

Lion

Edition 140 Dec 2020

THE WESLEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

*'A bit of Brenker'
in every class*

Farewell Richard
Brenker

Remote learning?

Take a look at *really*
remote learning

Best friends

A history of dogs
and other favourite
pets at Wesley

O brave new world

Finding the positives
in tempestuous times

A True Education



WESLEY COLLEGE

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Front cover image:

Facing danger: Artan Walker as the Ship's Master in the Glen Waverley Theatre production of the Campus Senior Musical, *The Tempest* – see our feature story, page 10

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Editorial

Following the successful launch of *Lion* online for our August edition, we're happy that as a *Lion* reader you can now access all future editions of our magazine in this way. And naturally, with our lives approaching something close to normality, we're also very pleased to welcome you back to *Lion* in print form!

Current Deputy Principal and Head of Glen Waverley Richard Brenker is retiring this month, and our leading feature story celebrates his four decades of outstanding service to Wesley. It's been an extraordinary career that extends over one quarter of the College's long existence. There aren't many jobs Richard hasn't done at the College; the significance of his contribution is perhaps best summed in Principal Nick Evans' comment that he has 'directly or indirectly impacted the lives of many thousands of Wesley College students.'

The cover shot for this edition – Artan Walker as Ship's Master, braving the stormy seas in Glen Waverley's musical production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* – seems a particularly apt visual metaphor for the year we've had. No shipwreck for Wesley though; it seems we became adept at finding the positives in these tempestuous times to help us through. David Dunn's feature story on the filming of *The Tempest* on page 10 enlivens this point, and a quick glance at the smiling faces of teachers and students in our Snapshots pages as they engaged in the shifting life of our school in 2020 typifies our willingness to accept and adapt in changing times.

In that same spirit, I'll leave the final thought to the wise-beyond-her-years Year 12 student Jem Kleinitz-Lister, who delivered this year's Hollaway Oration at the St Kilda Road Campus – see our story on page 18. She spoke about recognising that we live in an unpredictable world far beyond our control, and how that can free us from the limiting stories we tell ourselves about our own lives: 'In giving up our illusions, we are free to laugh in the face of the absurd world we live in, and better yet, we can laugh together.'

Erratum

Our *Lion* notice and obituary for Maurice Fabricant (OW1956) in the December 2019 edition referred incorrectly to the late Harold Fabricant (OW1960). Many thanks to all those who advised that Harold is very much alive. We apologise for what was, in the words of Mark Twain, a greatly exaggerated adjective.

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A True Education

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



Principal's lines

It has been the practice over most of my time working at Wesley to have a theme for the year. The theme for this year was 'Sustainable futures,' taken from the Strategic Framework. Sadly, this theme was prescient, given the bushfires of last summer and the pandemic that has consumed the world. Last year's theme was 'Change and continuity' – on this theme, I think I was meant to represent both. Our annual themes provide us with a context for the year, a way in which we can overcome the urgent and try to think about the important.

They have been, over the years, a mixed success.

The themes taken from ancient texts have had the most resonance for me. Some years ago, the chaplains suggested as a theme a quote from the *Bible*, Romans Chapter 12, Verse 5: 'Members one of another.' This was a wonderful suggestion, and prompted much reflection about the nature of community, of connection and of service to each other and the broader community. It was a superb antidote to the narcissism of emerging social media and a reminder of the importance of real social connection. It worked beautifully as a theme.

How do we choose a theme for 2021? This year has provided such challenges to the way we educate, the way we live. A theme that is driven by the language of corporate strategy seems unequal to the task. We need a theme that speaks to universal truths, that has a timeless quality, that can be embodied within the College and that will inspire our charges to consider how they may reshape our world, as will become their responsibility.

In the end, the theme for 2021 was obvious: *Sapere Aude*.

Sapere Aude, as many of you would know, is the motto of Wesley College. It was chosen by the founders of the College



Nick Evans at the Combined Year 7 Commencement Service: 'Dare to know, dare to think for yourself, dare to be wise'

before it opened its doors. It has somewhat fallen out of use. When I went through the College, we knew what it meant, at least loosely. I am not sure the same could be said now. As a measure of its lack of currency, it was only mentioned in the most recent history of Wesley College three times, and one of those times was to comment on how it had fallen out of use. It lives on largely in the name of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society.

Yet, it is the most wonderful message for a school, and for students, in the early 21st century. It loses nothing from having been written in 20 BCE. It was written by Horace as part of a moral fable about a fool waiting for a stream to pass before crossing. It is preceded by a phrase usually translated as, 'He who begins is half done.' *Sapere Aude* is usually translated as 'Dare to know.' It can be interpreted (and usually is in the Wesley context) as 'Dare to be wise.' When I went to Wesley, both were used. There is a third, more colloquial translation, 'Dare to think for yourself.'

These three translations make a wonderful progression. Dare to know, dare to think for yourself, dare to be wise. In a sense, they mimic the stages of the

creation of wisdom. Knowledge is nothing without the ability to interpret it meaningfully. Only by doing so can we gain wisdom.

Education, in this time and place, is too often reduced to a measurement of achievement, typically against others, in some form of test. The acronyms NAPLAN, IB, VCE, ATAR come to dominate the discussion. All of them speak to placing young people into a rank order and reducing education to competition. We have an opportunity to start a new conversation about education, one which puts creativity, thinking, originality, at the core.

We live in a world in which those who are young now will be charged with making great change. They will need to know much. They will need to think for themselves. They will need wisdom.

All of this is summed up in two words, written by a Roman poet more than 2,000 years ago. It is a wonderful theme for the College for 2021.

Sapere Aude.

Nick Evans (OW1985)





Richard Brenker: a leader who understands that schools are very funny places

'A bit of Brenker' in every single class

The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.* If Richard Brenker has a deep familiarity with that past, after 40 years of service to Wesley, he has also significantly influenced its present and its future, as **Paul Munn** explains.

They do things differently in the past. In December 1980, the newly graduated and just-married Richard Brenker, about to go on his honeymoon in Noosa, walks unannounced into Reception at the St Kilda Road Campus in jeans and a t-shirt, hand-delivering a letter of

application for a part-time Media Studies job. To his surprise, the secretary asks him if he'd have an interview with Principal David Prest then and there. As Richard tells it, 'We chatted for about 40 minutes about all sorts of stuff, and then he said, "The job's yours."'

Forty years on, the look of delight on Richard's face as he shares this anecdote says it all: he feels his Wesley life with a sense of immediacy that reaches back even to that seminal moment so long ago.

That thought is especially poignant right now, because this month he's retiring after 40 years' service to our school.

In that first decade – the burgeoning '80s – Richard essentially watched the school transform from the old Wesley to the modern school of today. With the transition to coeducation, Principal David Prest oversaw a complete change in the culture and nature of the school. It was growing quickly, and a sense of excitement was in the air.

Emerging from the depths of those early days was Richard's noteworthy nickname: 'The Whale.' Newer members of the Wesley community would be mistaken

‘Brenks wasn’t just an expert geographer but a passionate Melburnian. He would discuss the various strategies to avoid the degradation of land and deforestation, red-faced and jugular protruding.’

Gareth Briglia (OW1995)



Richard Brenker at the Glen Waverley Leadership Assembly: ‘If service is beneath you, leadership is beyond you’

in thinking it came from Richard’s impressive physical size. In fact, it was inspired during a trip he made with the Wesley scuba diving club to Wilson’s Prom. Says Richard, ‘According to the group looking on, my going off the back of the boat in a wetsuit was like a whale breaching!’

‘A bit of Brenker’ in every single class

It’s fair to say the trim and long-haired young teacher also made an enormous splash on campus, for his part-time job teaching Media Studies and Geography had quickly become full time, and just two years after he started he was Head of Geography.

‘I was new, I was young, I was enthusiastic, I had lots of ideas,’ he says. As long-time Geography colleague Sara Liversidge puts it, ‘He was always a passionate teacher who loved his subject. People

just loved being taught by him. You wouldn’t find a child to say a bad word about Richard.’

The result was that Geography grew rapidly. He started with seven students; by 1985 there were 65 students and three classes. Says Sara, ‘In the space of three or four years, Richard basically reinvented Geography at Wesley. He really is the father of Geography for the modern era. And it’s still a very important subject at Wesley; there’s “a bit of Brenker” in every single one of the classes I teach.’

That legacy was already firmly in place in the mid-1990s when he taught current St Kilda Road Physical Education teacher Gareth Briglia (OW1995): ‘Brenks wasn’t just an expert geographer but a passionate Melburnian. This came through especially when the topic of urban sprawl was raised. He would discuss the various

strategies to avoid the degradation of land and deforestation, red-faced and jugular protruding. It seemed that any time a shovel was moved east of Warragul Road, Brenks would get quite pissy, marching into class with news clippings to back his frustration – and just you keep your glue stick at the ready!’

Get involved in everything you can

Richard’s activities as a young teacher in the ‘80s really set the pattern for his essential approach to Wesley life across his 40 years: *get involved in everything you can*. He took students on a diverse array of extracurricular expeditions and all sorts of Geography field trips. They were freer times; Richard wryly notes those trips ‘would contravene all child safety and compliance rules now: give a letter to parents and book a bus – that was it!’

A former competitive swimmer, Richard became Teacher in Charge of Swimming, got involved backstage with the Adamson Theatre Company and became Teacher in Charge of Basketball. ‘You got to enjoy lots of different experiences and end up being a jack of all trades to a certain extent,’ he says. The experiences come thick and fast: a year on teacher exchange to King Edwards School in Surrey, England, in 1988 is followed by involvement in school partnership programs, taking students on exchanges to Thailand, Indonesia and elsewhere.

At the same time, Richard is steadily building up his experiences in leadership roles. By the end of it all, he has been Head of Faculty, Head of Middle School, Head of Houses in the Senior School, Head of Senior School, Head of both St Kilda Road and Glen Waverley Campuses, Deputy Principal and Acting Principal. There aren’t many jobs he hasn’t done. As Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) observes, there are few who can match his length of service, and ‘very, very few who can match the breadth of Richard’s career... he has directly or indirectly impacted the lives of many thousands of Wesley College students.’

A capacity for reinvention

The hardest time for Richard occurs in 2005 when the entire Junior-Middle-Senior School system is restructured and his role as Head of Middle School at St Kilda Road – a role he was enjoying immensely – essentially disappears. It’s time for a reset. He re-establishes himself at Glen Waverley as Head of Houses, and enrolls in a Masters in School Leadership at Monash.



Features

Is this capacity for reinvention behind the success of all people who, like Richard, travel far in their chosen fields? Long-time colleague Dawson Hann puts it like this: 'Schools need people like him, those you can be certain will be regularly recreating themselves in small ways so as never to abandon the basic importance of teaching well, and living honourably. Richard managed both effortlessly.'

The immense satisfaction he had in his work also derived from his knack for blending his professional passions with his personal ones. In 2009, he began working closely with then Principal Helen Drennen to develop the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School program. Planning and leading early induction programs to Yiramalay, Richard was in his element. An enthusiastic and committed geographer and environmentalist, he was captivated by the beauty of the Kimberley and the profound impact Yiramalay had on students.

His skill set also found expression in his significant contribution to the management of Wesley building projects over this past decade. Various involved in the revamp of Glen Waverley's Junior School complex, the Performing Arts Building construction and Menzies Wing rebuild at St Kilda Road, The St Kilda Road Arts Precinct and Glen Waverley's superb Drennen Centre, Richard's viewpoint was as pragmatic and practical as it was educational. 'My father was a stone mason and I understand building. As a geographer, I can read plans and visualise exactly what they're going to look like. It's been a great love to have an outlet for that practical side. And I'm a

big believer that if you build beautiful facilities, people respond to them.'

A big heart

Likewise, it seems responding to people is also what energises him. 'Schools are subjective places, that's why they're as much fun as they are,' he says. 'Of course it's an emotional experience – if it's not, it's a factory.' His Dutch genes probably account for his stubborn streak and even his capacity to yell if he felt the need, but that European ebullience found its expression far more often in laughter. Glen Waverley's Head of Senior School Jill Caple, having now worked closely with Richard for years, says 'Although Richard can be very loud, and often huffs and puffs, he has a big heart and often cannot say no.'

'The Whale' was Principal Nick Evans' first faculty head, and they've been great friends and combatants across the years.

'The Whale' was Principal Nick Evans' first faculty head, and they've been great friends and combatants across the years. Says Nick, 'Richard understands that schools are very funny places, and has, on many occasions, taken delight

in pointing out the absurd that is such a part of schools, to my great enjoyment and that of many others.' Dawson puts it this way: 'We were united by a common recognition that schools are not just places of interest, and for properly advancing the human condition, but often downright hilarious. Richard understood the wisdom in laughter, without ever ignoring the high responsibility of our calling as teachers.'

'If service is beneath you, leadership is beyond you'

High responsibility indeed, and when it came to delivering a true education for our students, and ensuring the wellbeing of his colleagues, Richard was dead serious. In this, his favourite saying is instructive: 'If service is beneath you, leadership is beyond you.' His commitment to service is a common refrain amongst those who know him well. For friend and colleague David Steele, 'Richard has purple and gold blood in his veins. He is a true servant of the College and it shows.'

His willingness to serve was fully tested when he took the helm at the College for Semester 1 in 2019 in the leadership hiatus between Helen's departure and Nick's arrival. Performing the combined roles of Acting Principal, Deputy Principal and Head of Glen Waverley 'nearly killed me, to be perfectly honest,' he says. Jill shares her view: 'He has a great work ethic and loves his work, which is why he would have coped with the unrealistic workload.' He's justifiably proud of his part in achieving a smooth, trouble-free transition.

And he would be the first to acknowledge that he couldn't have done any of it without the support of wife Lindy. With family clearly on his mind, he adds, 'As a parent, I saw firsthand and continue to see what Jason (OW2007) and Madeleine (OW2009) gained from their Wesley education. I'm in awe of what the school has given them.'

It's been an extraordinary Wesley College career, and Richard would be the first to acknowledge this as well. That initial look of delight returns: 'I've had a really rich experience. People say, "How can you have spent 40 years at the school?" I don't know how I squeezed it all in to be perfectly honest. It's gone so quickly.'

Paul Munn is the Editor of *Lion* and regular features writer.

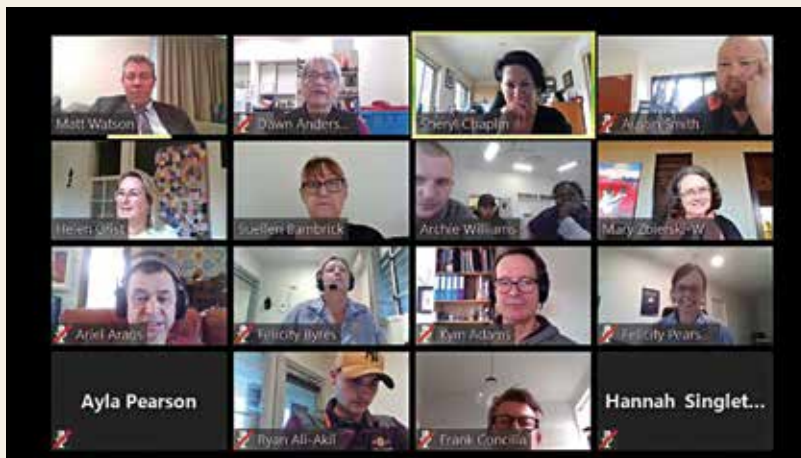
*The interested reader may recognise this opening line in LP Hartley's 1953 novel, *The Go Between*.



Richard Brenker, back row third from left, in 1994 with colleagues James Brown, Nick Evans and Sara Liversidge, and, front row, Jill Calder and Margaret Amble



Online and onsite, innovative practices have strengthened the existing relationships with our students and families



The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School has maintained strong community connections and family engagement while our students were learning in a remote and digital environment

Remote remote learning

If you think the headline is a typo, think again. Wesley College's remote learning program across our Kimberley and Melbourne boarding sites has adapted quickly to meet the needs of students, showing that authentic learning continues wherever our students are located, as **Felicity Pearson** explains.

With the onset of the pandemic, the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School needed to think differently and act rapidly to deliver our unique remote boarding program, remotely! To deliver effective remote learning remotely, we needed to be quick, agile, responsive and creative in redesigning and adapting spaces. The project was to provide culturally safe and meaningful engagement in real time across three states and time zones in Western Australia, Northern Territory and Victoria to support our students in the Kimberley, the Pilbara, Perth, Groote Eylandt, Elcho Island, Darwin, Arnhem Land, Alice Springs and Melbourne.

We also had to navigate the border closures, and regional and shire closures in the Kimberley designed to restrict movement and protect Aboriginal communities. Delivering online learning in remote communities is also impacted by low levels of device ownership and fragile and costly service networks. Addressing these complex issues presented enormous challenges.

To deliver effective learning remotely, we needed to be quick, agile, responsive and creative in redesigning and adapting spaces.

Some students were able to locate to our Kimberley or Melbourne sites, but for those who remained in their local communities, the significant need was access to suitable spaces for study and digital technologies and platforms. Our students have participated in remote ballet lessons with the Australian Ballet, staff have connected digitally for team building and our families remain connected through social media.

Our goal was to maintain strong community connections and family engagement while our students were learning in a remote and digital environment until they could return to face-to-face interaction, but we've also found in the transition phase back to onsite learning that staff and students have maintained their engagement by integrating online and onsite learning, not just in the Kimberley and Melbourne, but more broadly across Australia.

We've also expanded our on-country program offerings at the Kimberley site to support our students in maintaining a strong sense of their aboriginal identity and cultural values. The program, developed through a collaborative process involving educators, Indigenous mentors and local Elders, provides further opportunity for students to engage in the two-way learning that strengthens their connection to country, family and community.

As is often the case, opportunity and strength are derived from adversity. Our innovative practices have strengthened the existing relationships with our students and families.

Felicity Pearson is the Director (Acting) of the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School. This is an edited version of an article that first appeared in Lights Out 13(2), the magazine of the Australian Boarding Schools Association, reproduced with kind permission boarding.org.au





Pets have long been a feature of life in the Wesley community: the dog cemetery during the long headship of LA Adamson



Honour deserved: the silver dog tag – perhaps more properly medal – worn by Paddy, the first in a long line of dog friends of Headmaster, LA Adamson

Best friends

A pandemic sweeps the world, countries lock down, Melburnians are more or less housebound – and pet adoption spikes. We all know the benefits of pet ownership, but it seems Wesley's longest serving Headmaster, LA Adamson, understood it better than most. Dogs were ever present during his tenure: a long-buried piece of Wesley folklore has it that his love of his dogs was so great he even created a cemetery for them. Wesley archivist **Kenneth Park** did some digging to determine if the legend is true.

LA Adamson wasn't alone in his understanding that a pet is a man's – and woman's – best friend: his contemporary, Austrian neurologist and the founder of psychoanalysis Sigmund Freud, once explained that his dog Jofi, a Chow Chow, was not just a pet but a friend.

Recovering from a series of operations, Freud said of Jofi, 'I wish you could have seen with me what sympathy Jofi shows me during these hellish days, as if she understood everything.'

It's fair to say both Adamson and Freud would have been unsurprised to discover, some 90 years later, that pet ownership would provide so many physical and mental health benefits during this pandemic.

Dogs were a feature at Wesley College throughout Adamson's long headship from 1902 to 1932, adding an important dimension to life at school. He was so enamoured with his dogs that on their passing they would be interred in a dog cemetery under a Moreton Bay fig tree in what was Headmaster's Garden – roughly half way down the laneway alongside the Holt Wing and Science block at the St Kilda Road Campus – where each dear departed dog had a headstone crafted by the School Sergeant.

When it came time to write a book on Adamson and his achievements as an educationalist, the task went to Dr Felix Meyer (OW1876). The book, with its all-conquering title, *Adamson of Wesley*,

as expected was full of laudatory praise of 'The Chief,' but it also offered fascinating insights on Adamson and his passions. A chapter was devoted to 'Adamson and his dogs.' It meant a great deal at the time of publication because in 1932 the Wesley students of the Adamson era had grown up with the dogs. These pages reproduced here tell their story. The unapologetically sentimental words are an affectionate remembrance of pets loved most dearly.

'When Adamson returned to Wesley in 1902 he brought with him the first in a long line of dog friends whose names are familiar to successive generations of Collegians.

'Paddy, an Irish terrier, was the first of these, and of him many tales are told. When Adamson lived at the University High School, in Grattan Street, Paddy, if he lost touch with his master, would return on the right tram to his destination. He was known to all the tram conductors on the lines that he used, and so ingratiated himself with them that he always had his way. Later, when he moved to Wesley, he would accompany his master into town. About that time, in the Christmas holidays, Adamson was much at the Melbourne Cricket Ground for all the big matches. On one occasion, when his master went to get shaved, Paddy became bored, and thought he would go first to the Melbourne Cricket Ground, where his master would be sure to pick him up.

'He used the tram for this purpose, and his master, missing him, thought that he might have gone home; but when he arrived at the MCG, about lunchtime, he found Paddy, not begging, for that would have been ungentlemanly, but watching the people in the members' enclosure eat their lunch, with an assumed wistful expression which always had its reward.

'To please a relative in England, he instituted birthday dinners for Paddy, at which the host presided in a chair next to his master's. He would go solemnly through the dinner, oysters being the only things he disdained if these happened to be on the card. The invitations were issued in Mr Paddy Adamson's name, and there was a notification that, "Gentlemen will wear collars." The end of the dinner always had the same quotation from the Book of Tobit, ch. ii, v. 4: "They went their way, and the dog went with them." This is perhaps the only reference to dogs in the *Bible* which is not extremely derogatory.

'Paddy died in 1907, partly of old age and partly of a fretting heart when his master was in England. He lived that winter with a retired matron of the College, who was much attached to him, and on Adamson's return he found that the old lady had, among other things, placed a cross upon his grave. It was explained to the old lady that this could scarcely be allowed. She retorted, "Well, he was as good as most Christians, anyhow."

'The next to earn a headstone in the dogs' cemetery at Wesley was Tommy, a bull-terrier of large size, who was most amiable to all human beings, but not to other dogs. On his headstone is the inscription: "Kind and courteous to all, he was an example to younger dogs," and a verse from "Garm – a hostage," by Rudyard Kipling, ending, "You will discover how much you care, and will give your heart to a dog to tear."

'The next in order was Nancy, a bull-terrier, whose headstone tells that, "she was the gentlest and most virtuous of her breed and sex, and, alas! left none to inherit the many virtues of a perfect little lady dog." Her verse is, "Kind, kind and gentle is she. Kind was my Nancy." There was an occasion when for days this loveable old white terrier had been missing. The Head was genuinely upset. Advertisements and rewards were in vain, nothing brought Nancy back, until one morning in Assembly when prayers were being read, Nancy was heard coming pit-pat pit-pat towards the platform and up the steps. Prayers ended abruptly, and as Nancy,

somewhat bedraggled, settled into her usual place, the Head rebuked her very audibly, "Oh, Nancy, you naughty dog; where have you been?"

'Meanwhile, two more graves were added, that of Bonza, a Pointer whom Mr Adamson gave to Charles Donald, the coach of the (First VIII) crew. About him the tradition arose that he was trained by barking in different ways to give signals to the crews where Donald's bicycle could not follow the race, and he knew almost as much about pace and when to give the extra dozen as his master did.

'There came a time when he was so aged that he could not follow the race on land, but used to lie down by the University boat sheds and await the return of his crew. Here, on one occasion, his colours were placed on him, and a small boy from another school, in the guise of paying him homage, removed the purple and gold streamers and replaced them by the colours of his own school. Another young Pointer, called Bonzette, was being trained by him to be his successor, when, at the early age of 18 months, she was run over by a car.

'The last of Adamson's dogs to have a headstone was Barney, an Airedale, the constant playmate and protector of all Preparatory School boys. His guardianship was so thorough that he would not allow adults to cross their path or come near them, unless he knew them very well. The dogs' cemetery is not far from what is known as the orchard lawn. So, the inscription on Barney's grave is taken from Kipling's *Thy Servant a Dog*: "I wanted... to all those old places. He were not there. So I came back and waited in the Orchard. But he did not come. Please, I am a very little small mis'able dog! I do not understand."

Such words offer not only a view into schooldays days past, but also a reminder of our present. When Canadian researcher Lisa Carver asked an open-ended question of participants in her study of people and pets in lockdown, one reported, 'I don't know what I would do without the company of my dog, she has kept me going,' another, '(My pet) is the only thing that is keeping me sane.'

Kenneth Park is Curator of Collections and Philanthropy Associate.

To find more on Wesley archives, visit wesleycollege.edu.au/about-wesley/our-history



Best friends... get some glam

We've experienced *unprecedented* and *uncertain times*, various *new normals*, *social distance*, *lockdowns* and even – in an *abundance of caution* – politicians *elbow bumping* – but one of the most exciting *pivots* we've seen at Wesley has been in House activities.

How do you continue with House competitions when government public health measures require teaching and learning from home? With sheer ingenuity – and a little help from some pets.

The combined inventiveness of students, staff, parents and pets saw Houses across the campuses compete in new events like House Cooking, House Trick Shots, House Pet Dress-ups and more. We think LA Adamson would have been proud.

From top left, clockwise

Not so much pivot as pirouette: this belle of the ball was ready to frock up for her House

All that glitters... or is striped, or plush: a keen House member ponders these unprecedented times

What's not to love? Wesley pets have been spectacle-ular

No time to pause: whether House Swimming or House Pet Dress-ups – we're not sure with this one – it was all in for every member of the Wesley community



O brave new world

Finding the positives in tempestuous times

You've spent two months and much energy rehearsing for the Senior Musical, then a pandemic arrives and destroys any chance of performing it live. What do you do? Well, turn it into a film. **David Dunn** diarises the challenges the production team had to meet in the face of stringent COVID-19 restrictions.

I write this on a Monday morning in late July – while the detail and the emotion are still fresh in the memory – after an intense weekend of filming Glen Waverley's 2020 Senior Musical, a musical production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

It's an interesting moment in time, a largely unprecedented, unsettling and strangely exhilarating historical moment. Certainly, I can't remember anything like it in my life and my teaching career spanning 45 years. COVID-19 is now a part of the fabric of our lives. As teachers, we hold to the premise that it is our fundamental responsibility that in looking after the wellbeing of our students, we inspire optimism and belief in the brightest of futures even in seemingly dark times.

We had rehearsed from the middle of January with an anticipated mid-March performance season. Public health restrictions prohibited that, but cast and crew accepted this as a challenge: let's make a film instead.

I put the scenario to our Deputy Principal and Head of Campus, Richard Brenker, thoroughly expecting him to say no. He listened to the case for filming the production, adhering to strict protocols: anyone feeling ill must not attend, temperature checks would be mandatory, hand sanitising and appropriate distancing, face masks for musicians where appropriate. Thankfully, his response was 'Love it!'

There was never a doubt that all those people who go to making up the production team would embrace the philosophy and the concept. Maintenance men Jarrod and Geoff, Dave and Ozzie built the set.

Rob Savedra and Craig Johnson chopped down trees that would line the perimeter of the constructed set. Steve Glover was there on Friday evening to paint and dress it. Clear Systems, under the guidance of Daniel Bowen, rigged and focused the lights, Carlos prepared for the audio recordings. Reshaping of the choreography began in earnest.

There were apologies from parents and cast members. Some of the cast were awaiting test results and couldn't attend. We redistributed roles. Tamsyn Sollier-Smith was one of those awaiting results. Consequently, Yumi Sollier-Smith, her mum and one of our choreographers, couldn't attend. Challenge!

Day 1: Friday evening

I entered M27. The cast was taking its direction from Emily Condon standing on a chair holding a laptop with Yumi on Zoom giving instruction to the movement for 'The Show Must Go On.' Surreal and sublime!

With the paint still wet on the seaweed-covered baby grand piano, we were off and running at 8pm on the dot. By this stage, Owen James, my assistant, had taken complete control of proceedings, with a complex schedule for the entire shoot that would have baffled Einstein. By 10pm, we were on schedule with a very real sense of something rather magnificent taking shape. The images on the monitors predicted the extraordinary. The esprit de corps amongst the cast and the palpable good will from the parents was infectious.

Day 2: Saturday morning

Signage covered the walls: 'First thing temperature check with Owen and hand sanitise.' The young dictator was in

serious mood. He temperature checked me. He had thoughtfully provided cakes and muffins, crisps and popcorn for the day – all individually packaged.

Makeup and costuming were already well underway. Sansha Johnson was magnificent as always. Evie Norton assisted, as well as being a cast member. Lydia Saroto ferried in a truck load of resplendent hand-tailored costumes and, with an impeccable eye for detail, fitted each cast member. The orchestra was setting up under the musical direction of Geoff Smith. Masked and behind glass screens, it was a testament to days with a difference. This was a community in harmony working towards a shared vision. Geoff waved his baton commandingly in the air, the first tentative chords were struck, confidence ensued: 14 songs to record before 6pm – a marathon!

Richard Brenker and his wife Lindy arrived, unobtrusively, to say hello to all and wish us good fortune. It is to Richard a small thing; to us, the kind and considerate gesture that inspires.

We filmed the acting, occasionally venturing into the orchestra session for footage that would help to integrate the musicians with the production. Everyone must feel valued because they are an integral part of this remarkable process. I shoot everything on my still camera for a keepsake album. Thankfully, Geoff took over this duty towards the end of Day 3, his photos being far superior to mine.

With every small step there was joy tempered with sadness. Test results had all proved negative, so Ruby White (Miranda) and Tamsyn Sollier-Smith (Ariel) and therefore Yumi were able to join us. Sadly, others were now being tested and had to stay at home. We recalibrated. Peter Noble, my good companion, who was one of my cameramen, took on the role of Alonso as sadly Steven Guerra was stuck at home. So too Shreya Bhavsar, who was desperate to attend.

Each scene must be filmed at least twice as we have two casts! There was a manic energy between takes, as costumes were swapped and positions reset. Owen assigned every scene, shot and song a numerical code, the outline of which was typed out on a spreadsheet covering a large trestle table.

Day 2 ends on schedule, the orchestra finishing with 10 minutes to spare. Incredible musos! I left Owen mulling over his intricate paperwork. He told me he'd be another couple of hours

transferring the day's footage and preparing for Sunday. Armed with his raw tapes, Geoff headed home for hours of editing and mixing. It was 4am when he sent the mixes to Owen to integrate with other video images.

Day 3: Sunday morning

Would the reshaped choreography work? Would the orchestra tracks and the vocals work? Would it all mesh? This whole thing was one great act of faith in each other: collaborative and egalitarian. I have never been involved in anything that has been quite so team driven. No time for ego or temperament or playing the boss at any stage.

As the minutes ticked over, we stuck to Owen's meticulous scheme. Suddenly it was 6pm and we were done, finished for now, exhilarated and exhausted. There was tremendous footage amounting to two terabytes safely stored on hard drives locked securely in a briefcase, and great photos.

David Dunn is the Director of Student Theatre at Wesley's Glen Waverley Campus.

After many weeks of editing, and films of both casts complete, plans are underway for a Century City red-carpet premiere screening for the entire community – with formal dress and celebratory afterparty, of course – in December.

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From top to bottom

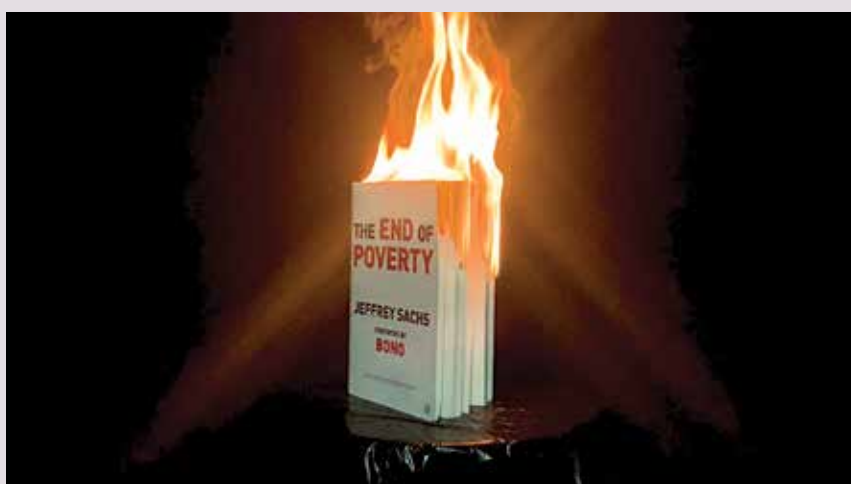
A little bit of Prospero magic and a whole lot of teamwork: Bec Campbell, who shared the role of Prospero, in the Glen Waverley Theatre production of the Campus Senior Musical, *The Tempest*

A multi-media experience: Numa Lemoh, who shared the role of Prospero, assures Ruby White as Miranda the tempest is 'mere art to enchant' and 'no harm done'

A different kind of curtain call: Tamsyn Sollier-Smith and Amy Li, who shared the role of Ariel in the double-cast production, take a bow



College snapshots



From top to bottom

Mind the Gap by Year 12 student Tassia Paterson

Solace by Year 11 student Lazar Feldman

Imperfect Annihilation by Year 11 student Ashley Reid

Wesley On (the small) Screen

The pandemic saw to it that instead of the usual big screen splash, St Kilda Road's annual Wesley On Screen event premiered with a YouTube live-stream to the small screen at home, but the energy and creativity of our VCE Media Studies students loomed just as large... and the audience got to eat home-cooked popcorn.

Media Studies teacher Alex Maunder was impressed with the students' adaptability. 'Despite their production period being so heavily impacted by COVID-19 through both Stage 3 and 4 lockdowns, every student displayed immensely creative resilience, working within the parameters without compromising quality,' he said.

From Sally Feferkranz's *Contract Killer* with its unexpected twist, to Ashley Reid's *Imperfect Annihilation* with objects being destroyed to Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons,' to Tassia Paterson's *Mind the Gap* with its sensitive portrayal of relationship breakdown, the 21 films showcased the vitality and inventiveness with which the students are embracing their chosen craft.

Alex's colleague Karissa Roberson is 'incredibly proud' of what the students achieved. 'They worked incredibly hard to produce a variety of very personal productions, which reflected their own personality and interests. We feel very lucky that our students allowed us a look into their lives in a year where the feeling of isolation is so prevalent,' she said.

In a year like no other, our young film makers rose to the challenge of producing films with commitment, dedication and, most importantly, resilience.

Wesley friends provide strong support

When students graduate from Wesley, one of the things they say they most treasure is the friendships made at the College. As a new student in Year 3, Emma Facey (OW2019) quickly made new friends, and those friendships have lasted beyond her experience of school. A graduate from Wesley's Glen Waverley Campus, Emma has had an unusual start to university, studying mostly online, but has found friends from school have been a strong support network. 'I'm still very close with most of my Junior School friends because the school environment was so inclusive and friendly,' Emma said.

In her final year at Wesley, studying Visual Communication Design (VCD) in the VCE, she designed visual identity for a fictitious jewellery business she called Colour My World. Her design helped her earn both a perfect study score of 50 in VCD and a Premier's VCE Award, which recognises



Emma Facey (OW2019) with her brother, Matthew Facey (OW2015), and her award-winning design for Colour My World



the top performers from around the state. Her brother, Matthew (OW2015), was on hand when she received her award. 'Creating jewellery is a hobby of mine, so it was exciting to be able to incorporate an external passion into a school project, making the subject even more enjoyable,'

said Emma. While she – and the rest of Melbourne – were in lockdown, Emma continued to make jewellery creations and stay in touch with friends and family online. She's bringing her talent in visual communication to a Bachelor of Design at Swinburne University.

Lessons learned in lockdown

The Term 3 lockdown presented many challenges for our early childhood educators. Teaching remotely required a significant shift in the way lessons were designed and delivered, and much was learned – including from the students themselves.

Our programming is usually built around observing children and addressing the curriculum to meet their interests and needs, but in the remote learning environment, teachers asked themselves how they could do this. They adapted rapidly, and the children responded with resilience. Staff talked with the children via video chats, saw their smiling faces and listened to how they had been drawing, painting, playing soccer in the backyard, riding their bikes, gardening and building cubbies in their lounge

rooms. Recognising the importance of relationships and fostering connections with students was never more important – and teachers learned a lot from it.

We all understand the wellness essentials – living in the present moment, finding pleasure in simple things like the feel of sunshine or the sound of rain, having fun, connecting with family and friends – but practising them is another story. These things all come naturally for young children. While most adults were missing meeting up with friends in restaurants, going in to work and having incidental conversations with colleagues, children were expressing a sense of wonder about what is happening in front of them, taking joy in the simple things and getting excited when they notice changes in the garden as spring emerged.

By watching them we learned how to be grounded and content with our locked-down lives in the present moment.



Finding pleasure in simple things like the feel of sunshine or the sound of rain: four-year-old Elsternwick student Rose Sullivan with her rain painting



College snapshots

A virtual recording studio



Virtually together: music teacher Mirko Guerrini and Year 12 student Stephen Walley recording the first movement of Guy Lacour's 'Suite en Duo'

We live in a digital era, and music lessons online was already a reality before the pandemic; what was unusual about our online instrumental music program at the Glen Waverley Campus, however, was that a critical part of the instrumental music lesson – the physical presence of the sound – was missing.

In music, two components – rhythm and timbre – are essential, and a good music teacher should spend considerable time with students to consolidate and improve them. Two of the best ways to teach

rhythm and timbre are to play alongside one another, but in the online environment, that becomes very difficult.

Teachers had to revise their strategies to find engaging and effective methodologies, now and for the future. Glen Waverley saxophone teacher Mirko Guerrini created a virtual recording studio. 'The romantic idea of recording by correspondence – similar to chess players once playing by mail – led me to produce multitrack recordings with single tracks recorded at home at different times,' he said.

One of many examples of this process is the virtual recording of the first movement of Guy Lacour's 'Suite en Duo,' performed by Stephen Walley and Mirko. Mirko recorded himself playing his part along with a metronome, then sent the track to the student, to record a track themselves using Mirko's recording as a backing. 'The students can easily record at home, using free software like Audacity or GarageBand. I can then mount the two tracks together and produce an accurate simulation of the piece.'

That meant Mirko was able to listen to the student's performance multiple times, providing significantly detailed feedback. Another positive aspect is that students' parents have been able to see and follow the lessons, understand their children's needs, and provide help and support to make their children's music practice more productive.

You can listen to the virtual recording of the first movement of Guy Lacour's 'Suite en Duo,' performed by Stephen Walley and Mirko, in the online edition of *Lion*, available at wesleycollege.edu.au/news-events-and-publications/lion-magazine/lion-december-2020

Bringing positive change through education

Since she was in Year 4, Sobi Arulampalam, now Spiritual Life Prefect at Glen Waverley, has been blessed to share many experiences with Aboriginal students from the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School. What those experiences have given her underscores the value of an equal partnership between two diverse cultures and communities, committed to bringing positive change through education. She developed a close friendship with Yiramalay student Lizaria Macale, with whom Sobi roomed during their eight-week Year 9 Clunes experience, an experience that was influential in her later becoming the Spiritual Life Prefect.

'I've noticed growth, acceptance and understanding of cultural differences in my peers through the programs involving interaction with Yiramalay students,' Sobi said. 'I've gained a heart to pursue a

ministry which supports community awareness, respect and reconciliation.'

Fellow student Dylan Sinclair, Social Justice Prefect, has been emboldened by a range of initiatives to explore an interest in becoming a teacher. As Social Justice Prefect, his exposure to the work of UnitingCare through the Christmas Giving Tree program has left an enduring mark. 'It inspired me to do more community and service work,' Dylan said. 'These programs help to teach us students the importance of giving back and the joy that can be found in doing so.'

Although the year has turned out differently than expected, Glen Waverley students have been devoted to their cause, and one of their final on-campus initiatives was a Year 12 casual clothes day raising funds for Mission Australia. 'The COVID-19 pandemic has left millions of Australians without jobs and financially struggling. Mission Australia helps to change this by supporting these vulnerable Australians through resources such as financial aid and psychological assistance,' said Dylan.



Experiences at Wesley have influenced the way Sobi Arulampalam and Dylan Sinclair – pictured early this year – are taking action to bring about positive change

Chum Creek – virtually

Making damper, bird watching and building gunyahs are just some of the fun activities Wesley students routinely get up to at Chum Creek. But in this very abnormal year, it all happened for our Year 4 and 5 students in their own homes and backyards with our very first Virtual Camps. Ingenious Chum Creek teacher-in-charge Darren Wood redesigned the program to bring the great outdoors indoors for each of his camp groups.

After a live-streamed ceremonial lighting of the fire at Chum Creek on the first morning of camp, the students were off to build their gunyahs (Indigenous shelters) with many students sleeping out in the lounge room – or even the backyard – that night.

With a live-streamed fire-side damper cook-up to kick off the next morning,

students then tried their hand at cooking up their own delicious damper at home with Mum or Dad. Camp life continued apace all week with conservation awareness involving observing backyard bird species and registering them with Birdlife Australia, a backyard scavenger hunt, art classes using materials from nature...

The students didn't quite get to feel the mud between their toes, but you could say they virtually did.

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From top left, clockwise

Year 4 Glen Waverley student Jess Frater in her backyard gunyah

Year 4 Glen Waverley student and master chef Leon Tanuatmadja makes damper

Year 4 Glen Waverley student Ella Brosnahan's Nature art



Identity and belonging

Albert Ding, a first-generation Chinese child, was fascinated with Alice Pung's *Growing up Asian in Australia*, ever since she visited the Elsternwick Campus when he was in Year 9. He easily related to the personal accounts, essays, short stories and poetry in Pung's anthology and made personal connections with the experiences of past migrants.

Prior to this, Albert had been somewhat embarrassed by his Asian background; it made him different from his Australian friends. *Growing up Asian in Australia* led him to write a personal response. It started out as a journal, but soon became a fully fledged book, which documents both his reflections and those of other migrant children about identity and belonging in Australia.

The project reversed his feelings about his cultural heritage as he realised the importance of his cultural background to him. He now embraces his Chinese culture, has become more open minded and feels he truly belongs in Australian society with his own special identity.

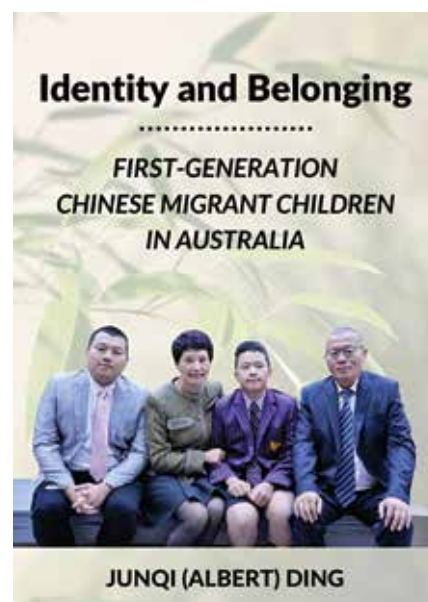
Albert reflected that the process of writing the book enhanced both his writing and reading skills, whilst further

developing his second language of English. There were times when he did not feel like writing after the school day, with sport, music and other cocurricular commitments, but he has learnt the importance of setting goals, making choices about his free time and being determined.

Published in October, Albert's greatest hope for his book is that it will help other Asian migrants find a sense of identity and belonging, and feel proud of their own culture within Australian society.

As Head of Campus Jacinta Janssens observed in the Foreword to Albert's book, 'A sense of identity and belonging are central to our lives but perhaps even more so for those living a culture that was not the one into which they were born. Through both research and personal insight, Albert Ding has captured the very essence of what it means to be a first-generation Chinese migrant growing up in Australia.

'Albert's portrayal of how life looks and what life feels like for Chinese migrant children is informative, moving and above all it is real. There is much the reader can gain through a deeper understanding about how one culture can contribute to another and how "identity and belonging" can be supported by a culture and the people who already identify with and belong to it.'



The cover of Albert Ding's *Identity and Belonging*, picturing Albert Ding third from left with his brother Peter (OW2003), mother Judy and father Gang



College snapshots



Clockwise from left, Year 5 students Isabella Phan, Luella Besen and Madison Martignoni worked remotely to develop IML Pay, an equal pay app, in a unit of inquiry investigating social justice solutions

Business as (un)usual

The pandemic and lockdown presented a few extra challenges for participants in the Year 5 Future Thinkers Forum at the St Kilda Road Campus in September, so it was definitely *business as un-usual* for

learners and staff. Their unit of inquiry, 'How the world works,' required them to work in small groups to invent a device or app that meets a specific social demand and make a positive change in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. But how do you show off your wonderful inventions when you're unable to use the Holt Wing exhibition space?

With a Padlet of course! It's an online bulletin board or virtual exhibition space where learners can present their projects using text, diagrams, PowerPoint, video clips and the like to present a detailed brief on their projects, and visitors can ask questions, leave comments or give feedback about their inventions.

The inventions themselves were... inventive! With gender equity in mind, Madison Martignoni's group developed IML Pay: an app that women can use to check they're being paid on parity with male colleagues. With a focus on climate action, Spy Mitrangas's group developed Spellenry's Magic Water, a particle shield that helps coral regenerate. In addressing poverty, Billy Burnip's team came up with Food Box, a system that makes donated food available to those in need.

For teacher Linda DoRosario, the richness of the project didn't come just from the obvious creativity it encouraged. 'The students developed both collaborative skills and learning skills; going through an inquiry process meant finding out, going further, diving deeper... they loved it!'

Madison agrees. Of her equal pay app, she says, 'I really enjoyed the process of developing it. How could we solve a really big, dense issue? We only worked on one small part, but if this could work, then maybe it could really help.'



Controlled chaos, Monday Funday and the joys of remote teaching

Imagine a scientist who works in the Atlantic Ocean finding herself working atop Mount Everest. She's doing the same job, but it's very different. This is what classroom teaching is like in the remote environment! Here's an example. The Elsternwick Preps and Year 1s have been learning about community volunteers and the usual elements, such as slideshow and dressing up in uniform,



The banner says it all... from left, Head of Campus at St Kilda Road Kim Bence with Preps Nora Mackay and Kelvin Hu and Head of Junior School Sabeena DeBono

Showing our gratitude

In the depths of the Stage 4 lockdown in Term 3, Junior and Middle School students at the St Kilda Road Campus were looking at all the ways in which adversity has brought out the very best in people throughout the pandemic. As part

of our Wesley Window to Wellbeing project, they focused on the science of gratitude, looking specifically at the benefits of expressing and receiving gratitude. When it came to feeling grateful for the efforts of others, they didn't have far to look. As Head of Campus Kim Bence explains, 'We opened our car parks to many of the Alfred Hospital staff who are working around the clock to fight COVID-19 while we

were in lockdown. We thought we would focus our gratitude project towards these people who work hard every day to keep us all safe. The students were asked to draw pictures as an expression of gratitude for all the hard work that the Alfred frontline workers have done and will continue to do.'

The result? The Gratitude Banner, which says it all...

are in place; guest speaker Greg Thorpe is ready to go, as are students and teachers, faces reflecting interest, engagement and readiness to learn. In the 'new normal,' however, that's where the similarities end. The multi-screen display is telling a different story: there's little Amy eating her lunch; in a screen to her left some legs cartwheel into the frame; above that, there's a little brother joining the class. The urge to laugh out loud is irresistible.

The Year 5 Homeroom teachers thought outside the square about how they could best engage their students offscreen. What emerged was Monday Funday, an approach that reflected what the

students needed to learn and what they would enjoy doing. They baked choc chip cookies and muffins, wrote letters to pen pals, ran Australian Ninja Warrior from home and designed scavenger hunts.

Students learned so many new skills in this environment. Charlie Shields created The Lockdown Movie, Oscar McArthur created The Awesome Book and Jasper Watters and Nora Glowinski designed those scavenger hunts. Students navigated new platforms including MS Teams, Hapara, MS OneNote, Screencastify and iMovie.

If there's one thing we want for our students, it's the ability to be flexible and

adaptable learners. The teachers' reflection on Monday Funday was that learning in the midst of a pandemic was not all bad, as they imagined how employable their students will be in years to come.

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Monday Funday and controlled chaos: CFA volunteer Greg Thorpe prepares to address the Preps and Year 1s



College snapshots



Jem Kleinitz-Lister presenting the Hollaway Oration 2020: A pitch-perfect live-streamed delivery

Letting go of the smaller stories

What happens when the stories we tell ourselves about our own lives come up against a much larger story, such as one about global pandemic? Jem Kleinitz-Lister, a Year 12 student from the St Kilda Road Campus, adroitly and perceptively explored this interesting idea whilst delivering this year's Hollaway Oration in a virtual assembly at the end of Term 3.

Jem was the winner of last year's Hollaway Memorial Prize, established to honour the memory of long-time staff member Stuart Hollaway who tragically lost his life in a climbing accident in 2015. The Prize is awarded annually to a Year 11 student who has made a significant contribution to the debating program and public speaking. The recipient for 2020 is Anyorkor Quist.

Jem's oration was pitch-perfect for her Senior School audience and the challenges they've had to face. 'What we've experienced this year is Exhibit A

in how the stories we tell ourselves fall apart,' she said. 'We face the reality of living in an absurd, unpredictable world that has no consideration for how individuals would like to exist in it. So far, so bleak; however, there are two silver linings to this fact.

'The first is freedom. Liberating ourselves from the narratives we've constructed about our own life allows us to avoid creating circular patterns of self-fulfilling prophecies that limit how fulfilled we can be. Secondly, our individual stories have become eclipsed by a collective one, and in being a part of a larger community, we gain some perspective on the scope of our own difficulties.

'It's worth re-evaluating our own stories, as when we do, we realise that we are not planets, alone in space, orbiting our own centres of narrative gravity, we are all part of a vast galaxy, orbiting a centre beyond any individual's control. In giving up our illusions, we are free to laugh in the face of the absurd world we live in, and better yet, we can laugh together.'

You can watch Jem presenting the Hollaway Oration 2020 in the online edition of *Lion*, available at wesleycollege.edu.au/news-events-and-publications/lion-magazine/lion-december-2020

LiR in lockdown

During the Stage 4 lockdown in Term 3, our Learning in Residence (LiR) boarding program at Glen Waverley stayed open for 30 students who couldn't easily or safely return home. Students from across western and northern Australia, rural Victoria, rural NSW and overseas worked creatively with staff to maintain positive wellbeing in all sorts of ways: Zoom personal training sessions, gratitude boxes, bike rides, community dinners, talent nights, resumé writing courses, yoga wellbeing sessions and, of course, mask making, all done whilst maintaining physical distancing – and wearing a mask!

Little wonder, then, that Angie Selkirk, who commenced at the Wesley LiR in Term 3, remarked, 'LiR over lockdown has been a very different experience. It's had its ups and downs, but thankfully we had access to the ovals and sports facilities, and were able to hang out with friends and peers, creating some form of normality. Even so, not being able to leave campus was rather onerous.'

While staff and parents had concerns for the wellbeing of students, the students proved more than adept at re-calibrating to the 'new normal', perhaps assisted by their technological nous and connectedness, and staff were buoyed by the positivity of the young people in their care. As Head of

LiR Sean Cox observed, 'They showed themselves to be extremely resilient and adaptable – they thrived and, aligning with the positive wellbeing we observed, many achieved significantly higher results during their time in remote learning on campus.'

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From left, Mia Tanner, Angie Selkirk, Ally Mellblom and Meika King in our Learning in Residence boarding program at Glen Waverley maintained positive wellbeing in all sorts of ways during Stage 4 restrictions, including while solving fun problems – compliant with restrictions as the girls share a Residence so not required to social distance or wear masks when together



Using their mathematical understanding to 'mathematically design' Wes the Lion: clockwise from top left, Lanella Sweet with Year 6 students Mareli Opperman, Matthew Rebelo and Aarav Agarwal

Maths in many shapes and sizes

Mathematics is all around us, in the size of things, in the relationship or ratio of things and quantities of things, in the chance or probability of things happening, in the shapes and angles we see, even in our Wesley lion.

In the remote environment, Wes the Lion helped PYP enrichment teacher

Lanella Sweet explore measurement, angles, lines, points, shapes, space, perimeter and circumference, area, volume and pi with students at Wesley's Elsternwick Campus.

Year 6 students used their mathematical understanding to 'mathematically design' Wes the Lion, a familiar but decidedly irregular composite shape. They explored different ways to find unknown values for angles within triangles and quadrilaterals, and ways

to use their measurement and classifying skills.

They started by drawing simple shapes and combining these, demonstrating they could translate their knowledge into this new context.

Then the mathematical creative design began. The investigation involved demonstrating previously learned content, but also practising, refining and improving with feedback.

The creative problem-solving process enabled the students to use their mathematical knowledge and skills in classifying, comparing, explaining, arranging, constructing, calculating, solving, and making hypotheses and generalisations.

They were, in the words of Kaye Stacey in *Strategies for Problem Solving*, expert problem solvers because they 'constantly monitor(ed) their thinking, evaluating ideas, checking their progress and keeping their work in line with the original goal.'

They used their knowledge obtained from previous attempts and trials to continue toward their goal of finding the most appropriate solution. And they drew on their prior knowledge, skills and tools, unpacking and understanding the necessary steps to reach their goal in demonstrating mathematical knowledge.





The Back Turf looked like an Army depot in 1943 because that's exactly what it was: as Prime Minister Robert Menzies (OW1912) noted, this was a war that would depend on supplies. Photo by MB Rogers from the collection of the Australian War Memorial

People just like us

We have adapted, this year, to rapidly changing circumstances, as people just like us have done before, as **Margot Vaughan** explains.

We see the signs and symbols of the past everyday: in plaques on the walls and gardens, in names like Corrigan House and Oscar House, the Drennen Centre and the Prest Room, the Kroger Front Turf and Jean James Oval. These signs and symbols celebrate those in our past who have risen to meet the challenges we have faced.

The past nevertheless has a habit of blending such things into the everyday, the Monash Freeway becomes merely a major arterial, William Barak Bridge just a way to get to the MCG, the Wesley blazer pocket simply a picture of a golden lion, as though the things we celebrate belong to another time, not ourselves. Yet our experience of the 2020 pandemic is a reminder that those we honour were people just like us, and past students named on honour rolls wore the same lion on their blazer, heraldic symbol of courage and strength.

Fast forward 75 years, and we might find members of the Wesley community

listening to ancient recordings by the Wilkie Orchestra of 'Wesley now and always' or watching a lesson about fractions – using chocolate. Likewise today, if we cast our mind back 75 years we can see how others at Wesley adapted to rapidly changing circumstances.

The year of COVID-19 is also the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. It began, for Australia, on 3 September 1939, when Prime Minister Robert Menzies (OW1912) in a radio address asked Australians to steel themselves for war. 'In the bitter months that have come,' he said, 'calmness, resoluteness, confidence and hard work will be required as never before.' He could have been referring to 2020.

The Army had completely dug up the Back Turf!

An industrial war, as Menzies noted, depended on service personnel but also logisticians and workers – two thirds of

Australia's workforce. In support of that industrial effort, the Army requisitioned the PM's alma mater for Allied Land Headquarters. The school had to be relocated – in three weeks – but where to go? Scotch College generously welcomed students and staff, and to this day there is a special bond between the two schools, commemorated by a plaque near the Principal's office. When students and staff returned in 1944 they found the buildings and grounds in need of much care. The Army had completely dug up the Back Turf!

Of those who served, not all came back

Many staff felt a duty to enlist, and not all survived. Bruce Dowding, a teacher and Old Collegians footballer and cricketer, was on a teaching exchange in France and joined the Royal Army Service Corps where his fluency in French was an asset. Captured in 1940, he escaped a German prisoner-of-war camp and worked for the French Underground. Sadly, he was betrayed by a fellow French Underground member, Paul Cole, and executed in 1941.

One of many other teachers to enlist was Jack Kroger. He was a junior master in the 1930s when two new students, Werner Wildermuth (OW1937) and Harold Robins (OW1938), arrived from Germany with their parents. By the time war broke out, both had graduated. Wildermuth, at university in Germany, was due to return to Australia in September 1939 but bad timing meant he was conscripted into of the German Army. Never trusted to really do his job as a paratrooper, he 'got himself caught' by the Allies.

Robins, meanwhile, had completed officer training at Duntroon and was deployed to the Middle East where, serendipitously, Kroger caught up with him for a few brief minutes at a railway siding, not long before Kroger's capture by Axis forces. Escaping in Italy, Kroger made his way to Switzerland. In transit through the Suez Canal on his way home after the war, he stopped at an Allied prisoner-of-war camp in which Wildermuth was still incarcerated, but neither knew the other was there. Kroger remained in contact with both his former students after the war.

Another young teacher was Ian McBride (OW1935), a major on Ambon in Indonesia when Allied forces were defeated by the Japanese, a battle followed by terrible Japanese war crimes. McBride escaped and sailed to Australia in an open boat, navigating 1,500 nautical miles with the aid of a map torn from a school atlas.

Bravely, McBride returned to active service – and survived the war.

Tim Mak (OW1940) was one of many civilians imprisoned in a Japanese labour camp near Rabaul in Papua New Guinea when Australian forces evacuated. As Mak explained to SBS journalist Stefan Armbruster in September, ‘We are left behind, because at that time Australia doesn’t want Asians.’ Working on the docks, he supplied military intelligence to the Allies from a network of local coast-watchers.

Looking after mates

When Australian forces returned in 1945 they were looking for interpreters. ‘I said, “What sort interpreter?”’ Mak told Armbruster. ‘And they just said, “Get in the car.”’ When PM Menzies visited Rabaul in 1954, the two OWs met. ‘I introduced myself: “My name is Mak,” and he said, “Stop, stop. Where did you learn your English?”’ Mak told Armbruster. ‘“Wesley College in Melbourne.”’

Menzies replied, “That’s where I went to school.” He called his number two and said, “Look after him, he’s one of my mates.”’

McBride escaped and sailed to Australia in an open boat, navigating 1,500 nautical miles with the aid of a map torn from a school atlas.

In that spirit, the College welcomed several refugees on staff. Dr Jacques Steininger was one: the Jewish refugee from Austria taught at Wesley for more than 25 years. Dr Ruth Blatt (née Koplowitz) was another, on staff at MLC Cato, now our Elsternwick

Campus. Anna Funder in *All That I Am* drew on her experiences as an anti-Nazi activist who was betrayed and imprisoned, before arriving in post-war Melbourne.

Life at Wesley during war time was undoubtedly difficult. More than 139 students and staff were killed. Australia, with a population of seven million, was feeding an extra one million Allied troops. Food, coal, petrol and even wedding dresses were rationed. We have experienced perhaps the worst social and economic upheaval since then, but just as we rebuilt then we can rebuild today for a better tomorrow. As Menzies assured Australians then, ‘You will show that Australia is ready to see it through.’

Margot Vaughan is Associate Curator, College Archives.

To find more on Wesley archives, visit wesleycollege.edu.au/about-wesley/our-history



From top, left to right

The view from Moubay Street near Punt Road in 1942 showing the Back Turf scarred by slit trenches. Photo from the collection of the Australian War Memorial

Strange times: members of Master-General of Ordnance, Allied Land Headquarters, at Adamson Hall. Photo from the collection of the Australian War Memorial

Look closely at this window in the St Kilda Road Campus Chapel and you might just see several bullet holes – one in the arched border, three above our heraldic lion and one immediately below the school motto – at least five legacies from the Army occupation of the campus from 1942 to 1943

A plaque at the St Kilda Road Campus commemorates one of the more unusual partnerships between two APS schools



Sapere Aude Bequest Society

Honouring Peter Greenham – Wesley's great benefactor



The Wesley College Foundation and Sapere Aude Bequest Society pay tribute to the extraordinary philanthropy of Peter Greenham (OW1953) whose gift is the most significant in Wesley's history since the Nicholas brothers funded the rebuilding of the St Kilda Road Campus during the 1930s.

The parallels are astonishing. George and Alfred Nicholas made what was then the largest philanthropic gift to an Australian school during the Great Depression, which provided work for more than a thousand men.

Today history, remarkably, repeats itself with a gift from Peter Greenham providing an opportunity for the College to embark on a strategic program of renewal at St Kilda Road. Peter's gift comes at a time of severe recession, much as the Nicholas brothers did during the depression. Together, they shared a love for the College and the value of a Wesley education.

Although originally planned as a bequest through his membership of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society, Peter converted his gift into a 'living bequest' and made his historic donation just weeks prior to his death on 16 August. In discussing his wishes regarding how his donation would be applied, we outlined a proposed building project requiring financial support. Peter appreciated how vital his support for this project would be in terms of our fundraising strategy, and in recognition of his gift the building will be named in memory of his uncle, Reginald A Greenham (OW1929). Reg was a great sportsman at Wesley, rowing in both the 1928 and 1929 First crews. Reg was a significant figure in Peter's life, alongside his father, Henry.

Peter recalled he was one of only two students who lived in Footscray and a student travelling there and back on public transport in a 'private school' uniform was a very rare sight. After

graduating from Wesley, Peter worked in a firm of chartered accountants before joining the family business, Melbourne City Abattoirs, owned by his father and uncle. He went on to work for Frozen Foods Industries in the 1960s, supplying meat for Chiko Rolls, the Israeli Defence Force and canned meat products for the US market. He bought his first facility, Newport Abattoir, in the late 1970s from another Wesley family, the Gilbertsons.

A short-lived retirement in the late 1980s ended when Peter established a high-efficiency beef abattoir, at Tongala, fulfilling a long-held desire to expand his business interests into the regions. He then bought in Smithton in Tasmania in 2002, with his son, Peter (OW1994), moving there to run the facility. The Greenham business launched Cape Grim Beef in 2007, which has become world renowned, and bought in the Moe Meatworks in 2017.

HW Greenham and Sons is recognised as one of the most progressive meat companies in Australia with hundreds of employees and suppliers who are grateful for Peter's legacy. He never forgot the communities in which his businesses operated, and he supported young agricultural students through the Goulburn Valley Greenham Scholarship offered through TAFE. He believed in giving back to help build strong regional communities and local businesses.

Peter and his wife Anne were also great supporters of many charitable organisations and sponsors of the National Gallery of Victoria. He was a huge supporter and sponsor of the Western Bulldogs Football Club and the team wore black arm bands on the day he passed away when they played their Round 12 game against Adelaide.

The Foundation and College acknowledge, with enormous gratitude, the philanthropic leadership of Peter Greenham – truly a *legacy for the ages*. We send our sincere condolences to his wife Anne and children, Lucy (OW1993) and Peter (OW1994), and their families.

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From top

Vale Peter Greenham (OW1953), an extraordinary philanthropic leader

Peter at left, and with his wife Anne Greenham and son Peter Greenham Junior (OW1994) in the Adamson Hall foyer with the plaque that acknowledges his uncle, RA Greenham

Peter at left with his son Peter Greenham Junior

Newest members of our Bequest Society



Mark Samlal (OW1982) and Samantha Samlal, with Sascha Samlal (OW2017) in 2017

Mark and Samantha Samlal

Our Sapere Aude Bequest Society was honoured to welcome Mark (OW1982) and Samantha Samlal as members and thank them for remembering Wesley in their Wills. Mark is something of a linchpin for his 1982 peer year, which remains a remarkably tight-knit group. He has contributed to the College over many years, including serving on the OWCA Executive and, more recently, on the Foundation's Asia Advisory Group. He has been one of our main contacts in Singapore and a donor to the

Foundation's fundraising campaigns. Mark encourages other members of our College community to consider joining him and Samantha as bequestors. He explains his motivation below.

'It won't come as a surprise to any OW, particularly those of 1970s and '80s vintage, that wearing purple on Melbourne public transport was a challenge, often referred to by parents and teachers as "character building." And yes, we survived, and in fact thrived at Wesley with not only our character strengthened.

'A Wesley education is in many ways about "building." My own learning was built with the support of scaffolds in the broader realms of sport, music, arts, theatre and charitable programs – and it's here that Wesley's community builds a framework for a Collegian's future.

'The broader Wesley community has been both a driver and a constant support to me since graduating in 1982, providing inspiration, motivation, guidance and opportunity. Involvement with the OWCA

and Collegians Basketball and Football Clubs have been highlights in the early years, leading to longstanding personal and business connections in Australia and overseas. The community built out of Wesley reaches far and wide. I love visiting Collegians abroad, especially my OW 1982 cohort, and those that seek me out in Singapore, please continue to do so as it is always a delight. Whether it be barracking on the boundary at the Harry Trott, Founders Day Dinner at the Myer Mural Hall, Foundation Business Breakfasts, the OW Auto Club on the Kroger Front Turf or a meal in Singapore, the connection to the Wesley community is undeniable.

'I continue to be daring and wear purple. It's a recurring joke with my wife and daughters, that whenever a colour choice is required, mine will always be purple! I am also a proud supporter of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society, knowing this will contribute to the perpetual construction of the future Wesley community, continuing to enrich the lives of Collegians and their families in the years to come.'



Alex Webster (OW1999) and his wife Nicole with their children: Charlotte, Rose and Jane

Alex and Nicole Webster

The Foundation was delighted when Alex Webster (OW1999) confirmed his bequest in recognition of his family's historic links with Wesley and his desire to give back to his school for all the opportunities it afforded him and his family. He joins the growing number of younger alumni who are remembering Wesley in their Wills and joining our Sapere Aude Bequest Society. Alex reflects on why he has become a bequestor below.

'It seems a strange time to recognise Wesley College in my Will, but when is the

right time? In July, my third daughter celebrated her first birthday under Stage 4 restrictions, with an online "cake smash" party so interstate family and friends could join us. This year, more than most, has been a reflective one focused on looking out for family and friends' welfare, and recognising what is important in life. Part of this reflection has been literally dusting off family photo albums that go back pre-Federation. It is amazing looking at photos going back generations and observing similarities and differences: the clothes and cars have come a long way, but pastimes like going to the beach are the same 100 years later.

'My grandfather, William Vernon Webster (OW1915), entered Wesley in 1912 which started a great family tradition. My father John (OW1958) and brother Charles (OW2005) as well as many other family members have since attended the College. In an age where society is less formal and traditions are less common, my family tradition of education at Wesley is something I value deeply. While not maintaining "tradition for tradition's sake," the school's philosophy and the warm, open nature of the College

community continues to be supportive well after leaving school. I see this through my friends, my brother's friends and my father, who still calls his Wesley classmates some of his closest friends 60 years later.

'Now, as a father myself, I can't help but think about the future for my children. Of course, all three girls were enrolled at birth but, beyond this, there is a desire to support the institution that has given so much to my family. A few years ago, at a Wesley Foundation Business Breakfast, the words that resonated with me the most were, "Fees don't build buildings." I think back to all my amazing school experiences – camping at Chum Creek, performing plays in Adamson Hall, studying chemistry and physics in laboratories. None of these would have been possible without the generous philanthropic support of past generations.

'My Wesley experience was made possible by the generosity of others before me. Including Wesley in my Will is a small way I hope to express my gratitude for these experiences and to help ensure future generations have similar opportunities.'



Foundation



Second from left, Graham Schmidt (OW1951) with his children, from left, Lucinda, Nick (OW1985), Rohan (OW1985) and Jeremy (OW1983)

Graham Schmidt

Members of our Sapere Aude Bequest Society were saddened at the passing of long-time member and Foundation donor, Graham Schmidt (OW1951), whose obituary is noted in the OWCA section of *Lion*.

Graham was the father of Jeremy (OW1983), twins, Nick (OW1985) and Rohan (OW1985), and current Wesley parent Lucinda Schmidt; and grandfather of Lucinda's children Charlotte (OW2016) and Maggie (OW2019) Omond and Jeremy's children and current Wesley students Annabel and Blake Schmidt.

Graham came to Wesley on a boarding scholarship and always maintained that it changed the course of his life. He made lifelong friends and went on to study medicine, becoming an eminent gastroenterologist. Graham was passionate about football. He was very involved with Collegians Football Club, as a player, committee member and father to past players Jeremy and Nick

and grandfather to current player Charlotte Omond.

His love of the College was apparent when he joined mates and family members at Founders' Day Lunches, boarders' reunions, and Foundation donor events. His love of 'all things purple' shone through when he joined the Sapere Aude Bequest Society in 2012 with a bequest to the Foundation in his Will. He was an avid participant at many Christmas lunches and Adamson Theatre Company musicals.

Graham was also a generous donor to our Moubray Street Precinct development and very committed to the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School. The Foundation and the Sapere Aude Bequest Society are most grateful for Graham's kindness and support during his lifetime, and his bequest will ensure that students continue to enjoy a Wesley education in the future. A celebration of Graham's life will be held at the College when we can all safely gather again, and we can pay tribute to his great contribution.



Geoff Valentine Smith (OW1948)

Geoffrey Valentine Smith

Geoff Smith (OW1948) was born in Canterbury, Melbourne, on the 26 March 1929, and died in Sydney on 18 February 2018. He was an outstanding long-distance runner at Wesley and part of the legendary 1947 Athletics Championship team. He was a pharmacist by profession and lived much of his life in Melbourne before moving to Sydney. His school friend, Rev Peter Swain (OW1948), remembers him as a talented athlete and 'a dignified and humble fellow of good character.'

Geoff attended reunions in Sydney and Founders' Day Lunches in Melbourne and maintained an interest in his old school. He left funds for several charitable and religious groups and kindly remembered Wesley in his Will. The Sapere Aude Bequest Society acknowledges Geoff's gift with gratitude.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

The Wesley College Foundation gratefully acknowledges our 2020 sponsors who support our events, programs and activities





Maurice Walter Knott (OW1938) with Elsternwick students

The gift of education

Kenneth Park remembers Maurice Walter Knott (OW1938), his love of Wesley College and his legacy – a gift of education.

On 17 August 2003, Wesley College lost one of its most passionate supporters and alumni in Maurice Walter Knott at the age of 81. Walter was a strong advocate of music – particularly at the Elsternwick Campus. He gave throughout his life and, as a member of our Sapere Aude Bequest Society, left a bequest to the College which came with an additional and most unusual legacy that has continued to this day: copyright in and the royalties to the works of distinguished English composer, Ernest John Moeran, who died in 1950. While the copyright expires at the end of this year, Wesley College and music at Elsternwick have nevertheless been enriched because of Walter's gift.

Walter's involvement with the College stems from his student days in 1937 and 1938. After leaving the army in 1946 as a Sergeant in the Education Corps where he worked as a librarian and music teacher, he continued to study and teach music until he retired in 1977. He was keenly interested in promoting music at Elsternwick. During his lifetime he donated many books, including a copy of the *Grove Dictionary of Music* and a collection of sheet music to the Music School. Walter was a frequent visitor to the Elsternwick Campus for speech

nights and concerts, and his name and that of his wife, Peers Coetmore, a world-renowned cellist, have been commemorated in many ways over the years.

Peers was married to EJ Moeran in 1945, and after his death in 1950 she married Walter. She enjoyed active involvement in Melbourne's music classical scene, especially through teaching at the then Victorian College of the Arts. She died in 1976.

Walter not only loved classical music but enjoyed a career teaching music. He was well travelled and delighted in attending performances. I remember dining at his home on one occasion and enjoying a memorable slice of Sacher-torte that was carefully removed from a wooden box shipped from Vienna and presented with appropriate musical accompaniment. In later life, Walter embraced his old school and especially Elsternwick, his 'local campus.' He established strong friendships with many people at the College. His generosity in his lifetime and through his bequest is warmly acknowledged. We say thank you, Walter.

Kenneth Park is Wesley's Curator of Collections and Philanthropy Associate.



Melbourne is blessed with some truly outstanding architecture, such as the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton

Engaging in new ways in the 'new normal'

Facing public health restrictions to contain the spread of COVID-19 this year, the Sapere Aude Bequest Society moved quickly to engage in new ways with members and friends. A series of live panels via Zoom enabled members and the wider College community to engage and connect.

We launched in July with a wonderful illustrated presentation on 'Marvellous Melbourne with Wesley Highlights' by Kenneth Park, our Curator of Collections and Philanthropy Associate. This was followed in August by another presentation with Kenneth on the 'Lost Architecture of Melbourne,' a reminder that Melbourne is blessed with some truly outstanding architecture but also that, as our city grew, we have sacrificed many fine buildings such as the Federal Coffee Palace, Menzies Hotel, Eastern Market and Lonsdale House.

In September, Susannah Fullerton OAM FRNS, an internationally recognised authority on Jane Austen, provided a unique insight into the world of Jane Austen and her body of works. Susannah

drew on her encyclopaedic knowledge of Austen and provided magnificent illustrations to enhance the presentation. In October, Kenneth Park returned with an entertaining and educational third instalment on Melbourne's architecture.

In November, we marked Remembrance Day with an historic tour of Wesley College war monuments guided by Philip Powell (OW1973), who provided poignant insights into the military service of many OWs. Also in November, Nick Sone (OW1990) took us on a journey to the United States and the establishment of his famous Bluestone Cafes, and discussed the wash up from the Presidential election.

Thank you to the many members of our community who have participated in these Zoom events. When restrictions are eventually lifted, we will be able to engage with more supporters than ever before and continue our popular online program into 2021. If you have a topic or suggestion, please contact debra.stiebel@wesleycollege.edu.au



Foundation donors



Bill Pei and Lanying Zhou at right with their children Robert, who is joining Wesley in Year 7 in 2021, and Alice, currently in Prep

The Foundation is delighted to welcome generous new St Kilda Road parents and donors Bill Pei, his wife Lanying Zhou and their children Alice, who is in Prep, and Robert, who is joining Wesley in Year 7 in 2021.

Bill approached the Foundation to discuss its philanthropic programs and initially donated four seats in Adamson Hall for our Seat in History program. Bill and Lanying have been most impressed and enthusiastic about Alice's education in our Junior School. They appreciate Wesley's educational philosophy that they believe will prepare their children to become citizens of the world.

The exciting \$6 million project at Clunes is part of Wesley's ongoing commitment to improving our educational facilities and programs, and providing much-needed additional accommodation for students. Bill expressed great interest in this project that will benefit both his children, and made another donation in support of the Foundation's capital campaign.

The Foundation is most appreciative of Bill and Lanying's generous support, especially in these challenging times. We look forward to celebrating the 20-year milestone of Clunes next year when we will welcome the Pei family and our other past and current Wesley families to the campus.

If you would like to contribute

a tax-deductible donation to our Clunes:

The next chapter capital campaign, please visit <http://bit.ly/ClunesNextChapter> or contact Jack Moshakis, Executive Director Wesley College Foundation at jack.moshakis@wesleycollege.edu.au

Boathouse redevelopment honouring Fergie's legacy



From the archives: a painting of the Boathouse was presented to Fergie at the AMC Alex Ferguson Commemorative Dinner in 1981 by Michael Troon (OW1968)

For many years Wesley was the only school in the APS, and possibly Australia, to have a resident boat builder, the legendary Alec Ferguson – or Fergie as he was widely known. He was a skilled craftsman who hand-built many eights including: The EA Wells, The Alan and Clara Mitchell, The Seventy-Seven and The Fergie, three of which won the Head of the River. His winning Head of the River boat in 1977 still holds the record time on the Barwon of 4:22:6 over 1500 metres. Not only did he build and maintain boats, he provided pastoral care and support for rowers.

Cam Williams (OW1982) and Andrew Westacott (OW1982) tracked down the last boat Alec built, The Fergie, and brought it back to Melbourne from Dimboola. The pair is currently compiling a history of Fergie and his boats. There is very little information in our archives, and only a few grainy photographs, so they would be very pleased to hear from alumni who have

any recollections they can share about his contribution to Wesley rowing from 1963 to his retirement in 1982. If you can help, please contact Cam – camwilliams7778@gmail.com

Rowing enthusiast Nick Varigos (OW1971) has very positive memories and great admiration for Fergie and his contribution to Wesley Rowing. Nick is keen for the College to acknowledge Fergie in the redeveloped Boathouse – an idea that will resonate with many former rowers. To this end, the Foundation is exploring a variety of options to support this initiative through a naming opportunity and is encouraging former rowers to donate funds in Fergie's memory.

If you would like to contribute a tax-deductible donation, please visit

wesleycollege.edu.au/community/support-us/donate/boathouse or contact Jack Moshakis, Executive Director Wesley College Foundation at jack.moshakis@wesleycollege.edu.au

Resurfacing of hockey pitch



The College has brought forward the resurfacing of the hockey field at our Glen Waverley Campus, upgrading with a new surface that is certified by the Fédération Internationale de Hockey and Hockey Victoria for Premier-grade games. This work is being carried out by Bernard Evans (OW1973) through his company Grass Sports Australia, which is a leader in the field. The Foundation acknowledges Bernard's very generous support, which has enabled the College to bring forward this project much earlier than planned.



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From top

The new Fédération Internationale de Hockey and Hockey Victoria-certified surface of the hockey field at our Glen Waverley Campus acknowledges the very significant contribution of the late Peter 'Sam' Weller (OW1962) to our hockey program and the OW Hockey Club

The new surface will help raise the profile of hockey as a College sport

This significant project will help raise the profile of hockey as a College sport, be an important step in reengaging with the OW Hockey Club and acknowledge the very significant contribution of the late Peter 'Sam' Weller (OW1962) to our hockey program and the OW Hockey Club. Sam was instrumental in ensuring the club provided opportunities for past students to pursue the sport. The winning combination of a welcoming community and competitive performance was largely due to his leadership and drive at an important time in the club's history. The Foundation will unveil a plaque that acknowledges Sam and lists donors at the official opening in 2021.

To assist with this resurfacing, the Foundation with the support of the OW Hockey Club and President Mark Perraton (OW1995) has launched a fundraising campaign, as it has done for other College and alumni sport. We are pleased to advise that this campaign has been launched with a \$40,000 donation and we aim to raise substantially more funds. We would be grateful for any tax-deductible donation; all donations of at least \$2,500 will be acknowledged on the commemorative plaque.

If you would like to contribute a tax-deductible donation to support the hockey upgrade, please visit wesleycollege.edu.au/community/support-us/donate/building-fund or contact Jack Moshakis, Executive Director Wesley College Foundation at jack.moshakis@wesleycollege.edu.au

Gyms renewed



State-of-the-art equipment is now ready for students at the St Kilda Road Campus and Glen Waverley Campus

In a bright note in this pandemic-affected year, our sports staff have completed the renovation of both the St Kilda Road and Glen Waverley Gymsnasiums, with new equipment now installed and ready for students' use.

The Wesley Foundation was pleased to provide financial support for this project courtesy of the generous donations of community members. Our strength and conditioning coaches worked closely with the company Novofit to select state-of-the-art equipment best suited to meet the needs of our students. The result? Two outstanding upgrades to our strength and conditioning areas – on budget.

With fit-outs at both campuses completed in August, Mark Hibbins and Peter Schwab look forward to strength and conditioning coaches Curtis Collins and Aiden Harvey providing opportunities for students to train and learn the fundamentals of appropriate weight training.

Wesley Sport will now turn its attention to providing our rowing program with a similar standard of equipment at our Boathouse, continuing the College's commitment to providing students with first-rate equipment and coaching in the vital area of strength and conditioning. The Foundation has established funds through the Australian Sports Foundation where tax deductible donations can be made to support this project.

To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit wesleycollege.edu.au/community/support-us/donate and follow the link to the Wesley Sports Fund donation form or contact Prue Lowther at prue.lowther@wesleycollege.edu.au



President's report



OWCA President, Kate Evans (OW1998), urges all OWs to stay in touch with friends, family, work colleagues and extended social networks

'Staying connected' is a strong message that seems to be everywhere we turn at the moment. Public health measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 have unquestionably had a profound impact on our physical health and mental wellbeing. For the majority of us our social relationships help maintain our psychological health. It's so important that we stay in touch with friends, family, work colleagues and extended social networks.

Staying connected virtually is now such a big part of our 'new normal,' which is why the OWCA continues to bring together our 22,000-strong global community by pioneering new ways our association of OWs can remain in touch, build new connections and foster fresh networks in the online space.

I'm pleased to report that *Lion* magazine will continue in an online format and, as of this issue, will return to three print editions per year. You, our OW community, have expressed that you love this publication!

The past few months have seen the continuation of our OWCA@home panels, connecting OWs with professional specialists who have been able to share, advise, provoke and enlighten.

Josh Howard (OW2006), founder of Single Use Ain't Sexy, gave a thoroughly informative and entertaining fourth session online in August, titled 'Just Add Water: How making sustainability sexy put this entrepreneur ahead of the curve,' and saw Josh tell us his amazing story, from law student and shirt ironer to environmental warrior and global hygiene leader.

In September, search engine optimisation (SEO) and marketing consultant Stephen Forde (OW1995), Director at Media Fortress, presented an exceptionally hands-on and interactive introduction to SEO, guiding us up the peaks and past the traps, and providing us with strategies to get our business websites noticed online.

OWConnect, our alumni directory app, made possible by our partnership with Incarta, is a big piece of the puzzle in our five-year strategic plan and is now live. We encourage you to get on board, create your OW profile and upload your business

details and imagery – and become 'infinitely searchable.' OWConnect will link up businesses and facilitate mentoring and career opportunities, social networking and support, all in a safe and secure environment. It might just be the springboard your business or service needs after the year we've had!

Our OWCA events calendar is yet to be set in stone for 2021, but we're hopeful it will be full of reunions, functions and celebrations. As we move towards a fresh start in the new year, we hope more clarity around gatherings will become apparent.

The OWCA sends their very best wishes to the graduating Class of 2020. Our hearts go out to you: we are thinking of all the memorable traditions you have missed as a result of the pandemic in your final year of school, but we look forward to assisting you as you transition into the next stage of your life, and formally welcoming you into the OWCA when we can all come together again, to celebrate and commemorate your challenging year.

Please reach out and check in on a fellow OW you may not have seen in a while – #stayconnected – by phone, snail mail, email, text, FaceTime, Zoom or social media. This year, more than ever, it's so important for us to look after each other and ensure our connections to communities such as the OWCA stay strong.

Season's greetings, and sincere positivity for the new year from your OWCA.

Kate Evans (OW1998)

#oldwesleycollegians
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#WomenofWesley #FDD2021
#stayconnected

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Sustainable futures: How one OW is building for eternity



Built with eternity in mind, k20 Architecture's Eternity Life in West Footscray is the largest residential timber building in Victoria

Architecture or law? That question was top of mind for young Theodore Kerlidis (OW1989) when he graduated from Wesley. Inspired by the modernist architectural work of Le Corbusier, Theodore chose to study Architecture. Fast forward three decades and the Director of Design and Co-Founder with Anthony Uahwatanasakul of k20 Architecture is spearheading the firm's design process to create places of meaning with individual design responses.

Sustainability – economic, social and environmental – is the foundation

underpinning every project at k20 Architecture – one of Melbourne's leading sustainable design studios specialising in community projects for government. 'When Anthony and I established our practice in 2002, sustainability wasn't top on our client's list of considerations, it was perceived as an add-on or a choice,' Theodore said. 'In reality, sustainability actually means reduced operational and maintenance costs, longevity and better designed and built places. In our view, sustainability is a way of life, firmly embedded into all our practices, so as architects we leave each place better than we found it. Our belief is that true sustainability is achieved through prolonged lifecycle and minimising human impact on the environment through eco-centric design.'

A recent example of this is the award-winning Bayswater Early Years Hub, which brings together early learning spaces, maternal healthcare, allied health and community rooms. Running off-grid, this building has been designed to achieve a lifecycle of more than 100 years, twice as long as most commercial buildings. Key design innovations include an air-sealed envelope, locally sourced and recycled materials, natural and low toxicity materials, solar array, battery storage, rainwater harvesting and native plantings.

One of Theodore's other projects is Eternity Life, a high-quality 61-unit residential development, specifically designed to help people with a disability and high support

needs enjoy an independent lifestyle. In the vibrant heart of West Footscray, and situated next to Stoney Creek, Eternity Life is a sanctuary in the centre of an urbanised community.

Built with sustainability as the key design driver, Eternity has an impressive 7.3 star rating achieved through the use of solar power and solar boosted hot water, individual smart metering, energy saving windows, rainwater harvesting, master electricity shutdown switches and solar shading, which also lower operating costs.

Eternity, currently the largest residential timber-constructed building in Victoria, is made of solid mass timber and clad in stunning recycled blackbutt timber panels. Together these contribute to making the building carbon positive.

Beginning as a seed which grew throughout his formative years at Wesley, Theodore has a deep social conscience. His sustainable public architecture is shaping our communities and enabling long-term resilience. Already much awarded, Theodore and his colleagues at k20 Architecture await with anticipation the results from the prestigious World Architectural News Awards where k20 Architecture is the only Australian practice shortlisted in the category of Sustainable World Building.

For more information on k20 Architecture, visit k20architecture.com



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Jeremy Fox | Director
0418 339 650



Doctors at large: 30 years on



Thirty years ago, the Class of 1990 produced a remarkable number of students who went on to study Medicine. With the current focus on the medical and scientific community, it's a timely opportunity to feature some of those alumni who have dedicated their lives to helping others. We invited them to write a brief 'pen portrait' of their work and the contribution they make to their patients and the community at large.

Dr Kate Clowes

I recall the moment I voiced my goal to enter medical training after finishing Year 12. It was just me and dad in the car. He was thrilled, and I sensed he felt that my time at Wesley had played a big part in my decision – the simple tenet of *daring to be wise* had been powerful. Imagine my pleasure then, when I saw so many of my old schoolmates at the first of the medical activities of O Week: familiar faces and a shared past amongst all the newness.

I loved every minute of my medical training and believed that anything was possible if you worked hard enough. In the end I decided on a career in General Practice: where else could I utilise all my new skills every single day? My work as a GP, in Melbourne and now in Sydney's inner west, has provided me with a rich experience. I have shared the highs and lows in the lives of my patients. Patients I looked after as teenagers are having their own children and I have cared for many patients at the end of their lives.

I continue to develop my techniques and practice and almost always have new learnings and reflections at the end of each day. I work alongside smart and compassionate specialist and GP colleagues and appreciate the regular glimpses my career affords me of the best human nature has to offer.

Dr Warwick Dobson

The Class of 1990 was a great group of people, and I'm very fortunate to still have many of them as friends. I didn't know what I wanted to do after Wesley, so my motivation was to have as many options as possible at the end of Year 12. Luckily, I was surrounded by friends who wanted to explore all the opportunities Wesley offered including sport, music, drama, camps and travel but also to attain good academic results, so we all had a busy but really rewarding time. The study paid off and I still remember discussing my university options with my parents. I had settled on either Engineering or Medicine, but the fact that many of my friends were doing Medicine tipped the scales.

Medical School at Monash with my school friends was fabulous. I'm now an Emergency Physician and Medical Administrator in Hobart, which is a pretty good place to be, currently! I keep in regular touch with most of the old gang, and we still help each other navigate the new challenges life throws at us all. Even though we don't see as much of each other now, I think sharing those major life experiences as friends creates a lifelong bond.



Dr Christopher Holden

I remember Wesley as a gently competitive environment where there was plenty of bedrock support from students and teachers with a promise of excellence if you chose to head in a particular direction, academic or otherwise. It was not about spoon-feeding but giving you a self-motivational framework to use in life.

Medicine is a broad field in which I was confident I would find a path somewhere, with the thought of helping along the way, or at least as it says in the Hippocratic Oath, doing no harm! Although Medicine was very popular in our year level, nearly everyone went to Monash, and I was one of only two Collegians at the University of Melbourne along with my friend, Dr Matt Long.

I chose Radiology as a speciality (surgeons don't get enough sleep!) which is central to assisting most medical specialties through the interpretation and communication of scans and performing biopsies and injections. I've seen fantastic technical advances over my career, but I wish they would stop using Radiologists as an example of one of the first white-collar jobs that will be replaced by AI! I sub-specialised in sports imaging and have been gameday radiologist for the Hawthorn Football Club for the past 10 years, an exciting time for a Hawks supporter. I am Chairperson of Imaging Associates, one of the few doctor-run practices in Australia.



Associate Professor Melita Kenealy

Wesley gave me every opportunity to explore my interests, to strive to be my best self and to live a balanced life. It instilled in me a sense of my self-worth and value within a community, not only supporting and encouraging me in studies, sport and other activities, but also challenging me to achieve my goals and to reach beyond.

I studied Medicine at Monash University, where I relished all the challenges and experiences of undergraduate study before undertaking extended training as a physician and pathologist in Haematology over a number of years. I'm now a Consultant Haematologist at Cabrini Hospital and Adjunct Associate Professor at Monash University. I try to balance a busy medical practice and leadership roles with education of medical students and Haematology trainees, as well as clinical research to improve treatments and patient experience in blood cancers, with my wonderful, and very understanding, family.



Mr Liang Low

Liang commenced school with the first coeducational prep class in 1978, and entered Monash University Medical school with the large 'Class of 1990' cohort. After six years, he completed his medical degree with honours and commenced his internship and surgical residency at the Alfred Hospital.

He applied to the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons for his advanced surgical training and with a combination of work and further studies travelled to hospitals in Melbourne, regional Victoria and the United Kingdom. He returned to Australia and successfully passed his specialist examinations and was admitted as a Fellow of the College in 2003.

After further sub-specialist training at the John Radcliffe Hospital and Oxford University he commenced specialist practice in Australia in 2007. After many years specialising in the treatment of upper gastrointestinal disorders, he was appointed as the Director of Upper Gastrointestinal and Hepato-pancreaticobiliary surgery at Monash Medical Centre in 2017. He is a founding member of the Australia and New Zealand Gastro-oesophageal Surgical Association, Lead clinician of the Southern Metropolitan Integrated Cancer Services and also served on the Victorian State Committee for the College of Surgeons. He actively teaches medical students and is also teaching the next generation of surgeons through the College of Surgeons.

Meanwhile he maintains a busy private practice through Cabrini Hospital in Malvern and Brighton, and Waverley Private Hospital. Liang is married and has two young girls.





Dr Matthew Long

What motivated me at Wesley? I had always got reasonable marks, was interested in the sciences and helping people and Medicine seemed a pretty good fit. It also seemed reasonably well-paid. For some reason I did physics in Year 12 which didn't help with Medicine at all, but Melita Avery (who is now Consultant Haematologist Professor Kenealy) and I were prac partners in that class.

I studied Medicine at the University of Melbourne with Chris Holden while all the others from our year studied at Monash University. Currently I am working in General Practice in North Fitzroy and Coburg. I love most of my job. I get to help people and trying to work out what is wrong with them is often mentally challenging in a really good way. The other thing about being a GP is you never know who is going to walk through the door. I've been a GP for 20 years now and I'm still seeing things that I've never seen before. The worst thing about being at work now is obviously Coronavirus and having to wear a mask and protective eye goggles all day. If I'd wanted to do that, I would've become a surgeon!



Associate Professor Jane Munro

I'm a Paediatric Rheumatologist with a special interest in Pain Medicine. I describe myself as a doctor, researcher, company director, writer and mum. I studied at Monash University with five friends, which made Medicine fun amid the challenges. I trained mostly at the Alfred Hospital, then jumped straight into paediatrics at the Royal Children's Hospital where I've been since 1998. I'm now the Head of Rheumatology and I lead Rheumatology research at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute with a focus on Juvenile Arthritis. I'm a Churchill Fellow and an Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics. I also have a Master in Public Health and a Master in Health Services Management – I like to think a lot about how to improve health care.

During the pandemic I co-founded the Pandemic Kindness Movement, a resource for healthcare workers. I'm passionate about improving clinician wellbeing, and strongly believe in the role of building community, storytelling, kindness, the importance of leadership training for clinicians, and improving gender equity in Medicine. I love being with my husband Will, and three children Ellie, Lachie and Ben, who are the absolute highlights of my life, as well as planning events, reading, writing, playing trombone badly and laughing with friends.

For more information on the Pandemic Kindness Movement, visit
aci.health.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/kindness



Associate Professor Daniel Moon

Associate Professor Daniel Moon is a urologist with particular expertise in minimally invasive and robotic surgery. He served as the inaugural Director of Robotic Surgery at Epworth Healthcare 2012-2017 and is an Honorary Clinical Associate Professor at The University of Melbourne. He has performed over 2000 major laparoscopic and robotic procedures, published the first Australian series of keyhole prostate cancer removal in 2008, performed the first Australian robotic cysto-prostatectomy (bladder removal) in 2009, and established a robotic partial nephrectomy (kidney cancer excision) program at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. He published the first Australian series of this procedure in 2014 and the largest Australian partial nephrectomy series in 2017. He has developed comprehensive training and credentialing documents for surgeons learning robotics, has received European Association of Urology certification as a trainer in robotic surgery. He is also on the Editorial Board of the British Journal of Urology International.

Daniel was in the first coeducational year from prep in 1978 at Glen Waverley. He always planned to study medicine, and after completing his degree at Monash University as the top academic student of that year went directly into surgical training. Urology offered a wide variety of surgical paths but it was the developing laparoscopic (key-hole) and robotic surgical technology with its application to treating what remains the



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number one cause of cancer death in men, prostate cancer, that particularly attracted Daniel. After a year of subspecialty training in the UK he returned to Australia, commencing practice in 2006, and rapidly became one of the highest volume laparoscopic and robotic surgeons in Australia, both in prostate and kidney cancer. He primarily operates using the da Vinci robotic system, which gives the surgeon a magnified 3D view, finely tuned computerized instruments, and the ability to merge real time imaging into the surgeon's console (for example, to map out the depths of a kidney tumour that requires meticulous excision to ensure the cancer is removed but all normal kidney preserved).

Daniel's other passion is music, and whilst he did have to forego a career as a pianist to become a surgeon, he still manages to play regularly and perform with fellow OW's in a band that was formed back at Cato Hall in Year 10.

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—
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READY TO CONNECT,
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Adieu, adieu, old school! Adieu, adieu

Lucy Gilfillan (Rodgers-Wilson) (OW1995) has been connected to Wesley College in one way or another since she started Year 9 at the St Kilda Road Campus in 1992, but if you really want to go back you'll find that three of her great grandfathers attended the school together in 1916. The family connection is a strong one: along with the three great grandfathers, the suite of OWs includes two grandfathers, her father, four uncles, three siblings and nine cousins. As a fourth-generation OW, it's with gratitude for an amazing journey that Lucy moves on from the College.

While at school Lucy made the most of every opportunity, playing water polo, hockey and softball and participating keenly in House sports. She was always ready to participate in the acting, dancing and singing opportunities the school had to offer, testing Dawson Hann's patience as a cast member of *Chess* in the Senior School Musical in 1995. She always knew she would return to the St Kilda Road Campus as a teacher, joining the staff as an English and Humanities teacher in 2005. Nick Evans (OW1985) and Jill Calder inspired her to teach History, Stephen Hobbs showed kindness and caring, Garry Dodd (OW1973) kept every lesson interesting. Lindy Grahm, Cam McKenzie, James Brown, Sara Liversidge, Tony Scanlan, Doug Goodwin (OW1978), Jill Caple, Dave Baker, Jane Pittard and other legendary staff too many to name, all influenced her on her path to teaching at Wesley.

One role she particularly enjoyed was as a Head of House from 2007 to 2010: the importance of strong relationships she had learned from her teachers enabled her to understand how to have a positive impact on students, academically and in terms of pastoral care. Lucy also embraced her role as President of the Common Room Association from 2007 to 2008 where she implemented a popular CRA Newsletter, CRA Briefings, Soup Days in winter and CRA Morning Teas – and even shook up the format for the end-of-year staff function.

A call from former Principal Helen Drennen in 2010 saw Lucy appointed College Head of the OWCA, while still maintaining a role as a teacher of senior History. Lucy enjoyed the role immensely and her ability to organise events, connect with OWs across so many decades and make the OWCA manifest in a fast-changing environment saw the association gain a new energy.

Taking leave in 2013 to enjoy time with her first-born, Harry, Lucy returned to the College in a part-time capacity, continuing her role with the OWCA as Editor of the OWCA section of *Lion* whilst welcoming Clementine in 2016 and Fergus in 2018. During this time she started a successful online business and, realising she would never return to the classroom, became a Marriage Celebrant. This has enabled her to stay connected to past students and be involved in some wonderful OW celebrations, including the weddings of Pete Johnson (OW1998),



From top, left to right

Lucy's grandparents, Bob (OW1944) and Ruth Loder, seated, with her siblings and cousins, from left, Rory Loder (OW2010), Jack Loder (OW2006), Jim Loder (OW2004), Rob Marshall, Tim Rodgers-Wilson (OW1998), Sophie Marshall, Abby Traeger (OW1997), Lucy Gilfillan (OW1995), Georgi Marshall, Bec Marshall and Jo Ransom (OW1993). Absent at the pictured event, but there in spirit were Alex Loder (OW2003) and Kate Loder (OW2006)

Lucy marrying Ellie (Watts) (OW2009) and Jon Embrey

Three of Lucy's great grandfathers – George Arthur, Louis Loder and WRL Rodgers-Wilson – signed the same Song Book in 1915

Courtney Cookes, (OW2002), Bridget Steele (OW2006), Huw Apted (OW2007), Lauren Grima (OW2008), Ellie Watts (OW2009) and Jess Stewart (OW2011).

While Lucy is moving on from the OWCA, her connection to the College is one that will remain strong. 'Wesley will always hold a very special place in my heart. So many memories over so many years, so many friends from my student and teaching days as well as lasting relationships developed in my roles with the OWCA. I feel truly blessed to be connected to Wesley, now and always.'

Binge- watching? Try some bite-sized offerings

The many OWs who have binged multiple TV series over the past months might be interested to know a couple of OWs are bringing something a little different to our screens. Libby Butler (OW1999) is looking to make rom-coms great again with her bite-sized romantic comedy series, *Loving Captivity*, on Facebook. The 'mini-series' follows Ally (Christie Whelan Browne), a 30-something single mum who reluctantly agrees to iso-date with Joe (series co-creator Lewis Mulholland) – a flirt-machine she was dumped by, before the world changed.

Developed through the first COVID-19 lockdown and produced as the original Stage 3 restrictions were eased in Victoria, the series is a heartfelt, candid exploration of dating in the new normal – and why social distancing might be the best thing that ever happened to our relationships.

Meanwhile, the latest project by multi-award-winning animation and documentary director Sophie Raymond (OW1991) took enchantment to new levels. Her daringly innovative and genre-bending short film, *Recorder Queen*, explored the inner world of internationally renowned musician Genevieve Lacey as she stepped off the classical concert stage, driven by the need to rediscover her Australian roots and give voice to the stories of her own time and place.

Screened on ABC iView, the thoroughly delightful production combined animation, dramatic reconstruction, documentary footage and live performance to explore the altered states of a creative mind. There was even a very special co-star making an appearance – the much-loved Chapel at the St Kilda Road Campus!



To watch *Loving Captivity*, visit facebook.com/lovingcaptivity

To watch a short reel from *Recorder Queen*, visit documentaryaustralia.com.au/project/recorder-queen



Jack-of- all-trades and a teacher at heart

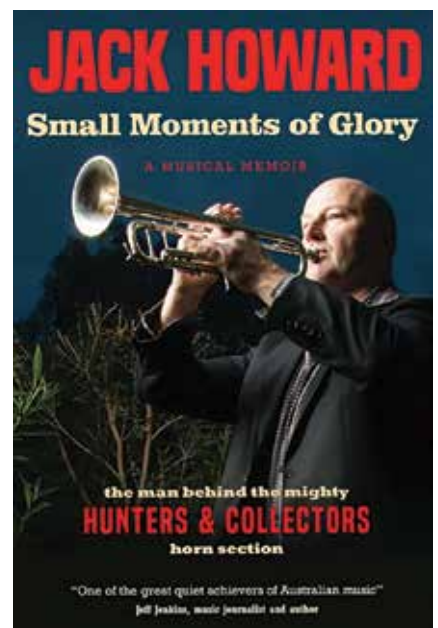
Long-serving Wesley staff member Jack Howard's (OW1976) life reads like something from a book, so it made sense for the man himself to put pen to paper. Jack's recently released musical memoir, *Small Moments of Glory*, tells the tale of a lifelong musical journey in his own authentic, self-deprecating and darkly humorous style, from his early classical music days to the heady days of Hunters and Collectors, and from his solo career to his work with acts like Rodriguez, The Living End and Midnight Oil. Written like

he plays – powerfully, beautifully, brilliantly – *Small Moments of Glory* demonstrates just why Jack is still the only trumpeter to be inducted into the ARIA Rock'n'Roll Hall of Fame!

To accompany his literary journey, Jack also released *Dog Songs*. The collection is a best-of Jack's Dog's Bar residency with his mighty band, Jack Howard and the Long Lost Brothers – and sisters – and features some powerful new songs alongside versions of some of his classic older tunes.

Despite his elevated position in the history of Australian music, Jack is a teacher at heart, having mentored many OWs over the years. On tour, it's a common occurrence, no matter the country, to have former students come up to him and thank him for his work during their time at Wesley. The gift of music is a truly powerful thing – something this Jack-of-all-trades gives in abundance.

Small Moments of Glory and Dog Songs are available in stores and online at jackhoward.bandcamp.com



Small Moments of Glory by Jack Howard was published by Brolga Publishing in 2020





At top, Virologist Kirsty Short (OW2003) interviewed by international science journalist Wendy Zukerman (OW2003); and hygiene eco guru, Josh Howard (OW2006)

It's still been an eventful year – virtually

In an unprecedented year, these uncertain times have introduced a new normal of physical distancing and lockdowns alongside an abundance of cautious elbow bumps to flatten the curve – and we've seen pivots aplenty. Here at the OWCA we've discovered we're not immune – to all the buzzwords, that is. We've pivoted to create the OWCA@home series of monthly Zoom live panels featuring OWs presenting on a range of topics.

Following on from our successful pivot for the Founders' Day Dinner at home, and born of an obvious hunger for real-time communication between often isolated OWs, the series has been an outstanding success, thanks mainly to our generous and talented OW presenters so far: Psychologist Meera Aurora (OW1994), finance and investment advisor Michael Mancuso (OW2008), Psychologist Dori Kabillo (OW1989), entrepreneur Josh Howard (OW2006), Webmaster Stephen Forde (OW1995), Virologist Kirsty Short (OW2003) and others.

The OWCA will continue to provide this entertaining and informative series as a social and intellectual OW space in 2021, and with the ability for us to reach our international and interstate OWs, it looks like there will be an ongoing place for this concept in our regular and extensive annual events calendar. The large number of Golden Lions who attended our Caged Lions Lunch in October is a great sign that all ages have embraced the online and virtual experience, as they tuned in to see OWCA Vice President David Kennedy (OW1966) interview retired New York Bishop Andrew St John (OW1961), live from New York via Zoom.

With restrictions likely to remain in place for some time, some face-to-face events may not take place, while others will look very different. Nevertheless, we are absolutely committed to putting them on, and have developed a series of scenarios to bring you to the OWCA or the OWCA to you, consistent with restrictions in place at the time. We will keep you updated via *Lion*, our *MANE Events* e-newsletter and the OWCA website.



Trevor Smith (OW1975) and his daughter Courtney pay their respects at the grave of Norman Francis Smith (OW1935) at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Egypt

OW forever at El Alamein

Trevor Smith visited a lonely, dusty corner of the Sahara Desert to pay respects to his uncle, who died in the historic Battle of El Alamein in 1942.

My uncle, Norman Francis Smith (OW1935) died in the historic Battle of El Alamein in 1942, so when my daughter, Courtney, and I were in Cairo in February this year, we wanted to drive the 250 kilometres to El Alamein to pay our respects at the Commonwealth War Cemetery. Norm was one of the first to volunteer at the start of the Second World War. He was in the thick of the fighting for Greece and then the Middle East. Unfortunately, his luck ran out in El Alamein, where Rommel's Panzers were finally defeated, then pushed back out of North Africa.

Norm's grave is in a lonely, dusty corner of the cemetery in the Sahara Desert where very few Australians ever venture. We were the only visitors to his grave site in 77 years. I left a Wesley pin badge from his time at the school, which my father had kept as a reminder. With the magic of the internet, my daughter had sent the image back to my aunt Daphne, Norm's sister and only surviving close relative, who was in a nursing home in Rosebud. She said that it brought back many fond memories of their childhood together. She tragically passed away a few days later.

Trevor Smith (OW1975)



The Keck brothers, commencing years at Wesley: back from left, Tom 1935, King 1926, Jim 1934, Fred 1929, Jack 1933; front from left, Rev Harry, Lurline, Ethel, Bruce 1941 and Bill 1931

Seven sons

The Keck family had seven sons at Wesley, which is probably a record, as **Philip Powell** explains.

Let me introduce you to the Keck family. The Rev Harry Keck and his wife Ethel sit proudly with their seven sons and one daughter in a Canterbury photo studio in 1938. All seven sons attended Wesley College starting with Harry – known as King – Keck in 1926 through to the youngest, Bruce Keck, who commenced in 1941. Their sister Lurline, of course, attended MLC, Kew.

The sad story is that the two eldest sons, King and Fred, were killed within a fortnight in late March and early April 1942. King's Bristol Blenheim was shot down over Egypt and Fred's Hampden was shot down over the Ruhr. The next four sons all served in various roles with the Australian Imperial Force. Bruce

spent the war years at Wesley, including the two years at Scotch College in 1942 and 1943. (See our archival story on page 20 for more on Wesley in the war years.) Bruce was musically gifted and was the school's musician in 1946.

We think having seven sons attending Wesley is a record – can anyone else match that? Bruce and Lurline are now in their 90s. Bruce lives in Ballarat after a lifetime teaching with the Victorian Department of Education. Lurline, a writer and academic at Monash University, lives in a Hawthorn retirement apartment complex where a number of well-known OWs also live.

Philip Powell (OW1973) is an entrepreneur, writer and historian.



A slice of the OW team at Cookes Food in 2020BC (Before COVID-19): from left, Stephanie Bell (OW2000), Sophie Storen (Cokes) (OW2000) and Elaine Were (Musto) (OW2008) with Andy Slattery

Cooking through a storm

Food always tastes better with a little Wesley flavour. Sophie Storen (Cokes) (OW2000) is the founder and owner of multi-faceted catering and events company Cookes Food, working alongside fellow OWs Stephanie Bell (OW2000) and Elaine Ware (Musto) (OW2008). Due to the current pandemic, this popular Melbourne catering business needed to pivot and pivot quickly, and this is what the ingenious OW team did, bringing a touch of their premium hospitality to the home.

Cookes Food has been curating delicious at-home menus and fun collaborations to keep the spirits up for their clients in lockdown. Although they would usually be setting up for events with 500 or more people, the Cookes team has been busy in the kitchen and on the roads, delivering their premium food.

With the easing of restrictions in October, Sophie and the team launched Park Life – three premium picnic boxes to be enjoyed at the local park with family and friends – giving the humble picnic the chance to shine.

In a time when so much of what we once knew and enjoyed has been lost, it's comforting to know OWs like Sophie, Stephanie and Elaine are delivering a delicious reminder of our past and a sumptuous roadmap to the future.

#buypurpleandgold

Check out Cookes Food online at
cookesfood.com.au



What's in a (nick)name?

No less an historian than the great Geoffrey Blainey has investigated the subtleties of the humble nickname, as **Michael McCarthy** explains.

The works of the great historian and National Living Treasure Geoffrey Blainey AC (OW1947) are both illuminating and heartening. They are well worth reading, especially if you have ever been a Methodist or even a part Methodist like me (my father began life as a Catholic): he must be one of Methodism's best products, in Australia or indeed the world.

Blainey boarded at Wesley from 1944. In his autobiography, *Before I Forget*, he writes that all the boarders and resident masters had to have a nickname. These included 'Plug' – the housemaster, Mr Kennedy, 'Tiger Pete' – a kindly and inwardly wounded First World War

veteran, 'Milky,' 'Narse,' 'Brandy-Faced Jack,' 'Hopalong' and 'Joe Blow.' Other teachers were 'Biddy' Eastaugh, 'Fido' Gwillim, 'Tosh' Phillips, 'Stumpy' Hughes and 'Dick' Belshaw.

I recall that by 1953 some of these nicknames had changed. 'Milky' Milne, 'Narse' Lesser and 'Tosh' retained their names, but 'Plug' had become 'Bod,' 'Brandy-Faced Jack' was now simply 'Jack' and 'Tiger Pete' may have become 'PL' Williams – an extremely tolerant and popular master who was said to have a 'bung lung.' Belshaw had acquired the nickname 'Baldy,' which did not please him. I don't recall the tall 'Stumpy' Hughes, but there was a tall 'Stiffy' Hulme; could they have been the same?

In the 1950s, masters' nicknames were either their forename in formal or less formal form – Leigh Cook, Percy Gare, Alan Mitchell, Ken Merry, Jack Rush, Morrie Williams, Harry Trainor, Fred Potts, Bill Schuster, Georgie Lightfoot, Jerry Hattam – or something more creative – 'Hisser' Humphries, 'Doc' Steininger, 'Titch' White, 'Lop' Martindale, 'Spes' Secomb, 'Breath' Brown, 'Bonny' Franks, 'Tit' Dodd, 'Doover' Du Vé, 'Hava' Gess, 'Charlie' the Chaplain (aka Rev VTL

Roberts). They could be both semi-formal and creative – LLE Newnham was 'Lou' and 'Stringy.' Our impressive headmaster, WH Frederick, was 'The Boof' – a nickname presumably arrived at by expanding The Head to The Boofhead and then contracting it again. His admirable successor, Dr TH Coates OBE was simply Tom.

Doc had a tender theory about nicknames. He had found a boy's diary in which were written nicknames against the list of masters. When Doc returned the diary to its owner, he asked, 'Why have you written "Doc" against my name?' 'Because you are a doctor, sir,' he replied. Steininger was a Doctor of Laws of the University of Vienna.

'Please boys, listen to that,' Doc said. 'I think if boys have a nickname for a master, they like him. And, boys – in this diary – there was one master who didn't have a nickname.'

Michael McCarthy (OW1957) is an avid protector of Wesley history, son of the much-admired first Principal (1961 to 1972) of the then newly independent Elsternwick MLC, Joyce McCarthy, and a regular contributor to *Lion*.

YOUR OWCA

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College Head, OWCA

Ian Thomas (OW1982)

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Belinda Danks-Woodley (OW2004)

Anastasia Malishev (OW1995)

Amy McAlister (OW2003)

Thomas Pewtress (OW2018)

Rob Wilde (OW2004)

Director, Foundation and Alumni

Jack Moshakis (OW1973)

Interested in becoming involved in the Executive?
Contact Ian Thomas (OW1982) College Head, OWCA
ian.thomas@wesleycollege.edu.au + 61 8102 6475

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Lion Stories | Social media | OW Connections | Transcripts | OW Updates | Bereavements | Club enquiries | Grant enquiries from Affiliates | Club advice
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Event enquiries | Calendar enquiries
Natalie Krug (OW1991)
natalie.krug@wesleycollege.edu.au

Affiliates

Alan Mitchell Club

Since 1975, the Alan Mitchell Club has been supporting the Wesley College Rowing program with contributions to Boatshed renovations, boat purchases, training equipment and sponsorship of rowers and coaches.

Fun, fitness and friendship are all on offer at the Alan Mitchell Club to those who have an interest in rowing. Catering for beginners, social rowers and competitive rowers, the Alan Mitchell Club is a proud supporter of Wesley Rowing, providing rowing opportunities in singles, double pairs, quads, fours and eights. In addition to regular rows on weekday mornings, the club will also recommence a Sunday morning sculls class when restrictions allow.

If you are interested in getting a refresher in rowing, or just starting out, once containment measures to minimise the spread of COVID-19 are lifted, please contact Alan Mitchell Club Boat Captain Ana McCloskey at ana.mccloskey@gmail.com

OWCA Bowls

With hopes dashed for our opening event at West Brighton Club in September, members of OWCA Bowls focused on a positive bias and circulated the schedule for the 2020-2021 program, in the hope that, as soon as restrictions permit, teams can once again get down to business.

Coordinator Richard Sluggett (OW1972) is keen to hear from players if they are not able to play on the proposed dates, should restrictions lift, and is always happy to hear from people of all ages who are interested in joining the ranks. This group remains one of the most reliable in APS Alumni competition circles and is proud of its history and contribution to the game.

To join OWCA Bowls, once containment measures to minimise the spread of COVID19 are lifted, contact the coordinator, Richard Sluggett (OW1972) on 0403 023 288 or at rmsluggett21@gmail.com

Collegians Football Club

We all know that 2020 has been a weird year and for the Collegians Football Club it has not been any different. 'Will we or won't we play?' was the catch-cry for most of April and May while minimum training was happening, then came the news the season was off, and everything very quickly slowed down from there. We were going to do some light training after the season was called off, but then came the latest shutdown, which put paid to that idea too!

We thank our outgoing Senior Coach, Shane Joyce, who resigned after the season was called off, for his four and a half years at the Club, where we twice lost a Grand Final by less than a goal. For Shane, and the Club, it was unfinished business, but we have moved on and are very pleased to announce the appointment of Jared Rivers, former AFL footballer who played for the Melbourne Football Club and Geelong Football Club.

Jared has been coaching Collingwood's VFL team until this year. He was an Assistant Coach for the North Melbourne AFL team until let go as part of the COVID-19 AFL downturn. Jared is very excited to get down to the Club as soon as public health measures permit and has spent time getting to know players by phone.

Financially, we have managed to survive this year in decent shape, but for 2021 we will need every bit of help we can get. I implore you all to buy a 2021 membership and support the Club to make sure we can provide the facilities and coaching expertise so our players remain competitive and keep Collegians at the pointy end of the VAFA.

Until we are all allowed back together, look after yourselves, and we hope to have a function for our much-loved supporters as soon as we can.

Go Lions!

To support Collegians Football Club, or join the player lists to compete once containment measures to minimise the spread of COVID19 are lifted, contact President Rodney 'Rocket' Nancarrow (OW1982) at rnancarrow@iprimus.com.au



From top

The Alan Mitchell Club has participated in charity rows on the Murray and Darling Rivers over the years, raising money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service; pictured pre-COVID-19, an AMC crew before completing the a 20 kilometre leg

OWCA Bowls is focused on a positive bias, in the hope that teams can soon get down to business

Former AFL player for Melbourne and Geelong, Jared Rivers, takes on the role of Senior Coach with Collegians



Updates



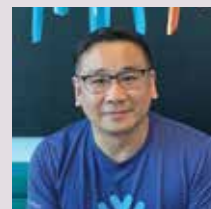
Russ West-Pavlov (OW1982)

Russ West-Pavlov (OW1982) has been living in Germany since the early 1990s, teaching Postcolonial and Global South Studies, with a particular focus on Africa, at universities in Berlin and most recently in Tübingen. This was interrupted by stints in Wales and South Africa, and preceded by postgrad study in France, the United Kingdom and Germany. He is married to Tatjana, also a teacher/lecturer, whose family is from Dalmatia. They have three bilingual and binational children who enjoy juggling family connections between Melbourne, Berlin and Split.



Ron Tidhar (OW2009)

In August, **Ron Tidhar (OW2009)** completed his PhD with the Stanford Technology Ventures Program. His research focuses on entrepreneurial strategy and business models. Prior to moving to Stanford University in California in 2014, Ron attended the University of Melbourne. Ron has worked for Spotify, in both Stockholm and New York, and a Silicon Valley startup. Following his PhD, Ron will be working as a Data Scientist at Instagram in Menlo Park, California.



Geoff Soon (OW1992)

Geoff Soon (OW1992) has been living with his family in Singapore for the past six years. He has two primary school kids, Oliver and Meaghan, who are experiencing a very different style of schooling to what he enjoyed at Wesley College Glen Waverley. Before the pandemic, Geoff spent most of his time on planes travelling around Asia, leading the sales teams for high-growth technology companies. He is currently the Managing Director (South Asia) for Snowflake, one of the fastest-growing software-as-a-service companies in the world, focused on helping organisations to leverage the value of their data. When not on Zoom calls, Geoff enjoys drinking whiskey and trying to add to his watch collection.



Thank you Zena

In other event-related news, our amazing OWCA Events and Administration Coordinator, Zena Eastburn, who has been your first point of contact since the beginning of 2018, will be taking maternity leave next year. Whilst it won't be the same without Zena taking your calls, despatching lion toys and supporting and arranging all our activities, purchases and meetings, the OWCA has enlisted the help of familiar Foundation staff members, Natalie Krug (OW1991), Wesley Events Manager, and Prue Lowther, Administrative Assistant. They're looking forward to helping wherever they can and we thank them here and now. We can't thank Zena enough for her exceptional work and dedication to her role, and wish her all the best for her first months of motherhood, and the daily little events schedule that role entails, and look forward to welcoming her back in 2022.

Our amazing OWCA Events and Administration Coordinator, Zena Eastburn, will be on maternity leave next year; we thank Zena for her exceptional work and dedication to the OWCA



Mark Stephens (OW1965)

Singer and travelling entertainer, Lazy Harry, better known to Boat Race Dinner guests as **Mark Stephens (OW1965)**, who leads crews both past and present in School songs with his guitar, has released an album that has had more than a passing glance from ABC regional radio, following his year in country Victoria amid fires, floods and COVID-19. *My Family Album* of mostly original songs and ballads, was created during a difficult time for entertainers and families everywhere. It features 'Benji's Song,' written for Stephen's grandson who is in Europe. Its touching lyrics speak to the COVID-19 grandparent separation experience in 2020. The cover photo for the album (as pictured above) features Stephen and Benji on Benji's pre-COVID-19 sports day in Austria, and of course Stephen is wearing his Wesley peaked cap, with the snow-covered peaks of the Alps in the background! As Stephen says, 'It all makes sense that I did Matric German at Wesley with Dr Steinger in 1965! Danke!'

**To obtain a copy of
My Family Album, email**
Beechworth-based Lazy Harry at
markstephens6@bigpond.com



Oliver Koo (OW2014)

The OWCA had, until recently, lost track of **Oliver Koo (OW2014)**, originally from Seoul, South Korea, but six years after graduation, we've found him – in Frankfurt, Germany. Oliver moved to Germany to pursue his passion for the automotive industry and started his Business degree at the Cologne Business School – Mainz. While completing his degree, he interned at software giant, SAP, in Walldorf, before moving to Hyundai's European headquarters in Frankfurt. Oliver is thrilled to be part of the automotive industry in Germany, at the heart of the automotive business. He says his 10 years at Wesley shaped his ability to tackle anything. 'It made me the person I am today, a person who isn't afraid going into the unknown and finding the small success I need to get to where I want. Taking on a completely new language and culture was also a welcome change for me and I haven't looked back.' Pictured with Oliver is Baden Stringer (OW2014), who visited Oliver in Frankfurt in 2018. The pair have been friends since Year 4. Oliver would be delighted to hear from other school friends who live in or are travelling to Germany.



Garry Grace (OW1971), Peter Harrison (OW1969) Bob Duncan (OW1947)

A chance meeting in a café led to lunch for three old Wesley rowers. That's Garry **Grace (OW1971)** on the left; he rowed with **Peter Harrison (OW1969)** in the 1969 Wesley College Fifth Crew. The next year Garry rowed in the winning Head of the River crew. Peter was on the School Council for 20 years and was its President. On the right is **Bob Duncan (OW1947)**. Bob was a member of the Wesley College Athletics team that won the APS Athletic Premiership in 1947. He went on to row for Australia at the 1956 Olympic Games in the coxed pair. He was then the race starter at Head of the River regattas for 40 years – and started Garry and Peter in all of their Head of the River races!



Births

BUCK > To Tahlia (OW2006) (Anderson) and Mitch on 21 January 2020, a daughter Clara, a granddaughter for Peter Anderson (OW1973), a niece for Hamish Anderson (OW2009)		CHIN To Nicholas (OW1986) and Rimawsti on 19 September 2019, a daughter, Madeline, a sister for Emily		< DAGLEY To Michael (OW2000) and Laura on 12 December 2019, a daughter, Aurelia Juliet, a granddaughter for Ian (OW1971) and Nerolee (Cato MLC 1973)
	DESSAU To Camilla (OW1995) and Josh Chia on 15 April 2019, a son, Freddie, a brother for Charlie			< EMBREY To Ellie (Watts) (OW2009) and Jon on 10 September 2020, twin daughters, Luenna Florence and Mathilda Elizabeth, nieces for Fergus (OW2003) and Jack (OW2005)
HABERSBERGER To Andrew (OW1998) and Sally on 13 June 2019, a daughter, Lily Charlotte, a granddaughter for Peter (OW1958), a niece for Jonathon (OW1993) and Kate (OW1995)			HANDS > To Emma (OW1999) and Ross Tindle on 24 January 2020, a daughter, Aubrey, a sister for Caleb and Amelie, a niece for Sarah (OW1998) and Nathan (OW2001)	
	< JIN To Jimmy (OW1989) and Julia in June 2020, a daughter, Amelia			JOHNSON To Peter (OW1998) and Amy on 3 December 2019, a son, Felix, a brother for Sonny, a grandson for Bob (OW1965), a nephew for Lewis (OW2001)
JUDKINS > To Kim (OW1992) and Collid Haddad on 1 August 2019, a daughter, Taya		KAHN > To Victoria (OW1999) and Matt Campbell on 13 July 2019, a son, Jack Samuel		LAM To Angus (OW2018) and Taleizia on 1 March 2020, a daughter, Jayla-Ni Alea
	< MCALISTER To Amy (OW2003) and Mark Lipshut, on 10 August 2020, a son, Noah, a brother for Harrison, a nephew for Laura Murphy (OW2001) (McAlister)		MOSHAKIS > To Tess (OW2004) and Braden Jackman on 3 June 2020, a daughter, Neve, a granddaughter for Jack (OW1973), a niece for Sophie (OW2009)	

<p>NEWHEY</p> <p>To Simon (OW2004) and Kate on 10 March 2020, a son, Charlie Jack, a brother for Lucy, a grandson for David (OW1973), a nephew for Brett Melville (OW2002)</p>		<p>NICHOLA ></p> <p>To Anthony (OW2003) and Jessica on 21 June 2019, a son, Theodore (Teddy)</p>		
	<p>< POTTENGER-TRIBE</p> <p>To Candice Tribe (OW1999) and Evan Pottenger (OW2004) on 25 November 2019, a son, Spencer Reuben, a nephew for Hayden (OW2001), Rhett (OW2002) and Keaton (OW2004)</p>		<p>< RAY</p> <p>To Matthew (OW1999) and Rebecca on 4 February 2019, a son, Louis Michael Ray</p>	
		<p>< TAFT</p> <p>To Shura (OW2000) and Gemma on 3 February 2020, a daughter, Elle, a sister for Edward</p>		<p>< TYSON</p> <p>To Mark (OW2006) and Alba on 11 September 2020, a daughter, Indira Maria, a granddaughter for Alan (OW1974), a niece for Paul (OW2008)</p>
<p>WAGSTAFF ></p> <p>To Jamie (OW2006) and Sally (Naylor) (OW2007) on 22 November 2019, a daughter, Harper Elizabeth, a great granddaughter for Geoff Wagstaff (OW1949), a granddaughter for Scott Wagstaff (OW1962), a niece for Emma Wagstaff (OW2009), Rebecca Naylor (OW2011), Jennifer Blumfield (OW2005) (Naylor) and Chris Blumfield (OW2002)</p>		<p>WATTS</p> <p>To Fergus (OW2003) and Jenna on 17 July 2020, a son, Tennyson Jim, a brother for Navy, a nephew for Jack (OW2005) and Ellie (OW2009)</p>		
		<p>< WILDE</p> <p>To Rob (OW2004) and Jenny on 12 April 2020, a son, Otto Arthur Claus</p>		
	<p>< WHARTON</p> <p>To Kath (OW2004) and Joel Martin on 15 June 2020, a son, Jeremy (Jem), a nephew for Michael (OW2004) and Chloe Hawking (OW2003)</p>			<p>< WRIGHT</p> <p>To Ainsley (OW2006) (Weeks) and Oliver on 12 March 2020, a son, Louis James, a nephew for Chris Weeks (OW2004)</p>



Lion Cubs



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

From top, left to right



Alice Jones,
daughter of Chris

Aurelia Dagley

Beau Engel, son of Rachel

Calypson White,
daughter of Michael

Dakota Hemingway

Elle Goorjian-Taft

Kit Goldbloom,
son of Tatem Moore

Neve Moshakis

Noah McAlister

Otto Wilde

Louis Ray



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

ENROLLING

YOUR CHILD

AT WESLEY



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

Don't leave it too late.
Apply today

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

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



^
Engagements, from top

**Grace McGeehan (OW2009) and
Cameron Thompson**

Richard Hosking (OW1996) and Simone Cunico

>
Weddings, from top, left to right

ANDERSON – DRIVER
Matthew (OW2008) and Zoe on 13 March 2020

BIDEN – VANZYL
Andrea (OW1993) and Roeloph on
25 September 2019

FERGUSON – SCHWARZ
Lachlan (OW2010) and Amelia – with celebrant
Shura Taft (OW2000) on 20 March 2020

GROSS – HARDINGE
Zac (OW2004) and Monique on
28 December 2019

KELLY – QUINN
James (OW2007) and Sarah on 18 January 2020

LITTLE – WRIGHT
Kristina (OW2008) and Henry (OW2008)
on March 2020

WILDASH – EDDINGTON
Bart (OW2009) and Sheridan (OW2009)
on 21 March 2020

WOOLLACOTT – BENNETT
Harrison (OW2011) and Christie (OW2011)
on 15 February 2020



Deaths

BALL

John Wallace (OW1943) on 26 August 2020, son of Wallace (OW1910) (dec.), father of Russell (OW1969), and Richard (OW1974) (dec.), father-in-law of Ian Muir (OW1971), grandfather of Rob Muir (OW1998), Emily Muir (OW2004), Sally Jelbart (Muir) (OW2002), Nick Ball (OW2003) and Rosie Ball (OW2006)

BARKLAMB

John James Macleroy (OW1947) on 23 May 2020, father of Christina (Cato College 1978)

CASTLES

Lance (OW1954) on 27 August 2020, brother of Ian (OW1951) (dec.), Bruce (OW1957) (dec.) and Brian (OW1963)

CONDON

Murray Douglas (OW1954) on 27 July 2020, brother of Brian (OW1960)

COOK

Peter Alleyne (OW1953) on 28 February 2019, son of Geoffrey (OW1918) (dec.), father of Michael (OW1981), grandfather of Jack Burmeister (OW2013) and Harry Burmeister (OW2016)

CUMING

Valda Merle OAM (MLC Elsternwick 1945) on 7 April 2020

CURRY

Herbert Bruce (Stu) (OW1951) on 11 April 2020, father of Tony (OW1975)

EMBURY

John Graeme (Graeme) (OW1950) on 8 September 2019, father of Andrew (OW1978) and Nik (OW1986)

FOSTER

Grant Stuart (OW1973) on 31 July 2019

GOLDFRAD

Michelle (Cato College 1976) on 27 January 2004

GORDON

Cmdre Ian Russell AM (OW1952) on 9 April 2020, brother of Lindsay (OW1956) and Neil (OW1959), father of Michael (OW1988)

GREENHAM

Peter Henry (OW1953) on 16 August 2020, father of Lucy (OW1993) and Peter (OW1994)

HARCOURT

Richard (Dick) David (OW1948) on 9 April 2020, cousin of Arthur Isaacson (OW1928) (dec.), Graeme Sloman (OW1944), Trevor Jacobs (OW1946) (dec.), John Harcourt (OW1948) and Geoffrey Harcourt (OW1949), father of Leonie (OW1990)

HASTINGS

Malcolm John (OW1958) on 14 April 2020, father of Toby (OW1994) (dec.) and Angus (OW1995)

HIBBINS

Lex Dalziel (OW1953) (past staff) on 3 April 2020, brother of Ian (OW1945) (dec.), Geoff (OW1948) (dec.) and Colin (OW1949) (dec.),

father of Mark (OW1978) and Nick (OW1982), uncle of Guy (OW1977) (dec.) and Andrew (OW1985), grandfather of Sam (OW2011) and Jack (OW2015)

HOLST

Adrian (OW1955) on 25 March 2020

HUNT

Colin James (OW1948) on 11 August 2020, brother of David (OW1951)

JUNGWIRTH

Gary L (OW1968) on 13 July 2019, brother of Ian (OW1962)

LUMLEY

William (Bill) Richards AM (OW1937) on 21 September 2020

MAWBAY

Colin Curtis (OW1949) on 4 December 2019

MERRETT

Hayley Deanne (OW1988) on 30 August 2020, sister of Shane (OW1991)

MILES

Wesley (Wes) M (Past Staff) on 20 January 2020, father of Simon (OW1980)

OLIVER

Geoffrey Louis OAM (OW1956) on 25 May 2020, brother of John (OW1949)

OPPENHEIM

Declan Peter (OW2013) on 1 May 2020

PIZZEY

Mervyn Geoffrey (OW1940) on 22 May 2020, nephew of Irvine (OW1916) (dec.) and V Pizzey (OW1920) (dec.), father of Euan (OW1965) and Liel (OW1968), uncle of Terry (OW1969) and Guy Gollings (OW1975)

REYNOLDS

John Oswald OAM (OW1939) on 8 August 2020

SCHMIDT

Dr Graham Theodore (OW1951) on 22 July 2020, father of Jeremy (OW1983), Nick (OW1985) and Rohan (OW1985), grandfather of Charlotte (OW2016) and Maggie Omond (OW2019) and Blake (Year 11) and Annabel Schmidt (Year 9)

Proudly sponsoring OWCA events

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Contact Chris Foster-Ramsay (OW1999)
on 0448 010 999.



Obituaries

SEDAWIE

Noel P (OW1951) on 5 May 2020, father of Richard (OW1978) (dec.) and Timothy (OW1979) (dec.)

SHACKLETON

Ian Robert Alexander (past staff) on 12 January 2020

TAMBLYN

Keith William (OW1947) on 14 June 2020, brother of Graeme (OW1938), husband of Margaret (MLC Elsternwick 1947)

THORPE

Barry Wrixon (OW1956) on 7 October 2019, son of James (OW1932) (dec.), father of Daniel (OW1987) and Miranda (OW1989), grandfather of Priya (OW2021) and Maya Chaudhri (Year 8) and Ruby (Year 9) and Noah Thorpe (Year 8)

TURNBULL

Jack Scott (OW1934) on 11 December 2018

VALE

Romy Sarah (OW1992) on 24 June 2020

WANSLEY

Col Wehl Hubert (Bert) AM (OW1938) on 14 April 2020, brother of Lansell (OW1941) (dec.), uncle of Michael (OW1958), father of Grant (OW1969) and Ian (OW1969) and grandfather of Christopher (OW2007)

WATTERS

Andrew James (Jim) (OW1960) on 12 September 2019

WHITCROFT

Lesley Trethowan AM (OW1934) on 12 August 2017, brother of Ord (OW1933) (dec.), cousin of Tom White (OW1945) (dec.)

WILLIAMSON

Anthony John (John) (OW1966) on 17 August 2019

WILLIS

Sally Anne (OW2007) on 11 March 2020

WOODHOUSE

Dr John Sugden (OW1946) on 13 March 2020, brother of David (OW1950)

WRIGHT

Richard W (OW1961) on 22 May 2020



Peter Alleyne Cook (OW1953)

18/05/1935 – 28/02/2019

Peter Cook (OW1953) attended Wesley College from 1947 to 1953 and later returned as a senior staff member from 1979 to 1983. With four family generations of OWs, Peter was very proud of his Wesley association. Peter's father was a student in 1915, an avid rower and cox of the Second crew, which won the Head of the River in 1918. The rudder of the 1918 boat is still proudly on display in Peter's home.

Peter loved sport, receiving the Sports Award in 1952. In his final year, he was on the Wesley College APS KE Tyson Cup and Wesley College Championships Athletic Team. He received sporting cups in 440 yards for Athletics and Gymnastics, and Colours for Athletics. He coxed the Sixth crew in 1951 and Second crew in 1953 and was Captain of Rowing for Corrigan House, while winning the 880 yards for Corrigan the same year.

Peter graduated from the University of Melbourne in Agricultural Science, finding a strong passion for farming. Upon graduating, Peter and his wife, Janet, moved to Coldstream to run a large property with sheep and cattle for four years, and then to a larger property

near Shepparton, where he became a dedicated member of the Shire Committee and eventually Shire President, all while working in agricultural research for Bayer Pharmaceuticals, lecturing at Dookie College and setting up the Agricultural Department at the Shepparton Technical College. In 1979 Peter and Janet returned to Melbourne to raise their two children, Louise and Michael. Peter joined Wesley College as a teacher in Environmental Science and Master of Rowing. After his stint of teaching, he joined the Victorian Farming Federation in the role of CEO of the Grains Group. Peter did all this whilst renovating houses and restoring boats, adding to his ever-growing list of hobbies.

Peter was a very keen sailor from a young age and continued this passion throughout his life, from racing to restoring and building boats for himself and his family. He sailed many types of boats and his eagerness to race them kept him sailing well into his 80s. Peter raced at Waranga Basin and later Blairgowrie, winning many trophies and also participating in events such as the Melbourne to Devonport Ocean Yacht Race.

Following in the Wesley tradition was his son Michael Cook (OW1981) who earned Swimming Colours, as well as grandsons Jack Burmeister (OW2013) with Football Colours, and Harry Burmeister (OW2016). He was very proud of the generations that studied at Wesley and always proudly wore his Wesley Life Membership badge and scarf to events such as Grandparents Day, sporting matches, celebrations and ceremonies.

Peter will always be remembered for many things – his dedication to and passion for his work, the importance he placed on family, his sense of humour and his love of sailing, skiing and sport. Above all, Peter will be forever remembered for his ability to make the most of every moment.

Peter is survived by his wife, Janet, two children, and four grandchildren.





Valda Merle Cuming (Bayley) OAM (MLC Elsternwick 1945)

31/07/1929 – 07/04/2020

Val Cuming was one of the central and social figures keeping her Elsternwick cohort together 75 years on; she delighted in meeting her friends annually on campus. The OWCA was saddened to hear of the loss at the age of 90 of this fun, creative and dynamic individual. The epitome of the progressive thinker, she was a real presence; an inclusive

person who offered intelligent conversation and memorable kindness and energy – all of which will be universally missed.

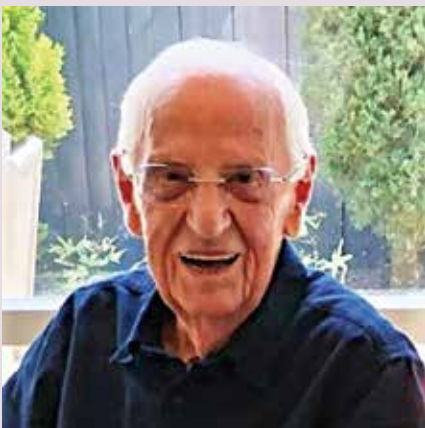
Val was born in Korumburra and moved to Melbourne aged nine, where she attended MLC Elsternwick. Showing an early interest in art, she attended RMIT to study Art and Metalwork.

She married Lindsay Cuming in 1954 and a lifelong love of travel began with a move to North America, followed by France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Her love of ceramics developed; while in Geneva she enrolled at the École de Gravure de Genève and studied further at Slough Institute of Technology in the UK. She returned to Australia in the early 1970s. Lindsay was a yachtsman and this appealed to Val's adventurous nature, leading them to sail around Australia with their children.

Val was an important Australian artist and sculptor and an energetic contributor to many spheres of endeavour, through community groups and in supporting others, including inspiring her children and grandchildren. As an artist, Val remained highly present through social media and always youthful in outlook, a true creative spirit who enjoyed each moment. Her achievements included

many exhibitions and solo shows in digital media, painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture and mixed media; as well as her impact as a teacher. She was President of the Association of Sculptors of Victoria, President of the Beaumaris Art Group, a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, President of the Association of Sculptors of Victoria, and a long-time member of the Melbourne Society of Women Painters and Sculptors. As an artist she was energetic, prolific and fearless. Her similarly gifted grandson, Will Cuming, the Australian songwriter, producer and multi-instrumentalist known as Lanks, who helped Val drive her social media platforms, describes her as, 'A little woman with a big heart, and an unpretentious and wildly unique lens she looked at the world through, and which we were in awe of.' In her 90th year, Val was recognised with an Order of Australia for her services to the Arts.

Val died peacefully following a stroke, leaving behind her husband of 66 years, Lindsay, their loving children, Steve, Ro and Doug, and adoring grandchildren Louise, Will, Byron, Winsome, Hugo and Grace. 'A truly amazing lady, who inspired us all with her creativity and wisdom. She led by example and was loved and admired by all her friends.'



Herbert Bruce Curry (Stu) (OW1951)

10/06/1932 – 11/04/2020



Born in Bendigo, Bruce Curry was the only child of Alen and Freda Curry. He grew up in North Melbourne and was educated at Wesley from 1947 to 1951. Bruce absolutely loved his time at Wesley, particularly as a devoted and skilled footballer. Bruce received the nickname 'Stu' from his teacher, Jack Rush, obviously due to his surname. Amongst his achievements were Probationer 1951,

Captain of Corrigan House 1951, Football Colours 1948, Cricket Colours 1950, Captain of Football 1950-51, Games Committee 1950-51, Football Subcommittee 1950-51 and Cricket Subcommittee 1951. Bruce was an accomplished footballer who was a rover and half-forward. He was also vice-captain of the combined public school's team in 1950 and was invited to train with the North Melbourne Football Club in the VFL. Sadly, he suffered a cruciate ligament knee injury in 1951, ending his VFL aspirations. After leaving Wesley and once the knee had partially recovered, Bruce played amateur football for Collegians.

Bruce had an extensive career with Caltex Oil covering off sales, area management and training positions. He married Diane (dec.) at the Wesley Chapel in 1955 and is survived by his three children and four grandchildren. Coincidentally, his son Anthony (OW1975) was also taught by Jack Rush!

Contributed by Louise Curry and Anthony Curry (OW1975).



Air Commodore Ian Russell Gordon AM, RAAF (Retd) (OW1952)

02/07/1934 – 09/04/2020

Air Commodore Ian Russell Gordon AM of Richmond, NSW, passed away in April at the age of 85. A small service was held at RAAF Base Richmond; if not for pandemic restrictions, a full military funeral would have been offered for his outstanding service as one of the most recognised members of the Australian Defence Force. Ian had been posted at Richmond four times over his distinguished career: when RAAF 36 Squadron moved from Fairbairn with the new C-130A Hercules, as a newlywed, as Group Captain and then Officer Commanding RAAF Base Richmond. Significantly, in his earlier role as flight commander there, he was responsible for all operational flying at the squadron, operating throughout Australia and South-East Asia, supporting remote bases and Australia's involvement in the Malaysian Confrontation and the Vietnam War.

Ian's life began in Essendon, the son of parents Major General Roy Gordon and Edna (Burrows). He was educated at North Essendon and Essendon State Schools, and Kerang State School and attended Wesley along with his younger brothers Lindsay (OW1956) and Neil



(OW1959). Sport, including surfing, speedway and fishing, featured heavily in his life, as did rural family excursions to go mushrooming and rabbit hunting.

Ian entered Wesley in 1946, matriculating in 1952 with Second Class Honours in English Expression and Physics. Active in school life, he was a Prefect, Secretary to the Prefects Committee and Form Captain. He developed a keen love of rowing, which taught him the importance of team spirit and supporting others. As Captain of Boats he received School Colours for Rowing, for First Crew and as House Captain of Rowing. He also served as Cadet Sergeant, rising to Lieutenant in his final year.

After one year at the University of Melbourne he joined the RAAF College at Point Cook, where he learned to fly in the Tiger Moth, one of the last vintage aircraft used by the RAAF. He graduated with distinction, receiving his wings from the Duke of Edinburgh in 1956. He went on to develop a love of teaching.

His career began after the Korean War, with most of his flying time spent on Dakota and Hercules aircraft. His experiences included operations officer at Maralinga during the British atomic testing, and postings such as RAAF representative at Australia House in London and in Canada. Ian's final promotion to Air Commodore saw him return to Melbourne at Support Command as Chief of Staff. As Air



Attaché in Papua New Guinea with twin roles as Defence Adviser and Head of the Australian Defence Cooperation Group, he was responsible for Australian military personnel and relief assistance in a country prone to natural disasters. In 1980 he was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia medal for that outstanding service. He was Aide-de-Camp to four Governors-General.

In January 1985 Ian took up the posting that was the pinnacle of his career, as Officer Commanding RAAF Base Richmond. Less than a year later he suffered a heart attack that ended his career; he resigned in 1986. He did attend one last event in uniform: the presentation of the Queen's colours to the Royal Australian Air Force, by Her Majesty in March 1986, an event which he had been organising.

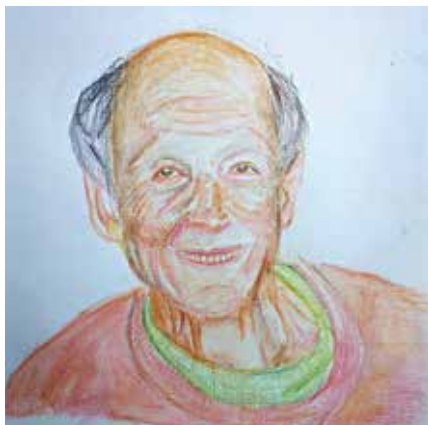
Ian and his family settled in Richmond NSW, where he enjoyed more than 30 years of involvement with community clubs and organisations, including the local branch of Probus. He never lost his passion for travel and his two favourite machines, the E-Type Jaguar and the C-130 Hercules.

Ian passed away peacefully after a long period of illness and leaves behind his wife Anne, children Tina, Michael (OW1988) and Rob, two grandchildren, brothers Lindsay (OW1956) and Neil (OW1959), and nephews Douglas (OW1982) and Andrew Gordon (OW1986).



Richard Harcourt (OW1948)

17/09/1931 – 09/04/2020



Richard Harcourt started at Wesley College in 1943. He loved his time at Wesley. It was a warm and welcoming community and felt like family, especially since he was there at the same time as his cherished first cousins Geoff Harcourt (OW1949), John Harcourt (OW1948) and Graeme Sloman (OW1944).

Richard made lifelong friends at Wesley. Many of them have sadly passed on, but some such as David Kingston (OW1948) and Robin Levy (OW1948) were at his bedside to the very end. He stayed in touch with the OWCA through an unwavering appreciation of OWCA Cross Country afternoon teas, reunion dinners and monthly lunches with school friends.

Richard had many great loves: his wife Alison, a mathematician and statistician, his children, Pierre and Leonie (OW1990) and his grandchildren, Alice and Niko. But he also had a more esoteric love in the form of Theoretical Physical Chemistry. He

taught at the University of Melbourne for 30 years and published more than 200 articles about chemistry. His main focus was Increased Valence Bond Theory, a concept he developed to provide a pictorial approach to Chemical Bonding.

Richard was well known for his jokes and goodwill. He was a diehard St Kilda Football Club supporter and keen cricketer. He believed strongly in environmental causes and human rights. Throughout his life he continued with reforestation work, advocating for Amnesty, ANTaR and refugees. The seeds of his passion for egalitarianism were planted by the social justice principles he learned at Wesley. Richard proves that good and gentle people can win and have great lives.

Contributed by Leonie Harcourt (OW1990). Portrait by Richard's 12-year-old granddaughter, Alice



Lex Dalziel Hibbins (OW1953)

07/08/1934 – 03/04/2020

The youngest of four boys, Lex Dalziel Hibbins (OW1953) started at Wesley in 1944 in Year 5 with Mrs Krome, following in the footsteps of brothers Ian (OW1945) (dec.), Geoff (OW1948) (dec.) and Colin (OW1949) (dec.). As Mrs Krome wrote in Lex's report, 'Lex shows a healthy interest and keenness in all branches of school life. He possesses a most pleasant manner.' That report describes much of Lex's life!

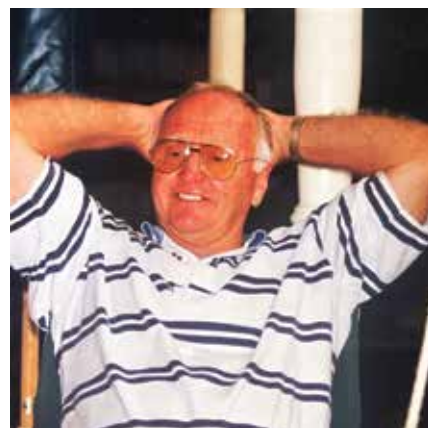
Lex enjoyed school so much that he repeated his matriculation three times, returning for his final year in 1953 as



School Captain and Captain of the First XVIII. It was in 1953 that he stood behind the stumps as wicket keeper on the Front Turf against Melbourne Grammar, when Ellis Hicks (OW1953) took four wickets with the first four balls on a Friday afternoon.

The mid-1950s were spent working in his father's wholesale vegetable merchant business, playing football with the Collegians Football Club, studying a Commerce degree at the University of Melbourne, and holding hands with his then girlfriend and future wife, Gillian Mary Susan Parker.

When Lex was only 23 years old, his father William died suddenly one early morning at Queen Victoria Market. Lex stopped studying and joined his brother



Geoff in a business partnership as a wholesale vegetable merchant.

Lex became famous for his 'market speak,' sayings of the blue-collar working man, particularly amongst the boys he would go on to coach in the First XVIII at Wesley. In the market he became familiar with the moving stories of immigrants from Southern Europe. Men from Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia and Malta found work at the Queen Vic or on market garden farms. Lex and Geoff, in the tradition of their father, would often help the market gardeners ride out a difficult season. His ability to speak a bit of Greek used to impress the large Greek student community at Wesley College, where Lex taught Physical Education in the 1970s, '80s and '90s.

Lex played more than 200 games with Collegians Football Club, forming a formidable ruck combination with Geoff. The two brothers helped Collegians win five Premierships in the late '50s and early '60s and Lex would go on to coach, be President and become a Life Member of the club.

The first family home was in Haydens Road, Beaumaris. Little did Lex realise he had bought next to Peter Bennett (OW1943) and just down the road from John Hall (OW1951). This home saw Lex and Jill welcome three children, Mark (OW1978), Anne and Nicholas (OW1982).

Lex spent the 1960s working in the market, playing football and cricket on the weekends, and building a very happy family with his wife Jill. She was a major influence on Lex, opening his mind to issues facing women, Australian politics and the wider world. It was Jill who encouraged him to retire from the Queen

Vic and pursue another vocation. After experimenting with farming in South Gippsland, Lex returned to university, as a 40-year old, to undertake a degree in Physical Education.

By 1970 the family had moved to a new home in Avenel Road, Kooyong, next door to Ken Newton (OW1942), and Lex's eldest son Mark had started at Wesley College. Lex soon became involved in all things Wesley: President of the Glen Waverley Parents' Association, President of the OWCA and a member of the Wesley College Council. Before long, Lex found himself entertaining a new young Principal, David Prest; it was the start of a long friendship. In 1977 Lex was appointed to the College staff as a Physical Education teacher and coach of the First XVIII. He went on to coach the 1979 team to an APS Premiership.

Under Prest's direction, Lex was made responsible for staff social activities, a

role he took very seriously. Friday afternoons at the College Lawn became a regular ritual, as would the family home being opened up for the staff Christmas parties in the late '70s and early '80s. Lex spent 17 very productive years at Wesley where he cherished his time teaching. The students and staff seemed to appreciate his enthusiastic and caring nature for each individual and the school.

As word spread of Lex's death, his family has been overwhelmed with the messages of condolences from friends, past and current staff, and many hundreds of past students. Lex had clearly influenced many people and was regarded as a generous and well-respected individual.

Lex is survived by Jill, his loving wife of 60 years, his three children Mark, Anne and Nick and eight grandchildren, including Sam (OW2011) and Jack (OW2015) Hibbins.

Colin James Hunt (OW1948)

20/02/1930 – 11/08/2020

Colin Hunt was born in Adelaide to Salvation Army parents and moved to Melbourne when his father became a Methodist clergyman. Colin lived his life with a sense of community and community engagement, an attitude strongly developed in his time at Wesley. He engaged fully with the school community and was keenly involved in all facets of school life, including as School Vice-Captain, House Captain of Games for Swimming and Rowing and as director of the House Choir in his role as Captain of Music. He rowed in the First VIII and earned his Colours in 1948. Rowing was Colin's strongest link back to the school and he attended the annual Head of the River in Geelong every year as well as the Boat Race Dinner at every opportunity. In 2018 he travelled to see the race in Nagambie 70 years on and led the singing. A racing VIII was named in his honour at a christening at the Boathouse.

Colin was so involved in the life of the school community, that his academic

results suffered – and it was at night school, where he needed to pick up an extra subject in 1950, that he met Audrey, the love of his life.

Throughout his working years, Colin's commitment to community continued with his lifelong memberships, firstly of Jaycees Australia and then Rotary International. One of the hallmarks of his community work was that he did not seek recognition, nor did he need to know the people who would benefit from it. His satisfaction came from doing things that contributed and made the community a better place, whether it was improvement works for public parks or the long-running Rotary Highton Star Search competition, which he helped establish in 1976. Colin's involvement in Rotary continued into his final years, when he was presented with the Paul Harris Sapphire, one of the highest awards that can be given in Rotary International.

Outside Rotary and Probus, Colin's love of music saw him directing and performing in several adult and youth choirs and as musical director for Carols by Candlelight in Geelong. Colin delighted in humour, words and word play, twisting the English language



to his will. When asked 'How are you?' his common response was 'Very well at all thank you,' something of a catch phrase, perfectly understandable and delivered in his own way.

Family was also an important part of Colin's life and he was an ever-present and observant helper in the lives of his children and grandchildren. Colin leaves behind Audrey, his wife of 65 years, three sons, Wally, David and Andrew, three daughters-in-law, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.





Declan Oppenheim (OW2013)

06/09/1995 – 01/05/2020

In this moving tribute, we reproduce a letter circulated by Declan's loving parents, Jane and Alan, in the days that followed Declan's death. His Wesley teachers in particular experienced an enormous sense of loss for this former School Captain of Elsternwick, a campus he loved and where he is remembered as the IT go-to guy for assemblies and productions, as an IB graduate and as an outstanding young OW.

'Late on Friday night, our brilliant and very tall son Declan suddenly passed away in our home. Some of you knew his best mate and business partner, Jake Reeder. Declan and Jake have been making many videos for Ego Pharmaceuticals over the years – videos for training, videos of staff, for our website, to encourage people to join

Ego and more. For the last 15 years every video shown at a sales conference was made by Declan and Jake. They were the awesome video team, bantering off each other to make every video perfect beyond any mere mortal.

'Declan has been a Non-Executive Director of Ego and a member of our Board of Directors. He brought a brilliance, an attitude of youth and a very strong responsibility that Ego should leave the planet a better place. He drove carbon reduction hard and fast – more solar power and why not now? He was very keen on the reduction of packaging going to landfill. This passion saw Declan on the team for sustainability development, and he was going to make a video for a big project.

'Underneath, our Declan had a huge heart, always helping those in need. He had enormous patience and politeness. He worried about everything wrong in the world, taking that responsibility on his very broad shoulders. When New Caledonia held their referendum on independence from France, Declan and Jake were there making a documentary in French with subtitles. Because Declan had an "I will help others" attitude, he concerned himself with a very broad knowledge of the world, politics, oppressed peoples, refugees and sciences. He was a walking encyclopedia that updated itself daily. Sometimes he would argue with fellow board member Barry O'Gorman on a topic of physics – Barry admits that Declan was always right – and the discussion always had a fun twist.

'Declan and Jake made videos for many other clients including the famous Melbourne restaurant Vue de Monde.

They also wrote and produced their own short films for entertainment and to build industry credibility, believing that one day they would make a feature film.

'At home Declan was our amazing ICT team; when the television did not stream, he rescued us often. Declan frequently talked about aeroplanes, airlines and airports with his dad and was lucky enough to experience many. In December 2019 they experienced flying a Qantas 747 simulator together, which he talked about to friends for weeks. It was a great father-son experience.

'Declan loved to learn new things, teaching himself from the internet. He loved to have his mind changed by quality argument and facts – he loved learning so he could understand the world better and be an advocate for the best solution to the world's problems – whether it was climate change, refugees, aborigines or the environment. He shared many of these passions with Mae, his friend.

'Charlotte is Declan's sister and they were soul mates, sharing so much of each other's lives with a wicked spirit of fun. Charlotte, Declan and Jake worked over a weekend to create a series of energetic photos that we enjoy every day in our offices. We've been in video contact with Charlotte isolated in Spain. Declan never used the word "values"; he just lived them quietly as he tried to help everyone else.'

You can explore some of Declan's phenomenal legacy in the Obituary pages of the online edition of *Lion*, available at wesleycollege.edu.au/news-events-and-publications/lion-magazine/lion-december-2020



Mervyn Geoffrey Pizze (OW1940)

08/09/1923 – 22/05/2020

Mervyn Geoffrey Pizze (OW1940) was born in Melbourne, arriving at Wesley College in 1937. He always considered his days at Wesley as the best days of his life. Mervyn had a great love of sport and flourished with all the magnificent sporting facilities available to him at school. Amongst his many sporting achievements, he was a member of Wesley's First XVIII and rowed bow in

Wesley's First VIII, obtaining School Colours in Football and Rowing and House Colours in Gymnastics.

When he left Wesley, Mervyn had to wait until he was 18 years of age before he could join the services for active military duty in the Second World War. In the interim he joined the leather tanning division of George Pizze and Son. On 19 January 1942, he enlisted with the RAAF and was immediately despatched to Sale in country Victoria for training in radar, wireless and signals technology.

After completing his training with the RAAF, Mervyn was transferred to an

RAAF radar and communications site at Adelaide River, 112 kilometres south of Darwin. As the war against the Japanese in Papua New Guinea started to hot up he was then transferred to Finschhafen, 325 kilometres north of Port Moresby, a site that was frequently bombed; on one raid Mervyn was severely burned in a petrol explosion.

Following his discharge in October 1945, Mervyn rejoined the tanning division of George Pizzey and Son at the main tannery in Richmond. At the time the tannery was processing 80,000 hides a month and was the second largest tannery operation in Australia. Mervyn went on to become General Manager of the Tanning Division in the early 1960s.

In 1946 Mervyn married Pamela Eaton Millar – a marriage of 73 years. Pamela passed away on 16 February 2020.

Together they had two sons, Euan Pizzey (OW1965) and Liel Pizzey (OW1967).

Mervyn's early business life was very busy. His job required him to complete a course at leather trade school and then to travel extensively overseas and undertake chemistry training courses applicable to the tanning industry with large German and Swiss chemical manufacturers such as BASF and Ciba-Geigy. When the business was taken over in 1974 Mervyn teamed up with several senior managers to establish Ariens Echo, a business specialising in the importation and distribution of agricultural equipment, brush cutters and ride-on mowers. Mervyn eventually retired and sold his equity in the business in 1988.

Mervyn, like most of the Pizzey family, was a passionate supporter of the Melbourne Football Club. Many Saturday afternoons were spent in the Olympic

Stand at the MCG together with his wife and two sons. He was also very keen on cricket and for many years would take the family to the MCG on Boxing Day to see the traditional Victoria versus New South Wales Boxing Day match, long before Test matches were played on Boxing Day.

Mervyn was the driving energy in his family, always injecting good humour and positive feelings. His family always felt strong and energised and a sense of fun when he was around. He always put his family's needs first and provided unconditional support to his wife and two sons. He loved Wesley and at the age of 95 wrote a wonderful letter, published in *Lion*, recounting some of his vivid memories of the teachers and the great times he enjoyed at school. He will always be remembered by his family and friends and will be sorely missed by all.



John Oswald Reynolds OAM (OW1939)

14/11/1921 – 08/08/2020

John Reynolds was born in Prahran, the only child of Oswald (OW1906) and Pearl Reynolds. After spending his early schooling in the Sandringham area, John started at Wesley in 1936. In 1939 he rowed in the First VIII crew, which was narrowly beaten in the final by Melbourne Grammar, and represented Wesley in the high jump. Up until 2018, he attended the annual Boat Race Dinner, particularly enjoying the company of younger crews and the traditional singing.

John graduated in Metallurgy from the University of Melbourne in 1943. He had a 55-year career in the mining and minerals processing industries, including 25 years with Rio Tinto in the United Kingdom, Newcastle north of Sydney and then Melbourne, before 14 years with Western Mining.

Upon 'retirement' in 1986, he became inaugural CEO of the Victorian Chamber of Mines, a position he held until 1998. John was highly regarded in the mining industry and in 1992 he received an Order of Australia in recognition of his services.

John enjoyed get-togethers with family and his lifelong friends, and in describing these would always say, 'A good time was had by all.' He was an active member of Rotary and Probus and travelled extensively with Frances, his wife of 70 years. John was also a prolific writer about his life experiences, including a 100-page 'biographical note.' He was a lifelong Demons supporter, although unlike many Melburnians, did not see this as a religious activity.

John spoke about 'the wonder of human knowledge, growing and applied increasingly for good' and, for himself, 'despite making some mistakes, perhaps contributing a little good.' John is survived by his wife Frances, son Bill, daughter Pam and grandchildren Guy and Ellen.

He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.



Graham Theodore Schmidt (OW1951)

21/05/1934 – 22/07/2020

Graham Schmidt credited Wesley College with changing his life. A boarding scholarship for the last four years of school set him on the path to a rewarding medical career, the first university graduate in his family. Graham boarded at Wesley from 1948 until 1951, making life-long friends including Lex Hibbins (OW1953) (dec.), Warwick Mitchell (OW1959), Denis Dowty (OW1953) and John Hicks (OW1953). For 40 years these Wesley 'boys' would spend every Melbourne Cup long weekend on a



fishing trip, catching few fish, and winning even fewer bets on the horses.

After studying Medicine at the University of Melbourne while a resident of Queen's College, Graham married Patricia Gellie in 1961, then sailed to London in 1964 for his training in gastroenterology. Patricia was 30 weeks pregnant and Graham, the ship's only doctor, described the six-week voyage as 'the craziest thing I've ever done.' The family returned to Melbourne in late 1966 and Graham began work at Prince Henry's Hospital in St Kilda Road and Box Hill Hospital, and established a private practice in Box Hill.

He was a visiting physician at Prince Henry's for 24 years until it closed in 1991. At Box Hill Hospital, Graham was head of the General Medical Unit for 18 years from 1970 and became the inaugural head of the Gastroenterology Unit from 1991 until 1998.

He retired from Box Hill Hospital in 2012, aged 78; his farewell card stated, 'You are loved, respected and highly regarded by everyone. You are a true gentleman.'

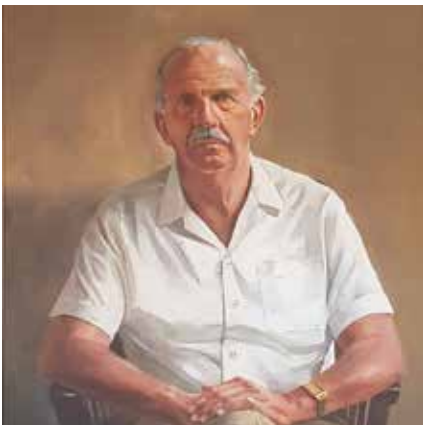
Similar sentiments were expressed in every message sent to Graham's family after he died in July. 'A very caring and compassionate physician; a first-class doctor, trusted and admired by his patients; such a kind, decent man, always interested in people and wanting to help; he was a thoughtful, warm and generous friend.'

Many spoke of their admiration for Graham after Patricia died suddenly in 1995 when he rebuilt his life, learning to cook – including for dinner parties, moving from the family home in East Malvern to an apartment in St Kilda Road and devoting himself to his seven grandchildren.

The one exception to his gentle nature was his fervent support of the Essendon Bombers – his one-eyed barracking was legendary amongst his friends, as was his quick wit, sense of fun and love of a rude birthday card. Graham was also a keen supporter of the Collegians Football Club as a player, committee member and father to past players Jeremy and Nick, and grandfather to current player Charlotte Omond.

Graham is greatly missed by his four children, Lucinda, Jeremy (OW1983), Nick (OW1985), and Rohan (OW1985), his son-in-law James Omond and his daughters-in-law Michelle and Nicole, and his grandchildren, Charlotte (OW2016) and Maggie (OW2019) Omond, and Blake, Annabel, Zara, Lachy and Joshua Schmidt.

Contributed by Lucinda Schmidt



Col Wehl Hubert (Bert) Wansley AM (OW1938)

30/08/1921 – 14/04/2020

Bert attended Wesley with his brother Lansell (OW1941) (dec.). He graduated from Sixth A under Science Master TW Winn, and was quick to take up a subscription with the OWCA.

On leaving Wesley, Bert entered the Royal Military College Duntroon in Canberra. He graduated early in 1941 due to the commencement of the Second World War. He was a distinguished and strategic military man who served in the Second World War, the Korean War and, whilst not frontline, the Vietnam War. As well as numerous promotions and postings

within Australia, his overseas service included two years at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in the United States at the Command and General Staff College, followed by four years in Washington DC attached to the Military Attaché Office at the Pentagon. A later posting included Papua New Guinea, preparing local defence forces for their independence ahead of the transition in 1975, a time and people he remembered fondly. Near retirement, he commanded Headquarters of the 1st Military District, Brisbane.

He first visited Noosa in 1965 and, delighted by the pleasant rural and undeveloped beachside areas, it was no surprise that he retired to Noosa Heads when he left the military in 1976. By 1979 he was actively involved in the Noosa Heads Bowls Club when he was encouraged to run for Council in the local elections. He soon became Shire Chairman, and was re-elected for a further two terms during a period of significant change – which shaped and protected the area to this day.

Bert's well-known strategic thinking was behind the creation of the Council's own Town Planning and Engineering departments, crucial to the development of restrictions on the height of buildings, which enabled Noosa to avoid becoming another Surfers Paradise. Famously describing Noosa as 'The Pearl of the Pacific,' he sought to protect its unique lifestyle, waterways, parks and 'hauntingly beautiful' geography, all the

while galvanising the Green movement and enabling business and tourism to find a place side by side. It wasn't easy, as Council was always caught tightly between developers and the Greens as the character of this unique region formed, but Bert was never put off by the lively and often taxing debates, and residents and holiday makers enjoy the results of much of his work today.

In 2000, 50 years into his marriage with Audrey (dec.), the *Noosa Journal* in the series 'Noosa's living legends' interviewed Bert on his 79th birthday. In the published article, he reflected on the past with a precision of thought and strategic viewpoint that would leave many of today's hot-shot young executives trailing far behind. As a military man Bert knew how to set objectives, how to carry them out and how to manage people, even though those things are much more difficult in a civilian setting.

As Noosa's former Shire Chairman, Bert was a much-loved member of their community. Many Melburnians will identify with his famous quote, 'I had my roots in Melbourne, but I'll have my ashes in Noosa.'

Bert passed away in March at the age of 98, and is survived by sons Ian (OW1969) and Grant (OW1969), grandchildren Melissa, Paul, Christopher (OW2007) and Isabella and their families, and great grandchildren Trystan, Brodie, Alice, William and Annabel.

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