

Lion

THE WESLEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

The Grand Fancy Bazaar
An untold Wesley story

A beautiful win
Table Tennis Premiers 2026

Ivor Warne-Smith (OW1912)
Champion of the greater game



160 years of Wesley College

Honouring the past. Inspiring the future.



WESLEY COLLEGE

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA - SINCE 1866

Contents

Editorial	2
Principal's lines	3
160 years of Wesley College	4
The Grand Fancy Bazaar	8
A Beautiful Win	10
Archives	11
Campus snapshots	12
Foundation	20
OWCA	30

Contributors

Publications Manager: Cathryn Sayers
Editor: Paul Munn
Features writer: Paul Munn
OWCA Editor: Lucy Gilfillan (OW1995)
Design and layout: www.solid.work

College correspondents

Jacinta Janssens: Elsternwick Campus
Kylie Chrapot: Glen Waverley Campus
Paul Munn: St Kilda Road Campus
Tara Clark: Clunes
Kate Hogarth: Outdoor Education

Front cover image:

2026 Founders' Day Gala – Celebrating 160 years of Wesley College

Old Wesley Collegians' Association

T + 61 3 8102 6750
E owca@wesleycollege.edu.au

Wesley College Foundation

T + 61 3 8102 6385
E foundation@wesleycollege.edu.au

Admissions

T + 61 3 8102 6508
E admissions@wesleycollege.edu.au

Elsternwick

5 Gladstone Parade Elsternwick VIC 3185
elsternwick@wesleycollege.edu.au
Telephone: + 61 3 8102 6888

Glen Waverley

620 High Street Road Glen Waverley VIC 3150
gw@wesleycollege.edu.au

St Kilda Road

577 St Kilda Road Melbourne VIC 3004
stkildaroad@wesleycollege.edu.au

Editorial

How do we tell the full story of our beloved 160-year-old school within the covers of a single edition of *Lion*? We can't possibly hope to, of course.

But like readers thumbing through a well-loved book, we can pause in the midst of some memorable chapters, and glimpse the people, ideas and moments that have shaped our story across 160 years.

In our feature story on page 4, we plot the remarkable growth of our school, from the two boys who attended on the first day of 11 January 1866 – Freddie Binks and Jonah Dolphin – to the 3,400 girls and boys attending Wesley today. And we spend some time in the retelling of the most consequential chapter in our College's history: the gradual introduction of coeducation from 1978 onwards by Principal David Prest.

In her feature article on page 8, our chaplain at the St Kilda Road Campus, Pastor Kaylea Fearn, rewrites the Wesley founding story with fresh eyes. Her research reveals the fascinating story of 'The Grand Fancy Bazaar', a radically modern fundraising event for the times, proposed by Mrs Elizabeth Draper and Mrs Anne Powell. Together with a large group of Methodist women, they stepped in to re-energise the stalled campaign to help secure the College's future. As Kaylea notes, 'These women did not simply support our founders – they were our founders.'

There's a heart-breaking postscript to this particular chapter of our story. In 1865, while the school was finally being built, Daniel and Elizabeth Draper travelled to England to advance Wesley's interests in Methodist and educational circles, and help recruit its first headmaster, James Corrigan. In a tragic coincidence, on the return voyage to Melbourne, the Drapers perished in the sinking of the SS *London* in the Bay of Biscay on 11 January 1866 – the very day the College opened its doors.

As the ship foundered in a raging storm, the Drapers are said to have led passengers in prayer, offering comfort amid the chaos. Also lost were the books, materials and furniture they had acquired in England for the new College. They never saw the school they helped create begin its journey.

The ideals that inspired Wesley's founders, however, did reach their destination. Their belief in whole-person education, moral purpose, intellectual ambition and social contribution remains at the core of our Wesley story today.

Likewise, we can look back to our founders to voice our hopes for the next chapters in our story. Our idealistic and eloquent first school president, the Reverend James Waugh, saw the College as a lasting beacon of enlightenment, faith and public good. His literal vision for the school was thus: 'May our College be like an angel standing in the sun, sending forth streams of light, for many a year throughout this land.'

It's a sweet image. Long may our angel shine.

Paul Munn, Lion Editor and Features Writer



Like us
@WesleyCollegeMelbourne



Follow us
@Wesley_College



Follow us
@wesleycollege_melbourne

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

To find further information and news about Wesley College, visit our website at wesleycollege.edu.au



GO DIGITAL
RECEIVE LION ONLINE

In an effort to reduce our footprint through the production and distribution of the paper copy of *Lion* Magazine, we're offering readers the option to 'go digital'.

Manage your subscription by scanning the QR code

As a subscriber of the print edition, you will continue to receive *Lion* magazine in the mail unless you choose to receive the digital edition.

Principal's lines



Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) celebrates 160 years of Wesley College at the 2026 Founders' Day Gala

Founded in 1866, Wesley College turned 160 years old this year. It is worth pointing out that this is a long time ago.

The founders of the College were motivated by their faith, and by the sincere belief that education had the power to transform lives. They were Methodists and would have once been known as dissenters or non-conformists. This Methodist tradition is still within the DNA of the College. Each of the founders brought great gifts to the school.

Walter Powell made a fortune selling iron ware – pots, pans, shovels – to the miners during the Gold Rush of the 1850s that transformed Melbourne. He chose to use this fortune to endow two institutions of Melbourne that endure to this day. Both were named for John Wesley. The Wesley Methodist Church (now Uniting Church) in Lonsdale Street was the first. In a back room of this church, the idea of Wesley College was conceived.

If Walter Powell sparked the funding, Reverend Daniel Draper drove the building. Starting life as a carpenter, he entered the Ministry of the Methodist Church, moved to Australia and built churches wherever he was. He helped drive the fundraising and then the building of the College.

Our notable third founder is Reverend James Waugh, the first President of the College and the man who helped shepherd Wesley College during its uncertain first few decades.

They were joined in their endeavours by countless other women and men who devoted their time, their treasure and their endeavour to the establishment of Wesley College.

It is right and proper, therefore, that the College pause for a moment to express gratitude for the College that is. Over the past 160 years, there have been many triumphs and some tragedies. The College has succeeded in fulfilling the dreams of its founders and, at times, has failed. Schools are the most human of institutions, and attendant to that are human successes and failings.

Needless to say, the founders of Wesley College would not recognise the school it has become. Over such a long span of time, institutions must adapt or run the risk of disappearance. If the founders could see what they had wrought, I have no doubt that a coeducational school of some 3,400 students would astound them.

One of the things that would perhaps raise an impressive eyebrow would be the manner in which Founders' Day is celebrated. It is my privilege as Principal to have attended all the celebrations this year. They have ranged from the raucous (those of you at the Founders' Day Gala will know exactly what I mean) to the slightly surreal. I think particularly of the Founders' Day assembly at the Glen Waverley Campus, where the entire official party were impersonated by mini versions of themselves. I suppose you had to be there!

I have also attended celebrations in New York City and London, which were filled with Old Wesley Collegians, past parents and future parents. Some of the above were travelling and some have made a life far from Melbourne but remain connected. I have, once again, been reminded of the importance, and extent, of community.

This brought to mind the words to the *Founders' Day Song*, sadly not sung all that often nowadays, but once sung traditionally on Founders' Day:

*When grey North waters quiver,
And sun beats fiercely down,*

*You'll find Collegians working
in almost every town*

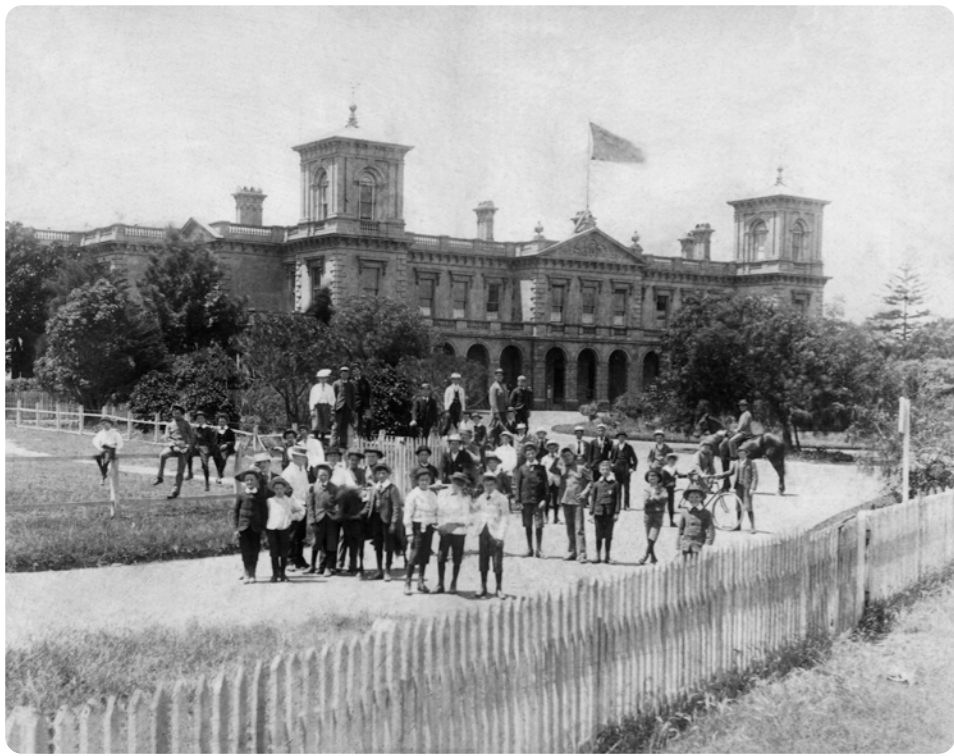
*New York, Canton or 'Frisco,
No matter where you roam –*

*You'll meet Old Wesley students,
Ten thousand miles from home.*

That was written 119 years ago, by L A Adamson and a student, Burnett Gray (OW1902). Perhaps there are some things that never change.

Nick Evans (OW1985)





160 years of Wesley College

Honouring the past. Inspiring the future.



Let's imagine Wesley College in 1866. The newly completed bluestone and brick school building stands isolated in 10 acres of countryside. St Kilda Road is a gravelled roadway. Only two boys attend school on the first day. The inaugural headmaster, Dr James Corrigan, arrives by ship five weeks late because of family illness. It's a shaky start.

But the fledgling school has high ambitions to deliver a prestigious, comprehensive education modelled on the great English public schools.

The Gothic Revival building is suitably grand. Corrigan is an exceptionally gifted Methodist educator imported from Ireland. Despite the cost, the two credentialled resident masters are soon joined by six 'visiting masters', teaching a broad curriculum – from the requisite Latin and Greek to natural science, to the 'accomplishments' – music, drawing and painting. By year's end, 100 boys are

enrolled in the school, and by the end of his tenure in 1870, the charismatic headmaster has grown the roll to 207 students, 62 of them boarders.

Wesley College keeps growing. From 1902 to 1932, our longest-serving headmaster, L A Adamson, fashions the College into one of Australia's leading schools. The Nicholas brothers' grand philanthropy of the 1930s sees a major rebuild of the school, including the construction and dedication of the chapel. World War II arrives and the army takes over the school, the teachers and students relocating to Scotch College. In the 1960s, a sprawling apple orchard gets built on, becoming our Glen Waverley Campus.

Momentously, in the late 1970s, Principal David Prest introduces coeducation. Boarding at Wesley ends in 1980. Cato College becomes Elsternwick Campus in 1989, and the Class of 1990, our first coeducation cohort, graduates the following year. We establish a residential campus in the regional town of Clunes in 2000. In partnership with the Bunuba people, Principal Dr Helen Drennen AM launches the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio

School in the Kimberley in 2010, and in 2016, she reintroduces boarding to Wesley with the Learning in Residence program at the Glen Waverley Campus.

We've come a long way. 3,400 students, both girls and boys, a staff numbering in the hundreds, three metropolitan campuses, a regional campus, and three Outdoor Education sites dotted around Victoria.

One wonders what Headmaster Corrigan would have made of all this.

'Why are there girls here? That would probably have been his first response,' wryly offers our 17th and current principal, Nick Evans (OW1985). 'He would also wonder what has happened to Methodism. But once he dug deeper, he would find that the aspirations he held, expressed differently to be sure, are still at the forefront of Wesley College.'

It's an astute point. Progressive educational reformer that he was, Corrigan was ahead of his time in believing that education should develop the whole child, rather than focus narrowly on examinations or rote learning.

On Speech Day in 1866, he declared: 'We aim steadily at training into healthy development the whole nature of the pupil – physical, intellectual and moral.'

It's remarkably modern in tone, and it resonates naturally with our steadfast belief that 'education can transform lives, can give meaning to young people, and can shape young people to be meaningful contributors to society,' as Principal Evans puts it.

The move to coeducation has easily been the single most consequential change in our school's culture across its 160-year history. Prest's decision to introduce it was grounded in a progressive belief in equality and his conviction that schools should prepare students for the world as it is, and not in isolation from half the population, as tradition once defined it.

The move demonstrated the confidence the College had to redefine itself; to adapt to changing social values while remaining true to its broader educational mission, first articulated by Corrigan all those years ago.

Across a decade, an entirely different energy evolved in the College. The first intake of girls to Junior School occurred in 1978; in the early 80s, the staff was still heavily male-dominated, but things were about to change rapidly...

Geography teacher Sara Liversidge is one of the few teachers left who taught single-sex boys' classes, before girls moved up the school.

'I chose to send my daughter to Wesley, and she's a better woman for it,' says Sara.

'When I started in 1985, there were 13 new staff and 11 of those people were women,' she says. 'David Prest was very keen to increase the presence of female teachers on the campus – especially young ones, to act as role models for our girls. This first group of female staff really supported each other.'

The rest, as they say, is history. 'I chose to send my daughter to Wesley, and she's a better woman for it,' says Sara.

When we look at where we are now in 2026, we can confidently say we're also the better school for it.

This does, of course, suggest something about our school that goes beyond the example of coeducation. Again and again across our 160-year history, the College has shown a readiness to look beyond the immediate horizon and imagine what its students might need in a world not yet fully formed.

In a striking parallel, we share our founding year of 1866 with another institution – The Royal Aeronautical Society. Formed in Britain decades before powered flight was achieved, it was established not because flight existed, but because people dared to believe it could.

Wesley College, in the spirit of our 160-year-old motto *Sapere Aude – Dare to be Wise*, has likewise always dared to view the wider horizon, and to live into the future with a firm belief in the transformative effect of a whole education.





Brian Nankervis (OW1973)
Performer. Writer.
Radio host. Producer.
Rockwiz. ABC Radio.
Hey Hey It's Saturday.



Emma Carney (OW1989)
Multiple World Champion.
Triathlete. Sport Australia &
World Triathlon Hall of Fame.



Cosentino (OW2000)
Magician. Illusionist.
Escapologist.
International Magician
of the Year 2013.



Poppy King (OW1989)
Entrepreneur.
Founder – global lipstick
brands. 1995 Young Australian
of the Year.



**Sir Robert Menzies
(OW1912)***
Politician.
Longest serving Australian
Prime Minister.



Prof. Meng Law (OW1985)
Doctor. Professor. Researcher.
AI. Neuroimaging.
Spaceflight Medicine.



Tanya Cross (OW1993)
Lawyer. Commercial Litigator
– state and federal courts.



Matt Rockman (OW1985)
Investor. Tech entrepreneur.
Co-founder of online
business, SEEK.



Harold Holt (OW1920)*
Politician.
Australia's 17th Prime Minister.



Prof. Alicia Spittle (OW1994)
Physiotherapy. Newborn
Medicine. Researcher –
preterm birth, cerebral palsy,
neurodevelopmental
impairments.



Dr Amy Cohn (OW1993)
Ophthalmologist.
Expert – Diseases of the retina.



Lachy Hulme (OW1988)
Actor.
Offspring. Romper Stomper.
Howzat! Kerry Packer's War.



Elle Steele (OW2001)
Paralympian. Speaker.
Founder of *The Good
Business Project*.



**The Hon. Peter Nixon AO
(OW1946)**
Politician. Broadcaster.
AFL Commissioner. Farmer.
Federal Member – Gippsland



Sharelle McMahon (OW1995)
World Champion Netballer.
Commonwealth Games Gold
Medallist. Sport Australia Hall
of Fame.



Jane Harber (OW2002)
Actor. Offspring. *The Moody's*.
The Family Next Door.



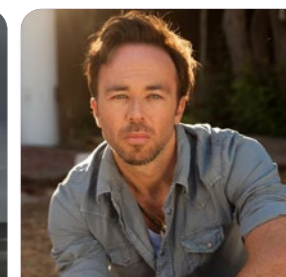
Michael Klim OAM (OW1994)
Olympic Gold Medallist.
Author. Businessman.
Advocate for neurological
disease awareness.



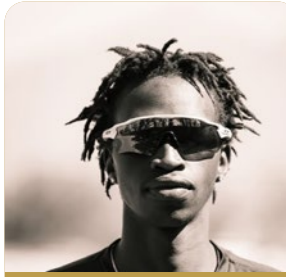
Jack Howard (OW1976)
Musician. Teacher.
Trumpet player
– Hunters & Collectors.



Carolyn Sanders (OW1996)
Engineer.
Renewable energy
transformation leader.



Kick Gurry (OW1994)
Actor.
Looking for Alibrandi.
Edge of Tomorrow. *Speed Racer*.




Kang Nyoak (OW2018)
Athlete. Master's student.
Australian 1500m and
5000m runner.



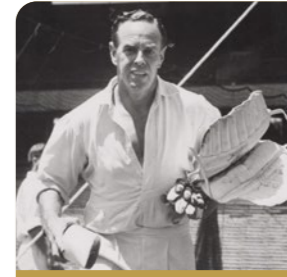
Lauren Phillips (OW2004)
Radio and TV presenter.
Nova 100, Channel 9.

160 years of courage, character and achievement

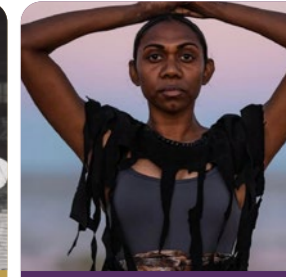
These are just some of the remarkable men and women who have walked through Wesley's gates. Leaders, creators, pioneers and innovators – shaped by the same values and *Dare to be Wise* spirit of our founders. Scan the QR code to meet more of them.



* Denotes year of commencement at Wesley College



Ian Johnson CBE (OW1936)*
Cricketer. Writer.
Olympic commentator.
Australian cricket team captain.



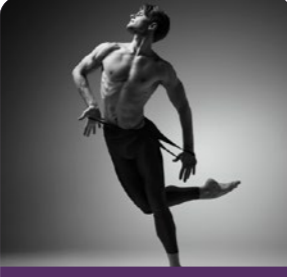
Kahlia Rogers (OW2016)
Wangkatjungka woman.
International Model.
Indigenous Mentor.



Alia Papageorgiou (OW1994)
Journalist. Artistic Director.
Former press officer
– EU Delegation to Australia



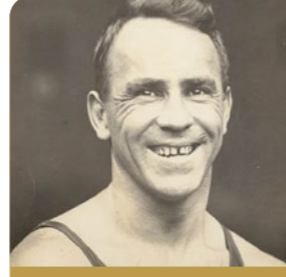
John Denton (OW1962)
Architect. Academic.
Founder – Denton Corker
Marshall.



**Chris Rodgers-Wilson
(OW2005)**
Former Senior Artist
– Australian Ballet.
Future psychologist.



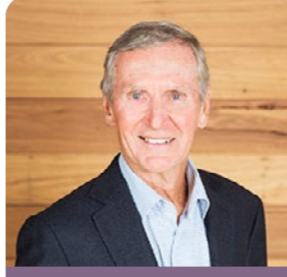
Lucy Thomas OAM (OW2000)
Rosie Thomas OAM (OW2003)
Social Impact Leaders.
Advocates. Co-founders
– PROJECT ROCKIT.



**Sir Frank Beaurepaire
(OW1909)***
Olympian. Businessman.
Politician.
Lord Mayor, Melbourne.
Founder – Beaurepaires tyres.



Alena Landers (OW2020)
Proud Indigenous woman.
Award-winning artist.



**Prof. Field Rickards
(OW1966)**
Hearing scientist.
Audiologist. Academic.
Education transformer.



Nick Stone (OW1999)
Entrepreneur. Former AFL
player. Founder Bluestone
Lane. Co-founder
Old Mates NYC.



Waleed Aly (OW1996)
Journalist.
Broadcaster. Academic.
Gold Logie winner.



Katie McTier (OW1992)
Olympian. World Champion.
Commonwealth Games
Champion. Real Estate Agent.



Jesse Martin OAM (OW1999)
Sailor. Speaker. Author.
Filmmaker. Youngest person
to circumnavigate the
globe solo.



Audrey Mims (OW2018)
Advocate. Storyteller.
Solicitor. Past chair
– The STOP Campaign.



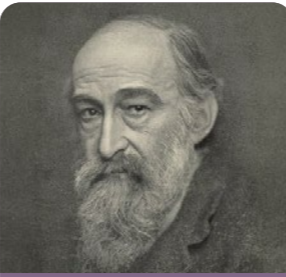
**Sir John Ramsay CBD FRACS
(OW1885)***
Surgeon. Cricketer.
Businessman. Leader in heart
resuscitation by massage.



Toby Greene (OW2011)
AFL Player. Captain, Greater
Western Sydney.
Three-time All-Australian,
2023 All-Australian Captain.



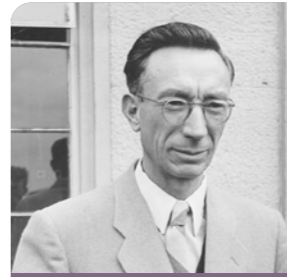
**Assoc. Prof. Rebecca Burgell
(OW1995)**
Gastroenterologist.
Specialist – Alfred Hospital
and Monash University.



Samuel Alexander (OW1871)*
Philosopher. Academic.
Distinguished Scholar.



**Emma-Jane Newton
(OW1995)**
Head of Investment Banking,
Deutsche Bank, Australia.
Chair, Sydney Dance
Company.



Joseph Pawsey (OW1925)*
Scientist. Radiophysicist.
Astronomer.
Expert in solar radio
emissions, sunspots and
galaxy structure.



Greg Swann (OW1980)
AFL Sports Administrator.
Former CEO – Carlton,
Collingwood and Brisbane
AFL Clubs.



Hoang Pham (OW2002)
Australian concert pianist.
ABC's Young Performers
Award.

The Grand Fancy Bazaar

An untold Wesley story

Without the vision, courage and tenacity of a group of remarkable women, Wesley College may never have opened its doors. Kaylea Fearn shares the untold story of the fundraising event that saved the day, and the women who made it happen.

Walter Powell. Daniel Draper. James Waugh. James Corrigan. The names of our College founders have taken on an almost folkloric quality, retold through generations, as faithful Methodist men who dared to dream of a Wesleyan school of the highest calibre for the boys of Victoria's burgeoning colony.

But behind the names we know, there is another story – one that has waited 160 years to be told.

What of the faithful Methodist women? Surely the mothers, aunts and grandmothers of those Methodist boys were just as hungry to see them receive the transformative gift of a classical education?

When the Wesleyan Grammar School Committee was first formed, donations towards the ambitious project streamed in. But by 1857, the generosity of the Methodist congregation was exhausted, and it became clear that investments would need to be sought through other means to convert the concept to reality.

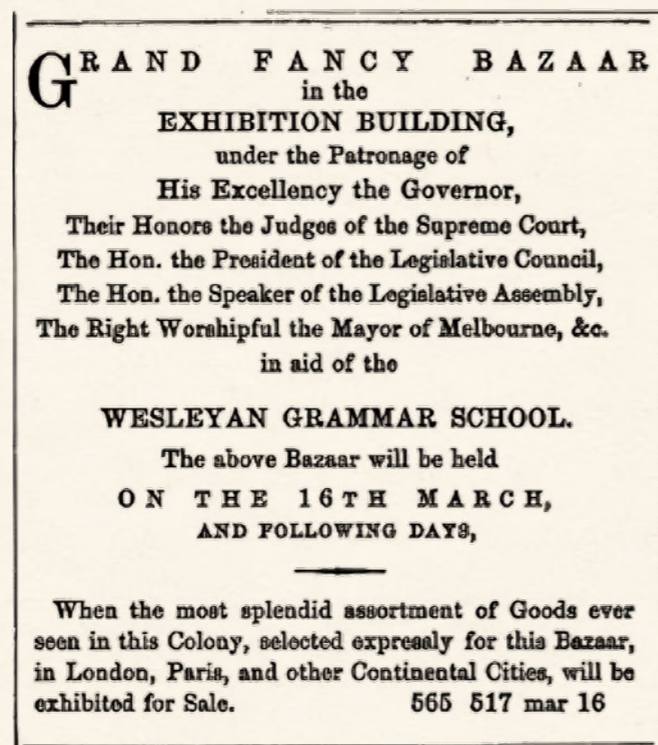
Failure to secure funds became a real concern. Reverend Draper wrote despairingly to Powell to say that some benefactors began to question whether selling shares to the College could be the solution. Both men concurred that the College must always operate as not-for-profit, and shut the idea down at once.

There was another potential solution that was pitched to them by an unlikely pair: their wives. Mrs Elizabeth Draper and Mrs Anne Powell proposed a radically modern event. The women of the Wesleyan Methodist Church would run a Grand Fancy Bazaar to deliver the cash injection the Grammar School project sorely needed.

Large-scale 'fancy bazaars' were a popular 19th-century fundraising method, combining market stalls, exhibitions, entertainment and social gatherings over several days. They were often elaborate affairs, featuring decorated booths, performances, raffles and the sale of handmade goods, clothing, artwork and produce.

The Bazaar would be hosted in the original Exhibition Building on William Street. Modelled on the opulent Crystal Palace in London, the Exhibition Building was the perfect venue to commercialise the beauty of the hand-crafted items the women had previously only showcased within their own homes.

Their husbands were not immediately convinced. Victorian propriety had clear expectations of middle- and upper-class women. They were welcome to be supportive wives, devoted mothers and active in Christian charity – the Methodist ladies were in fact well known for their hands-on ministry in the laneways behind the facades of 'Marvellous Melbourne'. But running a large-scale philanthropic event in the commercial sector? That was another matter entirely.



An advert for the Grand Fancy Bazaar appeared in *The Age*



Mrs Elizabeth Draper



Mrs Sarah Hadley



Melbourne Exhibition Building on William Street

The committee of men reluctantly agreed, but made it clear such an event was unlikely to be repeated. While Elizabeth Draper and her team got to work on crafting items to sell, Anne and Walter Powell set off on a buyer's trip to Europe to source highly coveted items to ship back to Melbourne in time for the Bazaar the following year.

Heavily pregnant for most of the trip, Anne gave birth to a son while they were in England. She may have imagined that her tiny boy would one day attend the Wesleyan school the Powells were so dedicated to financing, but sadly it was not to be. Their son died of cholera while they were sourcing goods in France. Anne returned to Melbourne and helped run the Bazaar anyway. If that is not courage, it is hard to know what is.

Advertised in *The Argus* as an event 'intended to surpass any affair of the kind which had preceded it, and to be singularly rich in English, French and German fancy goods,' the ten-day Bazaar opened in March 1858 with an ambitious profit goal of £1,500 – a sum that would match Walter Powell's original donation to the College fund. The Governor attended. High-profile parliamentarians followed. Sixty female congregants had surveyed the curated collection in the weeks prior; 32 publicly committed to managing stalls.

When the glass doors of the Exhibition Building finally closed, the Grand Fancy Bazaar had raised £1,925 – the equivalent of over \$200,000 today. It had exceeded its goal by nearly a third. Wesley College would become a reality.

In its glowing review – 'unquestionably the best bazaar that has been for some time' – *The Argus* article named many of the women who had made it happen. Alongside the familiar names of Mrs Draper and Mrs Powell were Mrs Hadley, Mrs Snowden, Mrs Ellis, Mrs Byers, Mrs Wymond, Mrs Guthridge, Mrs Pascoe and Miss Treloar.

Wesley's motto – *Dare to be Wise*, has guided our community for generations. We speak often of courage – the courage to lead, to question, to act. We speak of wisdom – the wisdom to see beyond convention, to do what is right even when it is difficult. These are not abstract ideals. They have always been lived by real people, in real moments of sacrifice and daring.

Mrs Draper, Mrs Powell and the women who stood alongside them did not wait for permission to shape the future of this College. Faced with a dream that was faltering, they stepped forward. They organised, they created, they fundraised, and in doing so, they secured the school's future. They did it with courage, with wisdom, and with a quiet determination that history has left unacknowledged for far too long.

In Wesley's 160th year, we reclaim their place in our story. These women did not simply support our founders – they were our founders. And everything Wesley stands for today, they embodied first.

Pastor Kaylea Fearn is College Chaplain at our St Kilda Road Campus

It is time to say their names...

THE WOMEN BEHIND THE BAZAAR

- Mrs Draper
- Mrs Powell
- Mrs Hadley
- Mrs Snowden
- Mrs Ellis
- Mrs Byers
- Mrs Wymond
- Mrs Guthridge
- Mrs Pascoe
- Miss Treloar

A beautiful win: Wesley Table Tennis Premiers 2026



Strength in family: brothers Ben and Seb (back row), twins Michael and Nelson flank Victoria (middle row), Kavyaa and Victoria's sister Serena (front row)



Our championship winning team, twins Michael and Nelson in action

Our only co-ed, multi-year level College First team achieved a remarkable win this year. Led by team captain Victoria, they finally toppled their long-reigning rivals in an intense final round of the APS Table Tennis competition. Here we celebrate a unique Wesley team's special moment.

It's fifth set in the doubles match, the last game in the APS Table Tennis finals, and everything rests on this. Watching on, Victoria and her teammates hold their breath as vice-captain Nelson and twin brother Michael are facing defeat, down

a match point at 11-12, then down again at 12-13. The stress is huge.

Doubles partners for four years, the twins are, however, more than familiar with each other's games. Using this synergy, they fight back, somehow saving those match points and keeping the pressure on until, finally, their opponents' last ball hits the net. The boys have won the match 15-13, and with it, Wesley have won the premiership, not just breaking rival Haileybury's 22-year winning streak but ending their status as the only school ever to have won the title outright since the competition began.

'Our entire team erupted in celebration,' says Nelson. 'It was truly one of the

greatest feelings to experience – a combination of exuberance, euphoria and relief.'

The stress of those final minutes was felt by everyone, including Principal Nick Evans (OW1985). 'That was the most intense game of sport I've seen in a very long time!' he said.

It's a beautiful win for Wesley's only co-ed, multi-year level First team. For Captain Victoria, this win is especially sweet. The Year 12 player joined the team in Year 5 and has played more First table tennis games than any other player in the College's history. 'I've been a part of the First team for such a long time – to finally see Wesley win the premiership is really special,' she says. 'It means a lot to see the hard work of the players and coaches pay off in such a memorable way.'

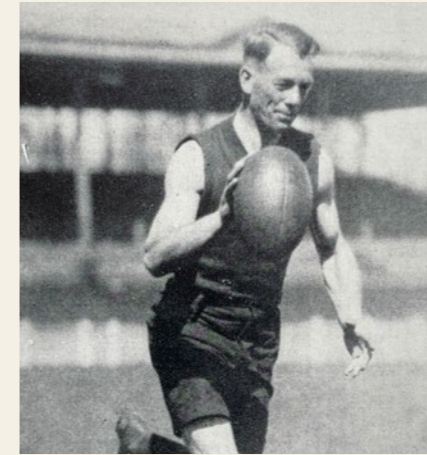
This unique group has taken 'multi-age' to new levels. Earlier in the season, Year 4 student Maya – sister to teammate Kavyaa in Year 10 – made her First team debut at just 9 years of age, partnering with Victoria to win a doubles game against St Kevin's. In no other sport would you find a Year 4 student playing alongside a Year 12.

It's also remarkable that the Grand Final team was made up of brothers and sisters, including the heroic twins. 'Being in a co-ed team has taught me a lot about adaptability, as our team has a diverse range of playing styles,' says Year 11 player Nelson. 'I've also had to learn how to support and encourage our younger players who may not have had a lot of experience, but I appreciate a team can be victorious regardless of their age.'

'The strength of the program and the bright future ahead are a testament to our amazing coaches, Eva, Gabby, Matt, Nick and Parleen, and their years of hard work,' says Wesley Head of Table Tennis, Luke Bertucci. 'Special shoutout to Victoria for her outstanding leadership as captain, who rose to every challenge that was thrown at her.'

Luke saves his grandest praise for the team itself. 'I couldn't be prouder of our incredible squad and how they represented the College this year,' he says. 'You won't find a more dedicated and passionate group of athletes.'

Champion of the greater game



Ivor Warne-Smith (OW1912) in action

Old Wesley Collegian Ivor Warne-Smith (OW1912) featured in this year's Anzac Day edition of the AFL Football Record – recognising a life of extraordinary service on and off the field.

Ivor Warne-Smith was a talented footballer: the first to win two Brownlow Medals, and arguably the greatest player of the era between the two world wars in which he served. He was also a committed soldier, making a selfless nine-year contribution across both conflicts, his sense of duty so strong that he enlisted when he was too young at 17 in World War I, and too old at 42 in World War II. In every arena of his life, Ivor embodied Wesley's motto – *Dare to be Wise*.

Ivor attended Wesley with his three brothers, Spenser (OW1909), Waldo (OW1909) and 'Bobs' (OW1913), where from 1912 to 1914, a shy Ivor – nicknamed 'Ivo' and 'Smithy' – excelled in football, athletics and cricket.

Big things awaited him on the pitch, but the outbreak of WWI put all dreams on hold. He enlisted in May 1915, despite being just 17 – an act of quiet courage that set the example for older brothers Spenser and Waldo, who followed.

He initially served at Gallipoli, then following the mass evacuation in December 1915, was redeployed to the Western Front in France, where he served with machine-gun battalions, quickly earning promotions to corporal and then

sergeant. He was a good man under pressure; as Fitzroy champion and former Wesley schoolmate Gordon Rattray (OW1912) would tell *The Sporting Globe*: 'The imperturbable Ivo ... was one of the coolest men I ever knew ... I never saw him rattled on the field – or off it.'

Tragically, his eldest brother Spenser was killed in action in August 1916 near the French village of Pozieres.

On the frontline in France in 1918, Ivor was gassed, and though diagnosed as a 'mild' case, he was sent to London for treatment and took more than two months to resume duty. The recently promoted lieutenant then received gunshot wounds to his head and right leg, and was again incapacitated for months. Just two days after he was wounded, his other brother Waldo died from wounds sustained in action at Plateau Wood in the Somme.

Ivor returned to Melbourne at the end of hostilities and remarkably, just ten months after being shot in the head and leg, made a promising League debut with the Melbourne Football Club. Seven further appearances followed that season.

In 1920, Ivor left Victoria for an apple orchard near Latrobe in northwestern Tasmania where he also led the local football team and became a legend of Tasmanian footy.



Anzac Day 2026 Football Record



1930s footy card

League football lured Ivor back to Melbourne in 1925, and despite being 27, he played on for eight seasons of spectacular success. This year marks the 100th anniversary of both his first Brownlow Medal and Melbourne's 1926 premiership.

He won his second Brownlow in 1928.

After playing and coaching his last game in 1932, Ivor became an esteemed football writer, while rising up the ranks with Vacuum Oil Company, managing its Yarraville plant for decades.

His innate sense of service was again on display in 1940 when both he and Bobs enlisted for World War II – married fathers, aged 42 and 40 respectively, answering the call without hesitation.

He served across the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo, rising to the rank of Major – completing nine years of service across two world wars.

Returning from his second world war, Ivor served on the Melbourne Cricket Club committee and later, as the Demons' chairman of selectors, helping guide the club to its four premierships in the 1950s.

Heart issues forced his retirement from Vacuum Oil in 1959 and claimed his life the following March. He was 62.

An Old Wesley Collegian. A footballer. A soldier. A life of service and the courage to give it fully.

Lest we forget.

Source: Ben Collins, AFL Football Record, April 23-26, 2026. Edited extracts.



Campus snapshots

Plenty of talk about Earnest



Dylan (Year 10) as Algernon

‘There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.’ – Oscar Wilde

There was plenty of talk about the Adamson Theatre Company’s production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the St Kilda Road Campus in Term 1 – a clear sign of the play’s success. With its potent mix of farce and biting social satire, Wilde’s celebrated 1895 ‘comedy of manners’ is quite the challenge for young players, and director Hayley McNally was very impressed with how her cast rose to the occasion.

‘They arrived at rehearsals with enthusiasm, curiosity and a genuine willingness to wrestle with Wilde’s



Imogen (Year 12) as Cecily and Millie (Year 12) as Gwendolen

intricate language,’ she says. ‘It’s no small feat to deliver such precise wit with clarity and confidence.’

‘It was difficult to get the rounded accent,’ said Sam from Year 12, who played Jack in one of the two casts. ‘The main challenge was incorporating it with Wilde’s wording and getting it to sound natural.’

Millie, also from Year 12, had a running start with this production. ‘I studied the play for Literature last year,’ she says, ‘so I found the show particularly special, since I was able to bring my favourite character – Gwendolyn – to life.’

The comedic delights of quick-fire dialogue and precision timing aside, *Earnest* wouldn’t be the mirthful play it is

without the copious eating of cucumber sandwiches and other foodstuffs.

‘My favourite part was near the opening where it was just me and Algernon on stage running around throwing food at each other,’ says Xander from Year 12, who played the other Jack. ‘I hate people who are not serious about meals. It is so shallow of them,’ Jack complains at one point – a Wildean line if there ever was one.

Dylan from Year 10, who played Algernon to Xander’s Jack, found ‘a small challenge’ in eating and performing at the same time. ‘Algernon eats through most of the show – it was a funny struggle finding a balance between that and being able to deliver lines,’ he says.

Not-so-wimpy kids take on Cato Hall



Mila (Year 7) gave a standout performance as Patty Farrell

Diary of a Wimpy Kid is the fourth best-selling book series of all time, and one of our students’ favourite book collections, so excitement was high when the hilarious musical adaptation of the series by author and cartoonist Jeff Kinney was announced as this year’s Middle School production at the Glen Waverley Campus.

Staged in the last week of May, the production featured a talented cast of Middle School performers, imaginative sets, colourful costumes and plenty of laugh-out-loud moments. At Saturday’s sold-out closing performance, Cato Hall was filled with laughter as Greg Heffley, played by Tabitha from Cast B, stumbled their way through the challenges and mishaps of middle school life. Audiences were treated to outstanding vocals, energetic performances and memorable one-liners.



Tabitha from Cast B fronts the press as Greg Heffley

As always, the cast demonstrated remarkable dedication, spending months rehearsing to bring the production to life. Reflecting on the experience, Mila from Year 7, who gave a standout performance as Patty Farrell, said ‘Seeing the sets, costumes and everything come together was the best part.’

Beyond the performances themselves, productions provide students with invaluable opportunities to build confidence, develop friendships and create lasting memories. For many, participation in one leads to involvement in many more. Charlotte, from Year 7, can’t wait for more. ‘Every time we finish a scene or song,’ she said, ‘I think about the memory of that moment staying with me forever.’

Sparking joy with art



Ellie (Year 3) makes her mark

It was a riot of colour at Elsternwick Campus last month as Prep to Year 6 students came together to create a series of truly collaborative artworks for the Wesley Parents Mother’s Day auction.

Working with Melbourne-based contemporary artist Anna Blatman – a professional artist whose vibrant, tactile works are driven by a passionate love of colour – students each contributed to different stages of the paintings, learning about the importance of layering and collaboration.

It was a fitting partnership, as texture and layering sit at the heart of Anna’s practice, and her belief that art should

spark joy translated beautifully into the classroom. As Anna explained to the students, ‘Everything is better together.’

Kaira and Milo from Year 4 were impressed with what can be expressed through painting.

‘I felt free to create, without it being about making things look like real life. You could be yourself,’ Milo said.

‘I loved that it was not all about real-life colours,’ said Kaira. ‘Grass does not have to be green.’

The striking final works capture the energy and joy of our school community and helped to raise more than \$5,000 for Wesley Parents Elsternwick to support student graduation gifts and the end-of-year celebrations.



Agnes (Year 3) adds a final touch



The joyful result



Campus snapshots

Celebrating culture and creativity at Elsternwick



Elsternwick parents support noodle making

Intercultural learning, a golden thread in the tapestry of life at Elsternwick, is made meaningful – and often only made possible – by the ongoing support and involvement of our families.

We're blessed with a culturally rich and diverse community of families, and their readiness to share their traditions, stories and experiences enlivens our learning and strengthens our sense of who we are as a school.

Here we look back at two intercultural highlights from our first semester...



Stretch it out: Prep students explore the art of noodle making

Lunar New Year

With colour, energy and excitement, Elsternwick Junior School celebrated the Lunar New Year through a series of immersive cultural experiences.

The Preps and Year 1s had the unique opportunity to learn the art of hand-pulled noodles with visiting chefs from hot pot restaurant Haidilao. Laughter and curiosity filled the space as students stretched, twisted and shaped their own dough. With the generous support of parent volunteers, the noodles were then cooked and shared, allowing students to proudly taste the results of their efforts.

Students in Years 2 to 4 explored the beauty of traditional Chinese craftsmanship by creating lacquer fans. This ancient marbling technique, recognised as part of China's national intangible cultural heritage, captivated students as they watched colours swirl and blend, before carefully transferring their designs onto their own fans. Each finished piece was a unique expression of creativity and cultural appreciation.

In PYP Chinese lessons, students also engaged with other festive traditions such as receiving red envelopes and creating paper-cut decorations, adding to the celebratory atmosphere across the school.

Harmony Day in Junior School

Harmony Day provided a wonderful opportunity to pause, reflect and celebrate the rich diversity that makes up our Junior School community.

While the splash of orange on Harmony Day is a visible reminder that everyone belongs, recognising and valuing diversity is something we intentionally explore in ongoing and meaningful ways throughout the year.

Our Year 4 learners took part in a hands-on cooking experience to celebrate the Jewish festival Purim, learning about its significance while preparing and sharing traditional foods. In the ECLC, learners explored Greek Orthodox Easter, decorating eggs and learning about the customs and traditions that form such an important part of this celebration.



Grace (Year 4) making Purim cookies

These experiences, along with our units of learning, help our learners to develop curiosity, empathy and respect for the many cultures represented within our school and beyond. They encourage open conversations, shared understanding and a genuine appreciation of difference.

An evening of learning, connection and respect

Glen Waverley's Iftaar dinner – held during Ramadan this year, offered a powerful expression of the community we strive to be – one shaped by generous hospitality, deep listening, and genuine belonging.

Hosted by our Muslim students, the evening invited staff, students and families to gather during Ramadan to learn through shared experience rather than explanation alone.

As Senior School students Mosa, Imaad and Malak reflected, Ramadan is far more than fasting from sunrise to sunset. It is a season marked by family, friendship and quiet reflection amid busy lives. Their words set the tone for an evening filled with humility, gratitude and openness.

Readings, prayers and storytelling created space to honour the rhythms of faith that shape our community, before Maghrib prayers marked sunset and the fast was broken with dates.



(L-R): Mosa, Imaad and Malak shared what Ramadan means to them

Year 7 student Yahia beautifully described Ramadan as 'a wave of prayer and thanksgiving that sweeps across countries,' a wave he was proud to share with his Wesley community. The shared Afghan banquet that followed embodied this spirit, as people sat together in friendship.



Samarah (Year 12) helped host the evening

Supported by Campus Chaplain Bradon 'Chappie' French, the Iftaar meal was a lived reminder that learning, connection and respect flourish when everyone feels seen, welcomed and included.

Colourful fun at the Holi Festival

Every year, as winter fades and spring begins, people across India celebrate one of the most colourful festivals on Earth: Holi. Known as the 'Festival of Colours,' Holi is a joyful celebration filled with bright powders, music, dancing and laughter.

Today, Holi is celebrated all over the world, and on a sunny Friday afternoon, what better way to end a school week? Gathered on the Drennen lawn, the Junior School community came together to celebrate our vibrant community through colour, fun and joy.

Year 5 student Hira rose to the challenge of addressing the Junior School about the Hindu festival of Holi and its message of 'light over darkness'.

Guided by Campus Chaplain Bradon 'Chappie' French, Middle School Leaders and Prefects led fun activities including balloon basketball, obstacle courses and a dance party, before students were joyfully doused in coloured powder.

Year 12 Prefect Samarah appreciated the opportunity to inspire and to build relationships with younger children in a fun and active way.



Fun in the sun playing balloon basketball

The Middle School Leaders were also inspirational in the way they led their activities, encouraging and motivating the younger students to participate and get colourful!



Tackling the obstacle course



Campus snapshots

Happy campers flock to Chum Creek



Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) welcomes guests to Chum Creek

There is something fitting about celebrating Chum Creek in Wesley's 160th anniversary year.

As Wesley marks this milestone, our beloved camp is approaching one of its own: 75 years as the backdrop to some of the most vivid memories in the lives of Wesley students. It was the perfect moment for a celebration.

Chum Creek opened its gates to the whole Wesley community in March for a Celebration Day that brought together families, friends, staff and OWs to honour and appreciate the camp's rich history.

Around 600 guests were Welcomed to Country by Wurundjeri Elder, Ian Hunter, followed by a welcome address from our Principal Nick Evans (OW1985). By midday, the grounds were alive with activities including campus tours, coffee and anniversary cupcakes, family picnic lunches under the trees, outdoor table tennis and 'high-fives' with Wes the Lion.

Other hands-on attractions included the thrilling flying fox and high ropes course, while cooking damper over an open fire offered a taste of traditional Chum Creek activities. The most popular attraction – and one that provided many great conversations – was the Historic Camp Books Display in the Alfred John Wall Field Studies Centre, where OWs and relatives searched for historical camp entries, photos and memorabilia from the past 74 years.



A Chum Creek diary from 1992



Fun in the great outdoors

Under glorious autumn sunshine, it was a wonderful opportunity for OWs and families to discover and rediscover Chum Creek and share memories of the adventures and friendships that have made it such an enduring part of the Wesley story.



Nothing tastes better than damper made over an open fire



Tackling the High Ropes course



Making Gunyahs (cubbies) at Chum Creek



Special guests and neighbours, the Wall family



The Chum Creek Outdoor Education Program team with Wes the Lion



The fabulous Flying Fox was a family favourite



Campus snapshot

The Birthday Club



The Birthday Clubbers: (L-R) Henry, Zander and Elsa (Year 2) and Apollo (Year 1) with Allison

Thanks to our new Head of Junior School Allison Prandolini, birthdays have become even more special at the St Kilda Road Campus with the introduction of her new Birthday Meetings program.

In their birthday week, each child is invited to spend a short, individual moment with Allison – a small but intentional way to build connection with them to ensure they experience at least one positive and welcoming visit to her office each year.

‘These meetings provide time to connect, listen and acknowledge each child for who they are,’ says Allison. ‘For some students, this may be their first time visiting my office, and I want this space to be associated with warmth, care and genuine interest in them as learners and people.’ The idea is that over time, these brief interactions help to strengthen trust and foster a sense of belonging across our Junior School community.

During the birthday meeting, students get to choose from a small lucky dip. The emphasis is not on the item itself, but on the values behind the experience: If a child selects something that isn’t quite what they were hoping for, they’re encouraged to think about who else might appreciate it and pass it on. This creates a simple, authentic opportunity to practise gratitude, kindness and thoughtful decision-making.

As it happens, Elsa from Year 2 was quite happy with her birthday surprise. ‘I really like my toy,’ she beamed. ‘I felt happy in Ms Prandolini’s office – because it’s my birthday!’

The living classroom at Clunes

At Wesley at Clunes, we are incredibly fortunate to be part of a learning environment where place and purpose are deeply intertwined. The Clunes experience offers students far more than a backdrop to their term away from home; it is a living classroom that continually challenges them to grow, develop independence and build new skills.

Growth is often found in the everyday moments. Living away from family and familiar routines requires students to develop resilience, responsibility and confidence in themselves. Whether it is managing their own schedules, supporting peers in a residential setting or stepping outside their comfort zones in class or cocurricular programs, students quickly discover new capacities within themselves.

‘Before Clunes, hard things scared me off,’ said Catie from Group 104. ‘Now I understand that the uncomfortable stuff is actually where growth happens. I’ve learnt that feelings pass and that I can find ways to cope instead of giving up. I’m getting better at finding the balance between backing myself and asking for help when I need it.’



The living classroom: Members of Group 105 connect with Country on Mt Beckworth

Significant to the Clunes experience is connection to the land. Time spent on Country offers students the opportunity to experience the landscape in meaningful ways – through challenge, reflection and a growing sense of stewardship. Being in this environment fosters perspective, courage and respect, while helping students better understand their place within the world.

‘At Clunes I’ve learnt more about Indigenous culture, and that’s made me feel more connected to Country,’ said Marcus from Group 105. ‘Going to some really important places for the traditional owners, like Mount Beckworth and La Gerche, has made me feel closer to Country than I ever have before.’

Flying doctors take learning to new heights



The Flying Doctors land on the Big Lawn at our Elsternwick Campus

The Royal Flying Doctor Service ‘landed’ at the Elsternwick Campus in Term 1 to the great excitement of Year 1 students, ‘flying in’ to help celebrate the learning they’d been doing in their ‘How We Organise Ourselves’ unit of inquiry, which focused on the essential services that support communities. A simulator plane instantly transformed the learning

space into a mini airbase, with students eagerly dressing up as pilots and doctors to explore the medical and aviation equipment on board and taking turns to ‘fly’ the aircraft using the interactive controls. Students were fascinated to learn how people living in remote areas can be hours away from shops, hospitals and other vital services.



Alexander and Ariana are ready to fly

They discovered how the RFDS plays a crucial role in delivering medical care, flying doctors and nurses to those in need – no matter how far away they are. Sebbi was excited by the whole experience. ‘I liked flying the plane because I felt like a real pilot helping people!’ he said. Ariana furiously agreed, saying ‘When I grow up, I want to be a Royal Flying Doctor!’

Taking the High Ground



High Ground director Stephen Maxwell Johnson addresses Year 12 students

It’s a rare thing for a school to secure direct engagement with the creator of a current text studied at the Year 12 level for VCE English, but that’s what happened at the St Kilda Road Campus last term when our students spent an hour with film director Stephen Maxwell Johnson as part of this year’s PQS program.

His 2020 film *High Ground* has been a fixture in our curriculum for the past three years.

Starring Simon Baker, Jack Thompson and a host of magnificent Yolngu actors, the film is a revisionist Western set in post-WWI Arnhem Land that tells a story of Indigenous resistance in the face of colonial power.

Stephen got his start in the film industry making rock videos for Yothu Yindi, having gone to school with the group while growing up in Arnhem Land.

‘I wanted *High Ground* to be my first film. I wanted to tell the story about Indigenous resistance to colonialism, but no one was interested,’ he said. ‘Telling the story about the massacres just wasn’t accepted as being real. I had to make films about other stories, and eventually, 20 years later, I got to make the film.’

Knowing the film intimately, the Year 12s eagerly asked Stephen a range of small and big questions about it, captivated by his reflections and the fascinating behind-the-scenes details he shared.

‘Stephen’s talk was insightful, educational and an incredible learning experience for the whole cohort,’ said PQS Prefect Tim. ‘Furthering our understanding after expressing our own interpretation of the film was an eye-opening experience for us all.’



Chair report



For more than 160 years, Wesley College has been shaped not only by outstanding educators and students, but by generations of people who believed deeply in the power of education to strengthen society.

Philanthropy has always been part of Wesley's story. From the earliest benefactors who helped establish the College in 1866, to the transformational generosity of the Nicholas family during the Great Depression, our history reminds us that Wesley has been built by a community willing to invest in future generations.

The contribution of George and Alfred Nicholas remains one of the defining examples of this spirit. Their support transformed the St Kilda Road Campus during a period of immense economic hardship. Their philanthropy did more than create buildings; it created employment, opportunity and hope.

The legacy they left continues to shape student's lives nearly a century later.

Importantly, their vision reflected something enduring about Wesley philanthropy. Giving was never viewed as charity, but as an investment in people, character, leadership and community.

That belief remains just as relevant today.

Across the College, we continue to see extraordinary generosity from Old Wesley Collegians, parents, grandparents, staff and friends who understand that the strength of Wesley lies not only in its academic program or facilities, but in the opportunities it creates for young people to grow into thoughtful, capable and compassionate citizens.

Scholarships remain one of the clearest expressions of this purpose.

A Wesley scholarship changes more than one life. It strengthens families and communities while ensuring talented students of character and promise can access the opportunities a Wesley education provides, regardless of financial circumstance. It broadens perspectives in our classrooms, enriches our culture and reinforces the values of inclusion and shared responsibility at the heart of the College.

This year, the Foundation's Annual Giving program and Giving Day initiative will focus on expanding means-tested scholarships for students and families who would otherwise not be able to access a Wesley education. This work is not symbolic; it is practical, immediate and life-changing.

The Wesley College Foundation exists to help power that future.

Importantly, philanthropy at Wesley is evolving. Increasingly, supporters are engaging with the College through long-term partnerships and shared vision. Families are thinking carefully about the legacy they wish to leave for future generations of students they may never meet.

Because ultimately, philanthropy at Wesley is not simply about buildings or campaigns. It is about people, opportunity and the future of our community. Through the Nicholas Circle, which recognises transformational gifts of \$1 million or more, and the Sapere Aude Bequest Society, which honours those who have remembered Wesley in their Will, supporters are helping shape endowed scholarships, student wellbeing initiatives, learning programs and future campus development – ensuring Wesley remains both ambitious and accessible for generations of students to come.

As we mark Wesley's 160th anniversary, there is a growing sense that philanthropy will play an increasingly important role in the future of the College. Not simply to fund projects, but to celebrate what makes Wesley distinctive: a commitment to educating the whole person and developing young people who understand their responsibility to others.

The Foundation is deeply grateful to every member of the Wesley community who contributes to this shared vision. Ultimately, philanthropy at Wesley is about investing in character, opportunity and community so future generations of students can continue to learn, contribute and lead with purpose.

Marianne Stillwell
Chair, Wesley College Foundation



Talent everywhere.
Opportunity here.
160 Year Scholarships Appeal

Thank you to our matching donors

Supporters from across the community pledged over \$200,000 in matching gifts for the 160 Year Scholarship Appeal ahead of Giving Day on 11 June in support of two means-tested scholarships – one at the St Kilda Road Campus (potentially via Elsternwick) and one at the Glen Waverley Campus.

Every dollar donated on the day helped expand access to a Wesley education for students of talent, character and potential who would not otherwise have the opportunity to access a Wesley education.

Current parent, Jenny Wong, said:

'Scholarships are important because they help young people build a solid foundation for the future. The socio-economic context for today's students and families has changed and we are happy to contribute in a way that we can.'

Among those supporting the initiative is Nuline Charter, whose relationship with Wesley spans many years.

'Nuline Charter has always had a strong commitment to philanthropy and supporting the Wesley College Giving Day allow us to give back to the Wesley community who places their trust in us. We see great value in a quality education through the way it empowers young people and can help create opportunities to produce the next generation of leaders for our community.'

A teacher and past parent who also pledged support shared a similar sentiment.

'Wesley's values are something I have lived both professionally and personally. Having entrusted my own child's education to the College, I know the difference a Wesley education can make. I am proud to support scholarships that help ensure bright, capable students can access these opportunities, even when financial barriers exist.'

We look forward to sharing the results of Giving Day and celebrating the collective impact of a community investing in future generations.



DONATE NOW

Wesley College Foundation Partners

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

COLLABORATING PARTNER



PURPLE PARTNER



SUPPORTING PARTNER



PARTNER





The formula for excellence

Courage, character and connection

Four distinguished individuals from our community with backgrounds in sport, business, law and public life shared the experiences that have shaped their careers at this year's On-Track Breakfast at the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix.

Common themes emerged: character, resilience, community and a commitment to helping others succeed. These are the same values at the heart of a Wesley education, shaping students not only in what they achieve, but in who they become. As Wesley celebrates 160 years, these stories remind us that success is rarely achieved alone. It grows through opportunity, strong communities and the people who inspire and support each generation.

The Honourable Linda Dessau AC CVO

Leading with confidence and purpose



That instinct was present early on. Drawn to helping people navigate challenges, she initially considered social work. Law came later – and with it, a realisation that, 'at the heart of every file is a human being.' Purpose and profession could align.

Her career path was underpinned by a strong sense of self, instilled from a young age. 'The greatest gift you can give a child is a sense of self. I was given that.' Influenced by family, teachers and mentors, she developed the confidence to question – a defining advantage that shaped her trajectory.

An early example came during a summer fruit picking on a kibbutz. Frustrated by inefficiency, she proposed a quota system. 'I knew if I could carry everyone with me, this could work.' It did – baskets filled faster and afternoons were spent at the beach.

Years later, as the only young woman on her first board, she again challenged the status quo. Meeting times were set in the evening – impossible with young children. 'I took a breath and told them that evening meetings wouldn't work. I thought, that's it – my board career has just ended.' Instead, the conversation shifted and the time was changed.

When you meet Linda Dessau, it's immediately clear she commands a room. Softly spoken, her calm authority draws attention. Hers is influence earned through judgement, integrity and a willingness to speak up when it matters.

Across law, public life and community – including two terms as Governor of Victoria – Linda's leadership has been grounded in conviction, and the confidence to act on it.

'I've always been – and I use this word deliberately – ambitious,' she said. Her definition of ambition isn't self-promotion, but contribution: doing her best in service of others.

These moments reinforced a pattern of considered intervention over confrontation. 'You can be very assertive in a "velvet glove" way.'

There have also been lessons. Early committee and board experiences taught Linda how best to navigate disagreement – when to advocate firmly, when to stay and influence change from within, and when fundamental differences may call for respectfully stepping away.

That evolution – from instinctive confidence to calibrated leadership – underpins her commitment to the next generation. Through her connection with Wesley College, as parent and council member, she has seen the role a school can play in shaping capability and character.

'Young people should leave with a sense of who they are and what they can do – but also an understanding that confidence alone isn't enough. You have to work hard.'

She saw this balance in her own sons, with Wesley helping instil confidence and discipline, alongside a sense of responsibility to others.

For Linda, success is defined by what you strive for – and what you give back. 'Anything that contributes to the community is something worth doing... If we all remembered that the world would be a better place.'

Gerry Ryan AO

Backing people and potential



At 24, with \$10,000 in his pocket, a head full of ideas, and a determination to do things differently, Gerry Ryan took a risk. He left a secure role in production management to start Jayco – a business that would develop into one of Australia's most recognised and enduring manufacturing success stories.

That instinct to build, and invest in innovation and potential from the ground up, has taken Gerry far beyond caravans. From world-class cycling teams to investments in women's sport, tourism and live entertainment, he has helped shape success across industries, guided by the same mindset behind Jayco: long-term thinking, constant improvement and a willingness to take calculated risks.

From the outset, Gerry has understood success as something built with others. 'What sparked it was the opportunities given to me.' Early in his career, he was trusted with responsibility, exposed to new environments and ideas, and encouraged to step into opportunities

that stretched him. Those experiences shaped his path and his perspective. Today, he sees it as his role to create those same opportunities for others who show potential.

That commitment is grounded in a clear philosophy: 'Character above ability.' Talent alone isn't enough; what matters is how someone shows up when things get hard. 'Hunger matters. Persistence matters.' It's a principle that has guided decisions across business and sport, including a defining early act of backing potential over certainty.

In the lead-up to the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, cyclist Kathy Watt approached him for support to fund altitude training. He backed her ambition – a decision that led to Olympic gold and silver for Watt and marked the beginning of Gerry's long-term commitment to Australian cycling.

Underlying decisions like these is his formula for excellence: 'Passion, people, planning, perspiration and persistence.'



It's not about shortcuts, but about doing the work – and continuing to do it when it gets hard. 'You're going to fall over, but you've got to get back up.'

That same philosophy shapes how he builds teams. In Gerry's view, success is collective. 'You can't do it alone.' It depends on strong people, shared purpose and environments where individuals – and their families – feel supported. Increasingly, that includes a focus on wellbeing: 'If you have a million-dollar machine, you maintain it every day. Why wouldn't you do the same for your people?'

Gerry's approach to leadership and life has become simpler over time. 'Health and happiness. That's what it's all about.' From that foundation, everything else follows.

It's a perspective that has been sharpened by experience. Across decades of change – from early financial pressures to the recessions of the 1980s, the GFC and COVID – he has learned the importance of adaptability and looking forward. 'There's always a future. You have to re-engineer yourself.'

Today, that forward focus is centred on the next generation. As a Wesley grandparent, Gerry sees the greatest impact not just in what is built, but in the opportunities created for others. 'We all have a responsibility to help create opportunities for others.'

His advice to the next generation comes back to the same belief that has underpinned everything Gerry has built: 'Dare to dream... and then go out there and get it done.'





“
Those same values sit at the heart of a Wesley education
”

Evelyn Halls OAM

Guided by fairness and integrity



An Olympic fencer, lawyer and advocate for fairness, Evelyn Halls has moved between the worlds of elite sport, law and governance with apparent ease. Across each, she has drawn on the same qualities: discipline, integrity and a deeply held sense of justice, shaping not only what she has achieved, but how and why she has chosen each step along the way.

Today, Evelyn's decisions about which opportunities she pursues are guided by a clear 'North Star' – a simple but decisive filter: it must spark her interest and contribute to the greater good.

It's a mindset that feels instinctive now, but one that has been shaped over time. Early on, Evelyn's path was more conventional. She gained a first-class honours law degree, joined a top firm and worked her way up to partner – a traditional trajectory she describes as 'climbing the ladder in front of me.'

Reaching the top of that ladder prompted a moment of reflection. She stopped and asked a question that would prove pivotal: 'Now I'm here, is this really what I want?'

That willingness to pause, turn inward and recalibrate has become a defining feature of her career. Success, for Evelyn, is grounded in purpose – doing work that contributes to society in a meaningful way.

At the heart of that is a deeply held sense of fairness. Evelyn has long been comfortable questioning decisions and challenging systems, even when it means standing apart. As she puts it: 'I'm comfortable being the dissenting voice when it matters.'

Her years as an Olympic and world-class fencer helped forge that mindset. The intensity of the sport demanded resilience, composure and a willingness to step into discomfort. 'Being face-to-face with someone trying to hit you with a piece of metal will probably do that,' she reflects.

The experience speaks to her readiness to hold her ground – even under pressure. It continues to shape how Evelyn advocates for others whose voices are less likely to be heard – a role she describes as both a responsibility and a privilege.

Though she has spent much of her life in the spotlight, Evelyn believes high performance is defined by discipline behind the scenes. Across sport, career and family life, her choices are interconnected and guided by a broader sense of integrity and contribution.

'Whatever I'm doing, there are multiple considerations... How will this help me contribute to other areas? How will it make me a better parent? Where can I bring a different lens?'

That perspective extends to her daughter's education. Drawn to Wesley's emphasis on inclusion and diversity of experience, Evelyn saw a community that values difference over uniformity – where varied perspectives are actively valued.

It's an expansive way of thinking that carries through to her focus on the next generation. Creating opportunity, in Evelyn's view, means widening perspectives – so more voices are heard and better decisions are made.

Excellence, she believes, is something you live day to day. It's found in the choices no one sees, guided by a clear sense of purpose, and grounded in a commitment to something bigger than yourself.



Andrew Westacott (OW1982)

The power of collective success



As former CEO of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, Andrew Westacott (OW1982) has built a career shaping and delivering events that bring people together at scale.

Just after Easter, fresh from family time at the beach and a Western Bulldogs win, Andrew was relaxed, reflective and focused on what powers his own 'formula' for excellence.

While globally renowned events such as the Grand Prix are known for precision, prestige and performance, Andrew sees their success as fundamentally human – built on thousands of people aligned around a shared goal.

At its core, he believes it's not just about delivering an event but creating something people feel part of – igniting passion through unforgettable experiences.

With an audience he describes as spanning 'backpackers to billionaires', that feeling of connection doesn't

happen by accident. It is built collectively, through effort that extends well beyond the circuit.

It's also shaped by place. In Andrew's view, Melbourne's collegiate nature – where people and relationships matter – underpins that success.

Andrew's belief that success is collective has deep roots. At Wesley, he learned that contribution doesn't look the same for everyone. The self-described 'shortest kid at school' with a strong competitive streak, he learned to find other ways to contribute. Rowing, and specifically coxing the First VIII, became a defining experience.

As cox, Andrew was responsible for the crew while entirely reliant on them – an early lesson in trust, understanding people and bringing others with you.

That mindset carried through to his leadership of the Grand Prix, particularly in moments of uncertainty. Reflecting on the COVID years, he emphasises the importance of presence and empathy – of 'showing up', even if you don't have all the answers.

At that scale, success depends on relationships – government, corporate partners, suppliers and fans – bound together by trust and shared ambition. 'We always asked – are we going to be at the front of the grid, or at the back?' he says. 'For us, Melbourne deserved to be at the front.'

Now, having stepped back from his CEO role, Andrew's focus has shifted towards legacy – including his work supporting the next generation of drivers through Karting Australia.

He sees leadership as custodianship – a responsibility to leave something better than you found it.

His professional role may have changed, but Andrew's guiding principles remain the same. Whether in the First VIII rowing crew, classroom, concert at Wesley or the corporate boardroom, the constant has been a belief that success is never singular – it's achieved through others.

For Andrew, excellence isn't defined by one moment, one trait or one individual. It's about 'winning hearts and minds' – bringing people together, drawing on the strength of community and place, and building something that endures.



Foundation

Making a difference with a bequest



Jack Moshakis (OW1973) with daughters Tess (OW2004) (left) and Sophie (OW2009) right

A fundamental pillar of our society is the transformative impact of education, the arts, culture and creativity.

Bequests, or Gifts in Wills, provide opportunities to support causes that align with your personal values and interests. My partner Gill and I are members of four such bequest programs, including Wesley College's The Sapere Aude

Bequest Society. We join other individuals and families who have included a gift in their Will as a gesture of 'giving back' to institutions that we respect and appreciate.

Bequests, irrespective of size, make a difference and can be aligned to personal values such as assisting children from disadvantaged backgrounds to access the

arts or, as many fellow alumni do, provide funding for potentially life-changing scholarships.

As I reflect on my enduring connection with Wesley College as a student, past parent, future grandparent and a longstanding former employee, I appreciate how significant the College has been in my life. I retired from Wesley at the end of 2024 after almost 20 years of service and appreciate the impact that Wesley has had on both myself, and my daughters, Tess (OW2004) and Sophie (OW2009). You never leave Wesley – the friends you make stay with you for life, and I consider the College network to be one of the great advantages of a Wesley education.

I hope that our support to the College will assist in providing opportunities for future generations to experience a life-transforming Wesley education, and I invite others to consider supporting this important program.

Jack Moshakis (OW1973)



A legacy for the future



SABS visit to Bishops Court

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society – a lasting reflection of the generosity and vision that have helped shape Wesley College across generations.

Established by the Wesley College Foundation in 1996, the Society was created to recognise and thank those who chose to leave a Gift in Will to the College. What began as a thoughtful initiative has grown into a valued community, united by a belief in the power of education and a shared commitment to Wesley's future.

From its earliest days, the Society has been guided by dedicated individuals. Under the leadership of Foundation Chair Graeme Samuel AC (OW1963), and with the support of staff including Douglas Butler, Helen Kroger (Cato MLC) and Kenneth Park, the program developed strong foundations. Its welcoming spirit has been shaped by patrons such as founding Co Patrons Joan Coates and Gordon Newton OAM (OW1950), along with supporters including Jean Oldfield, Peter Boag (OW1963), and current Co Patrons Peter Harrison (OW1969) and Susie Rodgers-Wilson.

Today, more than 300 members have included Wesley in their Wills. Their generosity has strengthened scholarships, libraries, buildings and learning environments, ensuring students continue to benefit from a rich and inspiring education.

Kenneth Park, who served Wesley for nearly forty years, has witnessed this impact firsthand. His own decision to leave a gift in his Will reflects a deep respect for the College's past and a commitment to its future.

Sapere Aude – Dare to be Wise.

Your legacy can change theirs.



A gift in your Will can shape a Wesley College education for generations to come.

For more than 160 years, Wesley College has been shaped by those who believed in the power of education to change lives.

A bequest to the Wesley College Foundation is one of the most enduring gifts you can make for a student.

By including Wesley in your Will, you can direct your gift toward what matters most to you – whether that's scholarships for talented students, buildings and facilities that inspire learning, or the broader life of the College for generations to come.

Every bequest, regardless of size, helps ensure that future generations can experience all that a Wesley education offers.

Your legacy. Their future.

Those who choose to remember Wesley in their Will are warmly invited to join the Sapere Aude Bequest Society and remain connected to the College through special events and community activities.

To learn more about leaving a Gift in Will, please contact:

Wesley College Foundation
Prue Lowther, Bequest Manager
Telephone: 0438 306 156
Email: foundation@wesleycollege.edu.au
Web: wesleycollege.edu.au/giving



2026 FOUNDERS' DAY

GALA

CELEBRATING 160 YEARS OF WESLEY COLLEGE

To view full event albums, head to www.owconnect.net



President's report



With the 2026 event season well underway and Founders' Day festivities behind us, there has been a spirit of purple and gold in the air!

It is incredible to feel such magic at our Wesley 160 events 10 years on from the sesquicentenary celebrations that injected so much energy into the life and times of Wesley. I'd like to thank all alumni and families connected with the school for their engagement with this year's program of events and for bringing this magical spirit to life once again.

The Founders' Day Gala at Crown Palladium saw over 1000 people come together to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the College. I would like to recognise the OWs who took part in the flash mob style choir on stage at

the beginning of the evening, singing 'Wesley Now and Always' lead by Principal Nick Evans (OW1985). It set the scene for what was a wonderful celebration of our great school.

The Founders' Day Lunch the following Saturday was a fitting celebration to end the core Founders' Day program. We should be proud of the way our alumni relations team works to ensure all generations are represented and engaged in our variety of events.

To mark this anniversary year, the OWCA has introduced three key initiatives which will leave a lasting positive legacy in alignment with our strategic plan. These include the new OWCA Fellowship pin, the generational family pin and the OWCA Award.

The OWCA Fellowship pin is designed to provide fellows, male and female, with a recognisable item they can wear at all Wesley College or OWCA events. This is a legacy which reflects our community and the honour of fellowship, regardless of gender. The generational family pins recognise generational families with students currently attending the College. These pins will be handed out to students at our inaugural generational breakfast and at this event in years to come.

Finally, we are excited to launch the OWCA Award, which will be bestowed upon an OW who has done something remarkable for their community. The criteria and more specific detail on the award are available on the OWCA website. We encourage alumni to nominate peers worthy of recognition.

The deadline for nominations will be 9 December 2026, with the recipient to be announced at Founders' Day Lunch 2027.

Our Collegians Cricket Club had a successful season, and I congratulate the volunteer leaders of the club for their efforts. Collegians Football Club are underway with their season and I encourage all alumni to head down to the Trott for a home game lunch or just to enjoy the football.

The Collegians Car Club undertook its second OW Auto Day as an affiliate and delivered a very successful event. Melbourne turned on a stellar day and with over 80 cars on the Gregory Oval at the Glen Waverley Campus, there was quite a spectacle from High Street Road. It was wonderful for the Heriot family to showcase one of their vintage Greyhound buses. I attended with one of our Scania G460 8x4 Cappellotto vacuum trucks, adding to the variety showcased on the day!

A special acknowledgement to President Brad Gavin (OW1994), Alex Iljin (OW1982), Mark Samlal (OW1982), Stephen Grasby (OW1982) and Bruce Van Twest (OW1982) for their leadership in delivering another successful event.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months as our 2026 events program continues.

Tom Pewtress (OW2018)
OWCA President
[#oldwesleycollegians](#)

YOUR OWCA

OWCA Board

President

Tom Pewtress (OW2018)

Vice President

Alessia Francese (OW2016)

Treasurer

Rob Lancaster (OW1982)

Secretary

Emma Carney (OW1989)

Board Members

Frank Opray (OW1963)

Alex Iljin (OW1982)

Agusia Kapitaniak (OW1997)

Rick Morris (OW2004)

Ryan Crisp (OW2017)

Luca Jolson (OW2022)

Jen Talyor (OW2023)

Oscar Leeton (OW2024)

Key contacts

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

Interested in becoming involved in the Board? Contact:
President of the OWCA
owca@wesleycollege.edu.au

2026 Boat Race Dinner



Generational crew photo – Seat 3



Members of the 1970 First VIII crew



OWs from the 1991 rowing crews



Boys' First VIII crew joined in the singing with Mark Stephens (OW1965)



Girls' First VIII crew with coach, David Webster

More than 240 guests gathered for our annual Boat Race Dinner, celebrating the rich history and enduring spirit of Wesley rowing.

Rowers past and present joined coaches, parents and grandparents to reflect on the season and the strength of our rowing community.

It was a joy to see the hard work and dedication of all our rowers officially recognised. The depth of history in the room was truly remarkable, with OWs from the Class of 1947 joining current rowers from the Class of 2026 and the rowers of the future – supported by the ever-important crews who make it all possible.

A highlight of the Boat Race Dinner is the presentation of the Paul Guest Medal. Awarded to a member of the Girls' or Boys' First VIII crews, the medal was voted on by students and presented to the athlete who displays the values of inspiration, leadership and humility. Sadly, Paul (OW1957) passed away a few days before Head of the River this year, so the presentation of the medal held particular significance.

First awarded in 2019, this year's winner was Year 12 student and Captain of Boats, Sonny. This particularly poignant moment was shared with Paul Guest's daughter, Alex Guest (OW1989) and his grandson, Ryder. Paul's values will continue to live on through the Wesley rowing program; a powerful reminder that rowing at Wesley College is more than a sport – it's a tradition that connects generations.

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

Practical welfare and therapeutic referrals

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

Engagement with the National Redress Scheme

Supporting Survivors, families and communities impacted by Institutional abuse

Professional advocacy and mediation

Help Health Hope

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



Founders' Day Lunch 160 years of leadership, legacy and connection

Saturday 9 May saw our community gather at Ormond Hall for a special Founders' Day Lunch, marking 160 years of Wesley College.

Joined by more than 100 Old Wesley Collegians spanning eight decades – including 36 Golden Lions – the room buzzed as guests reminisced about the last time they had been in the space, whether for a formal, dinner dance or even an examination. Before the event began, some guests also took the opportunity to watch the Girls' First XVIII Football team in action on the Front Turf, cheering our girls on to a great win.

The focus of the day was celebrating our history through the voices of school captains past and present. MC Isabella Dunwill (OW1996), former Glen Waverley School Captain, opened proceedings and welcomed Principal Nick Evans (OW1985), who reflected on the significance of this milestone year. OWCA President Tom Pewtress (OW2018), also a former Glen Waverley School Captain, addressed the audience on the current priorities of the OWCA Board and officially launched the new OWCA Award, which will celebrate the positive impact of OWs in their community. The ceremony also included the presentation of the newly created Fellow's pin, recognising the Fellows of the OWCA.

After a delicious lunch, guests turned their attention to an engaging panel discussion featuring acclaimed actors Chris Gabardi (OW1987) and Nicole Nabout (OW1987), the Captain and Vice-Captain of Wesley's first coeducational Year 12 cohort. They were joined by moderator Michael Lindell (OW1962), current Glen Waverley Captain and boarder, Archie, and Elsternwick leaver and current St Kilda Road Captain, Ananya.

Michael guided the conversation through themes of connection, legacy and leadership. Hearing from our current captains alongside the first co-ed captains highlighted the enduring strength of leadership and community across generations.



Founders' Day Panel (L-R): Nicole Nabout (OW1987), Chris Gabardi (OW1987), Ananya (2026 St Kilda Road Co-Captain), Archie (2026 Glen Waverley Co-Captain), Isabella Dunwill (OW1996) and Michael Lindell (OW1962)



The infamous OW1982s! (L-R): Cam Williams, Mark Samlal, Ian Thomas, Alex Iljin, Cameron Grant and Rob Lancaster



From left: Niv Fernando (OW1987), Jacqui Dobson (OW1988), Josee Pinsonneault, James Renkin (OW1996), Ben Howden (OW1987), Cameron Bacon (OW1987), Jodie Dobson (OW1987), David Paynter (OW1985) and Marcus Estlin (OW1987)

Ananya spoke with a quiet wisdom, sharing that 'leadership begins with deep listening – to oneself and others – and that only through truly hearing one another can genuine leadership emerge.' Archie built on this, emphasising that 'a strong connection to place, people and community is what anchors and strengthens leadership.'

Chris shared that 'respect and authentic friendship shaped his own experience,' recalling his time as part of the first Year 12 coeducational cohort. Nicole added that as the first girls to join, they felt 'warmly welcomed and encouraged to strive for their best.'

Together, Chris and Nicole reflected on how the school's early commitment to inclusivity and diversity not only shaped their own lives but created a legacy that continues to guide and inspire those who followed.

The afternoon concluded with a rousing rendition of our beloved school songs, accompanied by former staff member, Alex Cameron. Then, in a touching moment, the room turned its attention to Peter Norman OAM (OW1949), who was celebrating his 93rd birthday. As Peter quipped, 'It's not every year you have over 100 of your closest friends sing you happy birthday!'

Our 2026 Founders' Day Lunch was a meaningful reminder of the ways our Golden Lions and wider alumni community remain connected to Wesley College – especially in this milestone 160th year.



From left: Luca Jolson (OW2022), Agusia Kapitaniak (OW1997), Sarah Wade (OW1996), Nick Lavery (OW2016), Jen Taylor (OW2023), Aiden Lee (OW2025) and Oscar Leeton (OW2024)



OWCA Fellows



Peter Norman (OW1949) celebrating his 93rd Birthday at Founders' Day



OWCA 'Dare to be Wise' award

Celebrating Wesley Alumni making an impact

Are you a Wesley graduate making a difference in your field or community?

The Old Wesley Collegians Association invites nominations for the OWCA 'Dare to be Wise' award which will recognise outstanding alumni who are shaping change through leadership, service and values in action.

Nominations close: 5pm, Wednesday 9 December 2026



Enter here

For more information, scan the QR code or visit owca.net/member-benefits/owca-award



An afternoon at the cricket



Members of the 1966 First XI Cricket team



Emma Hunter (Galbraith) (OW1997), Sabeena DeBono, Head of the St Kilda Road Campus, and Julia Griffiths (OW1997)



Trent Holden (OW1996), Nicola Robbins (Thompson) (OW1997), Greg Powell (OW1997) and Roy Paterson (OW1996)



Members of the OW Cricket Club



Members of the 1996 First XI Cricket team

The OWCA proudly launched its season of events with a memorable afternoon at the cricket, welcoming a half-century of former Wesley cricketers to the Rose Garden to watch the First XI take on Brighton Grammar on the Kroger Front Turf.

With OWs represented from every decade spanning the 1950s through to the 2010s – from both the male and female teams, the gathering was a joyful celebration of runs scored, wickets taken and lifelong connections forged at the crease.

A highlight was the coming together of the Boys' First XI teams from 1966 and 1996, who marked significant anniversary milestones. Captains David Crow OAM (OW1966) and Nick Harrison (OW1997) shared stories and reflections from their respective seasons, 60 and 30 years on, delighting attendees with anecdotes, both tall and true, that spoke to the enduring spirit of Wesley cricket.

Adding an important perspective, Nicola Robbins (Thompson) (OW1997), member of the 1997 Girls' First XI, spoke passionately about the challenges faced in the early days of female cricket. She reflected on the progress made since those formative years and expressed her enthusiasm for the continued growth and development of girls' cricket within the APS system.

It was wonderful to see members of the Collegians Cricket Club in attendance, further strengthening the meaningful connections between the College, the Club and the OWCA community.

Bathed in warm sunshine and warmer company, the afternoon was a fitting celebration of the proud history of Wesley cricket and an encouraging reminder of the strong foundations supporting the next generation of both girls' and boys' cricketers.



Bringing generations together

As part of the College's 160-year celebrations, the OWCA is hosting our inaugural Wesley Generation's Family Coffee morning where we will bring together, celebrate and recognise the cross-generational relationships that exist within our community.

The aim is to provide a platform for alumni of multiple generations – including current students, to connect and share experiences. As we bring our generational families together, we hope to strengthen and celebrate the sense of community, legacy and history that is such an integral part of the Wesley story.



Honouring the Past. Inspiring the future.

Fellow of both the College and the OWCA, Gordon Newton OAM (OW1950), recently visited the St Kilda Road Campus with son Richard (OW1977), grandson Tim (OW2004) and great grandson and current student, Lachlan, celebrating five generations of the Newton family at Wesley College. Gordon's father, Mr Lauri Newton, was also a student commencing in 1907, starting a long and enduring legacy with the College.

History of the Newton Family at College:

1st Generation:	Mr Lauri Newton (year of entry 1907)
2nd Generation:	Mr Gordon Newton (OW1950)
3rd Generation:	Richard Newton (OW1977) Phil Newton (OW1983)
4th Generation:	Tim Newton (OW2004) Simon Newton (OW2007) Felicity Newton (OW2009) James Diamond (OW2001) Amanda Stanley (OW2003) Paul Diamond (OW2006) Caroline Diamond (OW2009) Ben May (OW2012)
5th generation:	Lachlan (Grade 5)



COMMUNITY HONOURS 2026

Several members of our Wesley community have been recognised for their accomplishments and service to the wider community in the 2026 Australia Day Honours and King's Birthday Awards. We are delighted to extend our congratulations and acknowledge their achievements. Scan the QR code to learn more.



OWCA GENERATIONAL PHOTO & COFFEE MORNING

We invite all Old Wesley Collegians with children, or grandchildren currently attending Wesley to celebrate your family's Wesley story at our Generational Photo and Coffee Morning.

Friday 31 July
7:30–8:30am ELS | GW | SKR

See Calendar on page 58 for location details.

REUNIONS

St Kilda Road (OW1966) 60 Year Reunion



St Kilda Road (OW1976) 50 Year Reunion



REUNIONS

St Kilda Road (OW2001) 25 Year Reunion



St Kilda Road (OW2006) 20 Year Reunion

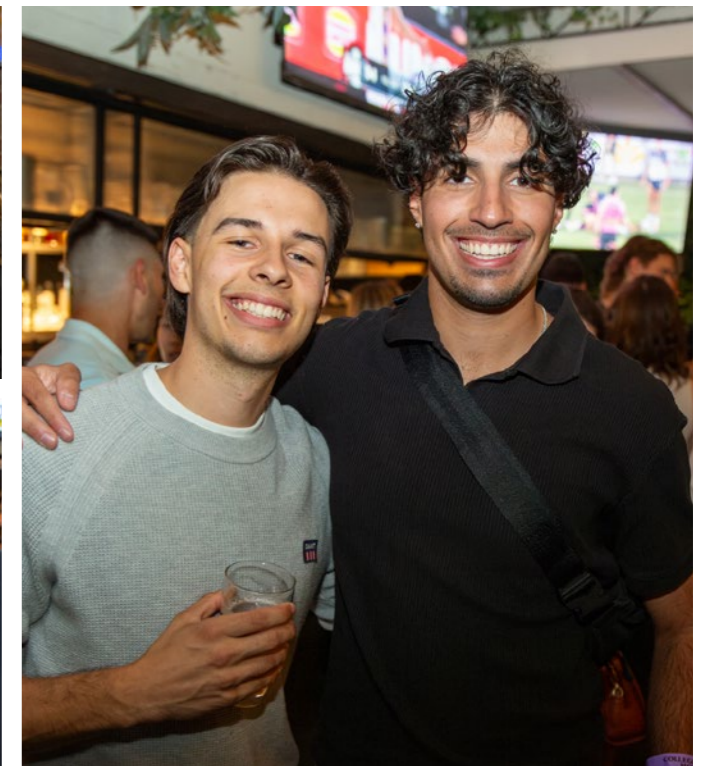


REUNIONS

Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road (OW2016) 10 Year Reunion



Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road (OW2021) 5 Year Reunion



REUNIONS

Glen Waverley (OW2001) 25 Year Reunion



Glen Waverley (OW2006) 20 Year Reunion



*Unfortunately the professional photos taken at these two events were lost due to a technical issue with the camera.



Connect with your OW network

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



Instagram: @oldwesleycollegians
Facebook: Old Wesley Collegians Association

Share your news: owca@wesleycollege.edu.au
Website with contacts and calendar: www.owca.net

AFFILIATES

Collegians Football Club



Women's team lining up



Sam Frost (OW2010)

The commencement of the 2026 season has brought with it a real sense of energy and optimism across the Club. Our pre-season began back in early November 2025, and from the first session, there was a noticeable lift in commitment, with strong numbers consistently attending training. That level of engagement has set a positive tone for the year ahead and reflects the excitement building within both the playing group and the broader Club community.

Our women's program has also returned in a very encouraging position, with around 70% of the team made up of OWs, which is fantastic news for the continued connection between the Club and the school. To help strengthen the program in 2026, we have entered a joint team arrangement with Prahran Football Club for this season. This partnership will ensure healthy playing numbers while giving our women the best opportunity to enjoy their football in a competitive and supportive environment.

The Club will field four men's teams in 2026, highlighting the depth that continues to build in our playing list. There is genuine excitement around a number of new faces at the club, none more notable than Sam Frost (OW2010). Sam was a Premiership player in the Wesley football program and returns to Collegians after a distinguished AFL career with both the Melbourne and Hawthorn Football Clubs, bringing invaluable experience and leadership.

Off the field, 2026 marks the first year of the Club's strategic plan – *Towards 2030*, which is already beginning to shape the future direction of Collegians.

There are exciting developments in the communications space, with a refreshed digital presence helping members stay connected through the Club website and social channels. We recently held a highly successful season launch at River's Edge Events, with 120 attendees enjoying a sit-down lunch and hearing from guest speakers Paul Guerra (past parent) and Jackie Parry (OW2014). The Club has also established eight sub-committees that are now gaining momentum, each focused on driving key areas of the club forward and creating long-term stability both administratively and financially.

The 2026 season will also be supported by a strong calendar of events designed to bring the Collegians community together. Four major reunions for the 1961, 1986, 2006 and 2011 groups, a Mother's Day breakfast, Back to School Round at the Glen Waverley Campus, school matches under lights, and a special Friday night fixture against Old Melburnians following the Wesley versus Melbourne Grammar school match all promise to make it a memorable year.

With momentum building on and off the field, the Club is looking forward to a successful season and continuing that growth well into 2027.

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

- Atkin Partners Lawyers
- Australian Venue company – The PASS
- Bastion
- Bendigo Bank – Community Bank East Malvern
- Big Wet Spring Water
- Jefferson Automotive
- KOR
- Mercedes-Benz Waverley
- Oxley Nets
- OWCA
- Tellurian – Heathcote
- Total Facility Maintenance

Support our club!
 Become a member



AFFILIATES

Collegians Car Club



Collegians Club members at the 2026 'Show and Shine' event



Whatever's sitting in your garage – a weekend sports car, a lovingly restored classic, a modern muscle machine, or even a motorbike that hasn't seen a decent road in months, the Collegians Car Club exists for one simple reason: to get it out and the pistons moving.

The club has grown to over 50 members, bringing with them a wonderfully diverse array of vehicles that were on full display at our recent 'Show and Shine' event at the Glen Waverley Campus. A fantastic morning that reminded all of us just how much passion sits quietly within this community. The 'Show and Shine' event will be returning in February 2027.

But this event is only half of the story. The real joy comes from the drives themselves, with two fantastic events on our 2026 calendar.

Our first drive on 19 June took us through the Yarra Valley to the Launching Place Home Hotel – an historic, locally owned pub sitting opposite the Yarra River and adjacent to the Warburton Rail Trail. The venue is owned and run by Neil Shankly (OW1982), making it an even more special destination.

Our Christmas Drive on 6 December promises to take on an entirely different character, winding through the historic Mount Macedon region and across some of Victoria's finest hill country before finishing at Hotel Trentham, owned and operated by former NBA player and Australian basketball legend, Chris Anstey.

You don't need to be a member to join us on a drive – all members of the community are warmly invited to come along and be part of the day. Bring a friend, bring the family... bring anyone who loves a great road and good company.

Photos courtesy of Bruce van Twest photography



JOIN COLLEGIANS CAR CLUB TODAY!

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

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

Follow us on socials @collegianscarclub and join the ride!



Sign up today

OW Cricket Club



OWCC Second XI Premiers

The 2025/26 season has been another strong chapter for the Old Wesley Cricket Club, one that delivered growth at the top level and a premiership to cap it off. Our First XI continued their push in Division 1, consolidating their place among the competition's top sides. While finals just slipped out of reach, the group proved they belong at this level, taking it up to some of the competition's best each week. There were some standout performances along the way, with Wade Kind and Ryan O'Brien producing memorable centuries – Ryan helped himself to two, against quality opposition including Old Haileybury, PEGS and Old Scotch. Under the ever-reliable leadership of Rick Morris (OW2004), the foundations are well and truly set for another crack next season.

The headline act, however, belongs to the Second XI – Premiers! After starting the season strongly and finishing it the same way, the group carried momentum into finals and delivered when it mattered most. The semi-final against Old Camberwell will go down as one of the more dramatic days in club history.

With Old Camberwell needing 30 runs and OWCC just two wickets, a lengthy rain delay left everything hanging in the balance – and a draw would have ended our season. After nearly two hours off, play resumed and within three balls, Khush Shah had the final two wickets. Game over, into the Grand Final!

From there, it was a classic team effort. Gritty contributions with the bat from Dhruv Goela (68), Jack Poulos (OW2020) (33) and Xavier Martine (33) set things up, before the bowlers got to work. James Dowland (OW2016) and Adrian Poynter (OW2010) both claimed three wickets in the decider, capping off outstanding seasons that also included five-wicket hauls for each. A big shout out to Dowland, who led the side superbly in a maiden premiership season, and we think there's more silverware not too far away.

A special moment on the day was lifting the Rob Savedra Trophy, named after Wesley's much loved groundsman, Rob Savedra (OW1985). One of the club's longest serving members, the great man was there to witness the Second XI claim

the silverware bearing his name, making the occasion even more meaningful for everyone involved. The victory also marks back-to-back premierships for the club, following the First XI's Division 2 triumph last season, a great reflection of the depth and direction of the group.

Off the field, the club continues to bring together a great mix of OWs, mates, family and new faces for a good game of cricket and a better time afterwards. That balance of competitiveness and community remains the heartbeat of OWCC.

Looking ahead, we're always keen to welcome new players into the fold. Whether you're returning to the game or just keen to get involved, we'd love to have you down next season. Training runs on Wednesday evenings at Glen Waverley Campus and Thursday evenings at the St Kilda Road Campus. If you're interested, get in touch with **Rick Morris (OW2004)** on **0438 081 886** and come down for a hit. Go Lions!

Ben Symon (OW2012)



JOIN THE WESLEY SUPPORT SQUAD WINTER MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE*

Including supporter chairs for cheering from the sidelines, and hoodies and buffs for the winter sports.

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

Shop online at: wesleysupporters.shop



AFFILIATES

OWCA Cross Country



Adam Pike (OW2013) being presented with the winners' silverware by Bill Franzke (OW1965)

The 2026 season is underway!

From April to August, Old Wesley runners tackle a great mix of on- and off-road races, with distances from 3km to 21km – so there's an option for everyone, whether you're aiming for a personal best or simply keen to get moving.

OW Cross Country competes against 11 other APS clubs across 12 events throughout the season. Five of these events include team scoring, where runners' results combine to count toward the club's overall points total. The club is aiming to build on the momentum of recent seasons and put together another competitive year in 2026.

2025 delivered some terrific results, with the OW women's relay team winning the Tan Track Relay and the club also taking the team win at the Brighton 8km. Across the season, OW finished fifth overall in the club championship – an improvement on the year before and a strong showing for a smaller club.

New runners are always welcome. Whether you're a Collegian, a current student, or a family member of a Collegian, you're invited to join the OW crew. There's no pressure to run every event – it's simply a great way to stay fit, get out and enjoy the company of a friendly group.

For recent school leavers, OW Cross Country is a great way to stay connected with Wesley running while building



Hooley Relay event at Braeside Park

your fitness alongside familiar faces (and plenty of new ones). As an added incentive, the annual registration fee is waived for runners under 20, making it even easier for younger athletes to get involved.

Contact us if you are interested in getting involved or search OW.cross.country on Insta and Facebook.

Adrian Pile (OW2000)
adrian.pile@bigpond.com

OWCA Collegians X Hockey Club



Jasper (Year 11) in action

The 2026 winter season is now underway, and it has been fantastic to see all teams make a strong start.

It has also been wonderful to see current Year 11 student Jasper pushing for a place in the Wesley First XI. He joins his brother Cam Miller (OW2025) at the club, following in the footsteps of their father and grandfather, both long-time players with Collegians X.

Collegians X Hockey Club welcomes OWs and new players of all ages and abilities. It is more than just hockey; it's about being part of a community built on teamwork, friendship and club spirit.

We field both women's and men's teams competing on weekends, with training held on Wednesday nights from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. For those looking for something a little more social or flexible, we also have a Monday night competition available.

If you are interested in playing, please contact **Scott Booth** on 0418 553 212 or search 'Collegians' X on Facebook.



Collegians X Hockey defensive corner



Contact: **Scott Booth (OW1985)**

Mobile: 0418 553 212

Search 'Collegians X' on:



OWCA Golf



(L-R): David Kennedy (OW1966), Field Rickards (OW1966), Peter Dakin (OW1963) and Ed Johnson (OW1964)

The annual APS Golf Day, held at Metropolitan Golf Club in May, brought together former students from across the APS community. Unfortunately, this year's event was played in difficult



Golfers from Scotch and Carey with Toby Loakes (OW1993) (left) and Nick Shortis (OW1995) (right)

conditions, with wind gusts exceeding 50km/h making for a challenging day on the course. The Old Wesley team was represented by a passionate and enthusiastic group of players, but despite

a spirited effort, was unable to improve on last year's result, with St Kevin's taking out this year's title.

While Old Wesley finished at the lower end of the leaderboard, there were still some standout individual performances. Nick Shortis (OW1995) claimed Nearest the Pin honours, while Toby Loakes (OW1993) took out the Longest Drive competition. Well done, gents.

This year, our team was two players short, so if you are reading this and would like to participate next year, please contact the OWCA office to be added to the email list.

It's a fantastic day and will be held at the Metropolitan Golf Club again next year.



JOIN THE OWCA BOWLS CLUB!

We welcome players of all abilities to our friendly group. Enjoy regular matches followed by relaxed luncheons and the chance to catch up with fellow OWs.

2026 MATCH SCHEDULE

Wednesday 2 September
OW OM and MCC v Old Scotch at MCC Swinburne

Wednesday 23 September
OW v West Brighton at West Brighton Club

Wednesday 7 October
OW OM and MCC v Old Scotch at MCC Swinburne

Wednesday 21 October
OW OM and MCC v Old Scotch at MCC Swinburne

Wednesday 11 November
OW OM and MCC v Old Scotch at MCC Swinburne

Wednesday 2 December
V OW OM and MCC v Old Scotch at MCC Swinburne

To find out more, contact the OWCA Office or call **0403 023 288**.



COLLEGIANS SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

The Collegians Ski and Snowboard Club is a 33-bed lodge with large communal lounges with fireplaces, a bar, self-catering kitchen, dining room, Starlink Wifi and comms, a drying room and ski room.

Our onsite manager provides a welcoming family-friendly Alpine experience.

To make a booking, email bookings.collegians@gmail.com, listing your connection to Wesley College. You will then be sent a login, so you can book at any time, subject to availability.

The Friends of Collegians rate is \$150 per bed. Hope to see you on the slopes!

Book now!

<https://www.collegiansskiclub.org.au/>




JOIN THE WESLEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY CHOIR!

Sing, connect and have fun every Wednesday evening during term time in the Stillwell Recital Centre at the St Kilda Road Campus. No experience required – all welcome.

Interested? Contact Susie Rodgers-Wilson susierw52@gmail.com | **0419 898 933**



Births

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



ANGELUCCI

To Stephanie (OW2010) and Cameron Antonuccio in February 2026, a son, Lorenzo Matteo, a brother for Luca, a nephew for Michael (OW2011)



BAKER – HOSKING

To Hannah (OW2008) and Richard (OW1996) in April 2026, a son, Rex Richard Baker, a nephew for Thomas Baker (OW2010) and Sara Baker (OW2011)



BOLTON – SCHWARZE

To Alexandra (OW1996) and Diesel (OW1995) in October 2025, a son, Humphrey, a nephew for Nicholas Bolton (OW1999)



DUNSTAN

To Carolyn (OW2004) and Jeffrey Lake in November 2025, a son, Archer Edward Dunstan, a little brother for Taylor, a grandson for Julie (Cato College 1977), a nephew for Sally Sole (Dunstan) (OW2007)



O'DONNELL 

To Tom (OW2009) and Lottie in April 2026, a son, George Alan, a brother for Henry, a nephew for Jack (OW2011) and Anni (OW2013)



PEEL 

To Mikaela (OW2009) and Josh Curwen in August 2025, a daughter, Marnie, a sister for Frank, a niece for Emma (OW2007)



PERRATON

To Mark (OW1995) and Ledene Ellis in November 2025, a son, Oliver, a nephew for Luke (OW1997) and Simon (OW1999)



SAMUEL 

To Fiona (OW2001) and Raph Krell in June 2025, a son, Toby Samuel, a sister for Naomi, a grandson for Brian (OW1965), a nephew for Brett (OW1996)



DYER

To Jess (OW2010) and Jack Powell in May 2026, a son, Sonny, a brother for Hayes, a grandson for Wayne (OWCA Honorary Life Member) and Amanda (OWCA Honorary Life Member), a nephew for Michael (OW2008)



FERGUSON 

To Stephanie (OW2005) and Tim Brack in October 2025, a son, Joshua, a brother for Charlotte, a nephew for Lachie (OW2010)



HEYES

To Danielle (Elmer) (OW2009) in March 2026, a daughter, Charlotte, a sister for Marcelle



HORSLEY 

To Monique (OW2011) and Matt Jenkinson in March 2026, a son, Jude Richard, a nephew for Bianca (OW2011) and Louis (OW2013)



SHARP – SINGLETON

To Saacha (OW2011) and Matthew (OW2013) in December 2025, a daughter, Rose Jane Sharp, a sister for Hugo, a niece for Mia Sharp (OW2014), Hannah Singleton (OW2014) and Nikita Singleton (OW2017)



THOMAS

To Jill (OW1999) and Bernabé Salvador in November 2025, a son, Leo, a nephew for Simon (OW1996), Oliver (OW1998), Jacqueline Matry (Thomas) (OW2004) and Caroline (OW2010)



THORNTON 

To Lexi (Nelson) (OW2009) and Scott in January 2026, a son, Beau, a nephew for Christina (OW2013)



WHARTON

To Aaron (OW2008) and Gabrielle in April 2025, a son, Finn Robert, a brother for Siena



KYROUSSIS – SZTEFEK 

To Matthew (OW2009) and Madison (OW2009) in May 2025, a son, Archie, a brother for Sebastian, a grandson for Ted Sztefek (OW1975), a nephew for Thomas Sztefek (OW2006), Jake Kyroussis (OW2012) and Max Kyroussis (OW2019)



LODER

To Jim (OW2004) and Anna in December 2025, a son, Hugo Alfred, a brother for Louis, a grandson for Tim (OW1976), a nephew for Kate (OW2006)



LYNCH

To James (OW2000) and Laura in March 2026, a daughter, Georgia, a sister for Albie, a granddaughter for Sue (past staff), a niece for Myles (OW2003)



NEAVE

To Phoebe (OW2009) and Nils Hebert in May 2026, a daughter, Emilia Elizabeth, a sister for Archie, a niece for Thee (OW2003) and Sophie (OW2006)

ENROL

YOUR CHILD

AT WESLEY



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

Don't leave it too late. Apply today

Applications can be completed online by visiting wesleycollege.edu.au/enrol/domestic-applications

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.



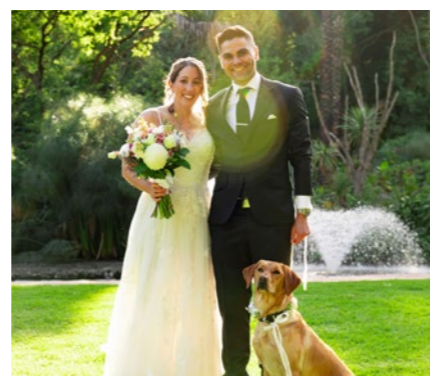
Engagements and Weddings



POCKNEE – JENKINS
William (OW2011) to Isabelle (OW2012)



BLAKE – STRACHAN
Michael (OW2014) and Alexandra (OW2014)
on 5 April 2025



BROWNE – TRELOAR
David (OW2010) and Sarah
on 20 March 2026



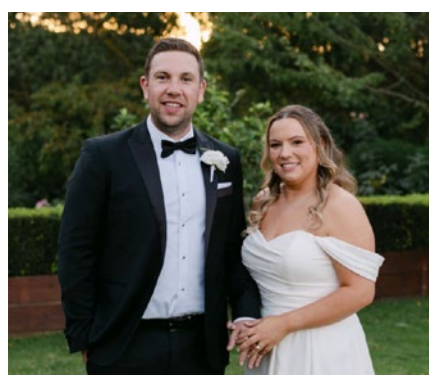
CROFT – WEST
Zander (OW2010) and Gabrielle (OW2010)
on 20 December 2025



JORDAN – GONDELLE
Montana (OW2016) and Nathan
on 30 January 2026



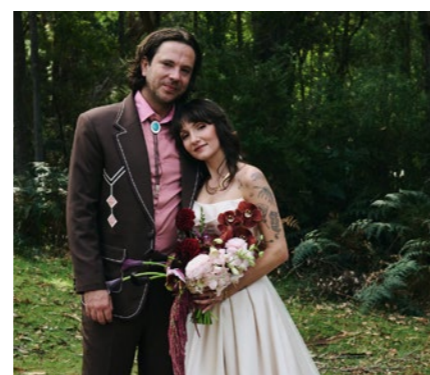
LENSKY – SALTER
Paris (OW2009) and Jane
on 21 February 2026



PARSONS – BOUCHER
Haydn (OW2008) and Amber
on 13 March 2026



STUK – TURVEY
Keren (OW2010) and Chris
on 3 January 2026



WRIGHT-SMITH – FOSTER
Ben (OW2006) and Nichole
on 14 March 2026

Deaths

ADAMSON

Prof. Thomas Michael (Mick) AM (OW1954) on 22 February 2026, son of Ernest (OW1907) (dec), brother of Dick (OW1940) (dec), cousin of Kenneth (OW1922) (dec)

ALLEN

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

BENTON

Peter Kenneth (OW1954) on 19 November 2025, father of Darren (OW1997)

CARDEN

Anthony Basil George (Tony) (OW1951) on 23 November 2025, son of Basil (OW1918) (dec), father of James (OW1983), grandfather of Annie Lawson-Carden (OW2019)

CHEN

Stephen (OW1949) on 22 August 2025, brother of Philip (OW1947) (dec) and John (OW1950), uncle of Phillip (OW1981) and Simon (OW1985), grandfather of Robert White (current staff), great uncle of Campbell (OW2018) and Ally (OW2021)

CHISHOLM

Murray Montgomery (OW1949) on 23 August 2020

DANKS

Michael David (OW1969) on 1 January 2026, son of John (OW1944) (dec), brother of Graeme (OW1967) (dec), uncle of Penny (OW1997), Emily Condon (Danks) (OW2000) and Belinda Danks-Woodley (OW2004)

DAVEY

Robin Campbell (OW1958) on 22 August 2025

DODD

Bret (OW1973) on 20 February 2026

DUNOON

David Alan (OW1950) on 11 January 2026

ELTHAM

Kenneth Graham (OW1945) on 19 July 2025

FONE

David John (OW1946) on 15 May 2025, father of David (OW1974), Richard (OW1978) and Chris (OW1982), grandfather of Alexandra (OW2004) and Tim (OW2006)

FREEMAN

Richard (John) (OW1953) on 18 May 2026, brother of Bill (OW1952)

GELLIE

John (OW1951) 28 February 2026, nephew of John Watt (OW1927) (dec), father of Ewen (OW1986) (dec) and Fiona Van Munnen (Gellie) (past staff), grandfather of Ethan McMenney (OW2023)

GOUDY

Alexander Peter (OW1955) on 6 June 2024

GOURLAY

Andrew (OW1967) in December 2025

GUEST

The Hon Paul Marshall ASM OAM KC (OW1957) on 15 March 2026, brother of Peter (OW1955) and Andrew (OW1965), father of Nicholas (OW1985) and Alex (OW1987)

HALBISH

Suzanne (OW1997) on 26 January 2026, sister of Carolyn (OW1990), Ashley (OW1991) and Philip (OW1994)

HANNA

Graeme Lindsay (OW1950) on 11 May 2026

HARRIS

Stephen (OW1966) on 5 May 2017, brother of Martin (OW1961), father of Timothy (OW1988) and Lucinda Cassidy (Harris) (OW1995)

HENSHALL

David Grenville (OW1956) on 27 August 2025

HAYWARD

Graham Bernard (OW1960) on 5 December 2024

JACKSON

Daryl Sanders AO (OW1953) on 21 February 2026, father of Timothy (OW1981) and Melissa (OW1987), grandfather of Ava (OW2016), Oliver, Maia Northam (OW2021), Elliot Northam (OW2024) and Inigo Northam (current student), great uncle of Joe Wells (OW2023) and Henry Wells (OW2026)

JOY

David Ross (OW1946) on 3 July 2025, brother of Peter (OW1942) (dec), father of Judy Latta (Joy) (ElsternwickMLC1972) and Pamela Eden (Joy) (CatoMLC1976)

KERMODE

Michael (Mike) Roy (OW 1963) on 7 November 2025, grandson of George (OW1890) (dec), great nephew of Arthur (OW 1892) (dec), cousin of John Moore (OW 1892) (dec), nephew of Horace (OW 1915) (dec), son of Roy (OW 1934) (dec), cousin of George (OW 1945) (dec) and Brian (OW 1950) (dec), brother of David (OW 1969), uncle of Nicholas (OW 2006)

KINSMAN

Mavis (MLC Elsternwick 1943) on 14 March 2025

MARTIN

Robert (Bob) Norman (OW1955) on 3 February 2026, brother of Ken (1955) (dec)

MCCREDDEN

Nicholas David (OW2001) on 21 February 2024, brother of Dan (OW1997)

OAKLEY

Anthony (Tony) James (OW1964) on 14 May 2026, grandson of Augustus (OW), son of Augustus (OW1925), nephew of Jack (OW1927), brother of Walter (OW1958) (dec) and Mick (OW1961) (dec), father of Susannah (OW1994), Louise Lew (Oakley) (OW1995) and James (OW2000), grandfather of Ned Constantaridis (current student) and Tom Constantaridis (current student)

PETERS

James (Jim) Walter (OW1950) on 24 October 2025, son of Jim (OW1922) (dec), brother of Geoffrey (OW1953), father of Matthew (OW1977) (dec), uncle of Graeme (OW1984)

RENTON

Rev. Robert William (former staff) on 29 April 2026, father of Simon (OW1987) and Damian (OW1988)

SEERS

Elaine (MLCElsternwick1952) on 27 December 2025, mother of Greg (OW1978)

TREYVAUD

Robyn (past staff) on 27 March 2026

WATERS

John (OW1950) on 13 August 2023, father of Timothy (OW1983), grandfather of James (OW2014)

WATSON

William Jeffery (OW1955) on 29 June 2025

WEST

Robert (OW1956) on 27 February 2026, brother of John (OW1955), father of Russ (OW1982) and Edmund (OW1984)

OBITUARIES

David Ross Joy (OW1945)

18/11/1928 – 03/07/2025



David began at Wesley College in 1942, where his brother Bruce (Peter) (OW1942) already attended, along with many of his cousins and previous Ross and McKenzie family members from the Mansfield and Euroa farming communities.

David enjoyed house sports and actively competed in the swimming and football teams. He was a strong student, especially in music and piano theory and performance came naturally. When Wesley was requisitioned by the Army, students were relocated to Scotch College. Two rival schools sharing a campus had disaster written all over it, but it worked out fine in the end. David took it all in his stride. He travelled long distances by train with a bag full of books and sports gear, studied hard, joined cadets, played sport, performed music and enjoyed his school life.

After finishing at Wesley, David obtained a job at Russell Manufacturing Company (Recco), commencing a long and successful 28-year career in metallurgy. While working full time, David studied for a Diploma of Secondary Metallurgy at RMIT.

After graduating, David spent the next ten years as a Quality Control consultant working for the Victorian chapter of the Australian Organisation for Quality Control and Department of Industry, Technology and Resources, providing Quality Control strategic and tactical services for Victorian companies. He had a very active professional career.



David met Shirley, his lifelong partner of 75 years, in 1948. David and Shirley married in the Wesley Chapel in 1952. They had two daughters – Judith Latta (Joy) (ElsternwickMLC1972) and Pamela Eden (Joy) (ElsternwickMLC1976).

On retirement, David became actively involved with various community groups and political campaigns to help make the local community and wider Victoria a better place to live. This activism included lobbying councillors and State politicians, planning and holding political campaigns, and setting up a local environmental group called The Friends of Abbott Street, which was responsible for replanting and maintaining vegetation on the foreshore between Jetty Road in Sandringham and the Sandringham Rotunda.

He was a hardworking, well-loved family man who achieved career success and had a deep connection with his Wesley friends – Keith Comben (OW1945) (dec), Kingsley Hull (OW1947) (dec) and Graeme Hindson (OW1945). They maintained a lifelong friendship and met regularly over the 80 years with their families.

David didn't just talk about doing the right thing, he lived it. He had a dry wit, a sharp mind, and a warm heart. He could be both serious and humorous, depending on what the moment called for. He wasn't someone who chased attention. He just got on with things, quietly, competently, with humility and kindness.

In the end, what made David so special was how he made people feel. He was dependable, thoughtful and loving. Whether it was in the workplace, in the community, or at home, David made those around him feel seen, valued and respected. He will be missed by all who knew him.

John Harold Mervyn Gellie (OW1953)

08/12/1933 – 28/02/2026



John grew up in Surrey Hills and would travel to Wesley by train each day. He began at Wesley in 1946 in 'The Twenty', the form for new boys and scholarship boys. In that year, there were 36 students in his class, with W. H. Kennedy as the form teacher. It was at Wesley that John realised he loved playing sport. Early in the football season, he received his nickname 'Greenback' from Graeme Embury (OW1950) (dec), because of the green jumper he wore to football training before Wesley jumpers became available. He was still called by that nickname by many OWs throughout his life.



From an early age, John consistently played football for Wesley and was a member of the First XVIII in 1949, 1950 and 1951. He also regularly competed in the Athletics team – in the Relay in 1947 and 1948, as well as 100 yards, 220 yards, long jump and hurdles in 1949, 1950 and 1951.

In 1952, John achieved a resident scholarship to Queens College and began studying Engineering at Melbourne University in 1953. He was a prominent past player at Collegians Football Club and a keen and involved supporter for many decades. John's CFC record included being a Premiership player in 1956 B Grade, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, most consistent player in 1956, and runner up in the Best and Fairest in 1957. He was also the consulting engineer for the original Harry Trott Clubhouse construction at the northern end of Albert Park.



After completing Civil Engineering in 1957, John worked for the SEC in the Civil Design branch before moving to Mount Beauty to work on the Kiewa Hydro Electric Scheme, then the Yallourn Power Station. On his return to Melbourne in 1959, his career in civil engineering continued with Erik Kolle and Associates, then Milton Johnson and Partners, and finally with Doug Turnbull (OW1970).

John also consulted to the College as an engineer and was especially proud of the contribution he made to the upgrade of the Boathouse on the Yarra, particularly the 'floating' boat launching ramp which he always claimed was the first of its kind anywhere in the world. He was perpetually disappointed that the continual silting of the Yarra at the Boathouse site failed to enable the brilliance of his design to be fully realised!

He also used his engineering expertise to assist in many aspects of Wesley campuses, including the establishment of Clunes and the development of a maintenance program for the three campuses.

John was a very willing and substantial contributor to the governance of Wesley, serving on the College Council during the 1980s and 1990s, where he brought his vast civil engineering experience to the Council's Property Committee which he successfully chaired for many years. Lex Hibbins (OW1953) (dec) was one of his co-councillors for some time. John was also President of the OWCA in 1988.

More recently, he socialised with past College Council members and social pub lunch groups, and participated for many years in the Annual Cup Week trips with Wesley mates. John was a regular spectator at the Collegians Football matches until his declining mobility made it difficult to attend. He was able to attend the Tall Ships luncheon in December 2025 at the Boathouse.

John had four children: Fiona (past staff), Catriona, Kirsten and Ewen (OW1986) (dec).

He was immensely proud that Fiona served on the staff at the Glen Waverley Campus for many years. He was a wonderful contributor to the life and wellbeing of Wesley and Collegians, and lived a full, vibrant life. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Contributed by Fiona Van Munnen (Gellie) (past staff) and Kirsten Gellie



Daryl Jackson AO (OW1953)

07/02/1937 – 21/02/2026



Daryl's relationship with Wesley began as a student at the St Kilda Road Campus, where his early interest in art and design first took shape. After graduating from RMIT University and the University of Melbourne, he established his architectural practice in the early 1960s and quickly emerged as a defining voice in Australian architecture. His work blended innovation with humanity, producing buildings that were not only admired but deeply lived in.

Daryl was widely regarded as one of the country's most influential architects of the past 50 years, with a legacy that spans his work, writings and teaching. His buildings reflect his belief that architecture should inspire, uplift and support the people who use it. For thousands of Wesley students, his vision has done exactly that. His architectural fingerprints are all over modern Wesley and include the redevelopment of Prahran Senior School (1972); Glen Waverley Senior College (1983); Elsternwick CATA SIMC Special Interest Music School (1992); Early Childhood Learning Centre Prahran (1994); Glen Waverley Adventure Playground (1995); Prahran Senior Library, National Theatre and Adamson Hall Redevelopment (1997); Prahran Middle School (1998); Glen Waverley Middle, Junior and Prep Schools (1998); Wesley College Clunes Residential Campus (1998); Wesley Clunes Weavery and Manse Project (1999); Wesley College Masterplan (2004). As Andrew Lemon, Wesley's most recent historian has noted, 'More than any other individual, Jackson reinterpreted and created the fabric of Wesley College, the physical

surroundings, in the final quarter of the twentieth century'. The best example of this was the new build of the Prahran ELC as an innovative place of learning, with a large circular gathering space as a central focal point for weekly events. Daryl worked closely with Kim Anderson on the project, who was the inaugural head of that facility, demonstrating his willingness to collaborate with those who would be using these spaces.

From the 1980s, Daryl also delivered designs for major sporting venues across Australia's East Coast and in Asia, including the Australian Institute of Sport Swimming Pool Centre in Canberra (1981-82), which won the Sir Zelman Cowan Award in 1984. He designed the Great Southern Stand (1988-91) and later the Northern Stand (2003-05) at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Other city-making Melbourne projects by Jackson include the 120 Collins Street skyscraper (1989-91) and County Court Victoria, with Lyons and SKM Architects (2002), the latter of which won the Institute's 2003 Interior Architecture Award.

In 1981 Daryl became the inaugural president of the Wesley College Society for the Arts. This organisation made a substantial contribution to the development of Arts at Wesley, and in 1987 the art studios at the St Kilda Road Campus were named The Daryl Jackson Visual Arts Centre to honour Daryl's tireless efforts as the Foundation President. He was made a trustee and patron of the Society for the Arts on his retirement as President.



FOOTBALL TEAM, 1953
 Standing: A. M. Nicol, D. G. Reynoldson, J. M. Lumb, J. L. Black, P. M. Levin, Mr. W. H. Mason-Cox, D. G. Cohen, J. G. Squire, W. T. Morcom, J. W. Frederick, D. Efron.
 Sitting: D. S. Jackson, M. A. Huf, B. P. Hutchens, R. E. Hicks (Vice-Captain), L. D. Hibbins (Captain), L. J. Hicks, M. J. Rush, D. C. Venville, E. R. H. Walker.
 Sitting in Front: N. I. Stewart, G. K. Chapman, J. A. Hurst, G. J. Campbell, G. Broadbridge, J. K. Grieves, I. G. Unkenstein.
 In Absentia: F. J. Bassett.

Daryl joined the Wesley College Council in 1992 and became President in 1995, relinquishing the position in 1999. His presidency was marked by the conclusion of the principalship of Glen McArthur and the appointment and early years of David Loader. These were rather turbulent times for the College and the calm good sense and humanity of Daryl was critical in navigating these times. At the end of his term, he was significantly involved in the planning for Clunes. Indeed, it was at his suggestion that Clunes was considered as a place for a residential campus for Year 9 students. Daryl being born in Clunes brought a lovely symbiosis to the project. Since 1999 he was on the Wesley College Institute Advisory Board and was a regular guest speaker at OWCA and College events.

Daryl was involved in the wider community as Chairman of the Australian Film Institute, Trustee of the National Gallery of Victoria, Member of the Victorian Council of the Arts, Chairman of the Heritage Council of Victoria, Vice President of the Melbourne Cricket Club and Director at the Essendon Football Club.

Daryl is survived by wife Kay, son and current Council member Tim (OW1981), daughters Sara, Olivia (current parent) and Melissa (OW1987), and grandchildren Ava Jackson (OW2016), Oliver Jackson (OW2018), Maia Northam (OW2021) and Inigo (Year 10).

Donald (Ian) Allen AM (OW1955)

15/05/1938 – 10/11/2025



Ian grew up as a Methodist minister's son in country Victoria until he moved to Melbourne and entered Wesley in 1951, where he was known to his contemporaries as 'Paddy'. He rowed for the school in the Head of the River in 1954 and 1955.

The year after leaving school, at age 18, he put together a coxed four which he stroked for the 1956 Olympic games. His young crew was initially named as bronze medallists, but they missed out after a photo finish camera revealed they were overtaken on the line. The emergence of Ian and his crew surprised the rowing community. In his book on Australian rowing, Bob Duncan OAM (OW1949), also an Olympic oarsman, wrote a chapter titled 'Where the hell did they come from?' to describe this unexpected success. For the 70th anniversary of the Melbourne Olympics, Ian and his crew are celebrated in this year's official magazine of the Australian Olympic Committee.

At the age of 54, Ian returned to rowing at the Alan Mitchell Club to start a highly successful Masters career, rowing in pairs with his close friend, the late Hon Paul Guest OAM KC (OW1957), and fours with the addition of John Henshaw (OW1959) and Dennis Millikan (OW1960) (dec). In addition to winning numerous State and National championships, his crews competed in the World Masters Rowing Championships around the world, resulting in 16 gold medals.

Ian had an important career in education. After graduating from Melbourne University, he was awarded a master's degree and doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley, before becoming a professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Georgia and being appointed Director of Professional Programs at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.



Returning to Australia, he was Principal of Coburg Teacher's College ahead of its amalgamation into RMIT University. As Executive Director of the Victorian Education Department, Ian played a key role in the rationalisation of the Victorian higher education sector and the establishment of the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM). He was Chair of the Australian Joint Committee on Higher Education from 1999-2000, which was tasked with the establishment of quality assurance standards for the higher education sector in Australia. Ian was also a member of the Councils of Monash, Deakin, Victoria and Swinburne Universities, and was Deputy Chancellor of La Trobe University.

In his retirement, Ian was a consultant to the governments of Chile, Oman and Saudi Arabia. He held Chairs in Education at Imam University in Riyadh and King Khalid University in Abha, Saudi Arabia, and was Chairman of the National Review Committee for Academic Accreditation and Assessment for the Saudi Government, 2005-2010.

Contributed by Geoff Allen AM (OW1960)



The Honorable Paul Marshall Guest ASM OAM KC (OW1957)

08/03/1936 – 15/03/2026



Paul Guest (OW1957) was an esteemed Australian rower, family law barrister and art philanthropist. Paul's rowing career began at Wesley, where he raced in the First VIII in 1956 and 1957. While Paul's rowing started inauspiciously, it was in athletics that Paul excelled as a 400-metre runner. He won the APS title, becoming the first schoolboy to break 50 seconds for the distance.

He attended The University of Melbourne, became a Queen's Counsel in 1983 and served as a Family Court judge from 1998 to 2008. Paul presided over many high-profile cases and made many defining judgements. His notable ruling in the Re Patrick case significantly impacted known sperm donor's rights under the Family Law Act.

Paul's achievements in rowing include competing in nine King's Cup eights for Victoria from 1960 to 1975, winning six national championships and representing Australia in three Olympic Games (1960, 1964 and 1968). He also won a gold medal at the 1962 Commonwealth Games and competed in several World Rowing Championships.

A highlight of the annual Boat Race Dinner is the presentation of the Paul Guest Medal, first awarded in 2019 in recognition of his significant contribution to both Wesley Rowing and the Alan Mitchell Club.

The medal is awarded to a member of the First VIII girls' or boys' crews, chosen by student vote, and recognises the student who best demonstrates the values of inspiration, leadership and humility.

Sadly, Paul passed away days before this year's Head of the River, making the presentation of this year's medal especially meaningful, with his daughter Alex (OW1987) and grandson Ryder (Year 11) in attendance.

Beyond law and rowing, Paul was a passionate art collector and philanthropist and had many friends in the art community. He founded the Paul Guest Prize for drawing to encourage artists to engage with drawing in contemporary art. He was also a benefactor of the Bendigo Art Gallery where he generously donated over 200 works of art. His contributions to sports, law and art have earned him life memberships at his rowing clubs, Rowing Victoria and Rowing Australia, as well as the Australian Sports Medal.

Paul's diverse career and contributions to multiple fields highlight his exceptional talent, dedication, and lasting impact on Australian society. He is survived by his partner Janette, brother Peter (OW1955), son Nick (OW1985), daughter Alex (OW1987), grandchildren Jade, Bianca, Rose and Ryder and great granddaughter Sunny.



Anthony (Tony) Oakley (OW1963)

14/01/1946 – 14/05/2026



Tony joined the Junior School at Wesley on a full academic scholarship in 1957 from Mentone Grammar School, immediately establishing a wide group of friends and impressing all teachers he met.

Tony was third generation Wesley, making his grandchildren, current Wesley St Kilda Road Middle School students Ned and Tom, the fifth generation to attend the College. Tony rowed in the first VIII in 1963 and 1964 and was Captain of Boats in his final year.

By the time he graduated, he had established himself as a successful musician – particularly as a trumpeter – as well as an enthusiastic and accomplished rower and a College Prefect.

Together with many of his peers, he went on to Queen's College at the University of Melbourne where he successfully studied Law and Commerce. At Queen's, he met his future wife, Liz Kelly, who was also studying Commerce and residing just next door at St Hilda's College. They were married in the Queen's College Chapel in 1974 and to Tony she was always just 'Kelly'.

During his time at Queen's, he had the good fortune (some might say misfortune!) to room with Jack Ayerbe (OW1963) whom he knew from Wesley. Jack remembers well that within a week of moving into Queen's, Tony had him on a boat and into rowing as a sport for the rest of his university career. Tony won Intersarsity in 1970 and a Melbourne University Full Blue in 1971.

After graduation, Tony joined John Hicks (OW1953) in the legal firm of Orames and Downing where he became a specialist in commercial litigation and intellectual property with considerable international work. Subsequently, Tony and John

departed that firm to establish Hicks and Oakley, with offices in the Melbourne CBD and Mt Waverley. During this time, Tony also spent many years serving on the Wesley College Council. The firm still exists successfully today as Hick Oakley Chessell Williams with John's son Matthew Hicks (OW1980) as its managing partner.

Rowing continued as an abiding passion for Tony, primarily via the Melbourne University Boat Club, in the company of the likes of Field Rickards (OW1966). It was with Field that Tony planned and established a rowing pool at Queen's, a feat he was forever proud of.

Family was important with Liz and Tony, producing daughters Susannah (OW1994) and Louise (OW1995) and son Jimmy (OW2000). Grandchildren Ned, Tom, Andrew, Alex and Annabelle followed. All eight of these spoke eloquently at Tony's memorial gathering at Queen's in May.

Family and friends delight in remembering Tony's patient, thoughtful and wise counsel, that he was always willing to give on almost any topic, legal or otherwise. That advice, if it was to one of his unsuspecting peers, often came with a guarded but clever dollop of wit. He was much admired and will be greatly missed.

Contributed by Jack Ayerbe (OW1963) and Frank Opray (OW1963)

Reverend Robert William Renton (former staff)

09/02/1946 – 29/04/2026



Rob was ordained in November 1974 but was always drawn to a career in teaching. He was offered the chance to take up a teaching scholarship of two pounds a month, provided he was prepared to sign up for teacher training when he finished at high school.

He said, 'When I was a boy, I wanted to be a teacher from the word go. I used to like what my teachers did. I think I might have been a teachers' pet! When I was about 15, I had a teacher whom I found to be inspirational. He used to stop mid-lesson to give us different monologues and sermons on this and that, so he inspired me.'

He commenced his working life in Adelaide in 1967 but moved to Sunbury with his family – wife Judy, and two sons Simon (OW1987) and Damien (OW1988) – to take up theological studies at Ormond College. From 1975-1985, he worked in a combined role as minister at the North Essendon Presbyterian Church and as chaplain to Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School.

Rob joined the staff at Wesley in 1986 as the chaplain at Glen Waverley Campus, and two years later was appointed as the last Principal of Cato College which amalgamated with Wesley in 1989,

becoming the Elsternwick Campus. He was twice Acting Principal of the College, and Head of both Clunes and St Kilda Road campuses.

The joy of working in education for Rob essentially lay in working with children. One parent recalled, 'He was a wonderful man who welcomed our son to Cato College. Toby has Cerebral Palsy.'

'We had experienced one rejection after another from so many schools. Rob was a breath of fresh air and a balm to our aching hearts. He did everything possible to ensure Toby was accepted and included.'

'We will never forget his kindness and compassion. He even came to Beaumaris to attend Toby's 40th birthday in 2016. A real Christian and an amazing Principal.'

On his retirement he said, 'I've found the Wesley College community, the parents, the kids and the staff to be fundamentally a decent bunch... not too pretentious and dead keen about education. I have always admired that.'

In keeping with his warm heart, he said he wished for students to 'remember that the most important things that you can achieve are things that are associated with the heart, rather than with financial gain.'

Achieving a balance in life, recognising that love is more important than money. If people remembered that as a message from me, then I'd be thrilled.'



2026 Calendar

July

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

August

OWCA Canberra Event
Friday 7 | 12:00pm
The Wine Room, Braddon

SKR (OW1986) 40 Year Reunion
Friday 21 | 7:00pm
Cato Room, SKR

September

OWCA Monington Peninsula Lunch
Friday 4 | 12:00pm
Lindenderry

OWCA Perth Event
Saturday 19 | 3:00pm
Henry's Rooftop, Perth

OWCA Asian Events
TBC, Asia

October

Elsternwick Silver Stars Lunch
Friday 2 | 12:00pm
Fitchett Hall, Elsternwick

OWCA x OSCA Golf Day
Monday 12 | 7:00am
Commonwealth Golf Club,
Oakleigh South

GW (OW1996) 30 Year Reunion
Friday 16 | 7:00pm
Alexander Room, GW

SKR & GW (OW2025) 1 Year Reunion
Friday 23 | 7:00pm
The College Lawn Hotel, Prahran

OWCA x Cato Ladies Golf Day
Friday 23 | 1:00pm
Victoria Golf Club

November

OWCA Sydney Event
Friday 6 | 6:00pm
Nanda/Hobbs Gallery, Chippendale

SKR (OW1996) 30 Year Reunion
Friday 13 | 7:00pm
Cato Room, SKR

OWCA Geelong Lunch
Friday 27 | 12:00pm
Truffleduck, Geelong

December

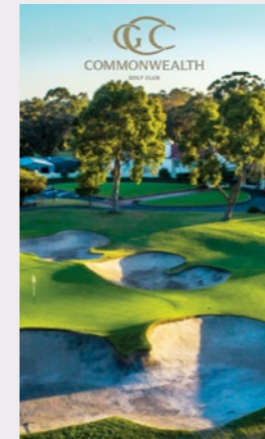
Donors & Volunteers Thank you event
TBC

Scan the QR
code for more
information or to
make a booking.



Elsternwick Silver Stars Lunch

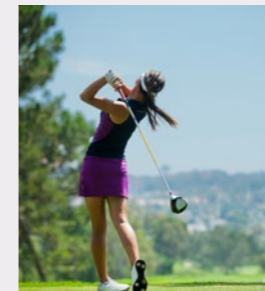
Friday 2 October | 12:00pm
Fitchett Hall, Elsternwick



OWCA x OSCA 18th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament

In 2026 we are back at the
world-famous sand belt.

Monday 12 October | 7:00am



OWCA x Cato Ladies Golf Day

Friday 23 October | 1:00pm
Victoria Golf Club



Golden Lions Chauffeur

For OWs aged 75 and older

Call +61 3 8102 6750
to book your complimentary
driver for an OWCA event



Our Instagram has changed.

Follow Wesley College
on our new account:

wesleycollege_melbourne

160 1866 — 2026 Celebrations



Canberra

Friday 7 August from 12:00pm
The Wine Room, Braddon



Mornington

Friday 4 September from 12:00pm
Lindenberry



Perth

Saturday 19 September from 3:00pm
Henry's Rooftop



Sydney

Friday 6 November from 6:00pm
Nanda/Hobbs Gallery, Chippendale



Geelong

Friday 27 November from 12:00pm
Truffleduck

AUSTRALIA ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Less USA, more self-reliance,
more Europe and Asia



18th Annual Wesley College Foundation

Business Lunch

Thursday 20 August
12.30 – 3.00pm
Carousel
22 Aughtie Drive, Albert Park



BOOK HERE

or go to
events.humanitix.com/wesley-business-lunch

Talent everywhere.
Opportunity here.

160 YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS APPEAL

Thank you for supporting Giving Day 2026
There's still time. **Donate now.**

DONATE



Donations of \$2 or more
are tax-deductible