

# Lion

THE WESLEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

## *Ready to ROAR*

Our new approach  
to wellbeing

## *Fun Home*

Dean and Flora and a  
unicorn of a musical

## *Breaking the Bias*

International Women's  
Day at Wesley

# Celebrating Excellence

Class of 2021 makes history



*A True Education*



WESLEY COLLEGE

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## Editorial

Despite the ongoing COVID-related absences amongst staff and students, campus life at Wesley College has again bloomed. From February through to April we've been able to enjoy an unbroken 11-week Term 1, complete with normal classes, excursions, performances, camps and sports, and even unmasked assemblies and community events.

The one and only community event we got to run last year was our International Women's Day celebration in early March; exactly a year later, our first full community gathering since restrictions were lifted has been that same event – see our coverage on page 10.

House Activities have returned to our campuses and students have re-embraced them with a sense of delight and urgency that can only come from the rediscovered pleasure of living in the moment, surrounded by others. The faces of our students tell the whole story on page 18.

So we're re-establishing patterns, and in some cases, we're forging exciting new ones.

In sport, we've again had a dominating summer with a premiership hat trick in three sports. Both our Girls First VIII Rowing crew and our Girls First Tennis team have won their respective APS finals two years in a row (and, in the case of our tennis girls, it's their third premiership in the past four years). Remarkably, both the Girls and Boys First Tennis teams won the APS Premiership this year for the first time in Wesley tennis history. See their stories on pages 14 and 15. To cap it off, our Girls First Volleyball team had a phenomenal season as well, also taking out the APS premiership.

Head of St Kilda Road Campus Kim Bence introduces us to the new ROAR approach to wellbeing across the College on page 8. Developed in response to signs of disengagement and disconnection brought on by these disruptive times, the new approach represents a significant change in the way we nurture wellbeing in our community.

Our cover story for this edition features our nine dukes of 2021 who, despite the deprivations of the pandemic, somehow managed to achieve perfect ATARs – the highest number for any school in Victoria for the year. It's a remarkable achievement for an open-entry school such as ours. All nine share their stories on pages 4 and 5.

Their successes are the headlines, but the fact is that all of our students can feel tremendously proud of their own stories of success at Wesley, academic or otherwise. As Nick Evans states, 'As a College, we are immensely proud of all students who achieve their best, whatever their best may be.'

**Paul Munn, Lion Editor and Features writer**

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## A True Education

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We acknowledge and pay respects to the Elders and Traditional Owners of the land on which our Australian campuses and Studio School stand.



## Principal's lines

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I am, by nature, an optimist. Most people who teach are optimists. It is hard for me to understand how you could teach and not be. It is a calling focused on the future and without optimism, focusing on the future can be a little dismaying.

Nick Evans enjoys the Year 7 Combined Chapel Service at Wesley Uniting Church on Lonsdale Street with Marianne Stillwell and Morag Howard.

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Recent events have made it difficult for optimists. The pandemic of the last two years has shaken our world and made us question verities we thought unshakeable. To give but one example, I never thought it would be impossible to travel across the country unhindered, but that is a right I will never take for granted again. The natural disasters of the past three summers indicate the very real impact of climate change on lives and livelihoods. The extraordinary bushfires of 2019 and 2020 have now given way to floods of biblical proportions. Finally, in recent weeks as this is written, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has seen the spectre of war once again on the continent that bore the brunt of World War 2. I have taught 20th Century History for most of my career as a teacher; the images emerging from this conflict are eerily and depressingly familiar. The war in Ukraine is, of course, on top of the humanitarian disaster unfolding in Afghanistan, the conflict that continues in Syria and the suffering in other parts of the globe for different reasons.

The war in Ukraine does feel different, however, not least because it involves a nuclear power. I grew up in the shadow

of a nuclear conflagration that could destroy the world. At the time, it was simply a reality that I didn't consider in any profound way. I was, to be fair, quite young. I am, needless to say, not young anymore and the prospect of nuclear weapons once again being used is chilling.

It is hard to be optimistic under such circumstances.

And yet, spending time with young people, as is my privilege, I still have hope. I still have optimism. The courage of the Ukrainian people in the face of naked aggression is a source of optimism. The dedication of those agitating for real action on climate change is a source of optimism. The genius involved in the creation of COVID vaccines that have enabled our world to return to something approaching normal is a source of optimism. But speaking to young people is what really gives me hope for the future. Most remain idealistic. Most are determined to shape their world. Most will not accept with blind supplication the direction our world is going. They are not cynical but do have a worldliness informed by the fact that the world is increasingly theirs. The way the world interacts and communicates is driven by the young.

I am thankful for it.

At a recent leadership assembly at one of the Junior Schools of the College, a video was presented entitled Take us to Your Leaders. The concept, in essence, was that young alien leaders arrived at the Junior School in the Leader Ship and were ushered into the presence of the Year 4 leaders of the Junior School. After 1000 questions, the young alien leaders (who bore a remarkable resemblance to the Year 4 leaders, it has to be said) were asked what they had learned about leadership. The list was remarkable. It included but was not limited to: having courage, being kind, not leading just because of a title, being respectful, being able to make mistakes, having a sense of humour, being patient, being helpful, setting an example, working hard, being persistent, showing people the right thing to do, taking risks.

It is the most wonderful and inspiring list. Our future is in good hands, and I remain optimistic.

**Nick Evans (OW1985)**



# History making results for the Class of 2021

What a thrilling example of success in the face of adversity. Despite the enormous challenges thrown their way whilst living through two years of the pandemic, nine of our students managed to achieve the highest possible ATAR of 99.95 – the highest number of perfect scores in Victoria, and the highest number in Wesley history.

Our warmest congratulations go to **Harper Elliott, Cindy Hua, Olivia Khouw, Jasper Meckel, Mia Moshinsky, Thien Pham, Sara Pisacane, Stephen Zhang** and **Johnson Zheng** for their wonderful achievement.

These achievements are just the peak of a mountain of personal bests for all of our Year 12 students. The combined median ATAR across our VCE and IB DP cohorts was 86.85, with 43.5% of students achieving an ATAR of 90 or above – extraordinary results for an open-entry school such as ours.

‘The dedication, resilience and adaptability of our recent Year 12 graduates is nothing

short of remarkable,’ says Principal Nick Evans. ‘I’m immensely proud, not only of our Class of 2021’s history-making results, but also of the way they have navigated their personal journeys of growth and development through two tumultuous years of challenge and uncertainty.’

While they emphatically signal the quality of teaching and learning at Wesley, for Nick these outstanding results are only one part of the success story. ‘Our graduates are not defined simply by their ATAR scores,’ he says. ‘They have learned through their own personal journeys of growth and development, success and setbacks. They are shaped by their values,

their courage, the quality of their relationships and the myriad of experiences at Wesley and beyond. As a College, we are immensely proud of all students who achieve their best, whatever their best may be.’

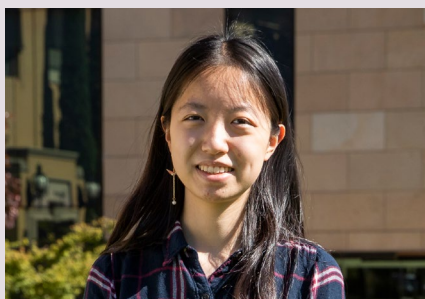
The perfect scores of two of our International students, Stephen Zhang and Johnson Zheng, are particularly remarkable, given just a few short years ago, their educational journey in English began when they entered our English Language Preparation Program in Middle School.

Here our Duces reflect on how they approached their studies, and offer some advice for the Class of 2022:



**Harper:** I broke down study times into small sections, only studying each subject for a maximum of 90 minutes, making me more efficient and motivated during my study times. I also consistently undertook small tasks, such as using ANKI (a flashcard memorisation app) for study on the tram. Planning was also very important; I used Trello, an organising tool I found very useful. I used my teachers’ expertise so often I can only assume they felt badgered at times! Group study with friends was also pertinent to me.

His advice: Trust that if the effort is put in, success will follow. Many people are too focused on chasing careers that are socially associated with success, not the ones that inspire them.



**Cindy:** I used my leisure time, as well as holiday time at the start of the year, to read the textbooks and learn them by myself. This allowed me to have a basic understanding of the content before it was actually taught in school, hence reducing the upcoming workload. All the cocurriculars gave me a good balance between work and life; they enabled me to truly relax and explore my hobbies after a busy day of school.

Her advice: Every individual is unique, so just be yourself. It’s certainly beneficial to take advice from other individuals, but most importantly, each person should discover and develop their own study strategies. Figure out the study methods that work best for you and stick to them.



**Olivia:** In addition to my school and Publications Prefect work, I had to balance involvement in music, drama, sport and several clubs. Rather than pose an educational handicap, however, this ultimately helped my time management as it taught me how to better prioritise my tasks. It’s impossible to complete everything perfectly in Year 12; I found it helpful to focus on the bigger picture rather than obsess over arbitrary details.

Her advice: The only life worth living is one that you are truly passionate about, so don’t edit your own dreams according to the fashion. Instead, ask yourself what you hope to achieve in the long term, the legacy you intend on leaving behind and the change you want to effect. From then on, every decision you make should be in service of these goals.





**Jasper:** The key to success lies in how you approach the future, but more so who you choose to approach it with. Always work with people who are better at their craft than you are, because when you want to be the best, you only want to surround yourself with the best. Fortunately, Wesley College provided me with an outstanding group of dedicated and enthusiastic peers and educators who not only supported me in my academic and social endeavours but demonstrated an unparalleled level of competitiveness that always kept me on my toes. Undeniably, this was the key to my success and, for this, I am grateful to have attended Wesley.



**Thien:** I ensured that my schoolwork did not consume my every minute (although this was difficult towards the end). I maintained my hobbies by playing gigs regularly and increased revenue in my side business (I resell used bikes). The maintenance of these cocurricular endeavours was paramount in staying engaged and motivated in my study. My family played a large role in what I perceive as success during Year 12. They were tolerable of my unsavoury moods and allowed me to enjoy the year to its fullest. At school, it was reassuring to notice the constant check-ins not only by my tutor and Head of House, but also my everyday classroom teachers and music teachers.



**Stephen:** To be honest, I didn't find managing my workload difficult during the last two years. I just followed teachers' requests on time and made sure everything was on the right track.

His advice: Set your goal clearly in the beginning and keep striving for it. You have to know what you really want, then find the most effective and efficient way to achieve that.

Stephen also has some advice for future international students coming to Melbourne: 'Wesley is one of the best options for international students and their families. Wesley's diversity is unique and it's hard to find another school that embraces so many international students, especially Asian.'



**Mia:** I had a wall planner so that I could consistently chart when everything was due. I also took advantage of digital tools such as OneNote and set myself daily and weekly work targets that factored in the need to exercise and relax. Having an online study group was invaluable during lockdowns. We all helped each other to remain motivated and connected. Knowing that our amazing teachers were always available to help was also critical to keeping our morale high.

Her advice: Maintain a healthy work/study lifestyle and know that support from the College is there if needed. Also, be resourceful and use OneNote!



**Sara:** My family comes from humble beginnings and I'm first generation Australian. I started at Wesley's Elsternwick Campus on a General Excellence scholarship. Hard work and effort have been instilled in me from a young age and these results are a reflection that determination and drive to succeed really do pay off. No matter the difficult circumstances and struggles over the past two years, I've never lost sight of my goals. I have immense gratitude for my teachers, the Wesley community and family and friends who have supported me throughout this journey.



**Johnson:** I made sure I was aware of all the due dates for assignments and planned my working schedule. I would set myself some deadlines after dividing each task into several sections and work on them every day, instead of doing everything several days before the due dates.

His advice: Academic study isn't the only thing at school. Extracurricular activities are just as important as your academic courses. Make sure you balance your time between them, and you are likely to obtain something more special than grades.



# Dean and Flora and a unicorn of a musical

Wesley students taking the performing arts world by storm is not uncommon, with many OW's forging successful careers and current students just beginning their creative journeys. Last month's hugely popular Melbourne Theatre Company production of *Fun Home* combined the two, with Dean Bryant (OW1993) directing the hit musical and current Year 6 student, Flora Feldman, starring in a lead role. **Paul Munn** reports.

Dean Bryant describes the multi-Tony Award-winning *Fun Home* as 'a unicorn of a musical,' perhaps the most satisfying one he's worked on. That's a big call, given he's had a 20-year career writing and directing musicals, building an impressive list of credits along the way.

What makes this show so special?

'It's probably the only musical I've worked on where it felt so efficiently and intelligently written that there wasn't a second where you didn't exactly know what the writer's intent was and how to play it,' he says. 'It's also really theatrical because it's delving into memory. It's a theatricality that you don't always find in live theatre. But of course, it's what theatre is meant to be.'

An adaptation of Alison Bechdel's autobiographical graphic novel, *Fun Home* is about 'growing up and coming out'. Its success is significant in the history of the musical because it's the first big-time hit show with an all-female creative team and a lesbian protagonist. Queer audience members have been deeply moved by this show.

'So often, lesbian women are represented in popular culture as the butt of the joke, like they're dowdy or they're sexualised,' says Dean. 'To see themselves on stage realistically, authentically... it's validating for them to see. But it's also welcoming for everyone, because it's primarily about the relationship between parents and children and how difficult that relationship is.'

The show has three actors playing the central role – there's nine-year-old Alison, 19-year-old Alison and adult Alison. Flora stars as the nine-year-old version, 'Small Alison.'



Dean in rehearsal at the MTC

Flora enjoyed playing Small Alison, despite all the hard work – doing three to four shows a week, including matinees and evening sessions. 'I like that the character of Small Alison was similar to me; we're both tomboys and creative and have big and bold personalities,' she says. 'We believe in what we think is right. But I'm definitely not as bossy as her!'

She started performing when she was eight, but this show was special for her as it was her first musical. 'I'd never done one before, so I had to sing, act and dance. But singing is my favourite!' she says. At Wesley, Flora performs in the Year 5 and 6 Choir, plays viola with Tuesday Strings, and hopes to be in the Year 5 and 6 musical this year, COVID permitting.

Dean's first big experience in musicals came with the lead role of Che Guevara in the Adamson Theatre Company production of *Evita* in 1993, when he came from regional Victoria to join Wesley at the St Kilda Road Campus for Year 12. 'Doing *Evita* opened my mind immediately to the scale of things you could do. The school was essentially replicating the Broadway production in Adamson Hall, and I was like, Oh God, you can do this bigger!'

Dawson Hann, who co-directed the production with the late Tony Scanlon, remembers his outstanding work in the role. 'To my knowledge, no other school has ever tackled this supremely difficult work. But we pulled it off thanks to the skill, self-belief and fortitude of students like Dean,' he says. 'He made an impact way beyond his time with us. Two productions... and then the world.'

His work with Adamson Theatre Company on the senior play and the musical clearly had a big impact on Dean as well,

especially the influence Dawson and Tony provided, 'just through the sheer ambition that they had for the work that could be made at Wesley. That expanded the minds of everyone who was working on it,' he says.

He also counts his fellow students in the performing arts programs as having a powerful effect on him. 'It's not just what Wesley offered, but who Wesley attracted. It's the teaching you're getting, the activities you're participating in and the people you're working with. Ultimately, any career is built out of who you're associating with on a friendship level.'

'I think Wesley encourages ambition, passion and opens pathways.'

Many of our students who are passionately engaged in the performing arts and looking for those pathways agonise over whether they should chase a career in that field or do a degree first.

Dean's advice? Do both. He pursued a Law degree for three years before fully committing and going to drama school. He says doing a degree is 'a good way to get the proper university experience, knowing that you can do the things you're really passionate about right from the start as an extracurricular. There's so much at any university, performance-based or music-based or whatever you're interested in. It's easier to step into both worlds. Then just focus on one.'

'You also meet interesting people doing other things first, rather than just specifically the thing you think you might be interested in. And if you're really passionate and you know what you want to do, no one's ever going to steer you away from that. It's just what happens.'





Flora (in denim overalls) as Small Alison in *Fun Home*



Photos by Jeff Busby



# Ready to ROAR – Our new approach to wellbeing

The relentless uncertainty and continual disruption caused by the pandemic has played havoc in the lives of many of us, especially our young people. Concern about disengagement in learning, social disconnection and a resultant decline in mental health has brought about a significant change in the way we nurture wellbeing at Wesley.

**Kim Bence** introduces our new approach.

## The ROAR Approach

If you've picked that ROAR is an acronym, you'd be right. Our aim is to empower our students and all those within our community to truly ROAR!

The four tenets of this approach - Respect, Opportunity, Achievement, and Resilience - are designed to help our young people, our staff and our families successfully navigate the world around them. We use these tenets to deliver our whole-of-College approach to wellbeing as they capture the very essence of a Wesley education.

### **Respect:**

We nurture belonging, connection and authentic relationships through respect of self, others and the world in which we live.

### **Opportunity:**

We embrace opportunities to develop our strengths and talents, ignite our passions and inspire meaning and purpose in all that we do.

### **Achievement:**

In pursuit of personal excellence, we define what is important for us, set goals and harness our strengths, talents and skills. We nurture strong moral and intellectual character and develop healthy habits to find meaning and purpose in our lives.

### **Resilience:**

We have the inner strength and capabilities to navigate stress and confront uncertainty. With passion and perseverance, we recognise challenges as opportunities for growth by developing personal strategies to cope with setbacks and bounce forward.

The four tenets are intricately linked and strategically align to an evidenced-based curriculum from wellbeing science. This

enables our young people to build up knowledge and skills that are age-appropriate and sequential by design.

Each Wesley campus has a dedicated Head of Student Wellbeing who is supported by a network of wellbeing teams across the campuses that consist of Homeroom Teachers, Tutors, Heads of Year, Heads of House, Heads of School, school counsellors and psychologists, chaplains and cocurricular staff.

We've formed connections with learning and wellbeing partners to design and deliver contemporary programs and approaches, including the New Metrics for Success (University of Melbourne), Science of Learning, Partner Schools Project (University of Queensland), CyberSafety Project, Breathing Space, Grow Your Mind and Bravehearts, Australia's leading child protection agency.

### **Our Home-School partnership**

We recognise that our families, no matter what they look like, play a vital role in the learning and wellbeing of our young people. As a parent myself, I know first-hand that wellbeing does not stop when our children step outside the classroom, and our families have a significant role to play.

Our ROAR approach connects at every level of the school, including the home context, supporting families to understand and nurture wellbeing in their children. Online seminars, face-to-face workshops and forums equip families with the knowledge and strategies needed to help empower their children and reinforce the knowledge and capabilities being nurtured at school. These programs have included specialised drug and alcohol awareness training, coping with stress and anxiety in children, and 'Tuning into Teens', as run by our School Psychologists in 2021. We look forward to sharing many more

events with our Wesley community this year via our Wellbeing Parent Series.

### **Crafting the next important chapter**

Every member of the Wesley community understands and appreciates the rich history and long held traditions of our great school. This also comes with the responsibility of writing the next important chapter. Our ROAR approach will be a pillar that has the capacity to transform lives in these disruptive times by preparing our people for the complexities of a dynamic and ever-changing landscape.

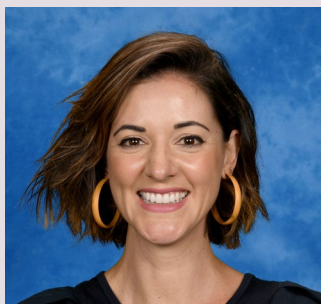
As educators walking side by side with our Wesley families, we must never lose sight of the critical role we share in developing the hearts and minds of the future.



**Kim Bence,**  
Head of Campus, St Kilda Road



## Leading the ROAR: Meet our new Heads of Student Wellbeing



**Gemma Granozio - Elsternwick**

I'm a passionate History teacher, having worked in independent schools in Adelaide, Sydney and Singapore. My leadership journey flourished during my time at Knox Grammar School in Sydney where I was Head of the Middle Academy. I see my new role at Wesley as ensuring we have great programs across all areas of school life that expose our students to opportunities that encourage them to be well-rounded, healthy, happy and productive individuals.

For me, connection and purpose are most important for nurturing a sense of wellbeing in our students. If a young person is connected to their community – friends, family, faith, sport or hobbies – they have a sense of purpose and belonging which brings a sense of happiness and self-worth.

A strong sense of wellbeing in a school sounds like laughter from the classroom, noise from the sports field and music from the theatre... but it's also the quiet reflection. It feels like a buzzing, positive school culture that people want to be a part of.

At Elsternwick, I have noticed a community that is wholeheartedly embracing student wellbeing as a priority! In discussions with colleagues on my very first day, I heard the phrase 'we do this because it's the best outcome for the students.' Hearing that made me feel very fortunate to be at Wesley and leading Student Wellbeing.



**Donna Davies – Glen Waverley**

I've been fortunate to have experienced a wide variety of educational settings from P-12, residential education and at university level in Australia and the UK. I was previously Vice-Principal at Janet Clarke Hall, University of Melbourne. I am also undertaking part-time doctoral studies in The Melbourne Graduate School of Education in the area of Respectful Relationships.

We are creating programs to build wellbeing skills and knowledge in our young people today for their futures.

My role involves meeting with staff and students across the campuses to design bespoke curriculum and initiatives that are purpose-fit for our community. We have recently engaged the University of Queensland to design and investigate best practice wellbeing initiatives for each campus. It's a dream job!

What does a strong sense of wellbeing look like in a school? Happy faces, joyous laughter, singing, dancing, clapping and cheering. I'm seeing it on campus already as we are learning to value these simple acts again as important daily reminders of human connection and personal agency. There is a very strong sense of diversity and inclusivity at Wesley - the foundations for providing a safe and vibrant space for learning and engagement.



**Leonie Abbott - St Kilda Road**

Starting as a secondary school teacher, I've worked in and around education for most of my career. I bring extensive experience in wellbeing having consulted to schools most recently. It feels good to bring the science of wellbeing to life in school settings through my Master of Applied Positive Psychology.

Wesley has a sea of floating balloons, where each individual balloon is an aspect of wellbeing. I am currently collecting these balloons to find what might be missing in the bunch. My aim then, in collaboration with the other campus Heads of Wellbeing, is to build a wellbeing sequence for students to learn about ways of being well and doing well throughout their time at Wesley.

What does wellbeing look like in a school? While it may sound a bit cliché, we see lots of smiling students! Voice is essential for strong wellbeing, feeling safe to raise issues, taking a stance and of course, celebrations of others are examples of what we should be hearing. Everyone should feel safe, heard and seen. Wellbeing has a vibrancy and energy that is tangible. I'm discovering many elements of wellbeing already occurring across the St Kilda Road Campus.

### Stop and notice the AWEsome

**Of course, wellbeing doesn't stop at the school gate! Here Leonie shares just one of many simple exercises we can all practise to support our own wellbeing:**

*When we start to notice the many wonders around us, it can activate a range of personal strengths. Last year, while quarantining, I looked out at the blue sky and clouds and found awe in the various shapes that nature presented to me. I love stopping and noticing AWEsome as a strategy to remind me that even when life is tough, there is always something amazing around me.*

*Consider something AWEsome that you have recently observed or experienced.  
I hope you can refuel yourself by noticing the miniscule and the magnificent AWEsome around you!*



# Breaking the Bias

Last month, we welcomed our wider community back onto our campuses for the first time in 12 months with a celebration of International Women's Day (IWD), the day that recognises women's social, economic, cultural and political achievements and calls for gender equality.

This year's theme - #BreakTheBias - calls us to break the bias in our schools, communities and workplaces to create a more inclusive, gender-equal world for ourselves and future generations.

At **St Kilda Road Campus**, over 250 members of our community - staff, alumni, families, friends and students - relished the opportunity to share breakfast in the Rose Garden before moving to Adamson Hall to hear from keynote speaker The Honourable Nicola Roxon.

Starting her career as an industrial lawyer, Nicola went on to become Labor Member for Gellibrand (1998-2013), Minister for Health and Ageing (2007-2011) and Australia's first female Attorney-General (2011-2013). She is the current Chair of HESTA super fund and VicHealth.

During her time in parliament, Nicola was surrounded by powerful, resilient women including Penny Wong and Australia's first female Prime Minister, Julia Gillard. Nicola shared her challenges as the first female cabinet minister with a young child, despite there being strong female representation in Parliament at the time. She recalled when her request for parental leave to attend her daughter's first day of Prep was denied by the parliamentary whip as not a 'good enough reason' to miss parliament. Although a senior male colleague stepped in on her behalf, and her request was eventually granted, it was evident to Nicola at this time that women still had a long way to go.



Nicola Roxon at St Kilda Road Campus

Nicola is renowned and highly respected for her battle with the tobacco industry to introduce the plain packaging of cigarettes. Her strong advocacy produced a successful outcome that has now been adopted in 27 countries worldwide. Nicola's lifelong commitment to women's equality has included working on pay equity, sexual harassment and discrimination cases, and encouraging stronger female representation in all walks of life. As Nicola explained, these ongoing struggles cannot be waged or won by women alone, nor on just one day a year. Nicola recognised the importance of men as partners in the quest for gender equality, clearly emphasising the vital role they play in supporting women in raising awareness against bias and taking action by calling out inequality in our world.

**Glen Waverley Campus** welcomed Professor Margaret Hellard AM to speak at the IWD Breakfast, with close to 100 students, parents and staff gathering in the Coates Pavilion. Professor Hellard is a Deputy Director at the Burnet Institute, Head of Hepatitis Services in the Infectious Diseases Unit at the Alfred Hospital and an Adjunct Professor of Infectious Diseases Epidemiology at Monash University and University of Melbourne. Professor Hellard spoke broadly about a career in the sciences being an option for all, and the many and varied opportunities available for women with an interest in science.

She talked about current research and treatments for diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis, and her real-world experience having to navigate the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when there was no effective treatment and a great deal of stigma around the disease. She recounted harrowing moments of losing patients during this period. Today, patients have a much more promising outlook, thanks to the commitment of scientists and their pursuit of more effective medications and treatments.

Professor Hellard also spoke about chance and privilege. By chance, we were born into a place and time where war, famine and extreme poverty are not part of our daily lives. Indeed, we were born into a place of privilege, having shelter, food and most importantly, access to education. The strongest message of the morning was to value education, as so many around the world do not have access to this privilege. Her message was clear: be curious and always educate yourself.

**Elsternwick Campus** was thrilled to welcome Wesley College Principal, Nick Evans and close to 100 parents, staff and students from our close-knit community to breakfast for a long-awaited chance to catch-up and to hear from guest speaker Anna Kaplan, filmmaker and current Elsternwick parent. Anna produces social issue documentary projects, working with award-winning directors to bring powerful stories to the screen. Her



credits include the critically acclaimed *That Sugar Film*, 2040 and the soon-to-be-released *Regenerate Australia*.

Anna's passion is screen-based storytelling that informs, inspires and activates audiences. She spoke about the power of voice and the impact an individual can have by using their voice to initiate change, no matter how difficult the situation. Her honest reflection about the challenges she faced in developing and finding her own voice resonated strongly with her audience. This was a powerful and timely message, given the College's strategic priority around student agency. She also spoke about the women who have inspired her throughout the years and the impact they've had on her.

Her final message to our students was simple: 'Make the most of the many, many opportunities that you are so fortunate to have as part of a Wesley College experience'.



Anna Kaplan speaks to students after her presentation at Elsternwick Campus

Guests enjoy breakfast in the Ding Family courtyard at the Elsternwick Campus



Professor Margaret Hellard AM addresses guests at the Glen Waverley Campus breakfast



(Left to right): Head of Glen Waverley Campus Sheridan Vella, Guest Speaker Prof. Margaret Hellard AM, Head of Senior School Jill Caple and Year 12 Prefects



Guests enjoy breakfast in the Rose Garden at the St Kilda Road Campus





## Campus snapshots

### A true education – 25 years at Wesley College for the Nicholls family

Our journey to Wesley began in 1995, with an introductory interview in a tiny office with Ms Kim Anderson. There was no St Kilda Road Junior School, but there was an architectural model. Kim Anderson was the reason that we chose Wesley.

What we learned in that initial meeting was this was a school that focused on the child. A place where every child would be encouraged to find things that bring them joy and a place where they would be challenged.

All four Nicholls offspring, Zebedee (OW2011), Caspian (OW2016), Ainsley (OW2019) and Denzill (OW2021) attended Wesley at St Kilda Road full-time from 3-year-old Hutch to Year 12. In the Hutch, they learned that asking great questions matters, that their ideas were important and valuable and that you should grab every opportunity to learn and explore your world with confidence and determination.

Twenty five years later, all four have been lucky enough to make the most of many opportunities at Wesley: whether in the classroom, the music school, on the sporting field, Adamson Theatre Company, debating or in leadership positions. None of this was easy or effortless. All four have worked hard, practised and practised and shown the determination to succeed that frankly, often left me exhausted. Every week was

punctuated by early mornings, late nights and so many busy weekends.

I am infinitely proud of my kids, but the thing that I most admire is not their individual achievements, but their collective care for each other. All four learnt in the Hutch, 'Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me,' and it remains a family touchpoint often said and referenced when needed.

For me, this has been demonstrated repeatedly over the past two challenging years; the independent learning skills and strategies that they developed at Wesley have helped our family to navigate the trickiest of times.

My lasting thoughts on Wesley would be that you can get there from here – whether it is to Oxford to study Physics and a PHD in climate modelling like Zebedee, or ANU Physics for Caspian, Melbourne University Mathematics for Ainsley and now Vet Science for Denzill.

The opportunities, the challenges, the successes and the joy of being a member of the Wesley community will be with our family forever.

**Cressida Crossley**  
**Wesley Parent 1997-2021**



All grown up and posing for the last Nicholls family Christmas card sent annually as a thank you to their teachers are (L-R) Zebedee, Ainsley, Denzill and Caspian



### An unexpected arrival

**At a big, restless school like ours, we're often landed with the unexpected, but on a still, beautiful morning in late February, St Kilda Road Campus had an unexpected arrival that was literally out of the blue.**

Jac Davenport from Year 6 was minding his own business doing his before-school basketball training when he looked up to see a very large hot air balloon, low in the sky and coming his way.

'It was coming down, and I thought it was going to hit the flagpole,' he said. 'But then it went past it and all of a sudden, it landed!'

Head of Campus, Kim Bence, was just getting her day started when the unanticipated visitors arrived just before eight o'clock. 'I was greeted by this rather large balloon coming past my window, just missing our wonderful lions in the Rose Garden and landing quite beautifully and most spectacularly on our front turf,' she said.

'I was in panic mode trying to ensure it didn't land on children or cars or anyone was injured, and I know that dear Graham (Sullivan) was very worried about that flame burning his beautiful front turf, but all was well.'

'The entire event was completely surreal,' said Kim. 'I walked towards the balloon and was faced with a group of eight balloonists staring at me from inside the basket. My first words were 'Good morning, welcome to Wesley'. The people in the basket laughed. What else could I say?'

Tradition has it that an unexpected arrival by hot air balloon in the fields in France requires the gift of champagne to the landowner. 'We are now the recipients of a lovely bottle of French champagne,' said Kim. 'Unfortunately, it will not go far with a staff of 300 plus.'



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## Girls win back-to-back Head of the River Regattas



The Girls First VIII celebrate another historic win.

Our girls have done it again! Following a drought-breaking win in 2021, the Girls First VIII Rowing crew has once again won the Head of the River Regatta at Lake Nagambie.

This is only the third time in APS rowing history that we have won this prestigious event. A huge congratulations to our rowers, four of whom were part of last year's winning crew: Lauren Keneally, Caitlin Woods, Maddie Marquet-Walker, Lauren Mayhood, Kessem Shahak, Thea Coull, Lucy Thomson, Saskia Blackburn, Fiona Dow and their dedicated coach, David Webster.

Wesley's Head of Rowing, Matt Ryan, summed up the incredible result: 'It was such an amazing row by the crew and a great reward for all their hours of sacrifice and dedication. They have been a fantastic group to work with. We are incredibly proud of what they have achieved and grateful for all they have done for the program.'

Results like this don't just happen. The girls started training online at the start of Term 3 last year when Melbourne was still in lockdown. They were given a rowing machine to use at home and completed six sessions a week on the rowers as well as body weight circuits.

When Term 4 started and they were able to get back on the water, they completed nine training sessions a week, clocking up somewhere close to 18 hours in total. Training ran from October through to the running of the Head of the River in late March.

'The feeling a rower receives when they cross that finish line is indescribable, but the feeling of crossing the Head of River finish line tops it all,' said an elated Lucy Thomson. 'All the hours of training, blood, sweat and tears flashes before your eyes. The best part is that eight others did it right beside you.'

'The strength that we showed throughout the race was a tribute to our hard work and perseverance over the season,' added Fiona Dow. 'I couldn't be prouder of our crew and the result we achieved, as well as the legacy we have worked to create.'

While the summer season has come to a close, we are excited for the year ahead with four returning crew members vowing to give it everything they've got again next year. Could they go back-to-back-to-back? We can only dare to dream!

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## Safe, happy and secure at school

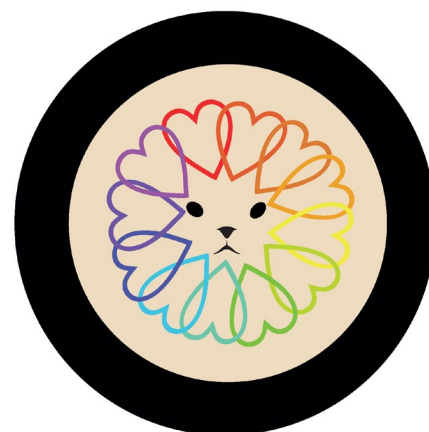
Our student community represents a snapshot of our wider society in their diversity, and we are richer for that. Here are just a few ways our school experience at Glen Waverley campus is deepened by celebrating this diversity.

- We recognise and celebrate the rich and diverse cultural and religious traditions of our student community. Championed by the International Relations group in Senior School and embedded into the gatherings for Junior and Middle Schools, our students share their voice and we support them to lead and shape our school community.
- Recognising the importance of acknowledging the individuality of all students at Wesley, over 80 staff attended an online workshop presented by Minus18 called 'Creating LGBTQIA2+ inclusive classrooms.' Mark Frater, Head of Faculty, Physical & Health Education at Glen Waverley,

reflected that 'the workshop helped staff explore LGBTQIA2+ identities and the barriers students face in everyday life and empowered staff with practical tools to become inclusive leaders. It also provided a common practical approach to help support LGBTQIA2+ students and staff in the classroom and throughout the whole school.'

- The Kaleidoscope group meets regularly to build connections and organise projects to ensure Wesley remains a safe space for LGBTQIA2+ students. It helps Middle and Senior School students and staff get together and participate in activities and workshops.
- Led by Head of Student Wellbeing, Donna Davies, tutorial group sessions have enabled students to unpack the new Student Behaviour Management policy, aimed at ensuring everyone feels safe, happy and secure at school.

Ultimately, the way everyone behaves towards each other supports the wellbeing and safety of the whole community, helping us all become the best version of ourselves.



# From near and far to LiR

Learning in Residence (LiR) is now a well-established piece of the Glen Waverley campus jigsaw, and new Deputy Head of LiR, Alexandra Thompson, is thrilled to be part of it. 'Throughout my years of teaching at Wesley College, I have always known the LiR to be a positive, progressive and inclusive environment,' she says.

One of the key benefits that comes with residential learning at Wesley is the Residential Curriculum program, which provides opportunities for students to develop their whole self, encourages student leadership, and best of all, helps make lifelong friendships. 'Our students enthusiastically engage in the extensive program,' says Alexandra. 'The popular after school and weekend activities include fitness classes, wellbeing



**Community Dinner face painting competition**  
L-R Julie Atkins (Mentor), Lara Rees, Cunzhen Yang (Mentor), Wes Vogels, Luka Simic



**Getting creative in the pottery workshop:**  
Mia Chabaud (L) and Isabelle Shoebridge



**L-R Coby Burgiel, Will Sands-Morris and Nico Tremblay having some ice skating fun**

activities, pottery workshops, magic shows, an Amazing Race around the CBD, movie nights, ice skating, karaoke, a learn to drive program and go-karting.'

She's enjoying getting to know the varied group of students, 20 of whom are new to Wesley this year. 'Our student cohort comprises a diverse range of cultures and backgrounds, originating from Victoria, interstate and overseas,' she says.

Let's meet two of them...

Jethro Shum comes from Hong Kong and moved to Wesley to further his studies. 'My family enrolled me into the LiR as they wanted me to develop my independence and academic achievements,' he says. 'I am grateful for the experiences that LiR affords me and when I look back at my schooling, I know this is something I will always remember and cherish.'

Brooke Marshall is from Traralgon, Gippsland. 'LiR welcomed me with open arms as did the Wesley College tennis

community,' she says. 'The tennis program Wesley offers was one of the main reasons I chose to move away from home. Not only has it given me the opportunity to make new friends and connections, but I feel as if my entire game has changed for the better. One of the perks of living on campus is that you have everything you need where you are. I find that I have more time to balance everything; school, sport and friends, while still having plenty of downtime.'



**From Victoria, interstate and overseas:**  
Learning in Residence 2022

## Wesley tennis makes history

Wesley tennis made history this month with both the Girls and Boys First Tennis teams winning the APS Sport Premierships simultaneously for the first time.

The Girls First team were outstanding, remaining undefeated all season. On four occasions, they thrashed their opposition 16 sets to zero. This is the third Premiership the team has won in the past four seasons. We are extremely proud of this talented, passionate and hardworking group who strive to bring out the best in each other every time they step onto the court.

The Boys First team also had a remarkable season, winning the Premiership for the first time since 2006. When it counted and under immense pressure, the boys played their best tennis, defeating Scotch College and then Haileybury in the final round, winning 12 sets to four. The culture amongst the team has never been stronger, with all 12 boys in the squad attending every single match, regardless of whether they were scheduled to play or not.

The Girls team was led by Captain Rhiana Karabasis and Vice-Captain Sienna Opray. The Boys team was led by Captain Oliver

Andrews and Vice-Captain Aaron Moonsammy. We thank both captains for their tremendous leadership. We also congratulate Sienna Opray, Madeleine Wilson, Brooke Marshall, Nico Tremblay and Ben Van Twest on being selected for the APS Representative teams.

Reflecting on their win, captain of the Girls First team, Rhiana Karabasis, commented: 'The girls have not only shown commitment to the sport but an outstanding attitude toward their peers and coaches this season. I can confidently say that we gave our all at every training session, regardless of the stresses and challenges presented in everyday life. I would like to thank our wonderful coaches for their endless support and wisdom.'

'Tennis may be an individual sport but playing tennis for Wesley is definitely a team effort and winning the title means a lot,' said Oliver Andrews, Boys First Captain. 'The boys should be extremely proud of what we have managed to achieve this season and the strong culture we are building around Wesley tennis.'



## Building trusting relationships with communities

Our Community Engagement Officer at Yiramalay is Stanley Shaw Marr, a Bunuba and Kija man from Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia. Here he shares his part in the school's story.

I can remember hearing about the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School in 2010 from family members. 'You know, you should probably come out to the school and have a look; you would be a good role model for young people there.' I would ask questions about it, only to be told that I would have to come out there and experience it for myself. The Executive Director would bump into me at the IGA in Fitzroy Crossing and humbug me about working at the school, and in 2014 I just thought 'You know, why not? I'll give it a go,' and that's how I started working at Yiramalay.

In 2015 I moved to Melbourne and mentored the Indigenous boys in houses in Glen Waverley. Learning in Residence

(LiR) opened at the beginning of 2017 and I joined the team as a residential mentor. Being part of the LiR team was a huge learning experience for me and I appreciate having the chance to work there.

This year, I'm back at Yiramalay, working as the Community Engagement Officer. My role involves building trusting relationships with families within the communities that our students come from, listening to their needs, and interviewing prospective students and their families to see if we are a good fit for them. Being a local works to my advantage; I know the community and elders around the Valley and have family and friends across the Kimberley. Working as a mentor over many years means I am also well known to students and families from many Northern Territory communities.

When I go into town, everyone asks questions about how to enrol to get into Yiramalay. The biggest challenges of the role are getting students set up with Abstudy; families find it challenging to get this done and that's where I support them. We are doing significant marketing across the Kimberley, and more

organisations including Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation, RNTBC and the Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation are actively supporting and promoting the school.

It has been so great in this job and I'm really enjoying it here. Going back to Yiramalay was like going back home. I don't even worry about going into town most weekends, I prefer to just chill here at Yiramalay.



Yiramalay's Stanley Shaw Marr



2022 APS Boys First Tennis Premiers

Our dual Premiership wins are the result of years of hard work by all of the students and coaches involved. Wesley tennis has been fortunate to receive professional coaching over the past five years through their partnership with XSOAR Perform.

'Winning both the APS Girls and Boys First Premierships is a truly remarkable

accomplishment and a momentous occasion in the history of Wesley Tennis,' said Tennis Head Coach, Lauren Breadmore (OW2001). 'I am especially proud of this dual Premiership achievement given I am a Wesley First Alumna and captained the Girls First Tennis team during my time at the College.'



2022 APS Girls First Tennis Premiers

Congratulations to all of the students, parents, coaches and everyone who contributed to this significant achievement in the history of Wesley tennis. We look forward to seeing you back on the court next season!



## Campus snapshots

### How do we know our students are learning?

From our Early Childhood Learning Centre through to Year 9, the focus of teaching and learning at Elsternwick Campus remains the same, improving student outcomes through effective pedagogy.

From innovative units of inquiry to embedding empirically supported strategies into lesson planning, the commitment to improving student achievement is clear. But how do we know that our students are learning? Data-informed practice provides a vital link to answering this question.

Across the campus, teaching staff are collaborating regularly to reflect on, share and develop means of collecting student data. Learning can be evidenced through students' written work samples, contributions in class, or development of Approaches to Learning (ATLs) to name a few.

In addition to these sources of evidence are the newly collated analytics for teaching and learning - a database of student growth throughout their time at the College. In partnership with Dr Tim O'Leary of Education Data Talks, staff are being supported to make the most of this new and detailed information to enhance our students' growth.



Year 9 Design students sharing their understanding of design specifications

### Open Classrooms at Elsternwick



An opportunity to observe: Nick Pensa working with Year 7 Art student, Arlo Pangu

Elsternwick Campus has welcomed many new staff through its doors this year. While much information is delivered through the Induction Program and the Mentor Program, something harder to convey is the unique classroom culture at Elsternwick.

The Open Classroom days were one way in which we have strived to share the innovative and engaging teaching and learning happening daily in our classrooms. During these days, staff welcomed their colleagues into their classrooms to witness authentic teaching practices and share their classroom vibe.

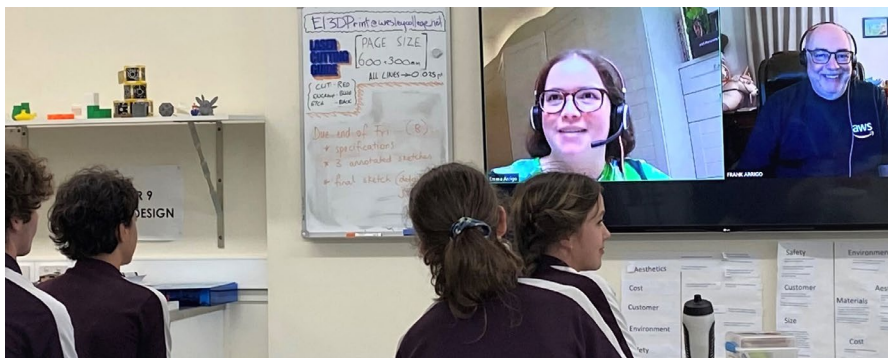
The observations during Open Classroom days were guided by Appreciative Inquiry, a strengths-based, positive approach to development. The process was not about reviewing or judging the classes being observed, but rather highlighting the strengths of each experience and reflecting on one's own practice.

This opportunity had the added benefit of modelling to our students the importance of sharing ideas and knowledge in the pursuit of continuous growth.



Courtney Hollis with Year 6 students Rupert Ockleshaw (L) and Adam Corral in Food Technology





STEM talks: Emma and Frank Arrigo from AWS with Year 9 Elsternwick Campus students

## STEM Leaders of tomorrow

Last month, Year 9 Design and Technology students from Elsternwick Campus attended the NBN-AWS STEM Career Day to hear from some real-life role models and learn how they can forge a career in STEM. The virtual event centred around the theme 'Be Creative, Be Entrepreneurial, Be Authentic and Be Brave'.

Jason Leong from NBN and Emma Arrigo from AWS (Amazon Web Services) shared their personal stories with students, talking about the many different types of STEM roles they considered, how they navigated their way into the industry and the support they had as they started their careers.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is an increasingly important part of our College life and a crucial way to set our students up for success beyond our walls.

STEM programs not only instill students with knowledge in each of the four disciplines, but the transdisciplinary nature of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years and Middle Years Programs encourages students to draw connections and apply what they are learning across subject areas. A significant part of STEM is developing student's soft skills in problem-solving, agile working, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration, which are crucial in preparing students to thrive in a fast-paced world of change.

Student Jackson Valentice says the talk was 'reassuring in showing that you don't have to choose a career path straight away. You can make your own path and find something that you enjoy and are interested in.' His classmate, Noah Pangu, agrees, saying, 'It was helpful to understand that you don't need to know what you want to do for your career, and that as long as you follow what you want to do, you will succeed.'

With new role models for inspiration, and so much fun on the cards in the classroom, we hope to see the STEM leaders of tomorrow emerging from the Elsternwick Campus. Stay tuned!

## Wesley at Clunes transforms

As Wesley at Clunes rolls into its 22nd year of operation, perhaps the biggest period of change and development in its history is beginning to take shape. Marked by the development of new educational and student residential facilities, the Clunes Redevelopment Project is due for completion in late May. This striking development, designed by William Boags Architecture, stays true to the original design of the Clunes campus, while respecting the heritage of Clunes and our Wesley at Clunes program.

As the glass, steel and timber of these new buildings take shape, so too does the creation and adaptation of the Clunes curriculum to make the most of these amazing facilities and support the IB Middle Years Program. Staff from Clunes and across all Wesley campuses have worked collaboratively with internationally renowned educational specialist, Thom Markham, to create and implement Languages, Mathematics and the Community Project into the Wesley at Clunes curriculum.

Included in the development project are purpose-built design, technology and art



The redevelopment project taking shape

studios that will allow students to further explore their creativity and practical problem-solving skills. Students will use these facilities throughout the regular curriculum at Clunes while also being able to utilise the equipment and facilities to design, create and implement their Community Projects, a major piece of curriculum design that will see students work in groups to improve communities that they identify with. They will take the central importance of 'Community' to the action stage, making and creating real

solutions in the state-of-the-art facilities being built.

While the learning opportunities at Clunes continue to grow through the development of the buildings and curriculum, the heart and essence of Clunes remains: giving students the experience of independence and 'learning to live with' while immersing themselves in a strong rural community.

We look forward to officially opening and sharing the Clunes redevelopment with you all in the second half of 2022.



## Campus snapshots

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### Bringing life to language



The Junior School at Glen Waverley Campus celebrated the Chinese New Year in Term One with a lunchtime visit from the Chinese Lion Dance.

In the spirit of the IB Primary Years Program, the teaching and learning of Chinese language is made more relevant for the children by bringing real-world connections to their study.

When the Lion Dance was performed on our oval, students witnessed the energy, movement and colour and developed a better understanding of the significance and cultural relevance of the dance, regardless of their family background.

Our talented and dedicated Chinese teachers spend a great deal of time and creative energy building a relevant and engaging curriculum, from cooking to learning dances, plays, poetry and songs. To hear the staff and children in action in the Chinese classroom is exciting!

We cater for the children's varying levels of Chinese language mastery, supporting both beginner and novice speakers, as well as those who have already developed a degree of mastery with a family background in Chinese.

The Lion Dance is performed on the Jean James Oval

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### House Events Unbound

A sad consequence of two years of lockdowns and restrictions has been the absence of House Events on campus, but with constraints now lifted, they're back with a vengeance! Students have grabbed the opportunity to reconnect with their school community by fully embracing these competitive, fun-filled events and enjoying the simple, rediscovered pleasure of living in the moment, surrounded by others.

If all this sounds decidedly physical, that's because it is. The Senior Schools at both Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road have seen event participation like never before, with masses of students seeking to represent their Houses in full vigour, spurred on by cheering crowds of students and staff.

Adamson House Captain at St Kilda Road Campus, Nellie Hanna attributes the energy to 'just being back together, and being able to do the things that were taken away during lockdown. Everyone's just really excited!' she said.

Iconic House Events are back, with many choosing to enthusiastically participate in activities such as Tunnelball, Limbo, Dodgeball and Musical Chairs. But new and unique experiences are also in the mix. At Glen Waverley Campus, the Lunar New Year Games saw students try their hand at the traditional Korean game of Yut Nori.

Menzies House Prefect Will Humphries explains: 'In the game, there are four Yuts thrown, and the number of them that fall in your favour are the number of moves you are allowed to make along the board. Such an experience is only possible in such a multicultural school environment, and one which is open to try new and varied events such as this.'

Lunar New Year's Games: Charlotte Ford tries out traditional Korean game Yut Nori



The pleasure of the moment: Way House students competing at Tunnelball

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# Behind Closed Doors in the Archives

While the public face of the Archives has been missing during the lockdowns, much has been happening behind closed doors, including the restoration of a special work of art. **Margot Vaughan** explains.

Othello has had a clean.

The beautiful sculpture of marble and bronze that has stood quietly in the corner of the Cato Room at the St Kilda Road Campus for many years has been with the College since Headmaster L.A. Adamson's time. In fact, he brought it with him when he sailed from England to Australia. It was left to the school on his death in 1932.

Sculpted in Milan by Pietro Calvi (1833-1884) in 1877, Othello is the main character of Shakespeare's tragedy about prejudice, betrayal, revenge and insecurity.

Calvi did approximately ten renditions of this sculpture, and other examples are on display in major museums in the United States and United Kingdom. It has been suggested that his model was the American actor Ira Aldridge (1807-1867), the first black man to play Othello in England - a revolution at the time. His sensitive portrayal on finding out his wife Desdemona had been faithful to him can be seen in the single tear falling down his cheek.

Decades of dust had accumulated in the marble folds of Othello's cloak and hood, and a restoration was well overdue. Specialist art transporters were brought in to consider the movement of the heavy work to the conservator's studio. It was decided he was too difficult to move so they came to us, bringing a micro vacuum cleaner and a steam cleaner.



Above: Othello restored...  
Dr Tindall with the Calvi sculpture

Right : Dr Tindall and Assistant, Isabel Walker  
at work

After a careful and detailed inspection, the marble was cleaned first using the small vacuum. In order to get the deeper, more settled dirt off, the steam cleaner was used. Conservator Dr Evan Tindal of the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation describes it as using dental cleaning equipment on a much, much larger scale. The cleaning took over three days, and Othello is looking brighter, although he can never be returned to his original condition.

Time makes its mark on us all, and it is neither possible nor realistic to erase 150 years of life.

**Margot Vaughan is the Curator of Collections at Wesley College**





# Boathouse Donors Event

The Wesley College Foundation was pleased to host an event to thank donors on Saturday 11 December coinciding with the launch of Wesley's rowing season. It provided an opportunity for Nick Evans and Nicki Lefkovits to personally thank our generous donors, and for Matt Ryan to update them on achievements from the 2021 season and the positive plans for the year ahead. It was a wonderful day filled with great hope and optimism for the future of rowing at the College.

At this event, the Lavery Family, Nick (OW2016), Rohan (OW2018) and Zara (OW2021), and their parents Julie and Martyn, donated a framed Australian Olympic 'zoot suit' from the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

The 'zoot suit' was presented to Principal, Nick Evans and Head Coach Matt Ryan, a dual Olympian and Olympic medal winner.

Both Nick and Rohan Lavery were members of the Australian Rowing Team. Nick competed in the Men's Eight, with the Australian Team going through to the Final. Rohan was one of two travelling reserves for the men's team who competed against other nations' reserves. The Australian Olympic 'zoot suit' is signed by Nick and Rohan and will form part of the memorabilia of achievements of alumni rowers at the newly renovated Yarra Boatsheds.



Nick Evans launching the rowing season at our redeveloped Boathouse



L-R Wesley Rowing Coach, Matt Ryan, with Julie Davis and Rohan, Zara, Martyn and Nick Lavery.



Our Boathouse Donors



# Annual Rob Webster Lunch

For some years, a group of contemporaries of Rob Webster (OW1963) have celebrated his contribution to Wesley and to its governance as a Council member.

Rob died too young at the age of 57 but his memory lives on. He was captain of the school in his final year, went on to be a successful barrister and was a prominent player and subsequently President of Collegians Football Club.

His presidential year, 1992, was the centenary of Collegians and yielded the premiership in the VAFA A Grade competition, the trophy for which is the 'L.A. Adamson Cup'.

Some 50 guests enjoyed a wonderful lunch in his honour at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club in December 2021. For the first time, representatives from the other APS schools, most of whom Rob played cricket and/or football against, joined in the celebrations. It is hoped that this will become a continuing feature of the annual lunch.

Apart from being a reunion lunch, the event serves as a focal point for supporting the Rob Webster Bursary Fund which, as part of the Wesley College



Foundation Scholarship program, generates funds for a deserving student who would not otherwise be able to attend Wesley.

This year there was also a display of APS sporting cups and the VAFA 'A Grade' Premiership Cup, (L.A. Adamson Cup), which created much interest.

L-R: Frank Opray (OW 1963), Ian Webster (OW 1954), Jane Burch (nee Webster) (OW 1995), Frances Webster, Helen Roach, Daniel Moon (OW 1990), Catherine Webster (OW 1992), Kim Webster (OW 1990), Jack Ayerbe (OW 1963)

**For those who would like to contribute tax-effectively to the Rob Webster Bursary Fund please go to: <https://www.wesleycollege.edu.au/community/support-us/make-a-donation>**



L-R: The APS trophies on display were Athletics: "The Challenge Cup", Cricket: "The Hamilton Cup", Rowing: "The Fairbairn Cup", Football: "The L.A. Adamson Cup". In the centre is the VAFA 'A Grade' Premiership trophy, also titled "The L.A. Adamson Cup".



### New Sponsor – Peppers Mineral Springs Hotel

The Foundation was delighted to be contacted by Bobby Shen (OW2003) who has also become a Wesley parent at our Glen Waverley Campus. Bobby and his family operate the beautiful and historic resort, Peppers Mineral Springs Hotel at Daylesford, in the heart of Victoria's spa country. They are delighted to reconnect with the Wesley community and would be pleased to welcome parents visiting our Clunes campus. Bobby reflected on his Wesley journey and his support for the College.

'After finishing at Wesley's Glen Waverley Campus in 2003, I went on to complete a Commerce degree at Melbourne University and commenced my role in my family's import and distribution business. In 2016, I decided to diversify into boutique hotels when Peppers Mineral Springs Hotel came onto the market.

I often reflect on my many high and lows at Wesley. The success I achieved came with its fair share of failures – and it was at Wesley that I decided to turn my failures into success. It was this reflection that helped me overcome the effects of the fires, GFC and COVID-19 state-wide lockdowns. It was my time at Wesley that inspired me to use sheer will and not give up as anything can be achieved. I am grateful to have this opportunity to express my views and reunite with the Wesley community with my daughter, Chancey, beginning this year.

I am also a passionate supporter of Wesley College and the Clunes Redevelopment Project. Clunes has had a lasting impact on many students and the new infrastructure will enhance the experience of the generations to come'.



## Painting donated for Glen Waverley Chapel



L-R: Head of Campus, Sheriden Vella, Middle School Captains, Aidan Lee and Kate Stilling, and Chaplain, Bradon French

The Wesley Foundation acknowledges the generous donation of a significant work from the collection of Paul Guest OAM (OW1957), who is a well-known collector of abstract art.

This religious work, *Ascension*, by Australian artist Craig Gough, was donated by Paul last year.

Craig Gough now lives in regional Victoria and kindly provided the following background and insights to his work.

'In the late 1960s and early 70s, my paintings were concerned with 'colour' as an abstract emotional response to forms. These forms derived mostly from the landscape. I lived near the ocean in Perth and travelled daily along the West Coast Highway on my way to teaching in the art school at Claremont. As a result, the horizontal line of the sea and the vast openness of the sky in all weather and cloud formations, plus the blue-green of the ocean, became a feature of my paintings at the time.'

*Ascension* is concerned with the relationship between land, sea and sky and reaching up higher, but also constrained by, earthly structures, horizontal and vertical, in opposition to the organic forms of nature which enclose them.

When I painted this work, I wasn't consciously making a religious painting. This suggestion was made by the Reverend John Hazelwood (1924-1998), the then Anglican Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in Perth, who upon opening my exhibition, announced that he would like to see it in a cathedral. He was a forward-thinking clergyman who also conducted a Rock Mass in the cathedral. I know that he copped criticism for that from the conservative elements in the church.

*Ascension* was subsequently sold some years later and purchased by Paul Guest. I'm now delighted it has found a home in the Chapel at Wesley College.'

The Head of Glen Waverley Campus, Sheriden Vella, was delighted with the work and thanked Paul on behalf of the campus community:

'This painting, so generously donated by Paul Guest, has brought additional colour and movement to the Chapel. The Craig Gough artwork ties in so beautifully with the stained glass window that dominates the space. Standing back to admire the piece you can see a woman praying, along with a cross, making its placement in our Campus Chapel all the more special.'



# Canberra Connections



John Balfour in uniform

The Foundation and OWCA continue to engage with alumni in areas of mutual interest. We have a strong College community in Canberra, where many alumni have had distinguished careers in the public service, military and politics, and some are donors and bequestors.

We were delighted to spend time with Colin French whose grandfather, John Balfour MBE (OW1907), made an extraordinary contribution to the recording of Australian and Wesley military service during World War I and II and has joined our Sapere Aude Bequest Society.

During his long career of service, John worked with Charles Bean, Official Historian in researching material for

Bean's history of World War I. One of the most extraordinary aspects of his career is that he participated in the ill-fated WWI Gallipoli campaign and that he was present on the USS Missouri for the official signing ceremony of Japan's formal WWII surrender.

In the mid-1930s, John started documenting the service of the nearly 1,100 OWs in WWI. The originals of this work are held by the Australian War Memorial. In 2021, Wesley College was gifted the duplicates of this remarkable collection by his grandson, Colin French. Colin has now generously supported a scholarship in memory of his grandfather and has joined the Sapere Aude Society. Fittingly, both the John Balfour MBE (OW1907) Scholarship and Giftbook provide further recognition of this great Old Collegian.

We also met a number of alumni, many of whom have had distinguished careers in the military, in the Law and in the Public Service, including donors and members of our Sapere Aude Bequest Society: the OWCA's long-standing Canberra representative, John Fuhrman (OW1961); Geoffrey Ross (OW1973); Lachlan Lewis (OW1955); Joe Johnson OAM (OW1961); Daniel Lo (OW1989); Rear Admiral Peter Marshall AM (OW1980); Major General Michael Milford AM (OW1979) and Heather Henderson, daughter of Sir Robert Menzies (OW1912), who is well known to our College community.



John Fuhrman (OW1961)

On leaving Wesley and after a few years in the private sector, John joined the then Department of External Affairs (later to become the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) where he served in both Canberra-based positions and five overseas posts in a number of capacities. His first overseas post as Consul was in East Timor, then under Portuguese administration (later annexed by Indonesia); this was followed by postings to Burma (Myanmar), New Zealand, India (Kolkata), and lastly as Second Secretary and Vice Consul in Denmark. John returned to Australia and accepted a position as Executive Officer to the Commissioner of Australian Federal Police and then in the Office of Ministerial Relations. This was followed by a period in the Australian National Audit Office.

John resigned from the Australian Public Service and was appointed to the staff of the then Leader of the National Party, Tim Fischer, who with a Coalition election victory became Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade. As the senior portfolio adviser, John travelled extensively overseas accompanying the Minister to many negotiations on both multilateral and bilateral trade agreements. He later became Chief of Staff to the Minister for the period prior to the Minister's retirement from parliament.

John is now retired and spends his time between Canberra and a modest beef property on the far south coast of New South Wales.



Colin photographed at the Tuggeranong Homestead in front of a picture of Charles Bean. Bean and Colin's grandfather, John Balfour, wrote much of the official history of WWI



## Foundation

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**Joe Johnson (OW1961)**

Since leaving school at the end of 1961 my life has involved five threads, which have at times been intermingled. They are soldier, teacher, public servant, Antarctician and scholar. My studies involved me in Arts, Laws, Divinity, Education and Musicology. I have made four journeys to Antarctica, serving as station leader at Casey (1981) and Davis (1998), and as the Voyage Leader in 2001 and 2002. I was joint author of the feasibility study into developing an air link between Australia and Antarctica and chaired the Australian Antarctic Names Committee for eleven years.

In the course of all these activities, I have had the good fortune to appear in the Honours List three times – the Conspicuous Service Cross for military achievements, The Order of Australia Medal for service to veterans and the community, and the Australian Antarctic Medal. I believe I would never have achieved what I have had I not had the privilege of going to Wesley (I entered the school through a government scholarship).



**Daniel Lo (OW1989)**

I wonder whether it was the academic foundation that saw me go on to study Law and Economics which then put me in good stead to establish a human rights law firm in Malaysia? Perhaps it was that foundation that led me to establish the first not-for-profit organisation that specialised in combatting human trafficking there as well? Or moreover, was it the accretion of skills first nurtured in Wesley's multi-dimensional learning environment which led to my appointment to the Prime Minister's Office as an aide to the first minister with a human rights portfolio?

That could have all made it worthwhile. However, after more than three decades since bidding adieu to Wesley, I found myself back in Canberra interning as an ANU Masters with none other than Julian Hill at Parliament House. At that time, the names of Members were not familiar to me, having been abroad for so many years. So, I wondered, why did the name Julian Hill sound so familiar? After googling it, the image search result showed a familiar face. Julian was a fellow muso and chorale companion from my days at Wesley. That connection established over three decades ago made for a mutual respect, repartee and yes, some meaningful work on the Modern Slavery Act, and Freedom of Information just to name two.

Suffice to say, relationships and experiences which indelibly connect and expand one's horizons and life are priceless.



**Peter Marshall (OW1980)**

Peter served 33 years in the Australian Navy. Since leaving in 2014, Peter has worked as an executive adviser and Defence engagement consultant, as well as building maritime business Ventia (formerly Transfield Services).

Currently, he is a founding principal of a maritime advisory consultancy, Pacific Management Partners. Peter has held numerous company and NFP Directorships, including with several sporting organisations, and is currently a non-executive director of AMOG, a Melbourne based maritime engineering consultancy. He is also an Advisory Board member for Birdon Marine, providing marine services in Australia and the USA and is a member of the Lloyd's Register Australian Advisory Committee.





**Geoffrey Ross (OW1973)**

Geoff Ross has retired from his finance role in the Defence Material Organisation (DMO). In retirement he has obtained his private pilot's license and continued his lifelong interest in trains and train travel. He has travelled extensively within Australia and overseas and is developing a bush block where he can run miniature trains that he and his friends have built.



**Michael Milford (OW1979)**

Mike Milford is the brother of Ted (OW1969) and Peter (OW1971), son of John (OW1942), and grandson of Edward (OW1908), who was a Major General in the Australian Army and accepted the surrender of Japanese troops in Borneo on 8 September 1945.

Michael attended the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and subsequently served in the Australian Army for 35 years, retiring as a Major General in 2015. His main areas of expertise were in telecommunications, where in his final position he managed the Defence Department's IT and communications systems, and Special Forces.

Since leaving the Army, he has worked in senior positions in the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and the Department of Home Affairs, where he is currently the Group Manager of the Technology and Major Capability Group.

In that role he coordinates the building and operation of all borders, customs and immigration-related technical systems.



**Lachlan Lewis (OW1955)**

Lachlan Lewis (OW1955) comes from a long family line of Wesley alumni, including father Neil Lewis (OW1915), brother Nigel Lewis (OW1961), five uncles, Brian Lewis (OW1916), Ronald Lewis (OW1915), Owen Lewis (OW1921), Ralph Lewis (OW1915) and Athol Lewis (OW1921) and two cousins, James Lewis (OW1948) and Colin Lewis (OW1957). He became interested in athletics at a young age, training at Percy Cerruty's International Athletic Training Camp at Portsea, with people like Ron Clark, Herb Elliot and John Landy, forming friendships and drawing great inspiration from them all.

He competed in five events at the World Masters Games in Toronto, Canada in 1985 and in the 10km road race was tripped at the start, broke his arm, but went on to finish with a PB. Two months earlier, he was doing humanitarian work treating the Inuit up near the Magnetic North Pole and ran the Midnight Sun 84km Ultramarathon over the permafrost with members of the Canadian Everest Expedition, placing third. Lachlan has run 63 marathons all over the world and in his 85th year, won three state age group titles in triathlon, aquathlon and duathlon to add to his 38 ITU World events.

A lot of this activity has been tucked in between 53 years of marriage, raising two sets of twins and a demanding professional life. Wesley taught him good Christian values and ethics, how to seek out, recognise and make the most of his opportunities, and form warm and lasting friendships.



**Heather Henderson**

Heather with her favourite portrait of her father, Sir Robert Menzies.



# Sapere Aude Bequest Society

The Society has a wonderful program of events planned for 2022. While things have certainly improved over the last few months in terms of COVID, we know that many in our community remain hesitant to join in group (especially indoor) activities. The return to the 'normal' routine of life is going to be a gradual process. Last year, the Sapere Aude Bequest Society (SABS) offered members a series of webinars on a broad range of topics. Many people wrote saying how much they enjoyed these sessions and commented how the webinars helped them during the lockdown(s).

Given the current uncertainty, SABS has decided to continue the webinars for the foreseeable future. Our first offering for the year was presented by Kenneth Park who serves as philanthropy and curatorial associate in the Foundation. As many of you would know, under normal circumstances, Kenneth is a bit of a globetrotter. So once the Australian Government opened the borders to travel, he jetted off to Singapore for ten days

over Christmas and three weeks later, visited Fiji for a week.

In his webinar 'Singapore profiled', which attracted a large audience, Kenneth spoke on traveling in a COVID world and about his experiences getting in and out of the country. He confirmed that the arrangements in Singapore were incredibly efficient as might be expected. Yes, there was some paperwork and a few more COVID tests than normal. As for Singapore, it was remarkably uncrowded, and everything was open. The locals were opting for staycations and filling up the hotels. In his illustrated talk, Kenneth considered the fascinating history and incredible progress of Singapore. He highlighted the wonderful tourist and cultural offerings of the island nation, particularly with the opening in the last couple of decades of a fabulous collection of world-class museums.

The lecture also provided an insight into



the foodie scene. Singapore really does offer up an amazing range of Asian and international cuisine experiences. He gave a big shout out to Mark Samlal (OW1981) for reminding him to go to the newly refurbished Raffles Hotel and to dine in the Tiffin Room, which was superb. Kenneth also researched the Long Bar, Writer's Bar and Courtyard eatery. Many of you will have called into Raffles on past trips. The hotel has really been spruced up and is certainly worth a visit. It has managed to maintain its historic ambience while moving to meet more contemporary service demands.

The lecture was a boon for the armchair and intending traveller alike. We all live in hope that we can travel more freely in Australia and abroad.

## Vale Frank Burns Committed donor and Bequest Society member

The Sapere Aude Bequest Society and Wesley Foundation wish to express their gratitude to long-time bequestor and donor, Frank Burns (OW1942), who passed away on 20 December 2021. Frank and Nancy were regular attendees at events and supported a number of our philanthropic programs including *Learning in Residence*, Seat in History, Bruce Gregory Scholarship Fund, Moubray Precinct Redevelopment and the Robert Grieve plaque.

Frank had a long connection with the College beginning with his father, Horace (OW1915), who came to Wesley on a scholarship and fought in the First World War; his sons, Peter (OW1975) and Bruce (OW1982), nephews Doug Wood (OW1973) and Ian Wood (OW1977) and granddaughters, Alyse Brown (OW2005) and Frances Burns (OW2008).

Peter wrote the following about his father:

'Frank was born on 10 August 1924 in Broken Hill, the son of a mining engineer. His early years were spent in the slightly nomadic existence of the mining family, including a stint in Thailand. However,

stability came with Wesley where he was a boarder between 1938 and 1942 and was able to spend weekends with uncles and grandparents who lived locally.

War came to Wesley in 1942. The St Kilda Road Campus was requisitioned by the military and that year was spent sharing a campus with Scotch. He joined the Air Force in 1943 but his eyes were not good enough to fly. He repaired Liberator bombers in Darwin instead and went on to study Civil Engineering at Melbourne University. It was there that he ran into a classmate from Trentham, Nancy Trehwella, and they became engaged and eventually married.

Frank joined the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission in 1950, where he stayed until his retirement in 1984. His bent was towards research and then projects: designing a spillway at Eildon, a road at Dartmouth and overseeing irrigation at Tatura. He became a champion for plastic pipes long before they became popular.

On retirement, he started a small consultancy in water quality, promoting destratification of reservoirs in Victoria and around the world, a pioneer in a field which is yet to see its day in the sun. He never really hung up his boots, even at 97.'



Frank Burns



# 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL The Wesley College Foundation Business Breakfast

## Business Post Pandemic

### *Panellists*



**Katie Page**

CEO  
Harvey Norman



**Anthony Eisen**

Co-Founder and  
Afterpay Lead  
Block



**Michelle Jablko**  
(OW1990)

Chief Financial Officer  
Transurban

### *Moderated by*



**Graeme Samuel AC**  
(OW1963)

This outstanding panel of experts will address this very topical issue, as the world looks to live with 'COVID normal'.

**Venue:** Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, 25 Collins Street, Melbourne

**Date:** Wednesday 25 May 2022

**Time:** 7:00am – 9:00am

**Book online at:** [humanitix.com/wesleybreakfast](https://humanitix.com/wesleybreakfast)

**Enquiries:** [natalie.krug@wesleycollege.edu.au](mailto:natalie.krug@wesleycollege.edu.au) or 8102 6991

We expect this event to sell-out, so please book now to avoid disappointment.

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

The Wesley College Foundation gratefully acknowledges our 2022 sponsors who support our events, programs and activities



# President's report

Welcome to 2022 from your OWCA. We are pleased to report that our reunions, dinners, networking events and celebrations are in full force once again.



President Kate Evans (OW1998) welcomed Year 12 students from both GW and SKR campuses to the OWCA at their Valedictory services

I had the wonderful opportunity of attending the iconic Boat Race Dinner this year, held in late March at Leonda by the Yarra, where we celebrated the First VIII rowers and all things Wesley rowing.

Hosted by the charismatic Cam Williams (OW1982), it was fantastic to feature 2021 Paul Guest rowing medal recipient, Leyla Kenneally (OW2021), who rowed in last year's winning female crew along with sister Lauren, who rowed in this year's winning girls crew, and their father Andrew 'Crackers' Kenneally (OW1989), Wesley football and rowing First VIII champion in 1988 and 1989, all interviewed by Mark Hibbins (OW1978), Community Liaison OWCA. Many thanks, as always, to the Alan Mitchell Club for their support in putting on such a cherished event for our Wesley rowing community.

In late March, we had the opportunity to hear from two of our most passionate OW members. Former Victorian Liberal Party President, Michael Kroger (OW1974) and recent Monash City Council candidate, School Captain and OWCA Executive Board member, Tom Pewtress (OW2018), discussed all things politics and shared their thoughts on the upcoming Federal election.

We strongly encourage all OW's to create a personal profile and upload your business details and imagery to our community app OWConnect. It's an invaluable opportunity for you as an OW

to link with other OWs and OW businesses, stay up-to-date with employment opportunities and mentoring, and find career opportunities, social networking and support.

We continue to keep the graduating Classes of 2020 and 2021 top of mind and we are workshopping ideas as to how we can support them in their transition into the next stage of their life. Stay tuned 2020/21 leavers, and keep your eyes peeled for special opportunities we will create specifically for you so we can formally welcome you into the OWCA.

We hope that many OWs join us in celebrating our organisation's oldest and most loved tradition, Founders' Day Dinner, which will be held at the magnificent Plaza Ballroom on Saturday 14 May. This year's ticket price is \$100, so there is no reason for you to miss the biggest and best event on the OWCA Calendar! After our extremely well-timed in-person event last year between lockdowns, this year's dinner is sure to be one that builds on the momentum.

I look forward to seeing you there!

**Kate Evans (OW1998)**

#oldwesleycollegians  
#bleedingpurpleandgold  
#WomenofWesley

## JOIN THE PRIDE ON SOCIAL MEDIA



**IT'S YOUR OWCA  
WHEN YOU'RE  
READY TO CONNECT,  
SO ARE WE.**



# Not just a girl and a guitar

As a thirteen-year-old, Erica Dunn (OW2003) would grab her guitar and head off to the city to busk. She is now in three successful Australian bands and has a long list of distinguished achievements, including a coveted ARIA award for the Best Hard Rock/Heavy Metal Album 'Deep States' with band Tropical F\*\*\* Storm (TFS), who are currently touring Australia.

An enviable Australian music success story, in 2018, eight months after their first live gig, TFS were releasing their debut LP 'A Laughing Death' with Meatspace and booking a US tour! Never again would Erica be pigeonholed as 'a girl and a guitar,' even though she still enjoys exploring that side of her art.

Erica has also received critical acclaim for her work with other bands including Palm Springs, Harmony and Mod Con, and won Live Guitarist of the Year at the National Live Music Awards in 2019, Best Female Musician at the Music Victoria Awards and a host of other nominations for work with Mod Con, and their recently released second album, Modern Condition.



Erica's exceptional talent and passion runs deep. Her lyrical contributions, lead guitar, lead vocals and work on the keys often leave patrons in awe, especially those unfamiliar with her prodigious skills at live shows and gigs.

Involved in the arts from a young age, her talents were nurtured throughout her years at Wesley, with standout performances in Drama, Music and Theatre offering a glimpse of things to come. 'Palm Springs & Friends' came out of her time in New York in 2017 after she successfully applied for a song writing residency.

Erica has also found time post-Wesley to teach refugees and following exploration of the punk and rock scenes in the UK, spent close to a decade broadcasting in the drivetime slot on Tuesdays at PBS106.7, only recently giving up this much loved position due to touring commitments.

Awards that are highly regarded in the industry seem to accumulate on an old piano at her parents' house. It's not that Erica doesn't value these accolades, but the guess is, it's a combination of limited space and it not being in her nature to show these things off!



The band TFS in 2018 (from left): Fiona Kitschin, Gareth Liddiard, Erica Dunn (OW2003) and Lauren Hammel



## Thanks for letting us be mad!

Limited edition Adamson Theatre Company history  
by Co-Founder, Dawson Hann

An engrossing memoir that is so much more than just a chronicle of plays, *Thanks for letting us be mad* is a book rich in heart-warming tales about teachers and students growing together through the joy of "creative madness."

Spanning some 40 years, when the Arts emerged as an essential part of the Wesley ethos, this wonderful book captures and entertains with vivid reflections of life within the Adamson Theatre Company. It will be enjoyed not only by those who have been on stage, but by all who have worked behind the scenes or applauded loudly from the audience

Purchase by 31 May 2022 to secure your copy at:  
[www.thanksforlettingusbemad.com.au](http://www.thanksforlettingusbemad.com.au)

**\$29.95**  
+postage



# Gio

## Positioning - A local naturalist keeping an eye on the planet

Gio Fitzpatrick (OW2014) is an urban ecologist and conservationist who brings a sense of curiosity to all of his significant work in sustainability and environmental preservation.

In 2013, Gio photographed a Marine Spider, marking the second recorded sighting in Victoria, the first being at San Remo in 1902! His spider find occurred a month or so after he spotted a Great White Shark off Elwood beach.

In 2016, Gio won the Sustainable Cities Young Leader award from the United



**Gio Fitzpatrick (OW2014) in the field:** "What would make me happy is people noticing the beauty and excitement of what's around them, and then taking action to make sure it's looked after."

Nations Association of Australia for his fantastic work in urban biodiversity and environmental conservation. One of his proudest moments was meeting his hero, Sir David Attenborough and receiving personal written praise from him.

Gio helps to run educational programs as a Youth Wildlife Ambassador for Port Phillip EcoCentre, where he facilitates biodiversity surveys, workshops, walks and informational sessions. EcoCentre is a not-for-profit, community-managed environment group located in the corner of St Kilda Gardens. For over 20 years, it

has provided a base for affiliate groups involved in activities that promote environmental sustainability and community action.

He also conducts biodiversity research on wildlife and plant species across Port Philip. Gio was fascinated by the natural environment even as a small child, and while still at school, he began an unofficial program of installing nest boxes which was eventually approved and taken up by the local council and wider community. Some species faced localised extinction in many Melbourne suburbs, including St Kilda, Elwood and Elsternwick; his initiative turned this around in his local area almost immediately.

Recently featured on Gardening Australia on the ABC, Gio said, 'It concerns me that living in cities... there's a risk of alienation from nature. What would make me happy is people noticing the beauty and the excitement of what's around them, and then taking action to make sure it's looked after. This is what I live and breathe, and I can see myself being involved with it throughout my life.'

**You can watch Gardening Australia's My Garden Path - Gio Fitzpatrick here:**  
<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/my-garden-path---gio-fitzpatrick/13543634>

## YOUR OWCA

### OWCA Executive

#### President

Kate Evans (OW1998)

#### Vice President

David Kennedy (OW1966)

#### Treasurer

Rob Lancaster (OW1982)

#### Executive members

Jack Ayerbe (OW1963)

Ian Thomas (OW1982)

Anastasia Malishev (OW1995)

Vibeke Pedersen (OW1996)

Kunal Rastogi (OW2002)

Amy McAlister (OW2003)

Alessia Francese (OW2016)

Tom Pewtress (OW2018)

### 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**  
[owca@wesleycollege.edu.au](mailto:owca@wesleycollege.edu.au)

**Event enquiries | Calendar enquiries**  
Zena Eastburn  
[zena.eastburn@wesleycollege.edu.au](mailto:zena.eastburn@wesleycollege.edu.au)

**Interested in becoming involved in the Executive? Contact:**  
Kate Evans (OW1998), President, OWCA  
[kate.evans@wesleycollege.edu.au](mailto:kate.evans@wesleycollege.edu.au)



# Meet our 2022 Winter Olympians

## **Gabi Ash (OW2016) - Freestyle Skiing**

Like many top-line aerial skiers, Gabi Ash's background in diving and gymnastics has laid a solid foundation for her new sport. She moved into the Victorian Institute of Sport's aerial skiing program barely five years ago, making an impressive 15th placing in her international competition debut at the 2017 Europa Cup in Finland.

Gabi now has 10 World Cup starts to her name, with some of her best results coming over the past 12 months: 6th at Ruka, Finland in December 2021, 7th at Deer Valley, USA in February 2021 and 9th in Almaty, Kazakhstan in March 2021. She enjoyed two top-10 placings in the 2017-18 season, 4th and 6th in Nor-Am Cup competitions in Canada and the USA.

The 2019-20 season was one to remember as she recorded her first podium finishes; bronze medals at both the Lake Placid (USA) and Le Relais (Canada) Nor-Am Cup events. In 2020-21, Gabi recorded her World Championship debut in Almaty, Kazakhstan placing 15th.

Gabi has the added incentive of working alongside Australian, and now Beijing, Olympic teammates Laura Peel and Danielle Scott. At the end of the 2021 season, all three women were ranked in the world's top-30 (Laura 1st, Dani 14th and Gabi 26th).

Her older sister Sophie also made her Olympic debut at Beijing 2022 in moguls.

She is currently studying a Bachelor of Arts at Monash University. 'I stopped diving at the beginning of 2016 and was eager to start skiing again,' she says. 'When I found out about the aerials program, it seemed like the perfect match!'



Gabi (right) with her sister Sophie who was competing in moguls



Katie on the slopes at the Winter Olympics in Beijing: 'I love the feeling of going fast and working towards a goal!'

## **Katie Parker (OW2016) - Alpine Skiing**

Katie took up skiing at age four and became an Australian national champion in moguls and several alpine disciplines at just 10 years old. Her mother Jenny drove Katie to competitions and training camps at Mount Buller in winter, and in the summer, the family would head to the United States to ski on the northern winter slopes. It's little wonder Katie's career has continued to dovetail between the two countries.

Katie has enjoyed two years on Snow Australia's ski team, alongside three years with the University of Utah's alpine team 'The Utes'. She has a strong record in the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association, which has been a leader in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) skiing world in the US since 1950.

She earned All-America honours in the giant slalom at the 2020 NCAA Championships and has recorded two podium finishes, four top-five finishes and 12 career, top-10 finishes in her three seasons with The Utes. Prior to joining The Utes in 2019, Katie was a Sugar Bowl Academy graduate in California with her fellow Beijing 2022 alpine skiing Olympic debutant, Louis Muhlen-Schulte.

Katie competed at both the 2018 US National Junior (6th super-G) and US National Open Championships (7th super-G, 13th slalom, 13th giant slalom).

She had a strong ending to 2021 despite all the pandemic disruptions, with two top-10 finishes (5th giant slalom and 9th slalom) in the Nor-Am Cup leg at Panorama, Canada, in December.



# Staying on top, remaining connected

Throughout his many years of travelling, James Fry (OW1998) noticed most hotels presented guests with indistinguishable rooms, boring food options and unsurprising tour guide offerings.

He saw an opportunity to change that, creating Notel, an accommodation experience that encourages visitors to 'choose their own adventure' and discover Melbourne as a local.

Notel Melbourne comprises six beautiful American chrome Airstream trailers. Stunning, uber-chic and superbly comfortable, these urban retreats mix beauty with technology, capturing a unique, space-age aesthetic.

Remarkably located on a rooftop above Flinders Lane, in the middle of Melbourne's CBD, Notel offers an extraordinarily glamorous and entirely different type of accommodation experience.



At Notel Melbourne, guests enjoy magnificently transformed, chic and luxurious space-age Airstream trailers from the US, in a unique CBD rooftop setting

After leaving Wesley, James got straight into the OWCA network by playing football with Collegians Football Club. 'I played for more than 10 years and I loved it,' he says. 'I loved the competition, my teammates and the game of footy, but most of all, the network. I really enjoyed mixing with past players and those involved in the club, listening to their life and business stories, their successes and failures.'

Remaining connected to OWs shed a huge light on his business decisions. 'It taught me a lot and shaped me into the person I am today. The Wesley network has definitely helped me in my businesses along the way, and still does,' he said.



The OWConnect Business Directory makes perfect sense to James Fry (OW1998) who has employed OWs across all his businesses, including his stunning Notel Melbourne

Over the years, James has employed up to fifty OWs of various ages across his businesses, including Notel Melbourne. Recently, James listed NOTEL Melbourne on the OWConnect Business Directory and reflects, 'As well as creating a personal profile in the Directory, I'm looking forward to seeing the leads it creates for my business portfolio.'

We've learnt that a night at Notel is about exploration. Melbourne's best restaurant options, plus a great selection of bars, cafes and galleries are all nearby, and for out of towners, it's a less than 10-minute walk from Federation Square, ACMI and the NGV Ian Potter Gallery, and only a few more to the Arts Precinct. Southern Cross Station is less than 750m away for train, bus and airport shuttles. As James says, NOTEL is NOT a hotel, but an experience.



**Take advantage of the OWConnect Business Directory and search for products, services and OWs where that Wesley connection can count!**

Filled with names and details of a whole range of OW businesses and specials, search or register your business today at **OWConnect.net**



# A Legend on and off the field

## The story of Ross Gregory (OW1934)

Ross Gregory (OW1934) is one of the dozen or so OWs to have played Test cricket for Australia. Without doubt, he is one of the finest sportspersons to have attended Wesley College. Of short stature, he was not only a gifted right-hand batsman and a handy leg spinner, but also a capable footballer and tennis player.

Under the coaching of legendary teacher PL Williams, he played for four years in the First XI. In his last two years, the First XI was the Champion APS team, being undefeated in all ten matches in those years. He first represented Victoria in February 1934 having commenced his final year at Wesley.

Remarkably, in early 1937 at the age of 20, he played two Ashes Tests against England in Melbourne and Adelaide under the captaincy of Don Bradman. Ross batted three times, scoring a combined total of 153 runs. He reached a half-century in two of those innings, helping Australia to retain The Ashes. In the second innings of the Adelaide Test, his 50 runs contributed to a 135-run partnership with Bradman.

His performance captured the attention of the cricket world. Cartoonists drew him as the 'baby' and one newspaper writer described him as a 'champion in the making.' While the focus was on his



**Ross Gregory (OW1934) with Don Bradman, Fourth Test Adelaide Oval 1937**

batting, his bowling should not be forgotten. In the final Shield match of 1937, Ross dismissed Bradman twice.

He was considered highly unfortunate not to be selected in the 1938 Ashes team that toured England. He continued to play cricket for Victoria and his local Club, St Kilda, until he joined the RAAF in August 1940. After training in Australia, he arrived in England in July 1941 and was trained to navigate the Wellington bomber. He participated in four missions over Europe.

In 1942, his squadron was sent to India. Its mission was to support British troops fighting the Japanese Army in Burma. On 10 June 1942, age 26, he was the observer on a Wellington that was destroyed by an explosion and crashed about 90 kilometres north of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.

The remains of the six crew members were buried by the local police. Flood waters from the Brahmaputra River subsequently covered the graves and despite a search at the end of the war, no trace of the graves could be found. His name is recorded on the Commonwealth War

Grave Commission's Singapore Memorial.

His death was a major news item and two memorial services were held. It was a huge tragedy for his parents (he was an only child) and his fiancée.

His dismissal in his sole Melbourne Test innings has been claimed as the most tragic in Test cricket as the bowler (Farnes), the catcher (Verity) and the dismissed batsman (Gregory) would all die in the war. Ross is the only Australian Test Cricketer to have lost his life on active service in WWII.

A notable feature of Ross was his personality. After his death, PL Williams wrote: 'One sought in vain for flaws in his character. He had a natural courtesy, kindness and friendliness towards all.'

Ross Gregory's name is remembered in the sport oval and road that takes his name at Albert Park Lake.

In this, the 80th year since his death, we remember him as an example of the OWs who served their country in a time of peril, and by not returning safely to his family, was denied the opportunity to enjoy a long life full of promise.

Perhaps the last word about him can be attributed to cricket legend, Keith Miller, who said, 'I would love to have been like him!'

**Contributed by Philip Powell (OW1973), author, historian, former Vice President of Council and regular contributor to Lion magazine, who acknowledges David Frith and his excellent book, 'The Ross Gregory Story'.**

A more complete version of this story is available in Lion Online. Visit [wesleycollege.edu.au/news-events-and-publications/lion-magazine/lion-april-2022](http://wesleycollege.edu.au/news-events-and-publications/lion-magazine/lion-april-2022)

## Purple and Gold in the Big Apple

### OW Bishop celebrates Golden Jubilee

Much admired New York Bishop, Andrew St John (OW1961), is even more celebrated now he has retired, having clocked up 50 years in the ministry in February. In recognition of this, the beautiful St Thomas Episcopal Church on Fifth Avenue held a special Golden Jubilee service.

Andrew described it as a 'wonderful celebration, followed by a splendid lunch at the Rectory,' made even more special as it was his first time robed and acting liturgically for over seven months.

Andrew was diagnosed with cancer last year and completed chemotherapy in March. His friends and family have been an amazing support and he is in physical therapy now. Our prayers are with him as things start to look up. We look forward to seeing him in Melbourne later this year when he plans to visit.



A year not without its challenges for New York Bishop Andrew St John (OW1961). Looking splendid here celebrating 50 Years in the Ministry at St Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue.



## Updates



### Tom Campbell (OW2009)

Tom Campbell (OW2009) has brought together 260 past and present AFL and AFLW athletes to form AFL Players for Climate Action@aflp4ca. He was inspired to create the organisation after discussions between North Melbourne players on climate change, and concerns of extreme weather events in 2020.

‘You don’t have to look far to see the devastation climate change is having on Australians and our sport, including the impacts of extreme weather events. We all have a role to play; sporting clubs and codes can rapidly cut carbon pollution by changing the way they build venues and travel, and by using more renewable energy and cutting waste,’ he said.

Tom is interested in connecting with any OWs working in the Climate Action space. Email him at [team@aflp4ca.org.au](mailto:team@aflp4ca.org.au)



### Kahlia Rogers (OW2016)

We congratulate Kahlia who was crowned Kimberley Girl in 2021! As part of the Kimberley Girl program, Kahlia will act as a representative for 12 months, promoting positive change in the personal and professional capacity of young Indigenous women. Workshops conducted throughout the program will focus on social and emotional wellbeing, setting goals for success, work readiness and developing leadership skills.

‘Now in its 17th season, Kimberley Girl is about pathways and leadership,’ says founder Kira Fong. ‘It is about giving young women the tools to realise their potential, to empower them in their endeavours, to give them the confidence to dream big and reach for the stars. Kimberley Girl is about giving participants the wings to fly.’ We know that Kahlia will reach for the sky!



### Catherine Osborne (OW1998)

Microbiologist Catherine Osborne (OW1998) is the CEO of Crux Biolab and is passionate about sustainable science, microbiology, immunology and enabling working women.

She featured in *The Age* in 2021, discussing how she is tackling the barriers facing women seeking senior STEM roles. Catherine also reflected on her experiences in the Women in Leadership Development (WILD) program, which aims to boost the number of females in leadership and company board positions for science businesses.



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**V O L V O** Volvo Cars South Yarra

**V O L V O** Volvo Cars Camberwell





#### **Professor Peter Ebeling AO (OW1974)**

Dux of Wesley in 1974, Peter has had a stellar career in medicine in Australia and overseas and has had two recent, outstanding achievements. Firstly, he became President of the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research; the first person outside North America to hold this prestigious office.

As if this remarkable achievement is not enough, he was selected as Australia's top researcher in the field of endocrinology for 2021 by The Australian's Research Magazine 2021. The Australian and its partner, League of Scholars, use a trove of online information to identify Australia's top researchers and top research institutions. A leading Australian-based researcher in a field is the individual whose papers published in the 20 top journals in their field (measured by H-index) over the past five years have had the most citations by other researchers. This is a measure which filters for both quality and impact.

Peter is currently the Head of the Department of Medicine in the School of Clinical Sciences at Monash Health, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. His research interests include musculoskeletal health and diseases, public health aspects of vitamin D, post-transplantation osteoporosis, osteoporosis in men, and biochemical bone turnover markers.

He is a Board Member of the International Osteoporosis Foundation and Honorary Medical Director of Osteoporosis Australia.

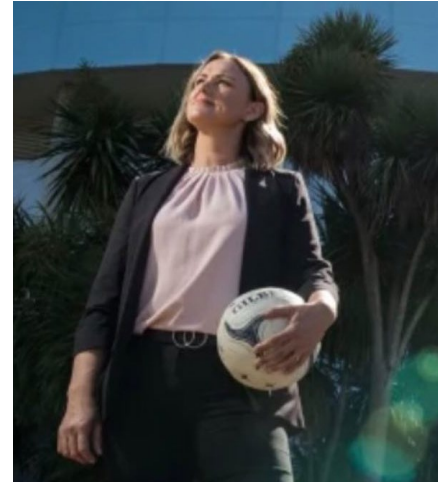


#### **Chairil Zahiruddin (OW1976)**

Chairil was a boarder from 1973 to 1976, playing basketball and soccer during those years. He has many great memories, including receiving Honour Colours for Soccer in 1975, (having kicked the most goals in the APS season), and of coaches John Dickson (dec.) and Bryan Kenneally, Honorary Life Member of the OWCA.

For some time now he has been living in South Jakarta, and before retiring, was a senior Manager in the Marketing and Distribution Division of joint venture company Indomilk, which is affiliated with Indo Food Group, the Salim Group of Companies.

In retirement, he has a small family business, Home-made Cakes & Pastries, which is run by his daughters. Chairil is also an active member of a local environmental group which is involved in planting trees and monitoring pollution of rivers and dams, and community garbage disposal and treatment systems. Besides these interests, his hobbies include gardening and agricultural activities, and he acts as an adviser for brand equity enhancement and strategic development for small to medium-sized local enterprises. He remains a proud OW who would love to hear from his old friends. Email him at [iril.tandjung@gmail.com](mailto:iril.tandjung@gmail.com)



#### **Sharelle McMahon (OW1995)**

Legendary OW and Australia's own netball icon, Sharelle McMahon (OW1995), will be commemorated with a statue to be placed in the north-west corner of John Cain Arena in Melbourne.

This two-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist and two-time world championship winner played at the highest level for the Diamonds and Melbourne Vixens for 15 years.

Her presence will be immortalised at her home stadium, taking pride of place when fans turn the corner and walk to the city entrance of the venue.



## Boat Race Dinner

This year's Boat Race Dinner at Leonda by the Yarra returned to its historic place in the calendar, immediately following the Head of the River Regatta. There was much to celebrate with the historic back-to-back win of the Girls' First VIII crew just days before, as well as the ability for us to gather in person once again.

The room was thrilled to welcome the current First Crews back from their commitments at the Nationals in Nagambie and the evening flowed under the knowledgeable control of MC, Cam Williams (OW1982). Highlights included the awarding of the OWCA Paul Guest Rowing Medal, as voted by members of the current First Crews. This year's medal went to Lauren Mayhood, whose inspiring thank-you speech came so effortlessly. It was clear to see that she embodied the medals symbol of Leadership, Inspiration and Humility.

Mark Hibbins (OW1978), Community Liaison OWCA, then interviewed last year's medal recipient and 2021 First

Crew member, Leyla Kenneally (OW2021), her sister Lauren, a member of this year's winning crew and their father, Andrew "Crackers" Kenneally (OW1989), a legend in both Football and Rowing circles. Andrew was also a member of the First Crews in both 1988 and 1989 and son of former staff member and honorary Life

Member of the OWCA, Bryan Kenneally. It was a unique and historic opportunity.

The singing, led by Mark Stevens (OW1965), was as popular as ever and thanks as always must go to the Alan Mitchell Club for their excellent support of this cherished event.



Head of the River First crews and guests at the 2022 Boat Race Dinner

## A right Royal Gala

With almost 40 OWs, including parents, staff, guests, OWCA Executive committee members and their partners all supporting the Wesley College Gala in December, it was easy to see how numbers topped 400 - just ahead of the Covid Omicron variant taking hold in Melbourne.

This amazing costume event with Regal theme was held at the Regent Plaza Ballroom, and neither venue nor vibe disappointed. With masks recommended but irresistibly removed, the Wesley community ate, drank and danced the night away with Nero-like enthusiasm, everyone sensing a rare window in which to celebrate. Postponed several times since the original July date but magnificently held together by College Events Manager Natalie Krug (OW1991)



and the committee, guests were treated to brash brass, black busbies and a big and wildly enthusiastic dance band. Performance artists, card readings, selfie opportunities and life-size Royal cut-outs added to the dynamic atmosphere and

for the OWs in attendance, it proved to be a great exploration of the venue, as this year's Founders' Day Dinner returns to the Plaza Ballroom in May!



# The Tale of the Lion

## Embroidered in history



The classic heraldic lion passant with upturned tail

At times throughout OWCA history, we have been involved in the tradition of OWCA garments, including the once-famous blazer. Dedicated and sartorially resplendent OW Dr Joe Johnson OAM AAM (OW1961) was keen to recreate the popular blazer design from the 1950s, perfect for lunch at The Club, trackside at the Melbourne Olympics, or indeed any regatta. For each OWCA generation who have struggled with emblematic change, Joe revealed an embroidered OWCA design linking our letters, which may still be familiar to readers.



An interesting version of the OWCA emblem recently recreated by Joe Johnson (OW1961), which inadvertently revealed an Heraldic mystery



The origin of our lion in the first quarter of the school's full arms, designed by former Principal and Art Master, David Goldstraw, where the Lion is more heraldic in nature, tail upturned

But what unfurled was quite a tale. While working on the revival of the badge, he came across a bit of a puzzle. The Wesley lion on the OWCA blazer badge was the lion that featured on the old cap badges. Following some research (it helps to know that Joe is a Vice-President of the Heraldry Society of Australia!), he could find no other example of a lion with a downturned tail.

Most people today take the image of our Lion for granted, but it appears the cap badge is the basis of the current school lion, which has been slightly modernized.



The original Honours Badge in gilded metal and produced by Stokes and Sons in Melbourne. For seniors they were numbered, and names were recorded in a large leather-bound volume in the Headmaster's study

Joe believes that the downturned tail may have been instigated by the badge makers to make it easier to sew the badge on to the cap, and so it may be that the downturned tail harks back to L. A. Adamson's introduction of the lion as the cap badge, early in his term as headmaster.

At the tail end of this investigation and much to his surprise, Joe found that his own 1957 school blazer, made by Myer, has a rather different lion, with an upturned tail!



An example of the 1957 Myer's School blazer pocket

Joe has since received his new badge, with tail downturned, embroidered directly onto the material for his new blazer and has kindly sent another for our Archive. Anyone wanting one made up, either directly on to a garment, or with the black background, should contact specialists Hand and Lock, 86 Margaret Street, London, W1W 8TE or via [www.handembroidery.com](http://www.handembroidery.com) where the badge is recorded as 'Old Wesley Collegians Association'.

No doubt this will have OWs passionate about their culture rifling through drawers and suit bags to find their own lion. Perhaps another OW might be able to solve the mystery of the downturned tail!



Dedicated OW and recipient of the Australian Antarctic Medal, Joe Johnson OAM (OW1961) has recreated his OWCA Blazer from the 1950s and 1960s



# Affiliates

## Collegians Football Club

**2022 marks the Collegians Football Club's 130th year as a founding club of the Victorian Amateur Football Association. After the stop-start-stop nature of the last two years, the club is anticipating a full season!**

Both the women's and men's teams have been training since November and are ready to go.

- There are four Men's teams - Firsts, Seconds, Thirds and Under 19s.
- There are two Women's teams - Firsts and Seconds.

It is not too late to pull on the boots and play! For enquires, contact Rod Nancarrow on 0412 687 430

### Welcome BIG WET

Collegians FC welcomes Michael Opie (OW1989) and his company 'BIG WET' as a Lion Partner for the 2022 season.

Big Wet's spring water is drawn from a granite spring located in the heart of Victoria's spa country, known for having some of the purest waters in the world. Big Wet's water is naturally very low in minerals and has the added benefit of being filtered at both the source and bottling plant. This means there are no hidden impurities, and it has a clean,



Everybody is handballing at CFC

refreshing taste. There are no added chemicals or preservatives; it is simply clean, natural water.

For further information contact Michael at [michael@bigwet.com.au](mailto:michael@bigwet.com.au)

If you would like further information about becoming a Partner of the Collegians FC or the OWCA, please contact Mark Hibbins (OW1978) for a confidential discussion.

In 2022, the Collegians FC would love to see you at a home match and become a member.

For fixture and membership details visit [collegiansfc.com.au](http://collegiansfc.com.au)



**To support Collegians Football Club, or join the player lists, contact President Rodney 'Rocket' Nancarrow (OW1982) at [rnancarrow@iprimus.com.au](mailto:rnancarrow@iprimus.com.au)**

## OW Cricket

Competing against new teams and old school rivals, the Old Wesley Cricket Club has had a successful 2021/22 season.

After several wins both at home and away, the OWCC finished the season in 3rd position ahead of the final two games. We hope to bring home the trophy this year!

After securing sponsorship from the College Lawn Hotel, the team enjoy regular training sessions followed by a meal on Thursday nights, in preparation for a match on Sundays.

With a core group of many OWs, we are always looking for regular players.

**If you're keen to play on some of Melbourne's best turf wickets with a great group of players, contact Captain Rick Morris on 0438 081 886.**

Go Lions!



OW Cricket team looking sharp in their new uniforms, proudly sponsored by the OWCA



## Collegians X Hockey

Like most sports, the last two and a half seasons have been tough. Despite this, we have continued to work hard and with the help of the OWCA, are building relationships with students at school and those who have left.

Even after two tough years, the club is still strong and we're looking at having a great year on the field. With new coach Adam Davey, we are again fielding five teams for the year, with places still available for both men and women who are interested in playing.

The big news is that we have elected a female President for the first time, Leisa Liddell, and she has some great ideas for the upcoming year. Leisa started playing women's hockey early, joining Collegians X Hockey Club back in 2001 after her family relocated from Perth, WA. It was a bit of a

family affair as her sister, mum and dad also played with the Club. Leisa wholeheartedly believes in and encourages the ethos and family nature of the hockey club. She joined the committee a few years ago and is both excited and humbled by her recent election to the role of President.

Former President, Mark Perraton (OW1995) isn't going anywhere, as he has now become Vice President and no doubt will be a great support for Leisa. Mark was President for over 10 years and did a wonderful job putting the Club in a safe financial position. A massive thanks to Mark for his tireless efforts over many years of service!

**If you're interested in playing, please come on down. We are based at Monash Clayton and train on Wednesday nights. To find out more about the club, please email [secretary@collegiansx.com](mailto:secretary@collegiansx.com) or call Scott Booth (OW1985) on 0418 883 212.**

## OWCA Bowls

The OWCA bowls events have progressed well this year. Some of our events prior to the end of 2021 were interrupted by the COVID pandemic.

We play various games throughout the year at MCC Swinburne and MCC Glen Street against other APS schools. We have had varying success with our games. Our last game was on Wednesday 9 March and our two rinks both came away with wins. Team 1 won with a score of 17 shots to 15, while Team 2 won 15 shots to 13 with both games against Old Scotch.

Our last game for the 2021/22 season was at the Glen Waverley Bowls Club Inc on Sunday 3 April and was followed by a luncheon which is always a good time to catch up on what has been happening.

If you would like to join us for our future games, please contact Richard Sluggett via the OWCA office or call 0403 023 288. We are always looking for new blood to boost up the ranks as none of us are getting any younger!

**Richard Sluggett (OW1972)  
Co-ordinator OWCA Bowls**



The OWCA Bowls team back together again at the APS Bowls Day at Glen Waverley Bowls Club

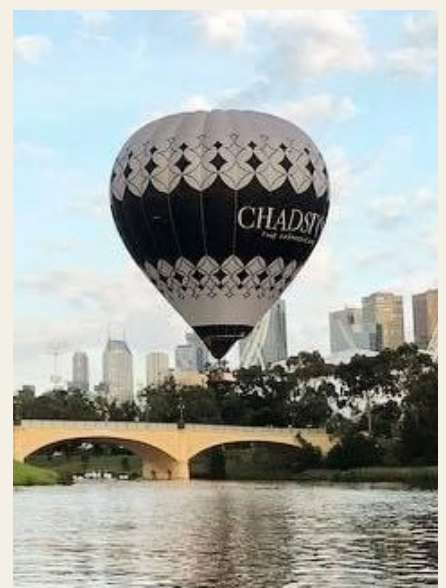
## Alan Mitchell Club

Life on the river never ceases to entertain! Alan Mitchell Club rowers thought they were about to see a balloon ditch in the Yarra before the balloonist lit the gas and it soared over the trees.

There has been activity in the water too, with dolphins sighted in the Yarra! And with the end of lockdowns, there are great signs of life on the water with the Alan Mitchell Club back in full swing with rowers in eights, quads, a six, fours and singles.

We've celebrated the extensions and renovations of the boathouse and we are now looking forward to the school rowers building on their training and teamwork to deliver a successful Head of the River campaign.

**We welcome Wesley alumni to join the Alan Mitchell Rowing Club and to reconnect with the sport of rowing. If it has been a few years since you've picked up an oar, or you've never rowed before, we can help you get into the swing of things. Contact Ana McCloskey at [ana.mccloskey@gmail.com](mailto:ana.mccloskey@gmail.com) if you are interested. Competitive or social rowers are always welcome and the Yarra River will never fail to entertain, regardless of the day of the week or time of day that you choose to row.**



Just one of the serene early morning experiences that await OWs who get back into a boat at the Alan Mitchell Club



# Births

## ANDREWS >

To Christian (OW2006) and Daniela on 21 June 2021, a daughter, Alissa Filomena, a niece for Matthew (OW2008)



## BRENT >

To Sam (OW2001) and Rebecca Pickering on 19 August 2021, a daughter, Penny



## < CASTLE

To Yana Podolskaya (OW1993) and Clifton on 23 June 2021, a son, Clinton Gin



## < BRADSHAW

To Eliza Chancellor (OW2007) and Kyle on 19 January 2022, a son, Fergus, a nephew for Scott (OW2007) and Amanda (OW2012), a grandson for Peter (OW1974), a great grandson for David Chancellor (OW1942)



## FASTIER – WAHAB

(No image provided)

To Claire Fastier (OW2000) and Kal El-Wahab on 8 January 2022, a son, Max, a nephew for Hilary (OW1998)

## CHEN >

To Otto (OW2007) and Tingmei on 17 November 2021, a son, Kieran, a nephew for Benny (OW2014)



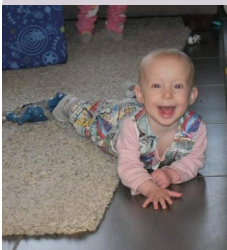
## COHEN >

To Julian (OW 2003) and Melissa on 12 October 2021, a son, Hamish Phillip, a brother for Lewis, a nephew for Hugh (OW 2004) and Toby (OW2008), a grandson for Charles (OW1970)



## < GRIFFITH

To Mercia (Howard) (OW1999) and Kyle (OW1999) on 17 December 2020, a daughter, Delaney Ruthe, a sister for Flynn, Adelyn and Tobias



## HAYSELDEN >

To Bridget Steele (OW2006) and Greg on 1 January 2022, a son, Archie David, a nephew for Megan (OW1999) and Ellen (OW2001), a grandson for David Steele (Former staff)



## HIIRI >

To Olivia Rankin (OW2007) and Daniel (OW2007) on 27 April 2021, a son, Benjamin Ronald, a nephew for Nick Rankin (OW2003) and Christopher Hiiri (OW2010)



## HOWARD >

To Lauren Thurin (OW2008) and Ollie (OW2003) on 11 January 2022, a daughter, Bella Blake, a niece for Josh (OW2006), a granddaughter for David Thurin (OW1975), a granddaughter for The Hon Justice Linda Dessau and Mr Tony Howard



## KOTSANIS >

To Phillip (OW1987) and Alice, a daughter, Anouk, a niece to Michael (OW1983)



## KRETSCH >

To Jordan (OW1997) and Sarah Dallimore on 9 September 2021, a daughter, Georgia Mary, a niece for Marissa (OW1998)



## MANNIX >

To Adam (OW2000) and Alexandra on 16 February 2021, a daughter, Holly, a sister for Zoe, a niece for Karina (OW2001)



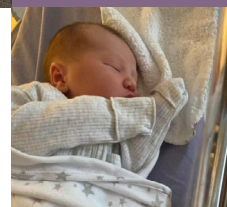
## OKE >

To Cameron (OW2006) and Jesse on 18 October 2021, a daughter, Olivia Marie, a granddaughter for Norman (OW1981)



## < RUSSELL

To Grant (OW1986) and Paula on 2 February 2022, a daughter, Isabelle May, a sister for Jonty, Fletcher, Maddisyn and Jade



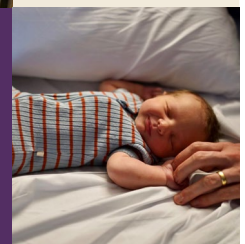
## TURNER >

To Giulia Kossman (OW2008) and Andrew on 26 October 2021, a daughter, Isabel Georgie Adele, a sister for Sofia, a niece for Philip (OW2011)



## WILDASH >

To Sheridan Eddington (OW2009) and Bart (OW2009) on 11 February 2022, a son, Walter Murray, a nephew for Freya (OW2011) and Sunday (OW2014)





# Lion Cubs

We are pleased to welcome new lion cubs to the Wesley pride!



## ANDREWS

Alissa Andrews, daughter of Christian (OW2006) and Daniela



## BRENT

Penny Brent, daughter of Sam (OW2001) and Rebecca Pickering



## CASTLE

Clinton Castle, son of Yana Podolskaya (OW1993) and Clifton Castle

Please let us know your happy news by contacting the OWCA office at  
OWCA@wesleycollege.edu.au +61 3 8102 6750

ENROLLING

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](http://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.



## Engagements



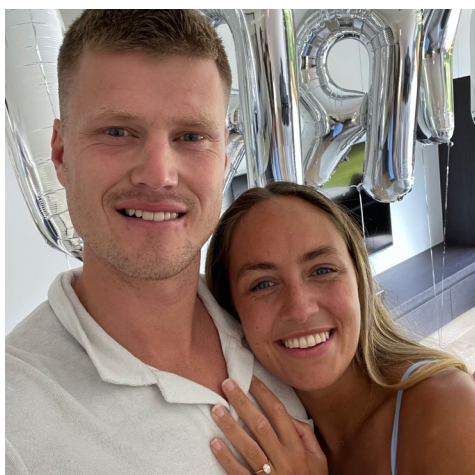
**DONNAN – COMMINS**  
Matt (OW2010) and Isabella

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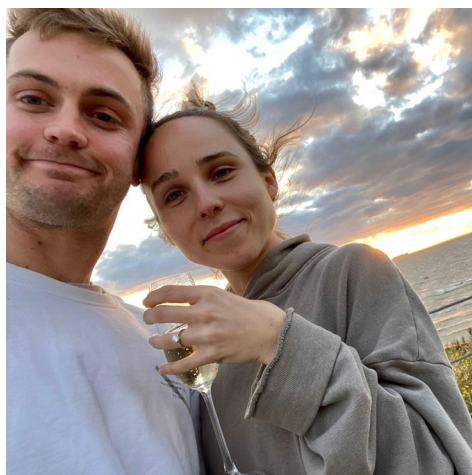
**SHARP - SINGLETON**  
Saacha (OW2011) and Matt (OW2013)

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**HIBBINS – SLOUP**  
Sam (OW2011) and Jessica

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**HUNTSMAN – JAMES**  
Jonathan (OW2011) and Candyce

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## Wedding

### McGEEHAN – THOMPSON

Grace (OW2009) married Cameron on  
20 December 2021

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# Calendar

## May

### APS Golf Day

Friday 6 | 7.00am Registration & Breakfast  
8.00am Shotgun  
Victoria Golf Club

### Founders' Day Dinner

Saturday 14 | 7.00pm – 12.00am  
Plaza Ballroom

### Canberra Evening

Wednesday 18 | 6.30pm – 9.30pm  
Cahoots QT's

### Geelong Lunch

Friday 20 | 12.00pm - 3.00pm  
Geelong Boat House

### Founders' Day Lunch

Friday 27 | 12.00pm – 3.00pm  
Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club

## June

### GW 1997: 25 Year Reunion

Friday 3 | 7.00pm - 10.30pm  
Senior Café, Glen Waverley Campus

### SKR 2012: 10 Year Reunion

Friday 17 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm  
Union Hotel

### GW 2012: 10 Year Reunion

Friday 24 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm  
Union Hotel

## July

### SKR 1972: 50 Year Reunion

Friday 1 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm  
Cato Room, St Kilda Road Campus

### Collegians Business Networking

Wednesday 13 | 6.30pm – 8.30pm  
Pavilion, Harry Trott Oval

## August

### Brisbane Event

Saturday 6 | 7.00pm – 10:30pm  
Venue TBA

### Business Networking

Tuesday 9 | 6.00pm – 8:30pm  
BMW Brighton Showroom

### SKR 2017: 5 Year Reunion

Friday 12 | 7.00pm – 10:30pm  
Union Hotel

### GW 2017: 5 Year Reunion

Friday 19 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm  
Union Hotel

### Sydney Dinner

Saturday 20 | 7.00pm – 10.00pm  
Intercontinental, Double Bay

### SKR 1982: 40 Year Reunion

Friday 26 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm  
Cato Room, St Kilda Road Campus

## September

### SKR 2007: 15 Year Reunion

Friday 2 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm  
Union Hotel

### ELS: 1947 Reunion

Sunday 4 | 12.00pm – 3.00pm  
Prest Room, Elsternwick Campus

## October

### GW 2002: 20 Year Reunion

Friday 7 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm  
Senior Café, Glen Waverley Campus

### Silver Stars

Sunday 16 | 12.00pm – 3.00pm  
Fitchett Hall, Elsternwick Campus

### SKR 1992: 30 Year Reunion

Friday 21 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm  
Cato Room, St Kilda Road Campus

### SKR 2002: 20 Year Reunion

Friday 28 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm  
Rose Garden, St Kilda Road Campus

### Cato Golf Day

Date and Time TBA  
Riversdale Golf Club

## November

### SKR 2021: 1 Year Reunion

Friday 4 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm  
Union Hotel

### GW 2021: 1 Year Reunion

Friday 11 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm  
Union Hotel

### Elsternwick Decades Reunion

Sunday 13 | 12.00pm – 3.30pm  
Fitchett Hall, Elsternwick Campus

### OSCA / OWCA Golf Day

Friday 18 | pm - Shotgun  
Kew Golf Club

### Mornington Peninsula Lunch

Date and Time TBA  
Venue TBA

### GW Graduate Recruitment Event

Date and Time TBC  
Venue TBA, Glen Waverley Campus



# Australia Day Honours

## COMPANION IN THE GENERAL DIVISION (AC)

### **Dr Alan Simon FINKEL AO**

*Past parent*

For eminent service to science, to national energy innovation and research infrastructure capability, to climate change and COVID-19 response initiatives, and to science and engineering education.

## OFFICER IN THE GENERAL DIVISION (AO)

### **Professor Sandra Jean EADES**

*Past parent*

For distinguished service to medical research, to Indigenous health, and to professional organisations.

### **Ms Eve KANTOR**

*Past parent*

For distinguished service to the community through philanthropic support for a range of organisations, and to the environment.

### **Mr Mark WOOTTON**

*Past parent*

For distinguished service to the community through philanthropic support for a range of organisations, and to the environment.

## MEMBER IN THE GENERAL DIVISION (AM)

### **Dr Sharann Heather JOHNSON**

*Past parent*

For significant service to community health as an occupational hygienist, and to service groups.

### **Ms Lee LIBERMAN**

*Past parent*

For significant service to the Jewish community through not-for-profit and education organisations.

### **Ms Victoria Fay MARLES**

*Past parent*

For significant service to conservation and the environment, and to the community.

## MEDAL IN THE GENERAL DIVISION (OAM)

### **Mr Ian Russell DAVIS**

*Past parent*

For service to the community, and to the law.

### **Mr Peter Graham HEARD (OW1958)**

For service to the community of Numurkah.

### **Mr Jamie HYAMS (OW1985)**

For service to local government, and to the community of Glen Eira.

### **Mr Murray Vincent LANYON (OW1960)**

For service to horticulture.

### **Professor Bronwyn Glynis NAYLOR**

*Past parent*

For service to tertiary education, and to the law.

## MEDAL IN THE GENERAL DIVISION (OAM)

### **Ms Emily PETRICOLA**

*Former staff*

For service to sport as a gold medallist at the Tokyo Paralympic Games 2020.

### **Mr David SHEPHERD**

*Former staff*

For service to secondary education.

### **Dr Brian Laurence STAGOLL**

*Past parent*

For service to medicine as a psychiatrist.

### **Mr Clive Alfred STEBBINS (OW1949)**

For service to the international community, and to youth.

### **Mr Stephen Karl WILSON (OW1972)**

For service to herpetology.

## PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL

### **Mr Colin James DOBSON**

*Former staff*

For outstanding public service to education in Victoria.

### **Ms Sarah Jane STEPHEN**

*Past parent*

For outstanding public service to strategic policy reform and delivery in Victoria, particularly in the areas of climate change and energy.

## COVID-19 Honour Roll COMPANION IN THE GENERAL DIVISION (AC)

### **Dr Alan Simon FINKEL AO**

*Past parent*



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# Deaths

## ALLSOPP

Raymond Arthur (OW1952) on 20 October 2021, father of Stephen (OW1978), Lynne Burt (Cato 1979) and Rodney (OW1982)

## BAILEY

Peter Hamilton (OW1944) on 7 November 2021, brother of John (OW1946) (dec.) and Kenneth (OW1946), son of Sir Kenneth (OW1916) (dec.)

## BAIN

Alison Louise (MLC Elsternwick 1945) on 5 March 2021

## BAUMGARTNER

Ivan Ernst (OW1951) on 30 December 2020, father of Paul (OW1978)

## BREEN

Donnelly James (OW1956) on 1 June 2021, father of Kanen (OW1990)

## BURNS

Frank Louis (OW1942) on 20 December 2021, father of Peter (OW1975) and Bruce (OW1982), grandfather of Alyse Brown (OW2005), uncle of Doug (OW1973) and Ian Wood (OW1977)

## CRAVEN

Bruce Desmond (OW1948) on 26 January 2022

## CRITCHLEY

Matthew Edward (OW1968) on 26 November 2021, father of Nick (OW1994), Megan (OW2000) and Tara, brother of Howard (OW1970)

## DAVEY

Roger Chalmers (OW1964) on 24 January 2022, father of Christopher (OW1991), brother of Peter (OW1969)

## DAY

Barry Watson (OW1957) on 24 November 2021, brother of Michael (OW1958) and Peter (OW1962)

## DOULIS

Peter (OW1984) on 28 September 2021, husband of Ilja van Weringh (Current staff), father of Zennon (OW2019) and Sophia (OW2021), brother of John (OW1984)

## DUFTY

John Harry (OW1944) on 18 December 2020, father of Ross (OW1972) and Mark (OW1979), brother of Bruce (OW1938) (dec.)

## DUKE

Graeme Ivallan (OW1943) on 18 December 2021

## EFRON

David (OW1953) on 25 December 2021, uncle of Maurice (OW1981)

## FLEMING

Edward Lloyd (OW1942) on 27 November 2021, brother of David (OW1940) (dec.), uncle of Keith (OW1972)

## FORTUIN

Thomas Cornelius (Tom) (former staff) on 12 January 2022, father of Samantha (OW1990)

## GALE

Peter Alan (OW1955) on 2 December 2021

## GILBERT

Alan James (OW1958) on 16 September 2021

## GIST

Lindsay Skardon (OW1951) on 26 January 2022, brother of Colin (dec.) (OW1955)

## HARCOURT

Geoffrey Colin (OW1949) on 7 December 2021, brother of John (OW1948)

## HARMAN

Noel Leach (OW1949) on 3 October 2021, grandfather of Rizha (OW2015), Kamal (OW2016) and Ali (OW2021)

## HARRISON

Pat Wallace (OW1948) on 7 September 2020, brother of Tom (OW1944) (dec.), uncle of Peter (OW1969) and Neil (OW1972), great uncle of Nick (OW1997) and Chris (OW2001)

## HEPPLES

Peter William (OW1957) on 21 October 2021, son of Neville (OW1929) (dec.)

## HERIOT

Stephen Graeme (OW1985) on 3 October 2021, brother of Euan (OW1986)

## HULL

Kingsley Brian (OW1947) on 20 January 2022, brother of Hedley (OW1942) (dec.) and Malcolm (OW1955) (dec.), son of Seymour (OW1916)

## INGRAM

Barrington George W (Barry) (OW1949) on 13 October 2021, father of Matthew (OW1980)

## JAMES

Donald Hilton (OW1951) on 25 February 2021

## LAUSSEN

Stephen Patrick (OW1979) on 4 December 2021, brother of Jim (Former staff), son of Ronald (OW1945) (dec.)

## LAWRENCE

Graeme (OW1952) on 11 May 2019, brother of Douglas (OW1955)

## LEONG

George Ah Gee (OW1957) on 27 January 2021, brother of Ronald (OW1958) and Stanley (OW1964)

## LUFF

Roydon Kim (Kim) (OW1961) on 30 January 2022, father of Karl (OW1995) and Dirk (OW1998), brother of Euan (OW1963), uncle of Rory (OW1995), son of Royden (OW1930)

## MADDEN

Thomas Kevin (Tom) (OW2012) on 7 December 2021, son of Pamela O'Brien (Former staff), brother of Alexa (OW2011)

## MAYER

Anthony (Tony) (OW1952) on 10 December 2021, father of Guy (OW1978) and Rohan (OW1984), grandfather of Jordan (OW2011), Brodie (OW2013) and Aston (OW2016)

## McDONALD

John William (Doc) (OW1949) on 10 October 2021

## OXLEY

Ian (OW1954) on 16 June 2019, father of Andrew (OW1985), brother of Alan (OW1965)

## PARKER

Ronald John (Former staff) on 19 December 2021

## PEACE

Donald George (OW1944) on 12 December 2021

## PECK

Graeme William (OW1955) on 8 July 2020, father of Grant (OW1983), Wayne (OW1985) and Samantha Seidler (OW1990), grandfather of Lochie (OW2012) and Amelia (OW2018), uncle of Richard (OW1987) and Nick Evans (OW1985)

## ROBESON

Ian Alexander (OW1970) on 7 August 2018

## TOZER

George Bruce (Bruce) (Former staff) on 15 December 2021, father of Norman (OW1978)

## TWEDDLE

Graeme Leigh (OW1960) on 6 December 2021, brother of Ian (OW1957) (dec.) and Neil (OW1962)

## WALKLATE

Brian Willoughby (OW1941) on 11 September 2021, father of Richard (OW1972) and Philip (OW1979), brother of Harold (OW1938) (dec.)



# Obituaries



## Raymond Arthur Allsopp OAM (OW1952)

20/12/1933 - 20/10/2021

Ray was an outstanding Cricketer and Footballer at Wesley and beyond. Along with OW Cricket, he famously went on as a rover at the Richmond Football Club where he played 54 games and kicked 69 goals between 1955 and 1959. Ray's father Arthur played state cricket for Victoria and NSW where he shared a sixth-wicket stand of 180 runs with Donald Bradman.

As our 1951 Cricket Captain, Chronicle describes his actions in the Seasons

Highlights: 'To obtain a century and hat-trick in the same match is a remarkable feat. When Allsopp did this against G.C., he became the third Wesley player to achieve this double.'

Ray was a Primary School Teacher and sports administrator, later leaving teaching to become the first person to be employed in a development role in Football. He directly contributed to the community through sport, co-founding the Waverley Softball Association in 1961 where he worked tirelessly. The high standard of softball facilities at Jells Park owe much to his lobbying.

Ray is also remembered as the 'Father figure' of Auskick, the long-running introductory football program for school aged children. Ray also improved what was known as the 'Little League' in the 1980s, enabling thousands of young footballers to play at half-time at VFL matches. For Ray, it was all about encouraging their enjoyment of the game, not about winning. He was made a Life Member of the AFL in 2010.

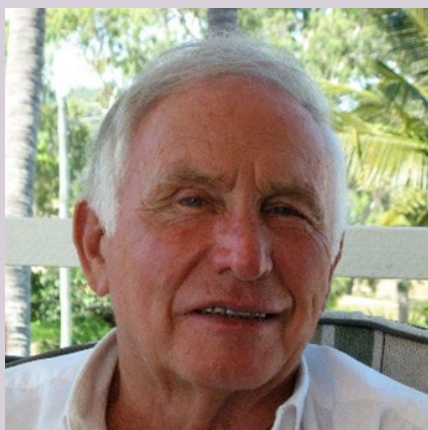
AFL Talent Ambassador, Kevin Sheehan, described Allsopp's role in the development of what became Auskick as 'the creator, the inventor and at a time when we needed someone to focus on skill development in those primary school years...He was the father figure.'

Ray found a way to 'win the hearts and minds of primary school kids' to support the future and success of Australian Rules Football at a time when there was growing competition from other sports.

Along with other OWs, Ray played in the famous Australian Rules exhibition match at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. He was a sports-writer, editor of Junior Football Magazine, coach and the Junior Victorian Coach of the Year award is named in his honour.

Ray's model for teaching softball while a teacher at Glen Waverley Primary School was adopted by the Physical Education curriculum and replaced Rounders as a team sport. His model for encouraging enjoyment of team sports at a young age has been universally adopted across sports here and overseas. In 2017, at age 82, Ray was recognised by the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to sport, particularly for school children.

Ray died at the age of 87 and is survived by his sister and softball world champion Norma, children Stephen (OW1978), Lynne, Rodney (OW1982), six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



## Ivan Ernst Baumgartner (OW1951)

11/03/1934 - 30/12/2020

Ivan was born in Melbourne and was the younger of two siblings, having an elder sister, Ilma. His Swiss father, Ernst, came to Australia in 1930, initially for two years,

but met Vera while working in Bendigo. They married, moved to Elwood and then Brighton with Ivan attending Gardenvale Primary School and later, Bentleigh West Primary School.

Ivan started at Wesley in Form 1 (Year 7) and greatly enjoyed his years there, perhaps focusing more on sports than academic studies. He loved all sports, representing Wesley in football, cricket and athletics. He went on to play League Football for Geelong when studying at Gordon Institute, but when he moved back to Melbourne to join the family textile business, he requested a transfer to Melbourne Football Club, which coincided with military service at Puckapunyal. Interestingly, in later years he would say cricket was his favourite sport, but his sporting interests were broad.

He finished his football career at St Kilda Football Club, playing 48 league games in total and retiring at the age of 23 years to study and travel overseas. Upon returning to Australia, he married Joan in

1959 and had a son Paul (OW1978) and four daughters, Lindyanne, Michelle, Debra and Kerrie. He later studied economics at Monash University and worked for many years in senior management roles.

Equal to his love of sport was his love of travel and the outdoors. He spent 20 years living in Northern Queensland and travelled extensively around Australia and overseas. He moved back to Melbourne in his late seventies to be closer to family, enjoying the arrival of grandchildren as he had his children. He continued to play tennis, table tennis, swim, paddle board and bike ride into his eighties.

Ivan enjoyed a party, a glass of sparkling and a good red. He loved music and was a great dancer. Ivan is survived by his first wife, five children and nine grandchildren.

**Contributed by Paul Baumgartner  
(OW1978)**





## Bruce Desmond Craven (OW1948)

7/05/1931 – 26/01/2022

Bruce was an extraordinary and much-admired Wesley scholar who excelled in most subjects and was applauded for his musical ability. An only child growing up in Hampton, he was Draper Scholar in 1946, Walter Powell Scholar in 1947 and as winner of a Senior Government Scholarship, became Dux of the School. He studied Piano and Music theory, Physics, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Chemistry and English. In 1947, he won a Queens College Scholarship and received several First Class honours.

As a member of Way, the House Music competition featured him on piano, where for their free choice, they chose Bruce to play the First Movement of Beethoven's Pathétique Sonata. The well-known visiting musician Mr. Bishop from Scotch College, recognised his real talent, describing the performance as 'technically faultless' and showing 'great character and vitality.'

Beyond Wesley, Bruce attended the University of Melbourne receiving a Bachelor of Science in 1951 followed by a Master of Science (Honours) in 1953. An outstanding academic, he went on to attain a BA (Honours) in Statistics in 1959 and in 1973, still at Melbourne University, a Doctor of Science.

He worked in the Research Division of the General Electric Company in London before returning to Melbourne for seven years as a Senior Research Physicist with Australian Paper Manufacturers. He was then appointed as a senior lecturer in Mathematics at the University of Melbourne, becoming Reader in 1968 and

then Principal Fellow, Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Bruce was a renowned teacher whose main area of research was mathematical programming and optimisation. He worked with undergraduates and Honours students, and supervised theses for many leaders in mathematics today. He collaborated on optimisation with many overseas mathematicians in Vietnam (Mathematics Institute, Hanoi), China (Institute of Systems Science), India, Italy (University of Pisa) and France, and made substantial visits to universities in Sheffield, Poitiers and Seattle. Bruce was also an author of several books and papers in key journals on a great variety of interconnected fields. Bruce learnt French and German at Wesley and later taught himself Russian, enabling him to read international journals and travel and lecture overseas.

In the 1990s, the Australian Society for Operations Research (ASOR) created its top honour, the Ren Potts Medal, which is announced at its annual conference in Canberra. It honours a person for outstanding contributions to the theory or practice of operations research in Australia. Bruce was its first recipient.

Bruce's memberships and recognition include Member of Australian Mathematical Society, Australian Statistical Society, ASOR, London Mathematical Society, Royal Statistical Society, Mathematical Programming Society, American Mathematical Society and the Operations Research Society of America.

Bruce passed away after a long illness, having spent much of his life in the family home where he grew up and attending the same local church. Interestingly, Bruce was an active member of the Research Scientists' Christian Fellowship, which later grew into the Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology, now known as ISCAST, the oldest and largest science and religion organisation in Australia. He was editor for its Journal and co-wrote a final editorial with his fellow member, colleague and then co-editor John Pilbrow, whom he had known since 1965, in which they explain that ISCAST is committed to the idea that all truth is God's truth and that our knowledge of the world is based on empirical evidence which, for the Christian, is all about exploring God's world, not seeking thereby to prove that God exists.



## Matthew Edward Critchley (OW1968)

30/09/1949 – 26/11/2021

A classmate recently described Matt as a 'loveable ruffian' and most people who knew him would smile and agree with that. He was the kid with his shirt hanging out who exasperated some of his teachers. A sling-shot in his back pocket would almost be expected.

Matt was universally liked and respected by his school mates, work colleagues and loved by his extensive family.

Matt was born in the UK but was never a 'pom'. His Australian parents were living there and he was the oldest of three, with Lindie, his younger sister and Howard, his kid brother.

Matt was a great sportsman, playing footy in the First 18 and then for Collegians, and rowing in the First VIII for three years.

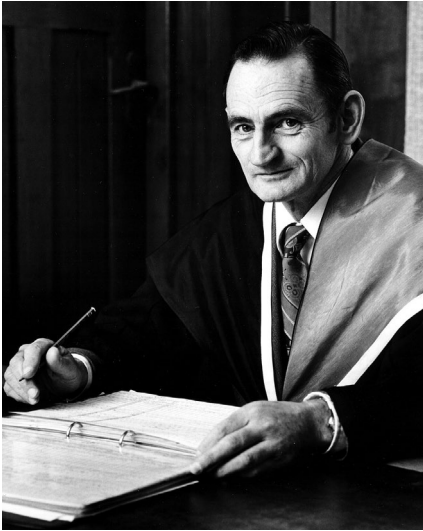
The highlight of his life was his family. His marriage to Duppy produced 3 children; Nick, Tara and Megan.

His successful business career was with large corporates - Dow Chemical, HB Fuller and Bristol Paints - both here and overseas. His final executive role was as Chief Operating Officer with MYOB. In addition, Matt, his brother Howard and a third partner bought Knights Marine (a slipway, chandlery and retail outlet in Williamstown) which they operated as hands-on owners for some years. Matt never forgot his Wesley roots and maintained friendships from those days for life, as well as picking up many along the way. He was passionate about his hobbies, particularly cars and golf, sailing and tennis.

Matt was diagnosed with MND in August 2020 and this eventually led to his too-early death; however, the fact that he never ceased being young at heart resulted in him being a happy and passionate family man, and the Critchley sense of humour has been passed down to his eight grandchildren.

Contributed by Roger Mendelson (OW1967)





## Graeme Ivallan Duke (OW1943)

07/07/1926 - 18/12/2021

Graeme began at Wesley on a scholarship in 1939. A Corrigan House Senior and active committee member of the Student Christian Movement, he was a member of both the Library and Chronicle Staff. He was a prodigious contributor to the life of the school through Chronicle and covered many important war-time student experiences for Wesley.

When Major-General George Vasey (OW1907) addressed the boys in Assembly following his leading of the Australian soldiers through the Kokoda Trail, it was Graeme who wrote the detailed and engaging article for Chronicle. Graeme went to Queens College and became an outstanding teacher and inspirational leader at Melbourne High School from 1961 to 1986, and was Vice Principal for ten years until 1986. Reproduced with the permission of the author, we share this obituary from Melbourne High School where he is fondly remembered:

'Graeme Duke was born into a Methodist family and won a scholarship to Wesley College. He then went to the University of Melbourne where he completed an Honours Arts degree and was a student of Queens College. He was an excellent scholar, gaining honours in French and Ancient History and a first-class honour in Latin. He completed his Dip Ed in 1947 and joined the Education Department. His teaching career commenced at Rushworth Higher and Elementary School where he taught from 1948-1952. He was then promoted to University High School (1953-1960) where he was soon recognised as a first-class teacher. In 1961, he was promoted to Melbourne High School to teach social studies but was soon promoted to the new category of Senior Teacher. This meant administrative responsibilities which he assumed with great ease and to good effect.

One of his students, later Professor Russell Lansbury, noting him as an outstanding teacher also commented: "He read every student essay carefully but did not tell you what to think, he simply posed questions. His interest was seminal."

A brilliant classroom teacher and pioneer in social studies and politics, he had a scholarly breadth that saw him familiar with so much. He was well versed in the classics, Latin, modern literature and Theology. He had a keen sense of humour and a dry wit, but was always modest and self-effacing.

Graeme was at the school under three principals — Thompson, Collins and Barberis, but he is most well-known for his remarkable work as vice principal to Barberis. The two of them combined to make a brilliant and effective combination. He was promoted to Vice-Principal in 1976 and became a legendary figure. His voice and presence immediately had the attention of the students, who respected him greatly. He rejoiced in the nick name of "Snapper,"

for reasons unknown. Legend amongst the boys had him as a former boxer! As such, he never had any disciplinary problems.

One of his favourite stories was of a phone call reporting that a boy was ill and would be absent that day from school. Asking who was speaking, the reply was, "It's my father!"

When Graeme Duke retired in 1986, Principal Lou Barberis said the debt to him was immense. He had administered a large and complex institution with apparent ease and his influence on staff and students was enormous. He was not only wise but his "presence instilled respect". Barberis went on to say, "He brings to an exacting role a superb intellect, wisdom and long familiarity with and an inspired awareness of the unique character of MHS" and he showed "unremitting dedication".

He provided important structures for staff and students within which they could show creativity and achieve excellence.

Sadly, soon after he retired in 1987, his wife Sheila died. This was a grievous blow. He was a man of faith so he undertook more study and became a Doctor of Divinity. His thesis topic was '*Biblical criticism and the Protestant Churches in Victoria 1850-1900*'.

Graeme retained a keen interest in the school and was a regular at school and old boy events. He was a key figure in the writing of the history of the school as well as the centenary celebrations. Not only was Graeme Duke one of the great figures in the history of MHS, but one of the most loved. He truly Honoured the Work.'

**Dr Alan Gregory AM, School Historian,  
Melbourne High School**





Image courtesy of the  
Australian War Memorial, Canberra

## Edward Lloyd Fleming (OW1942)

20/01/1925 - 27/11/2021

Wing Commander Dr Edward Fleming was a treasured member of the OW community who will be sadly missed. His bright spirit and energy was the essence of collegiality at Canberra events and the annual Boat Race Dinner for which he drove from Canberra without hesitation, right up until the pandemic. He had hoped until the end to make it to the next Boat Race Dinner, so he could finally be the oldest in the room.

Edward was born in St Kilda on 20 January 1925, the second son of Wilfred Fleming and Ethel Phillips and like his brother David (OW1940) (dec.) and nephew Keith (OW1972), attended Wesley. In his final two years at school, Edward was a member of the Air Training Corps. He particularly loved rowing in the winning wartime First Crew of 1942.

Edward enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force in February 1943 and his preliminary training was at Bradfield Park where he was selected for pilot training and posted to the Flight Training School at Benalla, where he flew Tiger Moths, then to Mallala, where he flew Avro Ansons. In January 1944, he embarked on the New Amsterdam, destination Greenock, Scotland, before being dispatched to Brighton, England.

Several postings followed, where Edward trained on Tiger Moths and Airspeed Oxfords and later, Wellington bombers

when he acquired his crew. Together, they were posted to Lincolnshire, where they converted to Lancaster bombers. Training comprised long, cross country flights by day or night distributing materials and conducting practice bombings. Although disappointed in some ways that he was not involved in bombing raids by the end of the war, he was also very grateful, as the death toll at Bomber Command had been so great.

Following the war, he returned to Australia and began studying Medicine at Mildura and the University of Melbourne under the Commonwealth Repatriation Training Scheme, graduating in 1952. He became a GP first in Traralgon, marrying Barbara Butterfield in 1956. They had two children before sailing to England, where Edward obtained Fellowships of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Edinburgh and England. They had two more children there.

In 1966, the family moved back to Australia and settled in Canberra, where Edward practiced as a general surgeon. He then joined the RAAF Reserve as a senior surgical specialist, working at Fairbairn and deploying as a locum Surgeon to the RAAF Hospital in Butterworth. He was also involved in medevac flights from Vung Tau during the Vietnam War. Edward retired from the RAAF Reserve in 1980 and has enjoyed Canberra ever since, holding his Commercial Pilot Licence until 1990.

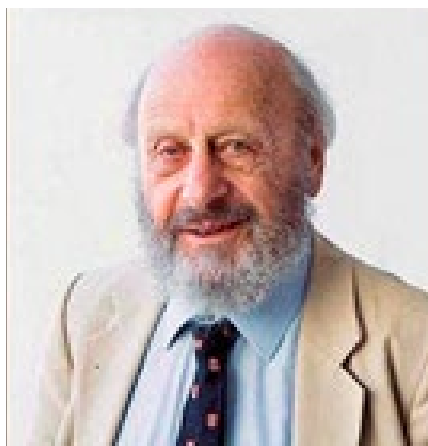
In Australian War Memorial circles, where he worked tirelessly as a volunteer and guide, he was known as Ted, as he felt that Edward was more appropriate for a nonagenarian! He loved to help people who were interested in finding details of a family member's service and assisted with the indexing of the First World War nominal roll. He also compiled and published an index for the late Alan Storr's 38 volumes of Second World War RAAF Fatalities and had been working on the nominal and awards registers of the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation.

Edward was a charming and talented man who played down his successes and extraordinary experiences and will be greatly missed. He is survived by his children Andrea, Bruce, Lloyd and Clare and their families.



## Prof Geoffrey Colin Harcourt AC (OW1949)

27/06/1931 - 07/12/2021



Geoff Harcourt, one of Australia's greatest economists and hugely influential in both economics and society, was born in Hawthorn in 1931, the son of Ken and Marjorie Harcourt. He and his twin brother John (OW1948) were educated at Malvern Church of England Grammar School and Wesley College, where Geoff excelled at cricket, football and athletics and then, after a third year of Matric, the University of Melbourne where he attended Queen's College. The brothers had different interests but were always close, and shared time with their Wesley cousins Dick Harcourt (OW1948) (dec.) and Graeme Sloman (OW1944).

Geoff really wanted to be a vet, keeping pigeons, bantams and fowls in pens in the backyard, but when the necessary subjects fell out of reach, he turned to commerce, which proved to be a choice that has impacted us all.

Following an Economics degree at the University of Melbourne, and two weeks after marrying his wife Joan at Queen's College, he moved to the UK where he completed a PhD at the University of Cambridge. In 1958 he returned and began lecturing at the University of Adelaide, later becoming Emeritus Professor and Chair of Economics. He became Reader in Economics at Cambridge and in 1982 was appointed Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge where he was twice its President.

Influential to Geoff's direction in economics was arriving at Kings College, Cambridge in 1955, which was the college of the most famous economist of the 20th century, John Maynard Keynes, responsible for setting up the post-WWII economic system which lasted for almost thirty years. Although Keynes had died shortly after the war, his ideas were nurtured by his disciples famously known as the 'Keynes Circle' who all went on to become global leaders in the field. These were Geoff's mentors and colleagues.

Following the death of his mother in 1981 and with his father's blessing, Geoff made the official move to Cambridge and remained there until 2010 when he returned to settle in Randwick, NSW and was appointed Honorary Professor in Economics at the University of NSW. In that year he also celebrated 55 years of marriage!

Geoff always remained connected to the OWCA. He made it back for his 60-Year reunion and in 2016, he enjoyed attending the Sesquicentenary Dinner in Sydney. He continued to go to the university every day until recent ill-health prevented him.

The long list of prestigious honours and recognition from within Australia, the UK, USA and Europe included his 1994 Order of Australia AO for service to economic

theory and to the history of economic thought, and in 2018, an AC for eminent service to higher education as an academic economist and author, particularly in the fields of Post-Keynesian economics, capital theory and economic thought.

Geoff authored or co-authored more than 30 books and 400 articles over his lifetime and was the subject of an Archibald portrait submission by artist Lewis Miller in 2019. He was kind and inclusive, a sought-after guest speaker, an advocate of Human Rights and a champion of Australia's First Nations people. He was active in challenging the Vietnam War and was a gifted thinker.

In 2013 he completed what in effect was the culmination of his life's work – The Oxford Handbook of Post-Keynesian Economics, published in two volumes and co-edited with Peter Kriesler, UNSW, who had been his PhD student in Cambridge. As recently as 2016 he was one of the authors of four volumes of Selected Essays by Post-Keynesians from Down Under.

Geoff played cricket until he was 68, ran three miles every day for fifty years, played squash most days for at least twenty years, and took up soccer when he was 40. He cited his greatest honour ever as being a life member of the Blacks, the University of Adelaide Australian Rules Club, for whom he played over 200 games spread over twenty years. He also played Aussie Rules until he was 47.

Geoff is survived by his wife of 66 years, Joan, his daughters Wendy and Rebecca and sons Robert and Tim, their families, and his twin brother John (OW1948). His humour, warmth and love for his family will be sadly missed by us all.

**Contributed by John Harcourt OAM (OW1948)**



## John Francis Ley (OW1955)

19/12/1938 - 19/09/2021

John Ley, lawyer, policy consultant and advisor, was an extraordinary man. He contributed much to the creation of a lasting Constitution for Papua New Guinea and assisted in its move to Independence, demonstrating and strengthening the ties between Australia and the Pacific. He sadly passed away after a long battle with illness that led to a lack of mobility.

Throughout this he remained extremely enthusiastic and his brilliant mind was always exploring interests in law, politics, climate change, sport, the arts and Indigenous affairs. He was particularly impressed by the Yiramalay Wesley Studio School.

John was born in Melbourne, the son of Lionel (OW1927) (dec.), and entered Wesley in 1950, sharing adjacent desks with Lachlan Lewis (OW1955) one of his lifelong friends. John's brother Robert (OW1964) followed. Their uncle was Norman Ley (OW1932) (dec.), Fellow of the OWCA, its former President and remarkably long-serving Honorary Secretary of 25 years, so John was well versed in and enjoyed Wesley's culture and what it offered him. Like many of his generation, the concepts of Methodism and social justice remained high on the agenda, along with friendship.

John matriculated in 1955 and went on to study Law at the University of Melbourne, attaining an LL.B. and being admitted to the Victorian Bar in 1961. Later, in 1970, he attained an LL.M. from the University of



John Ley (OW1955) at the 2019 OWCA Dinner in Canberra, surrounded by (L-R) Margaret Lewis, then Principal Helen Drennen and then Curator of Collections, Kenneth Park

London, before travelling to Africa to meet with academics and political leaders to discuss aspects of the decolonisation process in Ghana, Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda.

John's thoughtful legal and caring mind enabled a lifetime of fascinating work. He worked for good and supported good causes. Following initial work in Melbourne firms, he moved to Papua New Guinea in the 1960s and experienced some remarkably remote travel in small planes across jungles on circuit work and in consultation with the people of New Guinea. In addition, he was public defence counsel in their Supreme Court cases. He was Deputy Public Solicitor in Rabaul and at times, acted as Public Solicitor in Port Moresby. He was later appointed Legal Counsel to the Speaker and Private Members of the Papua New Guinea House of Assembly and Legal Officer of the Constitutional Planning Committee which prepared recommendations for Papua New Guinea's independence.

From 1976 to 1995, John worked as Principal Legal Officer and then as Senior Assistant Secretary in the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in Canberra. He dealt with a range of areas of law and legal policy including legal aid, constitutional review, criminal law, administrative law, occupational health and safety law, environmental law, and air and road transport law. In the 1980s, he was also invited to assist in the review of Papua's Constitution.

Even in retirement, John continued to work as a legal policy consultant and there was certainly no stopping his determination to remain in contact with people over a range of issues. Despite his illness, he really enjoyed attending the regular OWCA Dinners in Canberra.

Despite John's immense achievements, experience and acute mind, he was an easy person to get to know. Friendships formed effortlessly as he simply cared about and had a profound interest in others, sharing his wisdom and experiences easily, but always listening and remembering with warmth and care; a great example to others.

John died at 82 years of age having made a real difference to people's lives. He was a passionate family man. His beloved wife, Julie, sadly passed away in 2000, but they are survived by their loving children Karen, Fiona and Stephen and their three grandchildren.



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## Ronald John Parker OAM (Former staff)

24/05/1923 - 19/12/2021

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In a time before CFOs, Ron was appointed Bursar of Wesley College and steadfastly and reliably oversaw the school's finances. He balanced budgets, arranged support for families in need, oversaw a busy time in capital works with the introduction of co-education and new facilities, and was a consummate professional. Ron's calm and thoughtful manner allowed time for excellent communication with staff, parents and students and he was a community man whose door was always open.

A Camberwell Grammarian graduating in 1939, Ron and his wife Barbara, sadly now also deceased, arrived at Wesley in 1973. Ron had been Camberwell Grammar School's first Bursar from 1959 and a Council Member there.

In modern terms he could be described as a 'can do' man, a war veteran and Justice of the Peace, who was positive about projects, change and the community, especially when it related to delivering the best outcome for students. He never lost sight of the reason the business end of a school existed. In that sense he was a recognisable figure to many, both at St Kilda Road and Glen Waverley, the two campuses of the day.

Not only did he manage the excellent outcomes we enjoy today, following the vision and period of immense change during the years of Principal David Prest, he dealt with the myriad of day-to-day needs and requests from every level of the community. To a fault, he gave freely of his time to the various committees to make it all happen and worked tirelessly. He was proud of his achievements at Wesley and loved being part of the school. He left Wesley in 1987, the year that the first coeducational cohort graduated, after 15 years of excellent service.

Ron was a sportsman with diverse practical interests who contributed in many ways to community. His voluntary work spanned almost 50 years and at Wesley, we remember him as an active member of Rotary, Lord Somers Camp and Powerhouse.

He played cricket for Collingwood, where he later went on to hold committee and executive roles, played hockey for Powerhouse and also enjoyed tennis. Ron was recognised with the Order of Australia OAM for his services to the community through a range of volunteer roles including as counsellor and support worker at the Austin Hospital, as a guide and education officer at the Supreme Court, as zone leader for Neighbourhood Watch, as tour guide at the MCG, Melbourne Museum and Federation Square, as well as greeter in the booth in the Bourke Street Mall outside David Jones. He was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000. Other commitments included the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the World Ship Society and the Maritime Heritage Association.

Not surprisingly, Ron managed to keep most of his volunteering going up until COVID hit and was still driving at 96, only to stop when Toyota recalled his car due to faulty air bags.

Ron passed away in December at the age of 98 and is survived by his three children, Judy, David and Susie, of whom he was so proud, his six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.





## Dr Brian Willoughby Walklate OAM (OW1941)

19/10/1925 - 11/09/2021

The son of Rev. Cyril and Irene Walklate (Cyril was a Wesleyan Minister of long standing and friend of Arthur Adamson), Brian matriculated from Wesley in 1941 at

the age of 16, before being accepted into Medicine at the University of Melbourne in 1942 (still aged 16!) to commence his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery.

Failing his first year ('I passed first year billiards!' he would say), Brian spent the war years as a medical orderly in the Navy and by war's end was readmitted to his medical studies. Graduating in 1952, the then 27-year-old Dr Brian Walklate would go on to serve as the local GP for the east Wimmera community of Charlton and its surrounds from 1953 until his retirement in 2010 at the age of 85.

With a career spanning 57 years providing 24/7 service to his local community, Brian was a much-respected stalwart and advocate for his community. Surgery and obstetrics were Brian's special areas of interest and the much-needed skills of the 'bush doctor' serving a rural community. Through the period of his life's work, it has been estimated he was involved with over 2000 neonatal deliveries. Whilst running his small medical practice, often as the sole doctor for the town, Brian would have many student doctors placed with him as he assisted them on their pathway into medicine.

Brian participated in the many facets of rural town life and was looked upon as a community leader, involved in many local projects. He would serve on various local committees including as President of the Charlton Bush Nursing Hospital, eventually becoming a Life Governor. A foundation member of the Charlton Rotary Club, Brian was an active Rotarian, and both he and wife Mary were acknowledged for their contribution with a Paul Harris Fellowship in 1988.

In 1994, the town honoured him as its Citizen of the Year. In 2006, Brian was awarded an OAM for his dedication to the community in various capacities, and in 2014, at the age of 89, Brian again stepped up to serve the Rotary Club as its President.

With Mary, his wife of 71 years, they enjoyed a long and happy marriage raising their four children - Sue, Rick (OW1972), Jan and Phil (OW1979). Aged 95, Brian passed away on 11 September 2021 in Charlton. His was a life spent in service to others.

**Contributed by Philip Walklate (OW1979)**



**Trooper Victor Pomroy (OW1963)**  
killed in action Vietnam 17 Feb 1967

HELP US WRITE OUR HISTORY

## A RECORD OF OW SERVICE POST-WWII

Former students of Wesley have contributed greatly in so many fields – commerce, science, public service and the arts. Military service from Boer Wars through to recent participation including Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and peacekeeping duties, has seen Collegians at the forefront of these engagements.

The College is keen to hear from those or their families who have served post-WWII or who are still serving so that their contributions can be recorded.

We would like to hear, record and preserve the service history of post-WWII service personnel. It is both their history and part of the Wesley history.

Please contact  
**Leigh Treyvaud (OW1963)** at  
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**Andrew Westacott (OW1982)**

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