968 and earlier

**Saturday 9 May  
12.00pm**

Cato Room,  
St Kilda Road Campus

BRISBANE  CELEBRATION  
1866—2026



**Friday 20 February  
Brisbane Club, Brisbane**

## Boat Race Dinner

**Monday 30 March  
6.30pm to 10.30pm**

Leonda by the Yarra

Bookings:

[https://events.humanitix.com/  
boat-race-dinner-2026](https://events.humanitix.com/boat-race-dinner-2026)



## Golden Lions Chauffeur

For OWs aged 75 and older



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