

Lion

THE WESLEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

50 years of Big Band

A milestone
musical journey

The changing face of Science

How do students see
scientists now?

Audrey Mims (OW2018)

On campaigning,
confidence and courage

'50 years of Big Band'

A True Education



WESLEY COLLEGE

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In 2021, we celebrate 50 years
of St Kilda Road's Wesley College
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Editorial

This time last year, many of us had the optimistic (fanciful?) expectation that 2021 would be different to the lockdown-plagued 2020. But it really wasn't, and we endured another, even tougher lockdown from early August through to the end of October. It was hard, but like last year we 'got on with it', as we always seem to do at Wesley. The Snapshots, Foundation and OWCA pages in this edition of *Lion* show just how various the Wesley experience was despite the lockdown – albeit with many of our experiences necessarily being mediated online.

We're clearly living through a marker point in history, with our life stories now told in two parts: BC and AC, Before Covid and After Covid. As well as celebrating our resilience in the face of this very 'fraught moment' (as Nick Evans describes it in his *Principal's Lines* on the next page), this edition of *Lion* also celebrates several happy historical Wesley milestones. It's 25 years since the Junior School campus opened at St Kilda Road... 25 years since the Early Childhood Learning Centre opened at Glen Waverley... and it's 50 years since the St Kilda Road Wesley College Big Band was formed. In his feature piece on page 4, St Kilda Road Campus Music teacher **Jack Howard (OW1976)** looks back over that 50-year musical journey, charting the development of this enduring and highly successful Wesley institution.

In our second feature on page 6 we look at the changing face of science at Wesley. With industry-experienced teachers and a clear group of female role models amongst our community, our girls are increasingly seeing the viability of a career path into science. No longer the traditional perception of a scientist as a bespectacled man in a lab coat! The recently introduced **Rennie Coutts STEM Scholarship for Girls** will also provide enhanced opportunities for our girls to branch out into the burgeoning career pathways opening up for them in science.

Our page 9 feature on **Audrey Mims (OW2018)** reveals another member of our community branching out, but in an entirely different field. As a passionate and dedicated campaigner for gender equality, Audrey shares her thoughts and insights about campaigning, about self-confidence, and about *being brave*. She offers us some observations about how being a member of a strong community can give us the courage to survive these fraught moments in life, and work towards a better world: 'I like to think of being brave as a community endeavour; being brave often affects the ways we interact with others and the braveness of others can inspire groups and large networks – so being brave really is a force.'

Paul Munn

Lion Editor and features writer

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A True Education

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



Principal's lines



I am a history nerd. This may come as news to those of you who don't know me, but it wouldn't be news to the hundreds of students I taught. I have always been one.

I discovered history at the age of nine living in the suburbs of Boston and became obsessed with a series of books on US history that were in the Year 4 classroom. There were months in winter when we weren't allowed outside because of the snow, and so I sat and read those books. It helped that we were able to visit some of the sites of the American War of Independence that were around Boston and imagine what happened there. Having read those books and also worked my way through the children's history section of the local library, my imagination was fairly active. There was, apparently, an occasion when my in-depth explanation of the movements of the Minutemen and Redcoats around the bridge at Concord gathered a crowd. The crowd evinced astonishment, but whether this was sparked by the knowledge expressed by a nine-year-old speaking in a funny accent, or the unfortunate plaid trousers I was wearing was unclear. It may have been both.

These days, my nerdiness takes a slightly different tack in all but one respect. Whilst I am very much given to the reading of history – it is still my choice for recreational reading – an increasingly rich genre of historical documentary film has emerged over the past 30 years. The filmmaker who transformed this field, for me at least, is Ken Burns, with his masterpiece *The Civil War*. Taking as his topic the American Civil War in the 19th century, he constructed this film almost entirely out of static, black and white images and actors reading diaries, letters and newspaper articles from the time. It is an astonishing film. Its genius is that it allows all of us to imagine what it was like to live through the Civil War. Its creativity is in the creation of empathy, in its representing the Civil War as not just as an abstract historical event but as something that happened to people. Something that affected real lives. Something that was experienced, that was lived.

It is easier, of course, to achieve this when moving images are involved and when those images are in colour. There is a magnificent documentary of Apollo 11, the mission that first took men to land on the moon, currently available via one or other of the streaming services. This was an event that occurred in my lifetime. But to watch the crowds at the launch was to get a sense of a very different time and place. What was very clear is that the crowd knew they were a witness to history. The astronauts themselves seemed aware of this. The look on their faces, as they were suiting up in preparation for the boarding of the Saturn V rocket, will stick with me. It was a combination of anticipation and fear – an intensely human moment. These were men about to undergo an extraordinary experience. To watch this film is to get a sense of them living through history.

Most of us won't experience going to the moon. But we will, all of us, live through history. Personally, I have always hoped that the history I lived through would not be too dramatic. History tends to remember the fraught moments. It wasn't a coincidence that Burns focused on the most disastrous war in US history. But we are all living through it now. This pandemic will be written about and remembered. It will have long-term effects. What these will be, we simply don't know. But we will have lived through it.

In a recent address to the Class of 2021, I charged them to take this experience and turn it into something. It has curtailed some years of their lives, but it hasn't curtailed their lives in total. Some good will come from this if young people use this experience and this moment to think about what they want the world to be, what they want their life to be. They have received a lesson that the modern world, particularly the world in privileged countries such as Australia, was in danger of forgetting. It is that life is not always fair. I believe the experience young people have endured will result in a generation more resilient than most, that in surviving the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune they will be stronger for it, and more able to withstand the weft and warp of life. Their generation will have huge problems to solve. They have seen firsthand that there are problems that cannot be wished away.

We will all benefit from this in the future.

Nick Evans (OW1985)





The Big Band 'had the allure of a rock'n'roll band' for students like Jack Howard

The Big Band: A 50-year musical journey

St Kilda Road's Wesley College Big Band celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. Jack Howard reflects on the musical journey of the band formed by the legendary John Lee in 1971.

My time at Wesley began in 1973 as a raw suburban third former. I had almost nothing in common with the sophisticated private school scene there, but I did have athletics and music and quickly found a place to fit in. I started playing in the Big Band in Year 11 and absolutely loved it - I thrived in its exciting and slightly loose environment. It wasn't the same as playing your parts in Symphonic Band or Orchestra. It had the allure of a rock'n'roll band, full of energy and humour and improvisation. You felt special, part of an elite group. One of Australia's great musicians, Paul Grabowsky, was the band's leader in 1975 and he was one of many, many Big Band alumni who went on to make a significant contribution to the country's musical landscape. In 1976, I played lead trumpet in the band. I do

remember playing a solo at the school's music festival and impressing a couple of Lauriston girls. Hmm, I thought - this is the ticket!

John Lee's combination of passionate jazz man, crazed joker and his cackle and girth made him a unique figure at the school and he continued as the Big Band conductor right through to 2000, when a stroke finally diminished his energy. My journey had taken me beyond the secure confines of the school into a music degree and an unexpected left turn into the band, Hunters & Collectors. I think that it was here that the benefits of those years in the Big Band and the Wesley Music department, those years immersed in a glorious wash of rhythm and horns, stood me in good stead as the Hunnas'

'I took an unexpected left turn into the band Hunters & Collectors... The benefits of those years in the Big Band... stood me in good stead.'

horn arranger and trumpeter. I came back to teach at the school during 1984-86 and found that the Music department had grown and flourished and that John (and my great trumpet teacher Ted Joyner) was still throwing his considerable self into the band.



John Lee was a 'passionate jazz man' and longtime conductor of Big Band

The rest of the country's music departments were finally catching up to Wesley's early Big Band trendsetting and the Mt. Gambier Generations In Jazz event had become the centrepiece for the country's young jazz players and for exceptional music schools such as Blackburn High, Marryatville and Eltham. When I came back to the school again in 1998, I found the band to be an incredibly musical and sophisticated outfit. It felt like the students were playing music far beyond the degree of difficulty that I'd experienced in the seventies. In 1999, the band won the competition with a brilliant line up that featured Ollie McGill (soon to star on keyboard in The Cat Empire) and a host of sensational young players. I still vividly remember the band's performance of the set piece, *All Of Me*. John Lee stood on the podium counting the band in and had a small stumble - it would be fair to say that there was a certain degree of uncertainty as to when to start. A few of the players hesitantly came in and stopped. Oh no, a disaster! John calmly turned to the audience and the judges and cackled, 'Must have been that McDonald's I had on the way!' He then counted the band in again and they played the chart superbly - you could feel the crowd's appreciation.

I had an unusual place in the band around this time as a kind of second in charge as John became ill and then the band's next great conductor, Peter Foley, took over the reins. Pete and I had been old pals in and out of Wesley; as well as working together closely in the brass department, I often sang with the band at a variety of functions over the years. I became very involved with the school's burgeoning jazz program. I ran the Jazz Ensemble and the Jazz and Stage Bands over the years, and I got to see first-hand the band's stunning and continued development under Pete. One of the things that has always set the Wesley Big Bands apart has been their commitment



Big Band has pushed generations of students beyond their comfort zones to great effect

to the music and the groove, not just the notes on the page! Pete continued the band's great tradition and built upon it with his own brand of passion and great musical smarts. We won the Generations In Jazz competition four times from 2002. A succession of aspiring young musicians stepped into the inspiring big band environment and rose to its challenge in both ability and musical maturity.

Since Pete's departure, the Big Band has continued its journey with the Mt. Gambier competition as the primary focus. Stage Band conductor and sax teacher, Ben Marsland, took over before he was appointed Head of Clunes and brought his own brand of hard swing to the band. Music teacher, Dave Mowat, ran the band most recently, with a similar mix of fun and terrific musical pedagogy, leaving no stone unturned in his desire to educate and inspire the band. The students love the challenge of these high-end ensemble experiences. They get pushed beyond their comfort zones and take a journey of musical discovery that becomes a transformative event for them.

The College now sports a myriad of ensembles and opportunities for our students, from choirs to orchestras and to jazz and symphonic bands; and of course, the brilliant musical productions. At Glen Waverley Campus, we've seen the emergence of a strong musical culture that has included the development of their own successful big band, the Show Band.

The Big Band continues to hold a kind of rock'n'roll allure for our best horn and rhythm section players; and the band and its directors continue to push the musical envelope.

Jack Howard (OW1976) is a long-time member of iconic Australian band Hunters & Collectors, who will be touring again early next year. He is the only trumpeter in the ARIA Rock'n'Roll Hall of Fame. For the last 15 years he has also been releasing his own highly regarded albums. Visit jackhoward.bandcamp.com. He teaches Music at Wesley's St Kilda Road Campus.



The changing face of Science at Wesley

Female role models within the science fields are helping to show students at Wesley that scientists – whose role in solving some of the big problems facing humanity is becoming increasingly more prominent – are just like them.

More than 15 years ago, when Erin Bruns, Head of the Science Faculty at Glen Waverley Campus, asked Year 7 students to draw a scientist, she'd often see an Einstein-esque character with wild hair, glasses and stains on their lab coat, inevitably holding a bubbling, coloured solution in a test tube. This introductory activity remains, but in the past two years, Erin has seen a surprising change. 'Only two years ago did I have a class of students in which more than half drew female scientists,' she says. 'They didn't

all have wild hair or lab coats, many were working at computers, some in hospitals, and others working collaboratively with other scientists in design and technology. I feel Wesley has provided students with role models across these curriculum areas to help them understand that this is what science is really about.'

That shift in perception has been extremely encouraging to Erin, who was encouraged by her own experiences in the science field to pursue a degree



Erin Bruns



This year, Wesley will introduce a landmark new scholarship to provide further opportunities for girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

in teaching. 'I saw the need for students to understand the role that science plays in our everyday lives, but also the impact that scientists are having on both a local and global scale. The work of these individuals has been ground-breaking, and I often wonder if people can see that the gender gap in this industry is decreasing every day.'

Erin grew up in regional Victoria and moved to Melbourne to study medical laboratory technology, with a view that she would work in a laboratory. 'My first full-time laboratory job was at the Royal Children's Hospital in the Core Laboratory, which incorporated their biochemistry, haematology and blood banking laboratories,' she says. 'The technologies used then (the early 2000s) have changed so much since – advances in scientific instrumentation for diagnosis and research are occurring all of the time.'

'The things I studied at university were so different to what I was using when I started working in Microbiology at St Vincent's Pathology only a few years later. Being one of the busiest hospitals in Melbourne, I was surrounded by amazing scientists – the majority of whom were female!



Teaching students to harness their questions and use these to hypothesise, experiment and inform others is what being a scientist is all about

‘Encouraged by the experience I gained while working in the industry, I decided to pursue a degree in teaching.’

The Australian Government recognises that Australia’s talent pool is limited by underrepresentation of girls and women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) education and careers. They found that bias, stereotyping and a lack of female role models are some of the factors which deter girls and women from entering or remaining in STEM careers. It seems that female role models in STEM are crucial for girls to consider STEM as a career option, and their own perception of whether they could work in STEM.

It seems boys also benefit from the perspective and experience that these diverse voices can offer too.

During Science Week in August this year, students met astrophysicist Professor Rachel Webster AO FAA in an online workshop. A parent and member of the Wesley College Council, Rachel is the second female in Australia to become a physics professor and has had a stellar 20-year career teaching and researching astronomy.

While Rachel is an astronomer, she encouraged students to see the interconnectedness of the world, and to consider how multidisciplinary scientific study has become. (See the article on Rachel next page.)

Wesley is fortunate that many staff have real experience in the science industry and a good representation of both male and female STEM teaching staff. It provides great context for students, as Erin explains. At its core, ‘teaching students to harness their questions and use these to hypothesise, experiment and inform others is what being a scientist is all about – whether that be in a school, laboratory or industry.’

‘The International Baccalaureate curriculum focuses on the need for international mindedness and collaboration and encourages students to become risk takers. Our focus in class is often on the need to work collaboratively with each other in designing and testing methods for their experimental questions. We share our findings and discuss the limitations of design to better our overall understanding. We need to model the role that human errors and serendipity play in scientific discovery. If it wasn’t for

these things, Fleming would never have discovered the huge benefits of penicillin in fighting bacterial pathogens!’

This year, Wesley College will introduce a landmark new scholarship, The Rennie Coutts STEM Scholarship for Girls, designed to provide greater opportunities for girls with an interest in STEM, and ultimately, a rebalancing of the future STEM industry talent pool.

‘With the introduction of this scholarship, and the significant number of female role models in our Science faculties, we are well-equipped to help nurture young female scientists and provide them with the knowledge and understanding they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world,’ Erin said.

Female mentors will engage with scholarship recipients - providing even more role models who are at the forefront of technological gains in scientific knowledge, research and our understanding of the changes taking place every day.

Applications for The Rennie Coutts STEM Scholarship for Girls are now open.
Apply at wesleycollege.edu.au.





Our connection to the stars



Professor Rachel Webster

In honour of National Science Week this year, Professor Rachel Webster AO FAA, an astrophysicist and the second female in Australia to become a physics professor, shared inspirational messages for students and staff alike. She spoke to students about her role, how technology allows us to continue to learn more about the beginnings of the universe and what's next to come.

'Although I'm primarily an astronomer, there are three things I want to emphasise today. In past decades, people thought they could study just one discipline and that would be sufficient. But increasingly,

I think we've come to realise that while we might specialise in one area, we also have to understand many others,' Rachel says. 'So as an astronomer, you need to not only master most branches of physics, but also many areas of mathematics, and even biology these days. We live in a world that is really deeply connected.

'The second lesson is that while these areas might seem difficult to you, and indeed they might be difficult, they are hard for everyone. To solve an important problem, a "wicked problem", you don't necessarily need to have the best marks at school or university. You need to have tenacity to learn the skills, and then the creativity to solve problems.

'The third point is to take the opportunities to do something you are passionate about. Don't lose sight of the extraordinary beauty of the physical universe we are a part of. After all, in every way you consider it, we are fundamentally connected to the stars,' she says.

Rachel also tells students that, 'A scientist who simply works in the confines of their discipline will rarely develop a fundamentally new understanding. What you need to be able to do is learn new things all through your career and you need to understand when to venture into a new domain in order to understand the problem at hand.

'As a scientist, one is able to contribute in critical and fundamental ways to those wicked problems that are facing humanity.'

'So, I hope you can tell that I think a career in Science is eminently satisfying. Apart from the personal satisfaction of solving problems and developing new ways of understanding the universe, one is able to contribute in critical and fundamental ways to those wicked problems that are facing humanity at the current time.'

Students had the opportunity to ask questions of Rachel. One such question was whether she thought we would find evidence of life on other planets. Her answer spoke of the fact that we only now have the technology to explore that, and it will be a matter of time. However, Rachel told students: 'Life may manifest itself on other planets, in forms different to what we imagine. Most astronomers believe that life is ubiquitous. In other words, that where conditions are appropriate, life will exist.'

Professor Webster is a Wesley parent and member of College Council.



On campaigning and confidence...

Since graduating from Wesley in 2018, Audrey Mims has been busy. Now at the end of her third year of a five-year double degree in Law and Politics, Philosophy and Economics at ANU, she also works part time as a paralegal at a large Australian law firm. That would probably be enough for your average full-time student; Audrey, however, isn't one of those. **Paul Munn** explains.

Driven by a fierce passion for equal rights and social justice, Audrey Mims finds herself balancing her studies and her paid job with something else that she cares deeply about: campaigning for gender equality. She volunteers as Lead Events Coordinator for The STOP Campaign - a nationally recognised student-led not-for-profit dedicated

to ending sexual violence on Australian university campuses and supporting survivors to tell their stories.

In her role this year, Audrey has been instrumental in coordinating their Empowerment Program, aimed at providing a safe space for participants to feel empowered through self-defense,



Audrey (left) and colleague on The STOP Campaign at ANU

mindfulness and confidence building. More recently, she planned and facilitated the launch event of the Safe Response Toolkit, a new project which acts as a resource for victim-survivors of sexual violence, their supporters and the general Canberra community, providing information about the avenues available after an experience of sexual violence.



Features



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Audrey Mims addresses current students on Founders' Day

Audrey, centre, with Elsternwick Head of Campus, Jacinta Janssens and Head of Middle School, Tanya Davies

'I lacked a lot of confidence growing up, worrying about how I might be perceived.'

The work Audrey and many others are doing is part of a growing national movement. Advocate Grace Tame's recognition as Australian of the Year and the outrage over Brittany Higgins' alleged rape in Parliament House show that our society is in the mood for real change regarding the issues of misogyny and violence against women; the big question is how to achieve it. For Audrey, a key part of the answer involves starting the conversation about consent and respectful relationships early: 'Consent education and awareness of gender-based violence issues from a young age have so much potential to influence the ways we talk about sexual violence, and what I and those around me can do to support positive cultural change,' she says.

'I've spent a lot of time reflecting on how my experiences with consent education in high school have shaped my own experiences at university,' she says. 'I still remember at Elsternwick having someone speak to the girls in my year in Year 8 or 9. This woman spoke about things like toxic relationships, the patriarchy, and touched on sex education. Being the first, formal introduction I had to some of these issues, it's one of the moments of my high school education that I look back on as being crucial to my early understanding of these issues.'

Campaigning for change in the area of sexual violence prevention is at times really difficult to navigate, given the intensity of the subject matter and the need to campaign in the political and institutional sphere. It can, at times, be a gruelling task. 'I attend team meetings multiple times each week, where we assign tasks to work on and gradually work through a number of projects and initiatives we have on the go,' she says.

So how does she find the energy? 'I've always been interested in working towards equal opportunity, equal rights, and social justice, as broad umbrella terms covering issues I learned about in classes like Geography in high school. I think this is where the seed of my passion was planted.'

A deeper understanding of gender inequality was prompted by her own experience of personal barriers. 'I lacked a lot of confidence growing up, worrying about how I might be perceived, and feeling I was less qualified and less smart than others around me,' she admits. 'At my ANU residential hall, we used to hold regular meetings for women residents, and we would discuss subjects ranging from sexual health to our degrees. At one meeting, we spoke about Imposter Syndrome, and I realised my feelings of academic inadequacy and being

unqualified were near-universal experiences which almost every person in the room had felt before, and still felt!

'I found it incredibly validating to hear women in my hall, my peers, who I looked up to and thought were so intelligent and confident, say that they felt the same things as me. It was so gratifying to connect with people through these issues and to learn I wasn't alone; it wasn't just me.'

Audrey cites a growing sense of confidence and ability to connect with people as being central to her building community at university. 'The familiarity I've gained from finding community in unexpected places has been wonderful,' she says. 'And it's helped me become a more compassionate and empathetic person.'

'I think I have such a fierce passion now because in some ways I want to make up for the confidence I didn't feel I had growing up, before I realised I wasn't the only one experiencing self-doubt and insecurity. So I continue to campaign for that person and for the others who I know can benefit from the beginnings of new conversations, awareness-raising, de-stigmatisation and empowerment.'

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

Our work continues

As shared in the April edition of *Lion*, the College has continued its work in this area with a review of the curriculum and teaching of respectful relationships and

the delivery of student programs by Bravehearts, Australia's leading child protection organisation. Student representative bodies have been reviewed and renewed at each campus, to invite further student input. Finally,

an arm's length reporting service, WesleySAFE, has been established for current families and OWs. As a College and a society, there is still more to be done. At Wesley, we are aiming for nothing short of best practice in this area.

On being brave

The following is an edited transcript of the Founders' Day address Audrey delivered to the community at Elsternwick Campus this year about 'being brave':

I loved my time at Wesley Elsternwick. I loved going to school and spending every day somewhere where people were celebrated for the out-there things they did and were interested in. I was really encouraged to take on new opportunities, so I got to be in the musicals, in bands, to learn new instruments, and to try all these cool things that I never thought I would have the chance to be interested in and be good at. I also got to go to Yiramalay, and I went on an exchange to France – experiences which took me so far beyond my comfort zone, and required me to be very brave, but which I'll never forget.

After I graduated from Wesley I wanted to have a change of pace, and so I chose Canberra. Being in Canberra has allowed me to try lots of new exciting things, in a similar way to Wesley: like working as a legal assistant. I also started volunteering in an organisation of young students, striving for gender equality, and focused on empowering students to start conversations about consent and how we can create cultural change regarding attitudes of gender-based violence.

When it comes to being brave, I feel like my experiences through high school, through moving out of home, and through university have really changed the ways I think about being brave and about my own braveness. I like to think of being brave as a community endeavour; being brave often affects the ways we interact with others and the braveness of others can inspire groups and large networks – so being brave really is a **force**.

I'll start my 'brave' journey at Elsternwick. There were a lot of people at Elsternwick that helped me to be brave. And that was very lucky because as a teenager a lot of us need help to be brave. Which is totally normal, and fine, and healthy! Part of being brave is that we can't feel brave all the time. And when we don't feel brave, we turn to those around us to support, guide and inspire us. And Wesley, specifically Wesley Elsternwick, is such a tight-knit group of students and teachers, and this provides a really unique opportunity for the fostering of courage. Having graduated Wesley and moved into university, I still have a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunities I had on campus to go outside my comfort zone and be brave.

The second person I turn to when I think of being brave is Clementine Ford, an Australian writer and activist, and self-proclaimed 'unapologetic feminist'. I am in awe of her courage and fearlessness in speaking her mind and going against the grain. As a young woman, I think of myself as unapologetic because I refuse to put up with people



For Audrey Mims, being brave can make you a force to be reckoned with.

who don't respect women and who don't respect me, and I will no longer apologise for speaking up when I witness behaviour that is sexist towards women.

I want to live in a community where women feel brave enough to speak out about their experiences with injustice, and where they feel empowered and heard. And I want young men to be brave and be active bystanders: people who call out inappropriate behaviour when they witness it. This is something that really takes courage in high school and beyond.

The final person that inspires me to be brave has been doing so since day one. That person is me. I love this quote: **'I am big enough to admit that I am often inspired by myself'**. I think it is so important to be inspired by yourself and by what you have, and can achieve. It's a process, of course, and it wouldn't be possible without all the other people I've mentioned already. But my life changed when I started really acknowledging that I, myself, am capable of greatness.

I have a genuine belief that if I set a goal, I can achieve it. Like when I started rowing in Year 8: I was the worst in the row level. I eventually set a goal to improve, I worked insanely hard, and I made it into the First crew in Year 11. Making the decision to commit to something which seems at first impossible is so brave. Especially in high school – there are so many opportunities to try new things which can seem at first out of reach. The opportunities you have now to learn, listen and try; these are truly invaluable things you can do. Because you never know: taking that first step might lead you on a journey that ultimately changes your life. I can think of many first steps that have changed mine.

And one of the most important parts of being brave is having the courage to try.



It takes courage to question and stand out, but inquiry-based learning strongly encourages this bravery



College snapshots



The early intention for the Early Childhood Learning Centres was - and still remains - that children find learning fun and that the focus always be on 'The Child'

Junior Schools celebrate 25 years of evolving learning

1996 was a significant year at Wesley, with both of our St Kilda Road and Glen Waverley campuses opening brand new learning centres for our youngest students. Then Governor of Victoria Richard Garvie AC officially opened St Kilda Road's Junior School campus on 24 March, and six weeks later it was Glen Waverley's turn, with philanthropist Dame Phyllis Frost opening the Early

Childhood Learning Centre (ECLC) on 3 May. Wesley now features three ECLCs, including one at the Elsternwick Campus.

'Over the last 25 years, the school has grown in student numbers and has naturally been influenced by how the world has changed around us,' said St Kilda Road Head of Junior School Sabeena DeBono. 'Our gorgeous Junior School has remained a beautiful place for our young people to begin their educational journey at Wesley College.'

Like Sabeena, Glen Waverley Head of Junior School Ben Dooley is keenly aware of Wesley as an evolving place

of learning. 'Our ECLC of today reflects the many years of professional contributions made by so many amazing staff, who gave of themselves to create the positive learning culture and environment that we have today, where the joy of childhood is celebrated in all we do,' he said.

That joy of childhood surely finds its purest expression in play, so it's quite fitting that this special 25th anniversary year has been marked with the opening of exemplary new play spaces on each campus. Both have been awarded the highest rating of 'Exceeding' the National Quality Standard by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority, which says something about the depth and quality of our program.

Five-year-old Aryan Zacharopoulos from Glen Waverley clearly keeps himself busy with all the new playground offerings. 'I like the swings because they can go more further than the old playground swings could. I like the slides too. You can go really fast and it is like an adventure. You can climb up the stairs and down the slide,' he said. 'Like there is more running places. The logs and the stones are really good because we can hop on the logs and build rock towers at the back where the stones are.'



Watch a video of our Glen Waverley ECLC



Double take: 'Doc Atom and Billy Proton' by Year 11 student Leo Day

Wesley On (the small) Screen Returns – The Sequel

If the last few months had you feeling like an unwilling extra in a B-Grade horror movie (*Hard Lockdown II – The Delta Strain?*), spare a thought for our St Kilda Road Media Studies students who – like last year's crop of young auteurs – had to make films in the face of all those pandemic restrictions and challenges.

VCE Media Studies teacher Karissa Robertson was in awe of what was achieved under the circumstances. 'The students this year worked incredibly hard to produce a variety of very personal productions, which reflected

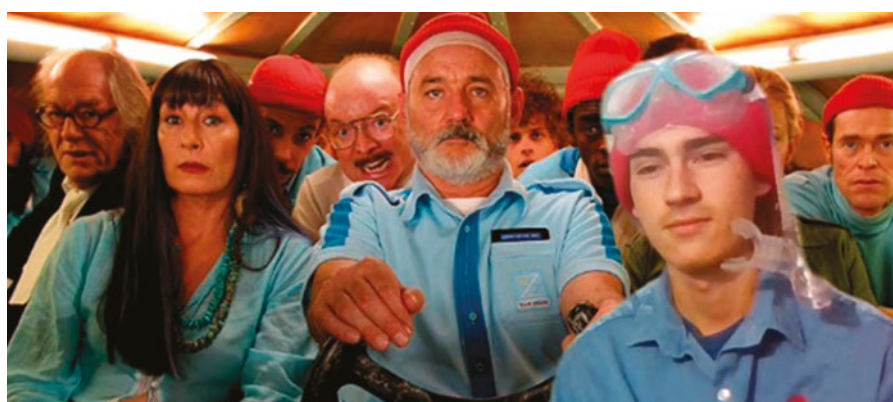
Creativity in confinement

Given the rich history of artists locking themselves away in garrets to produce some of the world's greatest artworks, it's probably no surprise that this semester's extended lockdown proved no barrier to the creative energy of our visual art students at St Kilda Road Campus.

'Many have thrived and enjoyed the flexibility of asynchronous (offline learning) time to continue working for more extended periods,' said Head of the Arts Faculty, Amelia Judd.

For Year 12 Art student Lola Mayo, working on her Internal Assessment project in lockdown worked just fine. 'At home I can get lost in my little nest and really give my work the uninterrupted hours it deserves. I also love the sense of achievement I've got from building my little exhibition,' she said.

Judging by the work students produced for the MS Teams Art Background competition run late in Term 3, many of our young artists felt the same way. With every Art class from Years 5 to 12 involved, students were asked to imitate an artwork or 'become at one' with it. This got their creativity flowing freely, and some really went to town with costumes and props.



Top

8D's Stella Grundmann at one with Hokusai's 'The Great Wave'



Above

Art imitating life or the other way round? Henry Holmes, Year 11 Media Studies student, poses the big questions

their own personality and interests,' she said. 'Each student was directly impacted by one or more lockdowns throughout the year, and yet they persisted with extraordinary resilience and flexibility. They produced works with refined aesthetic qualities, immensely engaging and raw narratives, and incredible editing techniques - such as editing themselves into their own film as three separate characters.

The opening credits to October's live-streamed *Wesley On Screen* exhibition perhaps sum it up best of all:

Wesley College Society for the Arts is proud to present...

A collection of animations, music videos, documentaries and short films, about the world around our students.



2021 provided another year of challenges, but our students responded with resilience and creativity, yet again.

We are so proud.

We hope you enjoy, wherever you are watching from.



From left

'Pathos' by Year 12 student Ruby Jovanovski

'Downcast' by Year 12 student Anaïs Abrahams-Fletcher



College snapshots

Geology and geography come together at Phillip Island

In Term 3, Year 8 Glen Waverley students completed an Interdisciplinary unit combining geological knowledge learnt in Science with geographical knowledge learnt in Individuals & Societies, to develop their understanding of coastal landforms. By studying the topic across the two subjects, the students were able to attain a rich and detailed understanding of the natural and human processes that create and shape the coastal landforms we enjoy. This included studying the types of rocks that comprise the landforms, and how weathering and erosion change their shape over time. The students created a Flipbook that catalogued these processes.

A highlight of the unit was the fieldtrip to Phillip Island, which was squeezed in between lockdowns, across two days in August. 8 Wall student Patrick Gee said that the fieldtrip, which focused on The Nobbies and Cape Woolamai, enabled him to 'learn a lot about conservation strategies that helped preserve the natural landforms and learn about erosion and rocks.' He said the trip 'was a very fun and informative experience.'

For 8 Newnham student, Laura Young, the fieldtrip was 'an amazing experience... a great learning opportunity and a fun day out.' It was a highlight because 'we didn't have the chance to go on too many excursions in Year 8, so Phillip Island was an enjoyable and memorable way to learn.'

These sentiments were shared across the Year 8 cohort, who were grateful for the opportunity to undergo some experiential learning, and to learn about the same topic across two subjects.



Seeing the effects of conservation strategies first-hand at Phillip Island



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Megamix

Wesley's Elsternwick Campus produces a Middle School Production every year at the National Theatre in St Kilda. This year's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* was selected to engage students with a high

energy show after the cancellation of the 2020 production. The rehearsal process for *Joseph* started out the same as any year, with auditions, call-backs, the excitement as the cast list was posted and then the weekly rehearsals gradually building towards performing to a live audience.

Then the lockdown hit. Rehearsals moved online, and with a live performance no longer viable, they became about learning the remaining scenes of the show, particularly the moves for the Megamix, which is



From left

The orchestra gathered virtually for the 'Joseph' production

The cast of 'Joseph' were able to rehearse in Fitchett Hall, prior to restrictions

essentially a medley of the show's up-tempo songs set to a disco beat. The resilience and resourcefulness of those involved has been exceptional. Individual recordings of the singers, dancers, actors and musicians from the student and staff group were combined with footage from early rehearsals in Fitchett Hall to create a remarkable 'megamix' video of the production.

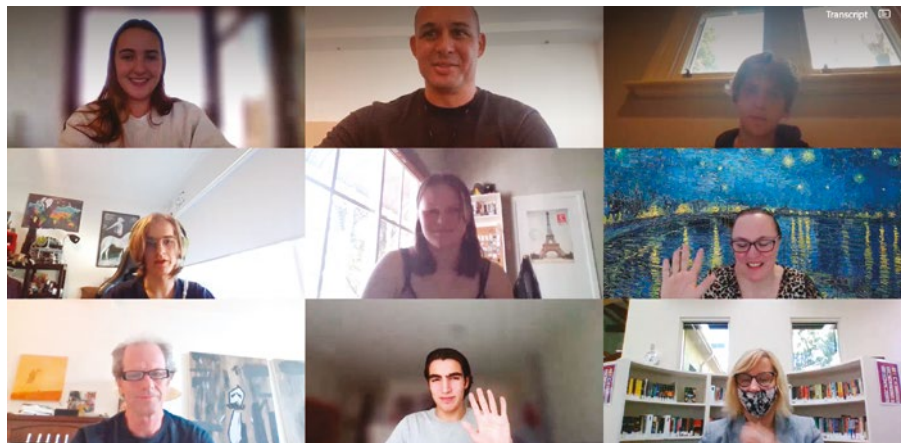
We optimistically look forward to bringing the full range of Wesley's musical theatre productions to live audiences once again next year.

Speaking from the heart

Late in Term 3, 100 students and teachers from St Kilda Road gathered virtually to hear an absorbing Public Questions Society address given by author, wharfie, union official and Indigenous issues advocate Thomas Mayor. The arresting thing about Thomas's address was the way he spoke from the heart on two levels: the very personal and the very public.

With his introspective author's hat on, Thomas introduced his new book *Dear Son*. Aimed at dispelling the stereotype around what masculinity is for First Nations men, the Torres Strait Islander and father-of-five invited 12 different Indigenous men from all around Australia to write a letter to their sons, including journalist Stan Grant, musician Troy Cassar-Daley and NRL player Joe Williams. *Dear Son* shares their heartfelt letters and reflections on masculinity, love, culture and racism.

The questions posed by students showed their sensitive engagement with the issues shared in the book. However, what really shone out was their obvious interest in his work involving matters of the heart on a very public scale - his



Thomas Mayor (top row centre) delivered a PQS address from the heart

advocacy for the proposals in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Here too he dispelled a number of unhelpful myths and anxieties about what the Uluru Statement truly means.

Prime among these was the scaremongering about some fictional 'third chamber' of parliament, with the attendant threat of 'too much power'. In fact, said Thomas, a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution would 'simply have the constitutional

power to exist and not be destroyed by a hostile government, and secondly, it would have the right to be able to table advice to the parliament... it's not enforceable - it's advice'. He made the point that 'the Australian Parliament will still make decisions about laws and policies; the ability to influence the debate should be enough to see that the right decisions are made.'

You can read the Uluru Statement from the Heart here: ulurustatement.org

Language lessons underway at Yiramalay

In August 2018, the International Year of Indigenous Languages was celebrated at Yiramalay with an Indigenous Languages Forum involving guest speakers, students, families and guardians from all parts of Australia. With more than 40 different language groups present, the forum was a great success and a celebration of Aboriginal language and culture. Patsy Bedford, Bunuba Elder and Chair of the Kimberley Languages Resource Centre, spoke from the heart about the importance of preserving language and culture, and the need to have Bunuba taught at Yiramalay.

The forum really sharpened our focus on the importance of language and culture in the classroom. It highlighted how learning Bunuba language supports the reconciliation process and strengthens

the school's philosophy of 'Many Cultures, One Community'. The most significant lesson learned at the Forum was the importance of listening to each other's stories and respecting and appreciating each other's cultures as the first of many small steps.

In August 2021, we began our Bunuba Language lessons, led by Traditional Owner and Cultural and Community Advisor, Kaylene Marr and Cultural Program Assistant, Marilyn Oscar, along with Indigenous Senior Mentor Stanley Shaw and supported by Student Wellbeing Coordinator, Kym Oakley. Whether in the Biliga Mayaru* Learning Centre or under the Ngiyali trees, the whole school gathers each morning to learn and practise Bunuba language. These lessons have encouraged our multi-lingual students who join us to begin sharing their language with others. Staff and students in Melbourne can join the sessions via digital streaming platforms.

Greetings among the community are no longer 'Good morning' but 'Julungurra

Maaningarri'. When you hear, speak, and understand language, hidden worlds start to become visible, and this facilitates a greater sense of pride and a strengthening of spirit and culture.

Kym shares her personal experience of hearing language: 'For me, when I hear language that talks about the environment or helps to describe the season, it's like I am looking at that country through a different lens, and it's calming.'

**Bunuba for 'Gathering Place'*



Kaylene Marr teaching language under the Ngiyali tree



An award-winning role model

Congratulations to **Kahlia Rogers (OW2016)** and Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School alumnus, who was selected as the winner of Kimberley Girl 2021. Kimberley Girl is a leadership program that focuses on job readiness and encourages self-confidence, public speaking and broadening options for young Indigenous women in the future.

From Wangkatjungka in Fitzroy Crossing in WA, Kahlia has pursued a modelling career since graduating and visited numerous locations around Australia as a result. Kahlia has returned to Yiramalay as a staff member and has been a wonderful role model for students at the school and the youth in her community. We are so proud of you, Kahlia!



Kahlia Rogers (OW2016) is the recent winner of Kimberley Girl 2021

As part of the Kimberley Girl program Kahlia will act as a representative for the next 12 months, instigating positive change

in the personal and professional capacity of young indigenous women, helping them forge new pathways and leadership.



Sienna Rowe and Aidan Lee are amongst 'arguably the finest cohort' in the 10 years of the Standing Up for Shakespeare program

That's an insult!

*Thou artless, boil-brained applejohn!
Thou reeky, plume-plucked malt-worm!
Rump-fed puttock! Flap-mouthed lewdster!*

If every Year 8 English class at Glen Waverley was to start off with paired-up students yelling Shakespearean insults at each other, it's hard to see how much work would get done. But that's just

what happened in the 2021 Standing Up for Shakespeare class, and for class member Zahra Aly, experiencing this special program has been 'amazingly beneficial'. Under the tutelage of Head of Student Theatre David Dunn, they developed numerous skills, rehearsed and performed a Shakespearean play, and learnt to analyse and understand Shakespearean language.

Their big project this year was to rehearse and perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Zahra describes the play as 'full of romance, wonder and magic. As the supernatural world interferes with the natural world chaos emerges, and it results in the ultimate comedy'.

Fortunately, early in Term 3 before the big lockdown hit, the class managed to find a perfect window of opportunity and their performances at the Athenaeum Theatre went ahead with minimal restrictions. Says David: 'After months of rehearsal, text analysis and detailed role creation, each cast had minimal preparation in the new acting space. However, this presented little obstacle to an evening of two superb performances. The cohort was arguably the finest in the 10 years that the class has been running.'

Reflecting on the production, Zahra says, 'The set was amazing, it was full of bright lights, trees, flowers and a gorgeous backdrop to complete the look. Not to mention the impeccable costumes and makeup that we got to have... Both casts performed with full intensity, and the hilarious mechanics had the audience in tears of laughter each time they entered the stage. Everyone enjoyed performing what we had worked so hard on.'

Junior School students share their passions

Taking action in lockdown was sometimes a struggle for all of us, but during Term 3, Junior School students at Elsternwick found that 'getting things done' was suddenly much easier when they were asked to *find their passion*. Extensive research suggests that when students are given autonomy within a task and have a feeling of ownership, greater motivation to achieve the task is evident – and what better way to exercise that autonomy and sense of ownership in lockdown than with your own Passion Project?

The Passion Project helped motivate the students by enabling them to inquire into areas of strong personal interest. To help the students consider what was possible for their project, they listened to stories and researched young people such as Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg, who have both taken action to follow a personal passion.

Students used an inquiry process to explore the interests they were passionate about, with careful questioning, interactive discussions and expert presenters to help inspire them. The process strengthened their research skills as they formulated their approach to gathering information. They then synthesised the information and chose the best medium through which to share it.

From a poster about the game of tennis with highlights from Ash Barty's efforts, to an engaging magazine about interior design, the end results were a wonderful demonstration of student voice and student agency.



Year 1 student Aliette Watine:
Passionate about tennis

Expresstival!



The 'Expresstival' focused on students expressing themselves in different ways throughout the day

This year's Year 6 Exhibition at Glen Waverley began with a wonderful provocation, 'Expresstival'; a day full of creativity, and the invitation for students to think creatively. A range of whole-class and small group rotations throughout the day focused on students expressing themselves in different ways.

Held in September, the PYP Exhibition is the culminating learning experience for students in their final year of the Primary Years Program. It's an authentic process for students to explore, document and share their understanding of an issue or opportunity that's of significance for them.

Opportunities to engage in fun, collaborative experiences at school have reinforced the value and importance of working together for a common goal. Even a return to remote learning didn't stop the Year 6 students collaborating. They just continued by using MS Teams!

Like all good experiences, the journey was just as important as the destination. 'Exhibition is really fun and I really like doing it,' said student Rachel Wang. Colleague Levi Young agrees. 'If there was an exhibition for the process so far, what a marvellous exhibition it would be. Lockdown has been like an itch you can't get rid of, but we've gotten past it. With exhibition coming up, Year 6 is ready,' he said.

The process of Exhibition can be challenging, but the outcomes are so rich for all involved. It's a wonderful vehicle for our students to demonstrate their development as internationally-minded students who make a positive difference in their lives and the lives of others. We can't wait to see where this journey takes them, now and in the future.





The story on our 20 dollar note

Whilst we enjoy rapid access to the latest and best of medical procedures and information, it's easy to forget that hasn't always been the case - especially so for people in rural and remote Australia. The fledgling aviation industry of the 1920s changed that, and one of our own was part of the story, writes **Margot Vaughan**.

In 1917, in the remote Kimberly region of our far North West, stockman Jim Darcy was very badly injured. He was brought 80kms over very rough land to Hall's Creek, where the postmaster was required to do emergency surgery using a pen knife, with instructions given to him via Morse code from a doctor in Perth. Sadly, Jim the stockman died.

It was suggested to Reverend John Flynn that the new aviation industry could change these terrible outcomes. He was a man with a mission, and it took him just over 10 years of hard work raising funds and support before the very first medical flight took off from Cloncurry to Julia Creek, piloted by Arthur Herbert Affleck (OW1918). This was the beginning of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Arthur had won a government scholarship to come to Wesley in 1918,

aged 14 years and seven months. He started in Form Five A and left in December 1920 from Form Pass Six A (In those days, students were allotted into academic streams rather than simple year levels). His index card states he tried for the Naval Pay Clerkship but failed, instead going into the National Bank. It continues, *Later Civil Air Force; in June 1928 had flown 100,000 miles.*

He wrote about his experiences in a 1964 book titled *The Wandering Years*. He records his dissatisfaction with working in the bank, 'cooped up in an office', and his desire for another more appealing profession. He decided being a commercial pilot in the 'small and struggling aviation industry' would give him a future.

In the early 1920s, aviation was still a young industry. Qantas had just started, and the Royal Australian Airforce was the only place offering flying instruction. Arthur joined up in 1923. Much had been

learned from the experience of pilots during WWI and even more was learned from aerial games he and other trainee pilots played.

A job interview required him to fly from Melbourne to Adelaide and back via Hay and Mildura. He returned on the right day at the appointed time. Both his punctuality and the returning earned amazement, as not all returned on time, and some not at all.

He was granted his licence – No. 96 – and started work on the flight route from Melbourne to Hay. By his first scheduled trip, he had clocked up 87 flying hours.

After a disagreement over safety issues with Australian Air Services, he joined Qantas and was the first pilot in a one-year trial of medical flights to the Queensland Outback. Safety was important to Arthur and he later became an inspector in the civil branch of the Defence Department in 1936.

Wesley College.

Name	<i>Affleck Arthur Herbert</i>		Register Number	<i>5208</i>
Parent or Guardian	<i>Alfred S. Affleck</i>			
Address	<i>37 Kent Street. New.</i>			
Date of Birth	<i>3rd July 1903</i>	Age on Entry	<i>14</i> yrs.	<i>7</i> months.
Religious Denomination	<i>Methodist</i>	Previous School	<i>Gardiner Central</i>	
Admitted	<i>9/2/18.</i>	Left	<i>Dec 1920</i>	
Form on Admission	<i>V^a</i>	Form on Leaving	<i>PVI^a</i>	
Medical Inspection Report (if any)				

P.T.O.

Additional Details
Lost 20 dollar note
1920 tried for Naval Pay Certificate, but failed
Went into Bank - failed.
Later lived in Force; in June 1928 had flown
100,000 miles

<

From left to right

Arthur Affleck's index card from the Wesley College Archives

Arthur's index card shows he flew 100,000 miles in planes

Life wasn't all about flying off into the sunset for him, though. He stopped flying for a time, trying his hand at farming tobacco, but this failed and he returned to the air, often flying into what is now Papua New Guinea. He tried farming again, and again failed, and then moved to Perth where he took to the air once again as a commercial pilot and on medical flights. During WWII he flew transport aircraft for the RAAF. Arthur lost his wife, with whom he had two sons, in 1945. After the war he was promoted

to Regional Superintendent of Air Navigation, Sydney, but had to give up flying for good in 1948 when he developed heart disease.

Shortly before his retirement in 1963, he was Regional Director operating out of Port Moresby. He knew the area well, having inspected and advised the government on airfield locations and how to restart civil aviation to that region. Arthur's advice on establishing rules and regulations within industry has made

Australian civil aviation one of the safest in the world. His retirement was short lived; in 1966, while on a cruising holiday in Canada with his second wife, he died of a pulmonary embolus.

And the 20 dollar note? Reverend John Flynn is front and centre with the fabric biplane, a De Havilland DH50A named the Victory to the left of him - the very plane flown by **Arthur Affleck (OW1918)**.

Margot Vaughan is the Curator of Collections at Wesley College

Medals provide a fuller picture of the Sutton and Coates families



Medals belonging to Alfred Sutton, Stanley Sutton's older brother

Following last edition's story on the Sutton Cup, we were contacted by **David Coates (OW1973)**. David's family has a long tradition with the College – his great uncle was Dr Thomas Coates, Headmaster from 1957-1971. David's brothers also attended Wesley. The Coates and the Sutton family were related and in 1977 David was given some medals belonging to Alfred Leslie Sutton, Stanley's older brother, for winning the High Jump in 1905 and 1906. This was symbolic as David had won the High Jump in 1972 and 1973. He has very kindly offered them to the College and they will sit with other objects relating to Dr Coates and the Sutton Cup. As David said, 'It's a lovely family connection'.



Foundation



The Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort in County Limerick was one of many historic hotels featured in our popular Bequest Society webinars during lockdown

News from the Sapere Aude Bequest Society

The gift of a Wesley education

Membership of our Society continues to grow with more members of our College community recognising the importance of bequests in assisting the long term

development of Wesley College. Many leave their bequest to the discretion of the Principal for the College to use in the area of greatest need, while an increasing number are directing their bequest to our Scholarships program to enable more worthy students to gain the benefit of a Wesley education.

Leaving a bequest to the Wesley College Foundation, irrespective of the quantum, provides automatic membership to our Bequest Society. Some bequestors choose to remain anonymous and their wishes are always respected.

Membership provides opportunities to enjoy an interesting and comprehensive suite of annual activities and experiences with like-minded individuals, such as visits to cultural and historic institutions, guest speakers, social functions and College events.

To gain a better understanding of our scholarships program and our bequest society, we invite you to view our two new videos:

wesleycollege.edu.au/community/support-us/bequests

wesleycollege.edu.au/community/support-us/donate/scholarships-bursaries-prizes-fund

For a confidential discussion about our bequest program, please contact our Bequests and Donor Relations Manager Debra Stiebel at: debra.stiebel@wesleycollege.edu.au

In addition to the extraordinary \$4.9m bequest from the late Rennie Coutts that was highlighted in the August edition of this magazine, the Foundation acknowledges, with enormous gratitude, the following bequests from members of our Sapere Aude Bequest Society...



Judith and Bruce Gregory

Bruce and Judith Gregory

We were greatly saddened with the passing of Judith Gregory, on 21 November 2020, a long-time member of our Bequest Society. Judith joined the Wesley College community when she married **Bruce Gregory (OW1944)** in the Wesley Chapel in December 1953. From that time, Wesley was a constant in her life – whether cheering Collegians from the sidelines of the Harry Trott Oval, supporting the Junior School community at Glen Waverley during Bruce's time as Headmaster, or as mother of **David (OW1972)** and **Rod (OW1977)**, and grandmother of **Michael (OW2012)**.

In later years, as a member of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society, Judith kept in touch with long-standing Wesley events and enjoyed attending Society events at the school and elsewhere. Bruce and Judith left their bequest to the Bruce Gregory Scholarship Fund that was established for students who, like Bruce in the 1940s, would otherwise not have the means to receive a Wesley education.

The Fund, named in honour and memory of Bruce, continues to attract donations from alumni and their bequest will certainly provide an injection of funds to benefit future Wesley students.



Michael Boyt

Michael Boyt (OW1955)

Michael was a long-standing member of our Bequest Society, and we were saddened by his passing. He was a regular attendee at Society and OWCA events, particularly Founders' Day Lunch. Michael was the younger son of **Dr Reginald Boyt (OW1917)**. A member of the First VIII in 1955, he switched to tennis and skiing after he left school.

He spent most of his working life in the automotive parts industry but his main passion, like other members of the Boyt family, was financial investment. This has led to him setting up a trust which will benefit medical research and charitable organisations.

The Wesley Foundation is most grateful for Michael's support. His bequest will support our ongoing digitisation and archival projects that are making Wesley's publications and archives available online.

Noelle Schollenberger

There are occasions when the Wesley College Foundation and the Sapere Aude Bequest Society are notified of unexpected bequests from relatives of alumni. One such generous bequest of almost \$500k was received in September from the Estate of the Late Noelle Schollenberger. Noelle was the daughter of the late Leonard and

Kara Schollenberger. Leonard entered Wesley in 1916 and he left in 1921.

Records show that Leonard died at age 50 and his occupation was noted as a Sales Manager. Noelle also had a brother John who predeceased her. She attended Firbank for primary school and then went on to Methodist Ladies College (MLC), graduating in 1944. In later life, she became a member of their Bequest Society, Stella Argentea, and she passed away on the Gold Coast in September 2020.

Noelle enjoyed the lifestyle in Surfers Paradise and belonged to a number of worthy organisations, including those that supported women and children. She was passionate about education and left bequests to a diverse number of organisations - indicative of her broad interests, kindness and generosity.

The Wesley College Foundation acknowledges Noelle's philanthropy with enormous gratitude.



From left to right

Leonard Schollenberger in the 1916
Football team

Noelle Schollenberger



New family of bequestors

The last edition of the *Lion* featured the Rekaris family who joined our bequest society; they have been recently joined by **John-Paul Daggian (OW1993)**, his partner **Stuart Law (OW1996)**, sister **Athena Johnson (nee Daggian) (OW1996)** and **Alex Law (OW1994)**. We were delighted to welcome Alex back to Wesley in the senior role of College Head of Admissions and Athena and her husband Brad as Wesley parents.

John-Paul reflects on his time at the College and what motivated him, his partner Stuart and their family to leave a bequest to Wesley in their Wills:

Regardless of a child's parents, their upbringing belongs to the community, or so says the oft-quoted African proverb: 'Omwana ni wa bhone - It takes a village to raise a child.' Not all of us are blessed with children. That doesn't make us any less

responsible for nurturing their interests, encouraging their growth and being strong role models and mentors.

Our 'Wesley village life' was full and active. We enjoyed access to unparalleled educational resources, exceptional facilities, motivational teachers and a complete spectrum of extracurricular opportunities. From these experiences we learnt much.

Our village life would not have been complete without the support and affection of our parents and, extraordinarily, the parents of our friends. We all remember getting a lift home from a mate's mum, after school snacks at a friend's house, getting told off for being too loud during what was meant to be a home study session, or being crammed into the back seat, ferried to and from



Back row from left: John-Paul, Athena, Brad, Stuart and Alex
Front row: Zoe, Alexander and Jacques

drama rehearsals and Saturday sport commitments. From these experiences we grew.

For us, a bequest to Wesley is a way we choose to participate without having children enrolled. We love being uncles; we get to be the cool 'parents' without the responsibility. Now that my sister Athena Johnson and her husband Brad have had their son, our nephew Jacques, commenced at Wesley this year, and soon to be followed by Alexander and Zoe, it allows us to reconnect to the College in new ways.

As the fun uncles, we look forward to participating in the Wesley village life of Jacques, his siblings and their friends.

The Wesley Foundation is most grateful for the support of the Daggian and Law families for remembering the College in their Wills. It's wonderful to see this commitment from younger members of our College community as part of an increasing awareness of this form of philanthropy.

Spencer Wilkinson (OW1970)

Why I joined the Bequest Society

We are delighted to welcome Spencer as a member of our Sapere Aude Bequest Society. He is passionate about the College, its history and culture, the education he received, and the sporting and cocurricular activities he enjoyed as a student. Spencer reflects on his time at the College and his motivation for joining our Bequest Society:

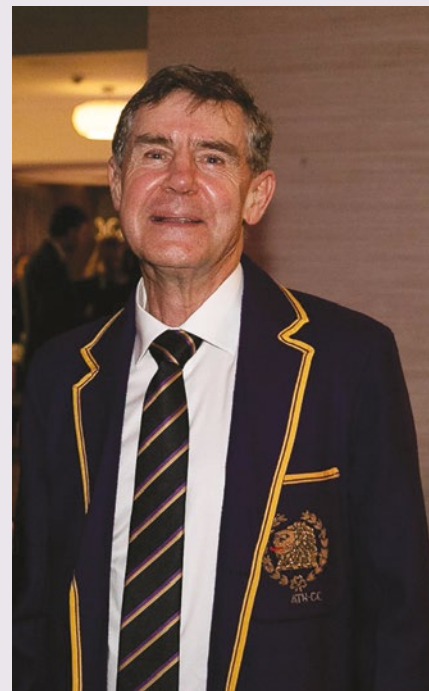
*I clearly remember my first day at Wesley back in 1964. Eddie Wells was the Junior School Headmaster and Roy Norry was my teacher. My grandfather, **Dr William Stanley Wilkinson (OW1903)**, father, **Dr John Wilkinson (OW1938)** and uncle, **Dr Bill Wilkinson (OW1939)** had all attended Wesley College, and it was now my turn to carry on the family tradition.*

*The sporting arena and outdoors were my passions and I fondly remember my trips to Chum Creek under Geoff Lormer and my community service at Tally Ho under the watchful eye of **Rev Denis Oakley (OW1955)**.*

Indeed, I was also very fortunate to have some of the best teachers who instilled in me the discipline of learning, resilience, and character – they were wonderful role models and I still reflect on their positive influence on my life.

When approached to consider joining the Sapere Aude Bequest Society, it made me think how fortunate I had been in receiving such a well-rounded education; that I could now make a difference by setting aside a bequest in my Will to give back to the school and help, in some small way, to provide a Wesley College education for future generations.

We thank Spencer for his bequest to support Wesley's Scholarships Program and the Wesley Foundation.



Spencer Wilkinson



Society engagement during COVID

In keeping with our commitment to our members and the wider Wesley community, and our mission of connecting people to the Sapere Aude Bequest Society program, we have continued to showcase a broad range of extremely popular free webinars. The Society looks forward to reconnecting again in person with our valued members and guests as soon as we can safely gather in 2022.

The Society decided early in the pandemic that it would move to online presentations across the Wesley community and provide an opportunity to listen to a diverse range of topics delivered by erudite and engaging speakers. They have included:

Victor Perton, the Chief Optimism Officer from the Centre of Optimism, a former parliamentarian and the Victorian Government's Commissioner to the Americas, based in San Francisco. Victor spoke about the 'How and Why

of Optimism' – a topic that resonated with our members and guests at this challenging time.

Adrian Dickens, jeweller and historian, returned to explore the world of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis. Adrian travels throughout Australia and internationally, sharing his passion and extensive knowledge about the world's finest jewels. His talk explored her treasure trove and her renowned interest in French, American and Greek culture. Her jewels revealed a story of untold personal, historical and political significance and much more.

The CEO of Cabrini, Sue Williams, who has more than 25 years' experience in the healthcare industry at senior management level in both the public and private sectors, spoke about the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the community and her hospital and staff.

One of the most popular webinars for 2021 was presented by our very own **Kenneth Park**, Curator of Collections and Philanthropy Associate, on 'Celebrated Hotels of the World'. Guests enjoyed a fabulous armchair journey as Kenneth profiled some of the world's finest and historic hotels such as Ashford Castle, Ireland, the Ritz in Paris and London,



Jacqueline and John F Kennedy

the Waldorf Astoria, New York and the Pera Palace, Istanbul. Along the way, guests heard stories about these grand hotels and potted stories about some of their famous guests.

Kenneth also presented a webinar about the 'Great Libraries of the World'. In this richly illustrated lecture, Kenneth crisscrossed the globe taking guests on a grand journey profiling some of the world's most beautiful and noteworthy libraries, including Trinity College Library in Dublin.

Clunes development update

The Foundation is most grateful for the continuing support of parents and alumni to help fund this historic redevelopment at Clunes. Buildings are really taking shape and the College community looks forward to officially opening these new facilities sometime in early 2022.

Despite government mandated restrictions on construction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Clunes Building Project has continued to rise out of the ground and take shape. The steel structure and framing is now complete, and with the roof also largely in place, we can get a sense of just how dramatically these buildings will transform and renew the Wesley at Clunes program.

These new buildings will create opportunities for expanded offerings at Clunes, and curriculum planning is underway to take full advantage of the new learning and living spaces being created. This includes new art and design, general purpose, technology and food teaching spaces where students will be able to deepen their learning and further their service to the Clunes and Wesley communities.

With growing numbers of students coming to Clunes, the Building Project also includes two new student houses, ensuring continued comfort and added flexibility to cater to individual student needs.

We thank the Head of Clunes Campus, Daniel Lukies, for this update and we welcome tax-deductible donations at: wesleycollege.edu.au/clunesredevelopment



New facilities taking shape



Wesley Boathouse

The Foundation is delighted that the redeveloped Boathouse is ready for the start of the rowing season in Term 4. At the time of writing, it's uncertain as to the timing of any 'official opening', although we hope that our rowing community and Boathouse donors will be able to gather before the end of the year to celebrate this development and the start of the season.

We commend architect **Pete Sadow (OW1966)** for his work in both his sensitive refurbishment of the original **David McGlashan (OW1946)** - designed

Boathouse and the contemporary extension. We also pay tribute to Wesley's CFO and Business Manager Cameron Moroney for his dogged determination over many years to ensure that Wesley retained control of our lease and the redevelopment.

The Foundation acknowledges with gratitude all donors to this facility and, in particular, our naming donors:

John and Wendy Mitchell and family, Will and Grant Crothers and families, Ron and Elizabeth Rosanove and family, Karen, Craig, Dean and Jason Joel and families, and Richard and Anthony Hall and families.



Several spaces within the Boathouse recognise donors who have made this facility upgrade possible

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

The Wesley College Foundation provides opportunities for sponsors to be associated with its annual suite of events and activities and to benefit from this exposure. Each year we are grateful for the continuing support of our sponsors and delighted to welcome new ones. With events and activities cranking up again in the new year, the Foundation welcomes inquiries from potential sponsors. Please contact jack.moshakis@wesleycollege.edu.au



President's Report



Kate Evans (OW1998) President of the OWCA speaking at this year's Founders' Day Dinner

Season's greetings to all. The OWCA has been as productive and progressive as possible during the last year, despite the continuation of the global pandemic. As we have set out in our OWCA five-year strategic plan, we aim to be relevant, delivering tailored activity for our community. We continued with developing a sense of community for our OWs online, due to the restrictions. I acknowledge the hard work that our Executive and Operations teams have accomplished in pivoting so quickly during the last two years, thank you!

The OWCA held their Annual General Meeting, virtually, back in September and it was hailed our best one yet. We had the pleasure of welcoming four new Board members onto the committee. **Rob Lancaster (OW1982)** as our new

Treasurer, **Vibeke Pederson (OW1996)**, **Kunal Rastogi (OW2002)** and **Alessia Francese (OW2016)**. We look forward to welcoming them much more appropriately, and officially, when we can come together as an Executive in the same meeting room.

We also farewelled and acknowledged two very special board members, both who have tirelessly contributed to our organisation over the past few years:

Past Co-President **Belinda Danks-Woodley (OW2004)**, who brought her strategic lens to all OWCA matters, particularly across key turning points of our Association; we would not have been able to produce our five-year strategic plan without her. We will miss her intellect, professionalism and polish.

Considerable thanks must go to former Treasurer **Chris Foster-Ramsay (OW1999)**, whose unfaltering commitment and efforts to all things Wesley and OWCA have been greatly appreciated. He brought a clarity and structure to our finances as an organisation that we have never had before. Many thanks Chris!

We have seen the successful continuation of our 'OWCA at home webinars', connecting OWs with professionals who have been able to share, advise, provoke and enlighten. Our third Women of Wesley (WOW) event was held in August, featuring female OW Olympians and hosted by celebrated triathlete **Emma Carney (OW1989)**. It proved popular and was such a timely, feel-good event. And another exciting and 'fashionable' WOW webinar was held in October by **Lisa Stockman (OW1992)**, helping women to reconnect with our personal style after a year and a half of wearing activewear.

The next 12 months will see us focus on further promoting our *OWConnect* app, executing our next round of goals in accordance with our five-year strategic plan (which includes further refining our networking/event offering) and further developing our OWCA 'Culture Code', as driven by our passionate Vice-President **David Kennedy (OW1967)**. Finally, we hope to further build on the progress we have made regarding social media across our platforms of Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn – if you aren't following us there, please do.

We hope that the OWCA event calendar for 2022 will be packed full of reunions and celebration – and that we will be getting back to doing what we love – providing you with the opportunity to connect and network within our community.

Our hearts go out to the graduating 'Class of 2021' for all the memorable traditions they have missed as a result of the continuation of COVID-19. We look forward to supporting them as much as possible as they transition into the next stage of their life, and formally welcoming them into the OWCA when we can.

The past year has again been an honour and a pleasure serving Wesley College and the OWCA as President. Best wishes for the festive season and sending much positivity for the year ahead from the OWCA.

#oldwesleycollegians
#bleedingpurpleandgold
#WomenofWesley #FDD2021
#stayconnected

Kate Evans (OW1998)

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READY TO CONNECT,
SO ARE WE.

Wesley's international cricket recalled

Trinity College Kandy (TCK), Sri Lanka and Wesley are inextricably linked by a melody. When former Headmaster, LA Adamson wrote the music to poet Sir Henry Newbolt's famous poem *The Best School of All*, little did he know that the same song would go down in history as an official College song somewhere else far away. We are linked in other ways too, including the history of a TCK-Wesley Golf Tournament and a Cricket exchange program, and TCK is celebrating its Sesquicentenary next year.

Former Wesley cricketers who were part of our exchange with the College in the 1980s are known to TCK Old Boys as Wesley Trinitians and many TCK alumni based in Melbourne have met regularly since 1975. Trinitian Errol Fernando who wrote to us recently has had the honour of accompanying their College song at each reunion since. In fact the Melbourne TCK Old Boys Association (OBA) is not only the longest serving overseas TCK alumni Chapter but also the first overseas OBA of any school in Sri Lanka. They are still driven, just as OWs are, by the words and melody of *The Best School of All*!

TCK's ability to organise and take part in the exchange was due to former Trinitian Mr Harry Geddes, who formed the TCK Family Foundation supporting scholarships and in particular the Student Exchange Scheme, an idea suggested by his son, Russell, in 1984. Together with Errol and others they put the proposition to then Principal of Wesley, David Prest.

The program took place between 1985 and 1988 and during those years four



Trinity College Kandy, Sri Lanka celebrating 150 years next year

boys from Trinity, Gehan Rajapakse, Nilantha Ratnayake, Ralph Muthaya and Megawarna Abeywickrama spent a year at Wesley. **Paul Robinson (OW1985), Richard Delacy (OW1986), Matthew Meath (OW1986) and Kurt Opray (OW1989)**, likewise spent a year at Trinity.

Nilantha received Wesley's Triple Honour award, going on to play cricket for Sri Lanka and returning to Wesley with his family recently and Richard majored in Indian Studies at university. He still teaches Hindi at Harvard University and the results of the program clearly speak for themselves. Ralph, who captained Under 17 Rugby at TCK received Colours for Singing and Drama, said 'I couldn't

have come to a finer institution than Wesley College, Melbourne. Wesley has become a part of me. I have chosen to learn the true Australian game – footy. I was overjoyed to be part of the School Musical and the Senior School Play and have enjoyed my singing too.'

The Best School of All means so much to both institutions and so it is wonderful that through 'glad or melancholy days', like us, the Melbourne TCK OBA remains a thriving organisation that continues to 'honour yet the School we knew, the best School of all.'

Yet here shall beat the heart of us, the song we handed on.



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Meet the Executive committee



Kate Evans (OW1998)
President

In her career as a communications professional, Kate Evans has more than 20 years of know-how across retail, fashion and lifestyle brands. With both extensive agency and in-house experience, she was responsible for launching Japanese apparel retailer UNIQLO into the Australian market. Prior to this, she was National PR Manager at iconic brands Sportsgirl and Target and has senior management experience at some of Melbourne's most well-known public relations and event agencies. Having 'never really left' Wesley since her final year as College Captain in 1999, she has had the pleasure of serving on the OWCA Executive committee multiple times over the past 20 years. Her favourite event on the social calendar, the annual Founders' Day Dinner, is a personal passion project that she will forever drive with the heart of a lion. If it's possible to bleed purple and gold, then it's guaranteed that Kate does. #bleedingpurpleandgold



David Kennedy (OW1966)
Vice-President

Commencing in media sales, I managed to rise from Sales Executive to the position of Director of Sales and Marketing of the Ten Network. Following this, I joined global communications consultancy, Rogen International, where I spent time managing both the Melbourne and London offices and served as a Director on Rogen's Global Board. And, seeing me into retirement, I enjoyed a period with EY as a communications specialist working across their Australian and Asian offices. Save from a little consulting, I am now retired, enabling me to spend time playing golf and tennis, pottering in the garden, and achieving little of value in my mancave.

I remain married to the Merton Hall girl I met going home from Wesley on the Punt Road bus and we are both lucky enough to spend as much time as we care to with our two children and their partners, together with our four grandchildren.



Rob Lancaster (OW1982)
Treasurer

Rob Lancaster joined the OWCA Executive as Treasurer in 2021. He is the Chief Financial Officer at St Hilda's College, a residential college of the University of Melbourne, holds a Bachelor of

Business and is a Chartered Accountant. Prior to joining St Hilda's some 10 years ago, Rob held management positions at Spotless Group and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Rob is accustomed to voluntary roles, having served on various committees associated with his children's schools, their kindergarten and Scout group. He is a life member of Collegians Football Club, having played over 250 games with the Club after school. He also served as treasurer and was runner for the Club XVIII side for many years.



Jack Ayerbe (OW1963)

I entered Wesley in 1953 in a building known as 'The Hutch' in a class comprising Forms 1, 2 and 3, moving up to "Matriculation" (Year 12) in 1964. Accepted into my chosen course, I was able to indulge in a second year 'Matric', to 'mature' before entering University. My Wesley experience was highly rewarding and strongly

influential, the experience giving me lifelong friendships.

We were constantly reminded by teachers and Headmasters (Frederick and Coates) of 'our' cultural values based on the preachings of John Wesley, the main tenet being respect for all others whatever the differences, be they gender, religion or any other facet.

Wesley gave me leadership opportunities as Sub-Prefect, Prefect and Cadet Under Officer. Having so many life-forming privileges is an important reason for being part of the OWCA Executive committee, where I see our main task being to ensure that today's students have the same valued time at the school as we did.



Vibeke Pedersen (OW1996)

My energy comes from being part of a team that makes a difference to our community by connecting and engaging people. My background is in event services where I have worked as a manager and coordinator for the Royal Melbourne Show, Victorian Farmers Federation and The University of Melbourne. My strengths are in stakeholder engagement, administration,

communications and recognising interdependencies between teams to create effective outcomes. Currently I am Community Engagement Project Officer for Neighbourhood Watch Victoria, with experience in Local Council and Committee for Melbourne, where I was Events and Engagement Manager.

Without doubt, Wesley significantly contributed to the person I am today and I'm a proud OW who still wears their blazer whenever the opportunity allows. I'm grateful for the lifelong friends my time at school brought me and thankful for the life lessons I learned whilst there.

My passion for Wesley is the reason why I've joined the OWCA Executive committee.



Anastasia Malishev (OW1995)

I've been working in Architecture, Interior Design Commercial sector for the past 25 years, Internationally across Hong Kong, UK and Singapore. I specialise in large scale

commercial office workplace strategy construction delivery.

As an expat I acknowledged the importance of my education received at Wesley College, and the new relationships formed with other Alumni expatriates spreading their wings.

Returning to Melbourne, and being invited to support the OWCA is a great privilege. My international career has flourished from the Sapere Aude approach

to life, seize every opportunity given, "I just dare you" and holistically it is this, that I bring to the board. My initiative 'WOW', 'Women of Wesley' concept series, is an example of the enthusiasm and creativity that best reflects my Wesley experience. I sincerely invite all Alumni to take full advantage of reconnecting and making new friends at the OWCA events.



Alessia Francese (OW2016)

Since finishing at Wesley, I've held strong connections to my school days. I've worked in various roles across the College including as a coach for all three seasons of sport, volunteering at Yiramalay and as a student mentor and personal trainer in Learning in Residence. I completed a Bachelor of International Business (Economics) and a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) at Monash University,

and studied for six months at Peking University, Beijing, China. I now work full time in the IT industry and enjoy the corporate lifestyle so far.

Due to my love for the school, its history and future, I really wanted to give back and have found another avenue as a committee member of the OWCA Executive. I feel privileged to have this opportunity and be a spokesperson for my peers and friends, and those who have come before and after me. I look forward to connecting alumni, building on the strategy set and implementing change for the OWCA. Wesley now and always!



Tom Pewtress (OW2018)

I am a student at Monash University, with a keen interest in politics and am currently working in policy. Engaging my

community is something I have always been passionate about, leading me to campaign as a candidate in the City of Monash Council elections. I remain a committee member of Monash Business Awards to promote local commerce, which allows me to remain engaged with the local business community. Representing my community's interests in higher office remains a lifelong ambition.

Leaving Wesley in 2018 as one of the School Captains, I felt a strong connection to the College, along with a desire to give back to the place which served me so well. This is why the opportunity to represent my fellow Wesley alumni on the OWCA Executive was one I was delighted to take up and continue to enjoy.



Kunal Rastogi (OW2002)

Kunal Rastogi is a Partner at Crestone Wealth Management, where he provides investment and wealth advice to a select group of high-net-worth individuals, families and not-for-profits. Kunal started his career in Law, then moved into Financial Advisory, where he cultivated his skills at Goldman Sachs,

Macquarie and UBS before becoming one of the founding Partners at Crestone. Kunal sits on the advisory boards of several not-for-profit organisations and is excited about the prospect of leveraging these experiences to add value to the OWCA. Having directly seen the benefits of strong school affiliations in his career, Kunal is keen to further enhance the professional and social networks for all OWs.



Amy McAlister (OW2003)

Amy brings a unique skillset to the Executive, having forged a successful

career in public relations and corporate communications before completing a Master of Teaching (Secondary) in 2020 to become an English teacher. Amy's expertise in crafting clear, concise and engaging communication, combined with her passion for education and lifelong learning enables her to make

a meaningful contribution to the OWCA. Having enjoyed an enriching education at Wesley, Amy feels a strong affinity to the College and, as a member of the Executive, hopes to help other alumni benefit from the sense of community and connection that the OWCA has to offer.



Office update



The richly embroidered deep purple satin OWCA banner still makes regular appearances on the lectern at major events

The College has been reviewing a number of areas and is preparing for the next phase of its development, with particular focus on the St Kilda Road Campus. To this end, there have been some changes to staffing in the OWCA to reflect a closer working relationship with Wesley's marketing team and to focus on delivering strategic outcomes.

The College Head of the OWCA, **Ian Thomas (OW1982)**, who has contributed so much to the revitalisation of the Association through increased social media, online engagement during COVID-19 and the delivery of an exciting suite of outstanding alumni events and activities, has accepted the new role of OWCA Editor of the *Lion* magazine. Ian's passionate commitment to all things purple will continue in this important role and he will remain a vital part of the OWCA team.

The College is delighted that the President of the OWCA, **Kate Evans (OW1998)** has commenced in the part-time role of Alumni Manager, Marketing and Strategy. Kate will continue as President of the OWCA, complementing her new role, working closely with the College marketing team to ensure seamless communication and driving the strategic direction of the OWCA.

Zena Eastburn, OWCA Events and Administration Officer, has returned from maternity leave and looks forward to returning to a more regular schedule of alumni reunions and events in the new year. Cam Evans concluded his role as Alumni Relations Officer at the end of August and we thank him for his contribution to the team.

The OWCA is very well positioned to continue to play a vital role in our College community, and Foundation, Events and Archives will all continue to work together to ensure the seamless delivery of relevant and timely communication, alumni engagement and activities into the future.



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Jack Kroger's war

Henry Jack Kroger commenced teaching commerce studies at Wesley in 1934. When he retired 37 years later in 1970, the *Chronicle* rightly referred to him as 'Mr Wesley'. In addition to his teaching duties, he had many roles at the school including House Master (Adamson and Corrigan) and was the Sports Master for many years. Current students know his name, as both the Front Turf at St Kilda Road and the Swimming Pool at Glen Waverley are named in his honour.

Jack's World War II service was quite remarkable. He served in the UK, Middle East, was a PoW in Italy, and then was an internee in Switzerland for a year, before returning to Australia in late 1944 and then serving in the AIF's 1945 actions in Borneo.

Aged 33, he enlisted in the AIF in October 1939. On 5 May 1940, he departed bound for the Middle East. However, his convoy was diverted to the UK mid-voyage in anticipation of a German invasion of the UK.

When the threat of invasion of the UK passed, the Australian troops were shipped to the Middle East. On 1 February 1941, Jack was appointed Catering Adviser 9th Division. He had the onerous responsibility of ensuring food supplies for nearly 20,000 service men and women – an army marches on its stomach!

The 9th Division was sent to Cyrenaica (eastern Libya) to replace the 6th Division troops. In unfortunate timing, the Germans under General Rommel commenced a surprise attack on Allied forces in Cyrenaica and started pushing them back.

With the city of Benghazi falling on 3 April, the Allied forces were ordered to withdraw. Ultimately for the Australians they would fall back to Tobruk. At 0200 on 7 April, while still in transit near Derna, he was captured when cut off by an advanced German Panzer patrol. So from May 1941 to September 1943, he spent time in various internment camps in Northern Italy.

His chance to escape came as PoWs were being moved to Germany in September 1943. On 12 September 1,200 PoWs entrained in cattle carriages at Modena bound for Moosburg, Germany, via the Brenner Pass. Accompanied by Lt Barney Grogan, Jack took his chance in escaping

from the moving train. It took several weeks in the North Italian Alps before they crossed into neutral Switzerland on 13 October 1943.

Over 400 other Australians also escaped into Switzerland following the Italian Armistice. As the senior AIF officer, Jack was appointed to be responsible for all Australian evades in Switzerland. Located in the city of Wil, a small group of officers provided oversight of the activities of the men as they were encouraged to work and broaden their education. Not surprisingly, Jack was in charge of education and trade training schools. He also had to deal with several instances of men enjoying their newly found freedom a little too much!

In October 1944, the Australians in Switzerland were successfully repatriated and Jack arrived home to Melbourne in November.

However, his war was not yet over. After a period of leave, he was promoted to Major and appointed Requisitioning Officer (Supply and Transport) HQ 1 Aust Corps (7 & 9 Div). On 8 April 1945, he left Townsville for its forward base on Morotai as they undertook the final Australian Army WWII campaigns in Borneo (Tarakan, Labuan & Balikpapan).

On 4 August 1945, he ceased his role. He returned to Melbourne and was discharged.

The following year saw 'Major Kroger' back at Wesley dealing with young lads who wanted to know all about how he escaped from the Germans.

In February 1946, his distinguished service as a PoW in Europe was acknowledged with a Mention in Despatches. In very typical style, the May 1946 *Chronicle* congratulated him on this accomplishment *'and hope[s] that perhaps his under-age teams will also be mentioned in our winning team despatches at Monday assemblies.'*

You can read the extended version of this story, with further details about Jack's experiences, in the Lion Online. Visit wesleycollege.edu.au/news-events-and-publications/lion-magazine/lion-december-2021



Senior Master HJ Kroger in 1960

Help us write our history.
The College is keen to hear from those or their families who have served post-WWII or who are still serving so that their contributions can be recorded. Please contact Leigh Treyvaud (OW1963) at treyvaud-lc@bigpond.com





Michael Meszaros' footpath sculpture, outside the Royal Womens' Hospital, 2008 Parkville Melbourne

50 years a Sculptor – an exhibition in lockdown

After more than 50 years as a sculptor, **Michael Meszaros OAM (OW1962)** arranged an exhibition at the Hawthorn Arts Centre to commemorate this significant milestone. Three days after *50 Years as a Sculptor* opened, Melbourne went into lockdown No.6 and the show was not able to be re-opened.

Michael has produced a number of well-known public works nationally and internationally. Working primarily in bronze, fabricated copper and stainless steel, his work includes portraits, relief sculptures, exhibition sculptures and his particular speciality, medals. His award medal for the CSIRO completed in 1985, designed in about 10 versions with different inscriptions, is still in use today.

Michael grew up with his father, a well-known sculptor and a rare bird in the 1950s and 60s when Michael was

at Wesley. Being Hungarian and having a convertible-driving Andor Meszaros for a father combined to make him pretty exotic by the standards of the day. It was a time when there were few boys with European names in the whole school at the time.

Until 1955, Andor's studio was their living room and so Michael observed his father at work every day. 'I learned basic sculpture techniques by osmosis, watching what he did and learning to cast plaster, carve wood and stone before the age of 10,' he says.



Sculptor Michael Meszaros OAM (OW1962)

It was his father who designed the Olympic Medal for the 1956 Games in Melbourne, so it was assumed that Michael would be outstanding in Wesley art classes, which was not at all the case. Art teacher Percy Gare once wondered how he could have such a notable artist for a father, and yet be so ordinary at art. As Michael explains, 'I think the problem was that what I saw at home, and what we did at school, were so different, that I tried to make work with the same degree of depth that I saw at home, but I couldn't do it in a double period. I couldn't do it at all at that stage.'

One day Michael had a bet with his father whether he could do a portrait medal, with 10 shillings on the line. After nine hard sittings, his father agreed that he had lost his money!

'I brought a bronze casting of it to school which caused some surprise, and it was published in the *Chronicle* in 1959,' explains Michael. As a result of this work, he began to get commissions to do portrait medals and went on to ride his bike to sittings from the age of 14.

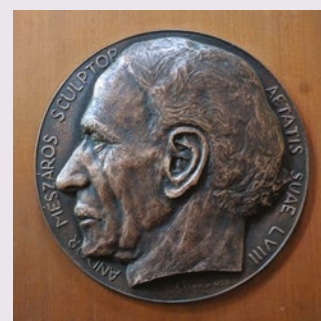
'When I left school, I never thought that I could make a living as a sculptor, so I did architecture on the assumption that I would have an office with my older brother **Daniel (OW1952)**, who was already an architect,' says Michael who continued to do portrait medals and began making exhibition medals throughout his time at university.

When he completed his studies, he applied for a Churchill Fellowship to study medallic sculpture at a specialist school in the Mint of Rome. 'Miraculously, I was awarded a Fellowship and in 1969 I took off for a year in Rome,' he says.

Upon his return in 1970, Michael decided that if he could get a Churchill Fellowship, maybe he could make a living as a sculptor, and so decided to give it a try. Michael explains that it was during this time that his experience really grew. 'My father had had a serious heart attack while I was in Rome, so when he began to get new major commissions, I worked together with him to do the physical and organisational work. This gave me excellent training in the whole process of conducting large projects.'

When his father died in 1972, Michael took over the studio as well as four commissions which were current. Michael wondered how this would work, but new work started to come in, and after a few years he felt that he had done enough to feel like he was not hanging on his father's coat-tails.

51 years later, Michael is still working as a sculptor, making a combination of medals, large works, smaller commissions, exhibition sculpture and medals, relief sculpture and portraits, and was looking forward to his exhibition being accessible to all.



From top

Then: Chronicle, 1959 - Bronze Medallion, Michael Meszaros, Form 3

Now: Michael's amazing Year 9 work as it is today.



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Concert Band OWs – Take a BOW!

Here's some great news for all OW musicians who enjoyed playing in a Concert Band at school and still enjoy playing or would like to get back into it. Has anyone been tempted to dust off their instrument case in lockdown?

The OW Concert Band is reforming, bigger and better than ever, and with your support, a performance in Adamson Hall at the St Kilda Road Campus is definitely on the cards in 2022, COVID willing!

Music staff from across Wesley are on hand to support this great initiative and so in the early part of 2022, we are planning a runway of four rehearsals, with snacks provided! If you've been tootling away beyond school, entertaining the neighbours with some musical interpretations in COVID times or yearning to get back into it, why not give this great OW musical experience a try?

In addition, the OWCA is partnering with music specialist Fine Music of Hawthorn,

instrument supplier to Wesley, to pair OWs with instruments for the rehearsal period. So if you decided to sell that euphonium after all, there's really no excuse not to get involved in this fun and social experience, crossing campuses and age groups and rehearsing in a central location at St Kilda Road.

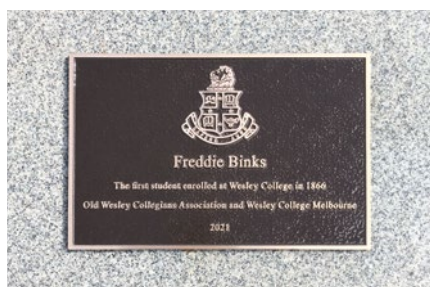
Fine Music, originally established in Melbourne in 1960, can not only boast the largest range of sheet music in the country, but have also expanded to include an extensive range of brass and woodwind instruments and accessories from manufacturers such as Bach, Yamaha, Pearl Flutes and Schagerl. They also offer education customers a full range of products and solutions including orchestral percussion, recording and live sound equipment, guitars and amplification products, staging and keyboards. In 2015, they launched their online store, with over 52,000 print music titles and over 6,000 instruments and accessories!



To get involved in this fun and very social experience, please contact owca@wesleycollege.edu.au or our OW Concert Band contact **Angela Zeng (OW2020)** at angelayxz@hotmail.com

Thinking about number 1

A plaque honouring the first student enrolled at Wesley College in 1866, Freddie Binks, was planned to be unveiled at the Bendigo Cemetery at this year's Borders Reunion weekend. Unfortunately it was cancelled due to COVID restrictions.



The plaque on the grave of Pupil Number 1, Freddie Binks

The plaque on Freddie's grave is the result of research by **Philip Powell (OW1973)** and an official approach to the College and the cemetery Trust by Philip and **Ian Thomas (OW1982)**, then College Head, OWCA, following their visit to the grave in 2016, 150 years after Freddie began at Wesley. It was fitting that the project be championed by both the College and the OWCA, which were both very supportive.

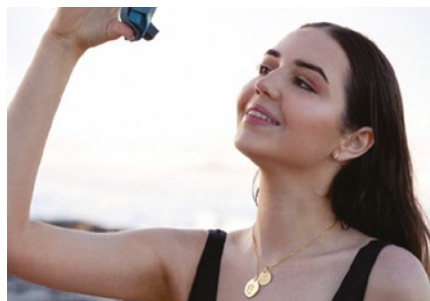
Freddie, born 20 August, 1856, was the son of the Rev. William Lawrence Binks and his wife Jane, both from Durham, England. They were one of the key Methodist families that worked so hard to raise funds and drive plans to ensure that Wesley College was built.

Freddie moved quickly into banking, working in a number of locations in Victoria and South Australia before moving to Bendigo where he became the Manager at the National Bank of Australasia in 1893. He and his wife,

Mabel, became well known figures in Bendigo, supporting the fledgling Golf Club, Jockey Club and the famous Sandhurst Club, the earliest continually operating club in Victoria, where Freddie was President. He retired in 1919 and died 11 October, 1926.

There is no doubt that Freddie Binks loved Wesley. He often returned, he kept in touch with his friends, and friends wrote fondly of him, always referring to him as Freddie. As he was deployed by the Bank to various regions, Freddie would catch up with colleagues from school days who often referred to him as 'Pupil Number 1' with great fondness. He died without children to carry on his name, yet Freddie Binks will be remembered by thousands of children now, and the Wesley family will carry on his name in a way he could not have imagined.

Updates



Valentine Mirzayantz (OW2019)

As a result of the pandemic - and as the pollen count rises - **Valentine Mirzayantz (OW2019)**, used her spare time to find her passion and build a new business. With The Asthma Collective, Valentine has set out to not only make elegant asthma and allergy accessories, but to inspire other asthmatics to live their life as a healthy life – with asthma. She aims to empower fellow asthma sufferers to feel comfortable wearing their Ventolin as more of an accessory, rather than something to hide. The Asthma Collective also shares wellness-centred habits, a stretching series and conscious food recipes to help people live their healthiest life with asthma.

To explore asthma accessories and lifestyle tips visit theasthmacollective.com



Sharelle McMahon (OW1995)

Congratulations to netball royalty **Sharelle McMahon (OW1995)** on her appointment as Head of Female Cricket with Cricket Victoria.

The Australian Netball Hall of Famer, who had been working as an assistant coach with the 2020 champion Melbourne Vixens in the Super Netball competition and as shooting specialist coach with Australia's national team, will oversee all aspects of Victorian cricket's female performance pathway. She had previously been a mentor and Club Ambassador for the Melbourne Stars back in 2015 for the inaugural season of the WBBL.

Well done Sharelle, and best of luck in the new role!



Lucy Richards (OW2006)

Lucy has recently written a book which she describes as a 'weaving of the words, feelings and philosophies that have found me over the past few years as I've embraced the full spectrum of my life.'

The Divine Postal Service is a collection of 40 poems and follows a personal journey of questioning, feeling and learning: Deep life, Seducing flow, Lens of love and Home. An artistic framework that shares the intimately personal process of listening deeply to the feelings that find us and honouring them and the messages they bring - no matter how sticky, messy or imperfect they seem.

You can find out more about the book or Lucy's Creative Coaching Programs for individuals, CEOs and Business by going to divinepostalservice.com

YOUR OWCA

OWCA Executive

President

Kate Evans (OW1998)

Vice President

David Kennedy (OW1966)

Treasurer

Rob Lancaster (OW1982)

OWCA Editor, Lion Magazine

Ian Thomas (OW1982)

Director, Foundation and Alumni

Jack Moshakis (OW1973)

Executive members

Jack Ayerbe (OW1963)

Anastasia Malishev (OW1995)

Vibeke Pedersen (OW1996)

Kunal Rastogi (OW2002)

Amy McAlister (OW2003)

Alessia Francese (OW2016)

Tom Pewtress (OW2018)

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

Key contacts

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

Event enquiries | Calendar enquiries
Zena Eastburn
zena.eastburn@wesleycollege.edu.au



Affiliates



AMC rowers - on the water again soon...

Alan Mitchell Club

Alan Mitchell Rowing Club members are looking forward to being able to get back on the water. While members have been

unable to row during lockdown, spirits are high and most members have re-joined for the coming year.

With the diaspora of the Wesley alumni, a number of club members have had the worry of relatives working on the front line of the health system in different countries, including the UK. We are pleased to be able to report that those we know about through the Club have all managed to get through the time that they were unvaccinated okay. With vaccines available, they are looking forward to a more normal future.

Congratulations to Matt Ryan, Head of Rowing, for his initiative in launching Rowhaus which has been open to anyone to participate in online rowing-related fitness training and technique development.

Anyone who is not currently a member of the **Alan Mitchell Rowing Club** who would like to get more active please contact the **Club President, Ana McCloskey** at ana.mccloskey@gmail.com to organise a row.

Collegians Football Club

Collegians have had a tough year in 2021. Losing players to injuries and having an interrupted preseason meant the players just didn't have the conditioning required, and because of this, our depth - or lack of it - was really tested.

Winning just two games out of 11 played was not good enough, but the sudden end to the season in July with another lockdown prevented us from having a better second half of the season. We were hoping to win maybe three of our last four games (and certainly at least two) which would have avoided relegation.

As it turns out, because of the compromised season, the VAFA have decided there will be no relegation or promotion for 2021, which was really the only decision they could come to.

So we front up again in Premier section in 2022 but we will need to recruit well, and have a stronger preseason and be ready

to go from Round 1, not taking half a season to get going like this year. Learning the lesson from this year, we'll put in place a better structure to make sure we are not in the same position in 2022.

Our Women's Senior teams also only won a couple of games, but again were unlucky in a couple of other games, only losing by very small margins and with a couple of extra players could have been right in the mix for Finals.

The Women's Reserves made the Finals for the first time and lost their Semi-Final by a couple of points and were extremely unlucky late in the game, but all the girls loved the experience of playing in a Final.

The Club would like to congratulate David Mirra, staff member at the St Kilda Road Campus, on his outstanding season in 2021. David lost the competition Best and Fairest award by 1 vote and coming from a team who only won two games, this was a sensational effort.

GO LIONS!

Rod Nancarrow, Co-President



Staff member, David Mirra, missed out on the Woodrow medal by just one vote at the Best and Fairest

Best and Fairest award winners from each team are as follows:

Men's Seniors: David Mirra

Men's Reserves: Tom Hill

Men's Under 23's: Thomas Sargent

Women's Seniors: Holly Wilson

Women's Reserves: Emma Richards



OW Cricket uniforms proudly supplied by the OWCA

OW Cricket

Thanks to the OWCA, the OW Cricket Club has recently had a freshen up in the uniform department. Their stylish new uniforms in traditional cream with purple and gold piping feature the club's sponsor logos.

The team plays on Sundays in a 40-over one-day competition on some of the best turf pitches in Melbourne, with games

starting at 12.30pm and finishing by 5.30pm. No regular training is required. The standard of cricket is decent, but more importantly you'll enjoy playing with a great bunch of guys.

If you're keen for a game or have any queries, please contact Captain Rick Morris (OW2004) on 0438 081 886.

Proudly sponsoring OWCA events

Foster Ramsay Finance.

Experts in mortgage broking and lending.

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



Foster Ramsay Finance



Always a good day, whichever team wins the Bowls trophy!

OWCA Bowls

Our opening event for the season was planned for 20 October when we were looking forward to a great day of bowls. We lost the trophy to West Brighton after winning it for the past three years, so we hope to reclaim it this year. We are working with The West Brighton Club to reschedule the event as they were having a new synthetic green laid. We hope to get onto the new surface sometime this year.

It is always a wonderful day of bowls and the hospitality from our hosts is always fabulous.

With MCC Swinburne, combining with Old Caulfield Grammarians to make five sides against Old Scotch, and MCC Glen Street against Old Scotch hopefully behind us, we can look forward to the following future matches:

Wednesday 8 December 2021
V Old Melburnians at MCC Swinburne

Wednesday 19 January 2022
OW and OCG V Old Scotch
at MCC Swinburne

Wednesday 16 February 2022
OW and OM V MCC
at MCC Swinburne

If you would like to join this enthusiastic group, please contact convenor Richard Sluggett (OW1972) on 0403 023 288 or rmsluggett21@gmail.com



Women of Wesley (WOW) Olympic edition

A purple and gold winning performance



A panel of four Olympians lit up the screen at the WOW online event

It was a purple and gold winning performance by four OW Olympians in August at our Women of Wesley (WOW) online event - Purple and Golden Girls. This event was well-timed with the Olympics in Tokyo and our panel certainly WOWed all who tuned in to hear their amazing journeys and experiences.

The panel included:

Katya Crema (OW2006) – Ski Cross, 2010 and 2014 Winter Olympic Games

Katya spent 10 years as a professional athlete on the Australian National Ski Team and represented Australia at the Winter Olympics in Ski Cross in Vancouver in 2010 and Sochi in 2014. A five-time National Champion in both Alpine and Ski Cross, she also skied on the Winter X-Games circuit, making her debut in 2010.

Jodie Dobson (OW1987) – Women's Coxless Four, 1992 Olympic Games

Jodie was always destined for greatness on the water of the biggest of stages, having been a part of the first-ever Wesley all-female Head of the River win in 1987. In 1992 she recognised this dream, representing her country in the final of the Women's Coxless Four at the Games in Barcelona.

Katie Mactier (OW1992) – Women's 3000m Individual Pursuit 2004, 2008 Olympic Games

Katie is regarded as one of Australia's best-ever cyclists, boasting a world record, Olympic silver medal, world title, Commonwealth Games gold, plus four individual pursuit national titles. These remarkable achievements were bookended by two national crowns on the road.

Ellie Steele (OW2001) – 400m Freestyle, 2000 Paralympic Games

As a 16-year-old Year 11 student, Ellie swam a 12-second personal best time in the 400m freestyle that automatically qualified her for the 2000 Paralympic Games. Not long after she swam another PB, this time wearing the green and gold in Sydney.

This event was moderated by Australian two-time World Triathlon Champion and Sport Australia Hall of Famer **Emma Carney (OW1989)**, who brought her own sporting experiences to the table and whose easy rapport with our athletes only added to the experience.

Tales of broken bones, ripped costumes and overcome odds captivated a purple and global audience as these truly amazing Women of Wesley gave us a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to represent your country on the grandest stage of all, as well as a refreshingly honest account of the toll it can take.

Certainly the stuff of WOW!



Dawson Hann, staff member from 1973 until 2019, vividly and entertainingly recalls more than 40 years with the ATC. His brush paints a broad and inclusive picture of the ATC since its beginnings, covering the decades when the Arts emerged as an essential part of a Wesley education.

OWs, parents, staff - both past and present - will all enjoy this remarkable book proudly presented by the OWCA and Wesley College.

To pre-order your copy for delivery early 2022 go to thanksforlettingusbemad.com.au

\$29.95 + postage

Proceeds to Wesley College Scholarships Fund

Calendar

February

SKR 2002 20 Year Reunion
Friday 11 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Rose Garden, SKR

OW Auto Event
Sunday 20 | 11.00am
Front Turf, SKR

SKR 1972 50 Year Reunion
Friday 25 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Cato Room, SKR

March

Leaders Series Keynote
Wednesday 9 | 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Cato Room, SKR

GW 2007 15yr Reunion
Friday 25 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
College Lawn Hotel, Prahran

Boat Race Dinner
Monday 28 | 6.30pm – 10.30pm
Leonda by the Yarra

April

SKR 1997 25 Year Reunion
Friday 1 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Rose Garden, SKR

SKR 1962 60 Year Reunion
Thursday 21 | 12.00pm – 3.00pm
Cato Room, SKR

Golden Lions Lunch
Friday 22 | 12.00pm – 3.00pm
Cato Room, SKR

May

APS Golf Day
Friday 6 | TBA
Victoria Golf Club

Founders' Day Dinner
Saturday 14 | 7.00pm – 12.00am
Plaza Ballroom

Geelong Lunch
Friday 20 | 12.00pm
Geelong Boathouse

Founders' Day Lunch
Friday 27 | 12.00pm – 3.00pm
Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club

Canberra Event TBA

June

Business Networking Evening
Hosted by Collegians FC
Wednesday 1 | 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Harry Trott Oval, Albert Park

GW 1997 25 Year Reunion
Friday 3 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Senior Cafe, GW

SKR 2012 10 Year Reunion
Friday 17 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Union Hotel, Windsor

GW 2012 10 Year Reunion
Friday 24 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Union Hotel, Windsor

July

Brisbane Event TBA

August

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

SKR 2017 5 Year Reunion
Friday 12 | 7.00pm – 10:30pm
Union Hotel, Windsor

GW 2017 5 Year Reunion
Friday 19 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Union Hotel, Windsor

SKR 1982 40 Year Reunion
Friday 26 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Cato Room, SKR

September

SKR 2007 15 Year Reunion
Friday 2 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
College Lawn Hotel, Prahran

Elsternwick 1947 Reunion
Sunday 4 | 12.00pm – 3.00pm
Prest Room, Elsternwick

Sydney Event TBA

October

GW 2002 20 Year Reunion
Friday 7 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Senior Café, GW

Business Networking Evening
Hosted by Collegians FC
Wednesday 12 | 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Cato Room, SKR

Silver Stars Lunch
Sunday 16 | 12.00pm – 3.00pm
Fitchett Hall, Elsternwick

SKR 1992 30 Year Reunion
Friday 21 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Cato Room, SKR

Cato Golf
Riversdale Golf Club TBA

November

SKR 2021 1 Year Reunion
Friday 4 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Union Hotel, Windsor

GW 2021 1 Year Reunion
Friday 11 | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Union Hotel, Windsor

Elsternwick Decades Reunion
Sunday 13 | 12.00pm – 3.30pm
Fitchett Hall, Elsternwick

OSCA / OWCA Golf Day
Friday 18 | pm – shotgun
Kew Golf Club

Mornington Peninsula Event TBA

As we have all experienced, COVID-19 restrictions mean plans can change frequently. Our calendar is correct at the time of printing however we encourage you to visit owca.net for booking links and the most up-to-date details.



Births

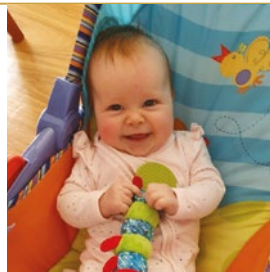
ABBOTT >

To Lucy (Stent) (OW2005) and Dom (OW2005) on 1 August 2021, a daughter, Wren Rosmarin, a niece for Gretel Stent (OW2008)



BRITTEN >

To Michael (OW1996) and Kylie on 19 April 2020, a daughter, Jemma, a sister for Ella and Katelyn, a niece for Jonathan (OW1998) and Gareth (OW2005)



CUTTS >

To Sam (OW2007) and Maidie Laidlaw on 28 April 2021, a daughter, Amelia Angela, a niece for Lucy (OW2004) and Piri (OW2001), a granddaughter for Jeremy (OW1970)

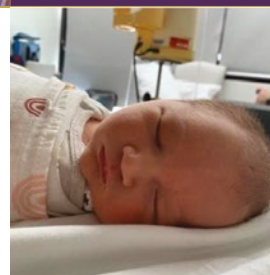
< KELLY (CHARLOTTE)

To James (OW2007) and Quinny on 13 November 2020, a daughter, Charlotte Rae, a niece for Victoria Clegg (Kelly) (OW2003)



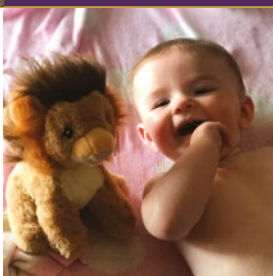
< FOSTER

To Todd (OW1996) and Eva on 27 January 2021, a daughter, Zoe, a sister for Ivy



KELLY (ALICE) >

To Christine (OW1995) on 9 November 2020, a daughter, Alice, a niece for Jane Guy (Kelly) (OW1999)



LAZER >

To Peter (OW1995) and Sarah on 14 July 2021, a son, Ethan Robert Peter Stanley



< MCCLOSKEY (THEODORE)

To Simon (OW2004) and Arna on 28 November 2020, a son, Theodore (Teddy) David McCloskey, a nephew for Daniel (OW2007), Ellen (OW2008), Rachel (OW2010) and Lydia (OW2013)



< MCCLOSKEY (CHARLES)

To Ellen (OW2008) and Daniel (OW2007) on 21 January 2021, a son, Charles Jack, a nephew for Simon (OW2004), Rachel (OW2010), Lydia (OW2013) and Conor (OW2012)

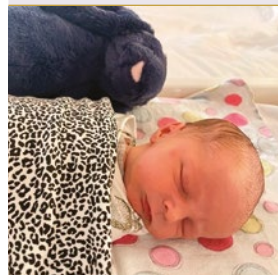
< RICCI

To Amanda (Pascoe) (OW2004) and Matthew on 19 May 2021, a daughter, Alice Jean, a sister for Edward, a niece for Georgia (OW2007)



< STARBUCK

To Alison (Round) (OW2004) and Brooke on 22 April 2021, a son, Harry William, a brother for Jack and Frankie, a grandson for Keith (OW1971), a nephew for Trevor (OW2000)



Sincere apologies to the Cutts family for the errors in the birth notice for Amelia which appeared in the last edition and which is corrected above

Lion Cubs



Yoshi Honda

Son of Jules (Poulton) (OW 2002) and Koji Honda, nephew of Adrian (OW1995) and grandson of former staff member Chris Poulton



Alice Kelly

Daughter of Christine (OW1995), a niece for Jane Guy (Kelly) (OW1999)

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.



Weddings & Engagements



^

From left to right

OKE - FRANKS

Cameron (OW2006) and Jesse on
6 March 2021

SAMUEL - KRELL

Fiona (OW2001) and Raph on
21 March 2021

GORICANE - O'REILLY

Amanda (OW2003) and Shaun on
16 January 2021

>

Right

DALKIN - LESLIE

Nic (OW2008) and Georgina



GOLDEN LIONS LUNCH

FRIDAY 22 APRIL, 2022
12.00PM

We welcome our Golden Lions (OWs who left in 1964 or earlier) back to St Kilda Road as we host Kim Bence, Head of St Kilda Road Campus and the School Captains for an informal talk about learning during a pandemic.

Venue:

Cato Room, St Kilda Road Campus

—

Enquiries:

OWCA@wesleycollege.edu.au

—

Bookings:

goldenlionslunch.rsvpify.com



Deaths

BACON

Robert George (OW1960) on 21 August 2021, husband of Marylyn (MLC Elsternwick 1960) (Dunn), brother of Alan (OW1962), father of Cameron (OW1987)

BICKFORD

Edric Graham (Graham) (OW1946) on 25 July 2021, brother of George (OW1944) (dec.)

CHEW

Victor (OW1945) on 28 July 2021

COUPER

Maxwell James (OW1955) on 2 December 2019, brother of John (OW1952) (dec.)

FALK

Valerie (MLC Elsternwick 1947) on 30 March 2021

FOX

Peter Thomas (OW1962) on 17 November 2019, brother of Bill (OW1971)

GOTSALKS

Mark Darren (OW1981) on 18 December 2016

GRIFFITHS

Laurence Geoffrey (Geoff) (OW1954) on 23 August 2021, father of Russell (OW1983)

HELLAWELL

James Duncan (OW1981) on 21 January 2021

KENNEDY

David Robert Holden (OW1946) on 19 January 2021, son of John (OW1901) (dec.), brother of John (OW1958)

LEVIN

Leonard (Len) Irving (OW1950) on 14 August 2021, son of Max (OW1921), brother of Robert (OW1961)

LEY

John Francis (OW1955) on 19 September 2021, son of Lionel (OW1927) (dec.), nephew of Norman (OW1932) (dec.), brother of Robert (OW1964)

LITTLE

John Joseph (OW1949) on 8 July 2020

PATERSON

Matthew Nicholson (former staff) on 3 July 2021

HICKS

Robert Stephen (OW1955) on 9 July 2021, brother of Ellis (OW1953) (dec.), John (OW1953), Brian (OW1967) (dec.), uncle to Clinton (OW1979) and Matthew (OW1980)

ROSS

Peter James (former staff) on 22 August 2021

SOUTHWICK

Michael David (David) (OW1940) on 25 May 2021, father of Graeme (OW1964), Judith (Elsternwick MLC 1964), grandfather of Paul (OW1992), Sally Cross (Levy) (OW1990), Andrew Levy (OW1992) and Kate Cookes (Levy) (OW2000)

WYATT

John Edwin (OW1950) on 25 August 2017



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

HELP US WRITE OUR HISTORY

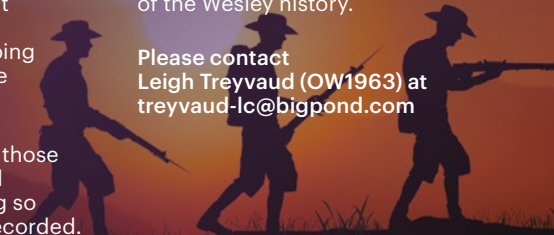
A RECORD OF OW SERVICE POST-WWII

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

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

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

Please contact
Leigh Treyvaud (OW1963) at
treyvaud-lc@bigpond.com



Obituaries



Robert George Bacon (OW1960)

5/05/1942 – 21/08/2021

Robert was born in 1942 in Warragul Hospital, the eldest of siblings **Alan (OW1962)**, **Ronald (OW1966)** and **Margaret (MLC Elsternwick 1960)**.

Rob attended Drouin State school, Drouin High School and then boarded at Wesley College from Years 9 to 12, where his favourite subject was Maths. Loving Wesley so much that he decided to do Year 12 twice, Rob's 1960 Gift Book shows the many service roles he had, including being a Sub-Prefect and serving on the Tuck Shop committee. Rob's son **Cameron (OW1987)** and grandson Curtis both followed at Wesley.

Rob's first full time job was Trainee Manager at Woolworths, paying 11 pounds a week. In 1964 he started a drapery shop in Hartwell, moving to Blackburn and later, Wantirna South, living behind the shop in Hartwell.

He met wife **Marylyn Dunn (MLC Elsternwick 1960)**, a catering manager, through the Church when he was 22 and they dated for twelve months before becoming engaged. They married in 1967, soon moving to Glen Waverley, closer to the Wantirna shop.

In 1978 he took over Bacon's Drapery in Drouin from his father and in 1979 they moved to Drouin. Cameron was born in 1969 and daughter Melinda in 1973, at home on the laundry floor, with Rob assisting! Melinda went on to attend MLC.

Marylyn died in 1989 and later he closed Bacon's Drapery which had been in the family for 81 years. Rob was a numbers man who loved maths, car number plates and small details so he joined taxation specialists H & R Block, and continued community volunteering.

Rob first travelled overseas at 51, to Indonesia. He brought back some gifts for his parents, thinking they were egg cups, but actually they were shot glasses. He didn't realise, as he never drank alcohol!

He loved trains, something he inherited from his mother, and loved to race them, particularly trains between Drouin and Berwick as the road ran parallel. He joined Melinda on the EuroStar from London to Paris and loved the coal-filled air of a ride on Puffing Billy in the Dandenong Ranges. In January 2002 he married Kath and they travelled on The Ghan together, which had been a life-long dream.

Rob, whose smile was infectious, loved his children unconditionally. He was grandfather to Cameron's son Curtis and Melinda's son Daniel and did much for the people in his life. He was an achiever on many levels and lived a life of service, including the Lions Club Wantirna, East Burwood Uniting Church, Drouin Chamber of Commerce, Drouin and Warragul Parish and Presbytery Treasurer for Uniting Church. He helped launch the Drouin Ficifolia Festival and the Lyrebird Nursing Home committee, first as a member, then as President.

In true Wesley style he loved to sing, being in school and church choirs. Singing or humming a hymn while at home, Rob sang while polishing the school shoes on Sunday nights and one of his last possessions was his treasured Wesley hymn book.

Contributed by Melinda Bacon





Victor Chew (OW1945)

10/04/1928 – 29/07/2021

Victor Chew was one of Singapore's pre-eminent architects. He was pioneering in the development of post-colonial architecture and he contributed significantly to the development of Singapore's cityscape. He was 93 years old.

Victor was enrolled into Wesley College in 1942. He and his siblings were refugees fleeing from the Japanese and they managed to board one of the last ships that left before Singapore fell. When the St Kilda Road Campus was taken over by the military, they attended Wesley at Scotch.

Victor began in the Second Form under RR Belshaw. By 1943, at the September Cadet Corp camp at the military base in Watsonia, he had won the shooting competition on the miniature range. In his final year he sat his Leaving Certificate alongside OWs such as historian **Geoffrey Blainey (OW1947)**.

After the war, he returned to Singapore and then went to Hong Kong to study engineering; however, realising it wasn't for him, he eventually went on to study architecture at Cambridge University in England, returning to Singapore in 1955. He started his own practice CAV Chew & Partners in 1963 before founding Kumpulan Akitek, which, translated from Malay, is 'Group Architects'.

He was ahead of his time in many ways, not least in his sensitivity to the environment. In one of his early residential housing projects, he designed homes to follow the contours of the hillside rather than cutting and reshaping the hillside to follow the homes.

In the rush of urban development, many buildings of architectural significance were demolished. The need to conserve Singapore's architectural heritage then began to be recognised, and of these attempts, Victor was critical. In an interview with the *Straits Times* newspaper in 2007, he said, 'Right now we seem to be interested in only gazetting buildings built before independence. But that's not us.'

Perhaps his words were heard. Recently, one of his works, the former Subordinate Courts (now the State Courts) building completed in 1975 and regarded as a truly unique masterpiece of form and function, has been gazetted by the Government as a building of architectural importance and will be conserved for posterity.

In a letter of condolence from the Minister of National Development to his family, the Minister wrote that Victor 'contributed significantly to our nation-

building years. [He] cared deeply about the development of the next generation of architects and the practice through his engagements with the Board of Architects, Singapore Polytechnic and the School of Architecture at the University of Singapore.'

He was conferred the Public Service Star (BBM) in 1976 and appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1979 for his contributions to the community.

His granddaughter recently relayed that as a little girl she stood with Victor in the wings at a large family Christmas gathering, watching silently on as so many relatives worked out the numerous permutations as to who was going to sit where. Victor, whose seat of course was fixed, and observing the kerfuffle turned and said, 'Many problems have many solutions, but you should always look for the most elegant one.' That was certainly how he approached design and architecture.

Victor held fond memories of Wesley College. He kept in touch with developments at the school and was proud to be an Old Wesley Collegian. *Sapere Aude*.

Contributed by Kei-Jin Chew, Singapore



Completed in 1975 and now known as the State Courts, the Subordinate Courts Singapore was designed by the celebrated architect, Victor Chew (OW1945). Image courtesy of photographer Darren Soh



David Robert Holden Kennedy (OW1946)

9/04/1929 – 19/01/2021

David, a highly respected and pioneering surgeon, former President of the Melbourne Club, who served in the naval reserve as a surgeon-lieutenant from 1954-1962, died at home at the age of 91, after a lifetime of service and sharing his knowledge and skills with others. Countless surgeons are undoubtedly greater for having trained under him.

David began at Wesley in 1938 in The Hutch, in Miss Krome's First A, with classmates like **Gordon Hattam (OW1947)(dec.)** and **Bill Crothers (OW1947)(dec.)**. David was the son of Dr **John Kennedy (OW1901)(dec.)** and brother of **John (OW1958)** and attended Wesley during WWII which meant he was part of the Wesley at Scotch brigade, when St Kilda Road was taken over by military operations in Melbourne.

By 1943 he was in Corrigan House in The Twenty under WD Kennedy, soon showing a talent for gymnastics, winning an Under 14 Special Prize, and in 1944 rowing third seat in the Third Junior Crew on the Barwon and gaining his intermediate certificate. Clearly a talented rower, David then rowed in the First Crews of 1945, when he received Colours for Rowing, and in 1946.

He served on both the rowing sub-committee and Library staff in his final year. He was in Mr Martindale's legendary Class of 1946, in the company of Blainey, Fone, Hibbins G., Hulme, McGlashan and Oldfield to name a few.

Following in his father's footsteps, David went on to the University of Melbourne to study medicine, first at the Mildura campus then Trinity College. His residency was at The Alfred before moving to London to train further, becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and specialising in Urology, holding senior positions at teaching hospitals. As the field of transurethral surgery developed, David was drawn to progressive hospitals in California.

In 1964 David became the first specialist urologist at The Alfred and later led the department, also heading units at the Royal Women's and Footscray. He was Dean of The Alfred's Clinical School from 1984 – 1987 and served on both the Victorian and National Training and Education boards. He was a pioneer in many areas. His dedication and care of patients was unsurpassed, he was born to teach and had great skill in emergency surgery. When the West Gate Bridge collapsed, David was in theatre at Footscray and operated and took care of the injured.

David was married to his wife Trudy Lowith while in the US. They had both worked in the UK together and Trudy completed her training as a psychiatrist at UCLA. They had many shared interests, including a love of cars and motor racing and were a devoted couple until her death in 2011. David also enjoyed sailing, fly fishing, golf and surfing. Along with his Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, he was also a Fellow here in Australia, member of the AMA, the British Association of Urological Surgery and the Urological Society of Australia.

David is survived by his three daughters, Sarah, Helen and Vanessa, and eight grandchildren.

Contributed by **Ian Thomas (OW1982)**

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Left

Portrait by Brian Dunlop commissioned by David's colleagues at The Alfred Hospital, presented upon retirement





Matthew Nicholson Paterson (Former staff)

16/07/1946 – 3/07/2021

Matt arrived to teach at St Kilda Road in 1999 and was appointed as Head Athletics Coach. He had trained with World and Olympic Champions and was fresh from an appointment as National Distance Coach in Norway being a great runner himself. Matt was someone who inspired you to always find more in training and racing and was generous. His time, knowledge and commitment to Wesley athletes was unmatched, his number one piece of advice being, 'Nothing replaces sheer hard work.' Matt's other lesson was on the art of suffering, and never admitting or bowing to defeat.

Matt set his standards so high; apathy frustrated him to the core. Discipline in training was a non-negotiable requirement and lateness was not tolerated. He showed athletes how to train hard, how to suffer through the toughest training sessions and how to respect advice – even when it was brutally honest. While tough, he was also able to laugh and joke in sessions. He was proudly Scottish and his accent made people smile.

Matt made an impact on so many. He was a dedicated maths and science teacher and for many students he brought these two subjects alive. His classes were a memorable experience due to his academic knowledge and ability to relate this to real life events. His storytelling skills and humour would take students on a journey of varied experiences that left them understanding more about the world, engaged in the subject and seeking greater knowledge, unknowingly developing a love of learning.

Many past students have made mention of his impact on them during their formative years and its lasting legacy in their lives. The respect he showed them as individuals, and as a group, instilled self-belief and excellence, an ability to listen to other voices, how to be part of a wider community, and all with a healthy dose of humility and humour.

While Matt was a wonderful coach, he was also a wonderful husband too, and most happy when with his wife Sharon Erny (also a former staff member). Matt was also a loving father to Andrew, Lorraine, Fiona and Anders.

Of all the opportunities my Wesley College education gave me, the single person who had the greatest influence on my career and life was Matt Paterson... a lifelong friend, a teacher, a leader. Someone who was always there if you kept in contact, but someone who was never in awe of anyone. Matt was your level of excellence, your voice of honesty. Matt will be replaced by no one. Matt, it was my privilege to have met you, grown old with your friendship to have written this obituary. I am indebted to you forever and I will continue your legacy until the day, I too, take my last run.

Contributed by **Emma Carney (OW1989)**, Australian two-time World Triathlon Champion and member of the Sport Australia Hall of Fame. Emma spoke at Matt's funeral.



Peter James Ross (Former staff)

21/11/1947 – 22/08/2021

Peter was the eldest of four children to Jim and June Ross and began life in Ivanhoe. A boy soprano heavily influenced by his mother's musical ability, he attended Ivanhoe Grammar before the family moved to a sheep farm near Albury. Peter did not take up piano formally until age 16, studying with pianist Elaine Buchhorn. He was naturally talented but worked twice as hard, always aware he had come to the keyboard late. He attended Albury Grammar and three years as a trainee wool classer and some accounting work was not to rob the arts community of his talent. Eventually he made it to the Melbourne Conservatorium, where he was President of the Music Students Society, before attending Columbia University in New York to attain his Teaching degree. Peter began teaching at Prahran High School, where his musical *This Land of Australia* was first performed, then on to University High as Acting Head of Music before arriving at Melbourne High School as Director of Music.

Peter began at Wesley in 1980 as Director of Music. A tall, inspiring and modern leader, Peter arrived at a time when Wesley was embracing a new era of artistic endeavour that still shapes our culture today. Principal David Prest had a vision to turbo charge the arts and so Peter joined a remarkable team at just the right time.

Peter followed the 'long and distinguished career of Tom Brown', and did so with respect and enthusiasm. Music moved from the houses on High Street to the new Music School which floated above the Tuckshop, bridging old and new.

His ability to arrange and understand the texture of music historically, orchestrally and chorally elevated him, and his ability to organise those around him whilst exuding a cheeky smile was legendary. He was a Founder of the Wesley College Society for the Arts and became its Director. Arts in the Round, taking the Big Band to Canada, a more impressive musical presence at Speech Nights, contemporary and engaging works for students and the introduction of immersive keyboard laboratories followed. With Peter, projects were infinitely achievable. Always intelligent, always kind and very civilised, Peter saw Wesley as a school which sought new and innovative ways to present and develop its culture, blessed by brilliant staff.

In his address at the 30th anniversary of the Society for the Arts he said, *'The school community came to realise the depth of artistic expression that was freely available to it through existing resources and students and parents who were talented and committed to making the Arts a major element of their lives – an element they were keen to share.'*

After a period as the Deputy Director of the Ministry for the Arts, Peter was appointed Director of Music at PLC, a position he enjoyed until retirement in 2007, a period of twenty years.

Soon after diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, he continued to enjoy travel, musical events, concerts and particularly organ recitals and he remained connected to the church. Peter told me that music took him to another plane and allowed him to explore his deepest thoughts, where he could explore the meaning of life. His hope was that through teaching, sharing and playing music that his students could benefit from having music in their lives, and thousands have. Peter was an inspiration. Before the pandemic he wrote to me, 'I remember wishing there were more like you - we needed kindred souls who were fearless and prepared to challenge the status quo. If I have given you the means whereby you too can soar above the inadequacies of your everyday existence - then I can die a happy man.'

Contributed by Ian Thomas (OW1982)



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