

Lion

150th ISSUE
December 2023

THE WESLEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Historic 'Triple Double'

Dual premierships for
Tennis, Cross Country
and Athletics

Beyond the classroom
Discovering doorways
to growth

Behind the prize
The story of a street,
a winery and two
leather-bound books

Meet Wesmigo
An AI-powered boost
to the PYPX



A True Education



WESLEY COLLEGE

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA - SINCE 1866

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Front cover image:

Wesley achieved a historic 'Triple Double' in 2023, with Premiership wins by both the Boys' and Girls' Tennis, Cross Country and Athletics teams.

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ISSN: 2209-3699 / Print Post: 100018730

Editorial

'On the historic 11th January 1866, when Wesley College opened its doors for the first time, the adventurous dream of our founders became a reality. From a small beginning there arose a great school that is now firmly established in the life of the community...'

So begins the first article on page one of the very first issue of *Lion* magazine, written by then Headmaster Dr Thomas Coates 61 years ago.

With this month's issue, we're celebrating reaching our 150th.

That first issue - all four pages of it - makes for some fascinating reading. The Wesley College represented in that early 1960's *Lion* was still under the enduring influence of the Adamson tradition: remarkably, the school still had direct links back to LA Adamson's Wesley of the early 20th century.

The 'Kenno Recalls' article on the last page of Issue #1 was written by the recently retired William Kennedy, who joined the staff in 1913: '*L.A Adamson was very human and understanding. Late one afternoon early in the first World War, I was speaking to him in his study when...*' Such changes in our school since then!

And yet, such continuity. Other articles in that first edition seem very similar to those found in our contemporary *Lion*. How about: 'New Science Wing Opened' or 'Sport Plays Vital Role'? This second one focused on some recent premiership victories: '*Chronicle*, over the past five years, paints a rather satisfactory success story for sport at Wesley - that is to those who are premiership conscious.'

We've had our own 'rather satisfactory success story for sport at Wesley' lately as well. In our leading feature on page four, we celebrate the extraordinary achievement of three dual premiership victories for 2023 - both our Girls' and Boys' teams have taken out the cup for Tennis, for Cross Country and for Athletics. And we also won the premiership for Boys' Basketball.

No 'New Wing' was opened this year specifically, but there's been plenty of those stories from across our campuses in recent years, documenting the adventurous reality of our founders' 'adventurous dream'.

Dr Coates finishes his 'Welcome to the *Lion*' message with some festive wishes. All these years later in December 2023, I shall use his words to do the same:

'As these lines are written, the Christmas season is almost upon us. In the name of the School, I should like to extend to all readers the warmest of good wishes.'

Paul Munn, *Lion* Editor and Features Writer

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



Principal's lines



Principal Nick Evans (OW1985)

There comes a moment in history when uncomfortable truths must be confronted. They must be spoken of and acknowledged. Reparations must be made. Apologies must be sincerely offered. Germany did this after the Second World War. Japan eventually followed suit. Kevin Rudd did so on behalf of the Australian Government to the stolen generation.

I do so on behalf of Wesley College in this edition of *Lion* to the survivors of historical sexual abuse at Wesley College.

There have been Wesley College staff in the past who abused their position of trust. Who preyed on the young people in their care. Who did incalculable damage to lives. These people committed crimes. Their victims were Wesley College students who should have been safe at school. Tragically, they were not. Whilst these incidents happened decades ago, time has not lessened the damage done.

For this, I apologise most sincerely and without reservation on behalf of the College. I apologise to those who suffered. I apologise to their parents and families, as many of them will feel the pain of these crimes.

The College is trying to do right by the survivors of historical sexual abuse. It has been my privilege in my time as Principal to sit with any survivor who wishes and to apologise on behalf of the College. I use the word privilege quite deliberately, as I hope I have brought a modicum of comfort to anyone so afflicted and who is prepared to meet me, although such comfort can only be small in comparison to the lasting damage done. We are also organising a permanent remembrance of survivors' suffering, in a form to be agreed with survivors, at the St Kilda Road Campus which will provide an acknowledgement to our OW community of the past and a commitment to future generations. There is a page in this edition of *Lion* which repeats the apology above and which details some of the support the College can give to any survivor who needs it.

Such an approach to the past is, of course, not enough. We have committed to doing everything in our power to protect current and future generations of children from harm. We have strengthened College policies and procedures which support child safety, community and individual health and wellbeing and which apply to all members of the College community.

The College has also increased compulsory training and compliance for staff and contractors with modules relating to Victorian Child Safe Standards including all forms of abuse, Anti-discrimination and Equal Opportunity, and College practices and procedures for child safety. All students at the College are given age-appropriate training and support in recognising behaviour that breaches Child Safe standards and a clear understanding about who, how and where to report such behaviour.

I feel the weight of this history deeply, not just because it is my job to do so. I was a student at the College at a time when some of these crimes were being committed. It is a stain on Wesley's history, but one which must be confronted honestly and with truth.

That is the very best way for it never to happen again.

Nick Evans (OW1985)



Wesley Sport 2023: The Year of the 'Triple Double'



Winners are grinners! Our athletes dominated the APS Combined Sports competition at Lakeside Stadium in October

Has Wesley sport ever been any stronger than it is right now? This year we rewrote APS record books in a remarkable series of dual Premiership victories, with both our boys' and girls' teams taking out the Premiership Cups in Athletics, in Cross Country, and in Tennis. **Paul Munn** reports.



Three dual Premiership Cups. It's a stunning trifecta, and all the more remarkable given how hotly contested the Premiership Cups are across the APS fraternity each and every season.

For our ascendant Athletics teams, the signs were there last year. The boys broke a 75-year drought by taking out the 2022 Premiership trophy, and our third-placed girls were again finding the form that had secured them a seven-season winning streak from 2012 to 2018.

Those signs certainly helped charge the Lakeside Stadium atmosphere for Team Wesley on that mid-October Premiership Saturday. 'The possibility for success challenged all our athletes to push themselves in every event, producing a lot of amazing efforts throughout the day,' says Athletics Captain, Sophia. 'The moments prior to the announcement of the winners were filled with excitement and nerves, knowing that we had given it our all. When the boys' win was announced, it was met with pure joy and excitement from our team and supporters.'

The emotion was only amplified after the announcement the girls had won too. 'Seeing the triumphant and ecstatic reactions of our coaching staff and athletes reaffirmed the gravity of what we had achieved,' she says. 'Witnessing our head coach Tim hold both trophies with a massive smile on his face is something I think every one of us will remember forever.'

The boys broke a 75-year drought by taking out the 2022 Premiership trophy

We were always going to be in the running for the cup in Cross Country this year. Wesley's dominance in APS competition is indisputable, with 11 Premiership wins in a row now for the girls, and seven in a row for our boys.



Wesley Cross Country secured its eleventh Girls' Premiership and seventh Boys' Premiership in 2023



Our triumphant Boys' and Girls' Firsts 2023 Premiership Tennis teams



Features



Khushi (Year 10)



Helena (Year 12)



Oliver (Year 12)



Head Coach, Tim O'Shaughnessy, proudly carries the 2023 Athletics Premiership Cups



Evan (Year 9)



Louisa (Year 12)

'I'm equally ecstatic and relieved to have won our 11th premiership in a row,' says Girls Cross Country Captain, Louisa. 'My teammates have shown tremendous commitment, effort and sportsmanship this season. Maintaining our premiership streak despite the growing competition was not an easy task; however, we united as a team and it helped us rise to the challenge.'

Boys' Co-Captain, Wolfgang says that winning this premiership in his final year feels particularly special. The winning feeling was something he used to motivate the youngest and eldest members of his team. 'The cup was the big goal for the season,' Wolfgang said. 'Both myself and my Co-Captain, Jhye, were injured during the biggest round against Caulfield Grammar, but our young runners really stepped up and secured the trophy this season. It shows

the incredible depth of our team. Hopefully that gives them the fuel to continue to win in the future too.'

'I'm equally ecstatic and relieved to have won our 11th premiership in a row'

The quiet force behind it all is Wesley's Head of Athletics and Cross Country, Tim O'Shaughnessy. He's known for being an outstanding listener, and his sense of humour puts many at ease in those nerve-wracking few minutes before a big race. Both Cross Country and Athletics have thrived under the guidance of Tim and his dedicated coaches.

'I have immense pride and respect for the hard work and dedication of both the Girls' and Boys' Cross Country teams,'

Tim said. 'This win shows the depth and strength of our Cross Country runners and their high levels of commitment.'

Of the triumph in Athletics, he said, 'I was so immensely proud of our boys' team last year, but for both teams to win the premiership this year, it really is an incredible achievement and one for the record books!'

When Tim first took the helm in 2009, Wesley had a strong history as a leader in Girls' Cross Country, having secured the 1997 - 1999 Premierships and then the 2001 - 2004 Premierships, but they had not won a Premiership in five years. By 2012, he'd turned it around for the girls, and the boys would follow soon enough.

Now to double number three. Just like last season, Wesley Tennis left nothing on the court this year, breaking both College and APS Sport record books with

back-to-back premierships wins for both our girls' and boys' teams. We've achieved remarkable success over the past five years, with the girls' team winning four premierships - the last three in a row, and the boys' team taking home two premierships in two years.

Head of Wesley Tennis, Lauren Breadmore (OW2001), is in awe of their performance. 'We are incredibly proud of our athletes and the passion, dedication and maturity they have brought onto the court each week' she said. 'The success Wesley Tennis has achieved is a result of students, coaches and parents working collaboratively as a team to achieve our goals.'

The players themselves were elated with the wins. 'Last year was the first time that Wesley Tennis has achieved a dual premiership, with both the boys' and girls' tennis teams winning at the same time,' said Boys' Firsts Captain, Oliver. 'We had never gone back-to-back, dual either, so this was a real motivator for us.'

Winning the premiership three times in a row 'feels incredible' for Girls' Firsts Captain, Madeleine. 'This team feels like one big family and being able to share this experience with such motivated and determined girls is a dream come true,' she said. 'The last match was really emotional, not just for those of us in Year 12, which shows the extent of the relationships that have been built.'

Oliver agrees: 'The culture on the team was great. Having fun with players from all year levels at training and on match days helped to keep morale high, but being able to flip the switch and be fully focused during training and execute on game days was crucial to our success this season.'

Our stunning sporting success this year shows what can happen when our young athletes' devotion to the cause is matched by the unwavering support of our parent group and, of course, that other vital group in the collaborative mix - our coaches. Madeleine probably speaks for all of her peers when she says, 'I've never met a more dedicated group of people. The coaches are so invested in our development as both players and individuals. I want to thank them for seeing my potential and pushing me to achieve my very best.'

Historic win for Boys' Firsts Basketball



2023 Boys' Firsts Basketball Premiership team with Coach, Peter Godfrey

2023 was also historic for the Boys' Firsts Basketball Team, who won the APS premiership for the first time since 2010. This is only the fourth time since basketball was introduced by the APS in 1991 that the Wesley Boys' Firsts have won the title.

Wesley beat top-of-table Haileybury College 56-53 in the final match of the winter sport season to finish equal premiers. Wesley came into the game in second place on the APS ladder against Haileybury who were undefeated all season and had beaten our boys in their previous encounter.

The match was hotly contested, with the lead changing multiple times throughout the game. With just one minute to go, the scores were level. But Wesley held their nerve, sinking a free-throw with just three seconds left on the clock to upset the favourites by three points.

Team Captain, Noah, said 'Winning the premiership was the accumulation of an entire season of hard work. After the match, I told the team how proud I was of all of them and thanked them for their hard work. I emphasised that our victory wasn't just about skill or talent, but about the heart and character we showed on the court. There were so many moments in the final where winning seemed to be slipping out of reach. Basketball isn't about what has happened, it's about what happens next and no matter the score, we trusted in each other and never backed down, fighting until the end.'



The 2023 Boys' Basketball Premiership trophy

Former Olympian and current Head Coach of the Wesley Basketball program, Natalie Porter (OW1998) said, 'It was a courageous effort by our boys. They dug deep in the last minutes of the game and stayed united until the end to get the win. Their performance, effort and team-spirit were nothing short of outstanding!'

Coach Peter Godfrey, in just his second season with Wesley Basketball, said 'It was a privilege to coach this team. Belief is huge going into a game like that, both in the preparation phase and during the game as you ride the bumps. True to the ROAR values, we knew we had to seize the opportunity and dare to succeed. The players executed the plan brilliantly on the day and I'm so happy for them. It's an achievement that will stay with them for a very long time.'



Beyond the classroom

Discovering doorways to growth

Imagine if you could go back in time to your school days... What would you do again? What would you definitely not do again? What were the missed opportunities – those things you wished you'd done, but in those sliding door moments, chose not to?

Watching the tapestry of action at Wesley College in 2023, one got the feeling that our current students weren't about to let those opportunities slide by. For them, it wasn't so much a question of sliding doors but rather, opening them – as many as possible – to experience what was inside. Looking beyond the classroom, whether they chose to be playing, performing, serving, swimming, film making, fundraising, leading, publishing... the sense of growing-by-doing was very strong.

Here a selection of our students, from Year 4 through to Year 12, share with us the doors they chose to open for themselves this year. Through them, we take a moment to celebrate the many ways our students grow at our big, restless school.



Luca Year 12

'Being School Captain at the St Kilda Road Campus has been a really rewarding experience. There are a lot of diverse types of people and personalities here; being a leader at Wesley means having a lot of empathy towards different types of people so that you're able to make decisions that are best for everyone. An initiative we implemented was allowing Wesley for the first time to have representation at the 'Long Walk to the G' for reconciliation, which was really special. Throughout the year at school, we've also implemented some initiatives to raise money for charities such as Fight MND, Ovarian Cancer Australia, Sacred Heart and Canteen. I'm really interested in current affairs and that's one of the reasons why I chose the International Baccalaureate Diploma program for my Year 11 and 12. What I really like about the program is that the syllabus is globally based and it's something that's undertaken by students all across the world, not just in Victoria.'



Noah Year 12

'Describing my experience at Wesley, I'd probably say it's comprehensive - there's not a lot that I haven't tried. I was in the Boys' Firsts Premiership Basketball team this year, winning for the first time in 13 years! I've made my own water bottle...I've 3D printed my own water bottle that I use every day... there's not a lot that was left out of my education. I was School Captain this year. I think the qualities that make a good leader are integrity, a good character and being able to lead by example. A good leader should also be empathetic. They should be able to listen and most importantly, actually understand what people are trying to say as well. And I think a good leader should be passionate, so passionate that it's unquestionable, and even a little bit infectious. Besides general leadership skills, I've learned a lot about public speaking. I still remember the first time I was at the lectern and tested my voice on the microphone – I was kind of quivering and shaking and my voice was all over the place! I look at myself now and I think I've come quite a long way!'



Gabby

Year 11

'I play violin and I'm in three orchestral ensembles: Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestra and a Chamber Group – a quartet with two violins, a viola and a cello. And I sing in three of the choirs! Pop Choir, the big choir that lots of people do, Senior Choir, the top vocal ensemble, and Kawhi, the seven-person small group. It's really fun to perform and rehearse with a bunch of people who love music as much as you do. I've been Captain of the Table Tennis Firsts team for two years now. I was also Vice-Captain before that and have been on the team since Year 8. It's a really positive culture and everyone just loves playing together. The biggest challenge captaining the Firsts was encouraging everyone, and making sure everyone felt comfortable putting themselves forward, showing that anyone could do it and it didn't matter who you were. I got involved in Wesmob this year, and I'm Ceremonies and Socials Prefect for next year so I'll be organising all the social events and helping to organise the Year 12 Formal.'



Elliot

Year 10

'Wesley is a community. It's not just about teaching, it's also about connecting with everyone. I'm on the Campus Advisory Committee, which means I'm a voice for the people of my year level. The committee discusses ways to improve the school; this could include making sure that the uniform policy is reasonable or trying to connect the Middle School with the Senior School, which mainly happens through sport and music. I'm also on the eSafety Youth Council, a division of the government's eSafety Commission. It's really exciting. We came up with a bunch of ideas as to how the online space can be improved. And we thought of one main priority, making a video to call for Big Tech to impose consequences on the people who break the rules or who have affected, harmed or abused anyone online. I've played a few instruments over my time. I started with piano, then I moved on to drums, and then guitar and I'm in a few bands for guitar. I'm in the Big Bands jazz program, a band with a woodwind, brass and rhythm section, and I'm also in the guitar ensemble - there's so many opportunities if you want to involve yourself with music.'



Amy

Year 12

'I absolutely adore being at Wesley. I used to live in Singapore and at my old school, we really didn't have very many extracurricular activities. Coming to Wesley in Year 9, it was all a bit overwhelming at first, but then I just realised, 'Oh, I really do need to take advantage of all these opportunities... it's like once in a lifetime!' I started doing theatre in Year 10, just in the chorus, and then in Year 11, I finally got the courage to audition for something – I was Ophelia in *Hamlet* and also Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*. And then this year, I was Abigail in *The Crucible*, and also Fantine in *Les Misérables*! After school, I'm planning to audition for some Performing Arts Colleges. But also, I might do science first and then performing arts, because I do want a back-up plan. But if I do science, I'm going to do amateur theatre and I'm going to keep up my dancing and singing, because I can't live without performing.'

Scan the QR code to see the extended video interviews.





Jennifer Year 12

'I'm originally from the northeast of Victoria and started boarding at Glen Waverley in Year 11. My boarding experience at Wesley has been amazing. We have about three or four activities every weekend as well as throughout the week, and we have access to the gym and the pool on campus. I had a go at playing volleyball last year, which I'd never played before, but it was great. I've still been able to play soccer, which is a huge passion of mine. Winning the championship last year was pretty phenomenal. And being Captain of the Firsts, leading the younger girls, has been awesome as well. It was very unexpected. At the start, I felt like I wasn't qualified for it, only being at Wesley for a year. But I think that leadership isn't about how long you've been involved in something, but what you can bring to it. I truly believe that anyone can be a leader; it's about making the most of what you've got. I have loved being the Wesmob Prefect at Wesley, ensuring that the Indigenous voice is heard on campus.'



Thevin Year 8

'What I love about Wesley is the teachers and students here. They're very nice and friendly and the overall environment here makes me always happy to come to school every day. It's really interesting to learn about new things. Very positive feedback from teachers helps us improve, which is something that happens a lot here. I've been House Leader and Publications and Promotions Leader in Years 7 and 8. For House, I assisted the Year 9 captains in setting up athletics and House arts. For Publications, we write articles on things that happen around the school, working on a magazine together to inform the whole school about what's going on. I won a ROAR Sport award for the Year 8C footy team for showing respect and leadership to my coaches and teammates. I was also involved in *Seussical*, a musical about Dr. Seuss's characters. Me and my mates just wanted to give it a try, just to see what the musicals here at Wesley were like. We had a great time, and the staff that were working with us made it really fun.'



Zara Junior School

'I'm the Year 4 Social Justice Leader. I applied for the role because I wanted to make a difference. One morning, I went to the supermarket with my Mum and saw that Woolworths was fundraising for 'Oz Harvest' and if you donated \$0.50, you would feed someone in need of a meal. On our way home, I realised if I donated \$10, I could feed 20 people and if I donated \$50, I'd feed 100 people, so I had an idea to get the whole school together and try to raise \$500 which would feed 1000 people. At the end of year celebration, I stood up with Ms DeBono and made an announcement to everyone to get involved and to donate. And at the Twilight Picnic, me and one of my friends walked around and collected donations. We ended up raising more and fed 2,200 people! Social justice is important to me because it makes a difference in people's lives. I'd definitely recommend other students to be social justice leaders because making a big impact makes you feel good and also makes others feel good.'



Angus

Year 6

'I came to Wesley last year at the start of Year 5. It was great from the start. What I love about Wesley are the opportunities and the encouragement from the teachers and the coaching, and basically everything about it. I knew there was lots of sport on offer at Wesley, like athletics, footy and swimming. Everyone knows Wesley's got a good reputation for footy; it's a good school to be at if you want to play. I got nominated last year to do regional swimming and regional athletics and then State athletics. This year, I got put forward to try out for the Under 12 Victorian team for footy, and I just made it to State for long jump in athletics. I made the AFL Next Gen Academy, which is a training camp for the Under 13 Boys. It goes for eight weeks next year, and then 12 weeks, and then more. It's basically like a pathway from where I am now to AFL, and that's the end goal, really. My favourite thing about playing footy is the teamwork. When you win, you get to celebrate with your team and I like team sports more than anything else.'



Paloma

Year 5

'When I first came to the Elsternwick Campus, you could feel the energy. We are really strong with sport, music and theatre. I love it. I joined the swimming program in Term 1, which is really cool, and I'm involved in the Monday morning choir. This year, for the production, we did *The Wizard of Oz*, and performed at the National Theatre. The teachers put so much effort into the script and polishing the show - it was really special. Being a Munchkin was also really fun. Putting on the clothes and the makeup was really exciting.'



Tom

Year 5

'From my first day at Elsternwick, everyone was inviting me to come over and play. It's such a nice feeling to know that lots of people care about you. I'm involved in Pride Group, which meets every Tuesday at lunchtime. Everyone is included and everyone knows anyone's welcome here. You can be however you want to be, and nobody will judge you. We did some rainbow nail painting for 'Wear It Purple Day' and dipped our finger in paint and put it on this line - a rainbow line with everyone's fingerprints. That was really cool. It's just good to be inclusive. Everyone can say anything and nobody will laugh.'



Features



Karla (Year 6) uses Wesmigo to help with her PYPX project

Let's go Wesmigo...

Our Year 6 students got an AI-powered boost to the development phase of their PYPX project this semester with the introduction of Wesmigo, Wesley's new AI chatbot.

The Primary Years Program Exhibition (PYPX), an annual rite of passage for our Year 6 students, involves them working in small teams on their own passion project, developing their own field of inquiry and ultimately, presenting their tangible response to a real-world issue. Delving deeply into a specific subject of interest is central to the journey, but often the first steps are the hardest - finding your way through a tangled forest of ideas to arrive at that topic focus.

Enter Wesmigo, a friendly AI-powered hand to help guide students down the right path. If it sounds a bit like ChatGPT, that's because it actually is ChatGPT, but mediated through our own WiSE Online Education Management System to suit our learning aims – essentially, ChatGPT with guardrails, focused on a specific purpose.

Developed by our Digital Learning and Practice team, Wesmigo won't write an inquiry question for students, but rather, through a series of prompting questions, encourages deeper thought in their areas of interest by opening up more meaningful lines of inquiry.

When a student visits the Wesmigo page in WiSE, they are greeted with, 'Hi, I'm Wesmigo, your friendly AI powered assistant for your PYPX. Think about your passions and interests. What are some things that you enjoy or are interested in?' This greeting and provocation starts the conversation in a direction that benefits the task.

Year 6 teacher Hadyn Thompson reflects that 'having the prompts to guide students in their inquiry allowed them to develop deeper levels of thinking. By not giving students complete answers, Wesmigo allowed them to think about what was important in the response given and do further research where required.'

It also develops their skills as critical thinkers. 'It helps us reflect on what's true or not,' says student Ellie.

'It shows that you shouldn't always trust what it tells us,' adds classmate Willem. Hudson agrees: 'You have to have your own opinions.'

It's music to the ears of Year 6 teacher Russell Walsh who sees Wesmigo as a useful resource to support the students thinking, not dictate it. He's keen for them to take an assertive role in their PYPX journey: 'We've got good brains, and we've got a group of four people, and we can have a discussion first, and then we can see if Wesmigo thinks it's a good decision.'

According to Sarah Ho, PYP Coordinator at St Kilda Road Campus, one of the many benefits of being able to connect WiSE to ChatGPT in this way is that we have been able to nurture this sense of agency, building 'a guide that describes how to be a Detective, Judge, Explorer and Superhero, right beside the chat function, that supports students in understanding the strengths and limitations of AI and using it effectively.'

Get this right, and our students grow as active learners, their academic integrity intact. Central to the use of AI at Wesley is reinforcing the concept of the 'human in the loop'. By hosting Wesmigo on the WiSE platform, we can monitor student use, keep our students safe and progressively develop the tool using

Here's how those four roles are described for our students:

Be a Detective:

AI makes mistakes! Be vigilant and always on the lookout for clues that it might be wrong. Always cross examine.

Be a Judge:

Judge what is valuable and what is not. When it doesn't have the information, AI will default to making it up. So, you need to choose what is helpful to your thinking and recognise what is not helpful.

Be an Explorer:

Explore new knowledge and new ways of thinking... Explore these new connections with the AI, but then go beyond AI to confirm that you have indeed discovered something new and valuable.

Be a Superhero:

Keep your identity a secret! Be a noble protector who always acts with honesty, fairness, and justice. Use AI to help you learn – not to write things for you. Keep all of your files and email yourself your AI chats to protect your academic integrity.

real-time data. Students are not required to register or reveal any personal information. All conversations with Wesmigo are logged and can be reviewed by our Digital Learning and Practice team at any time.

Along with Khan Academy and Harvard University, Wesley College is one of very few educational institutions thus far to have developed a custom AI tutor. For us, like the pocket calculator, the laptop and Google before it, an AI chatbot like Wesmigo is just the latest tool to enter the evolving educational landscape.

And as with all useful tools, the more we use it, the better we get. Having started with PYPX, Wesmigo is currently being used in a similar way to help the big kids at the other end of the school find their way through their own forest of ideas as they develop their research question for their Extended Essay in the IB Diploma Program.

'Wesley recognises that AI is the next wave of technology and digital evolution,' says Wesley's Director of Learning, Cameron Paterson. 'Students will need to develop the literacy to be users, and also create with AI in the future. We've only just begun to explore what we can do with AI at Wesley.'

More connections to the Montevideo Maru

The article in the June edition of *Lion* about the Montevideo Maru elicited a response from Rev. Ian Higgins, chaplain at the Glen Waverley Campus from 1988 to 2001.

Like Glen McArthur, Ian was born in pre-war Rabaul in 1938. His father, Lindsay, was part of the Territory Administration, as was his mother, Cilla, with Rabaul the centre of administration of the Trust Territory at this time.

Cilla took Ian to Australia to visit her sick mother but was not allowed to return to Rabaul in 1941 due to concerns of the pending conflict.

Lindsay, who was also a member of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR), was one of the few who was able to escape from Rabaul. He arrived in Port Moresby many weeks after the January 1942 Japanese occupation but was in a poor state of health. Repatriated to Queensland and still in uniform, he died in unrelated circumstances in July 1944.

Ian recalls that he and Glen had a special bond due to their shared experience of their Rabaul births. Ian was with Glen and his family when he passed away in February 1998.



Methodist Missionary and Chairman of the Rabaul District Synod, Reverend Laurence Archibald McArthur (front row, fourth from the left) was the father of Glen McArthur, who became the 14th Principal of Wesley College from 1992 to 1996

Glen's wife Jenny also contacted us to share this photo of her late father-in-law, Reverend Laurence Archibald McArthur, Methodist Missionary and Chairman of the Rabaul District Synod.

She also shared this wonderful photo of Rev. McArthur with his family in 1941 after the incorrect photo of Rev. McArthur was published in the June 2023 edition of *Lion*. We apologise for this error.



Rev. Laurence McArthur with wife Daisy and children, Malcolm and baby Glen



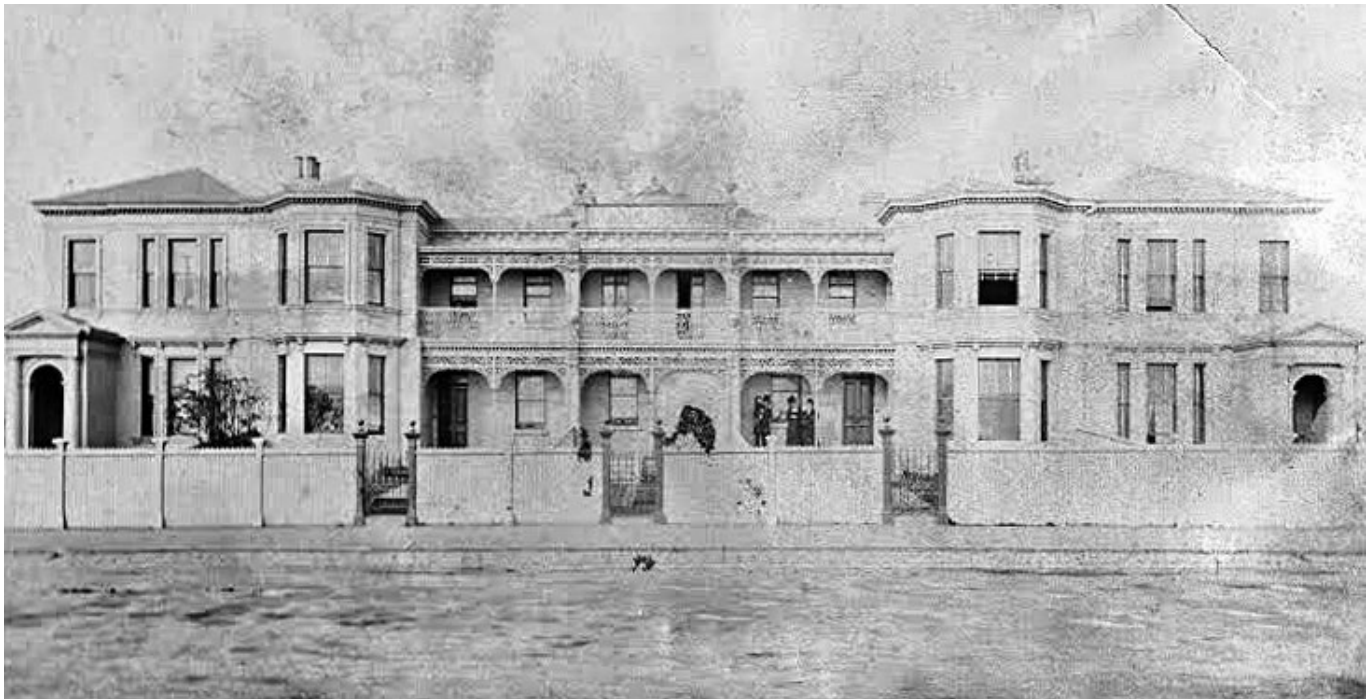
Montevideo Maru, a merchant ship of the Empire of Japan, at its launch in 1926

Want to know more about the early days at Wesley?

Copies of Chronicle from 1877 onwards are available to read online at <https://wesleycollege.recollect.net.au> or simply scan this QR code with your phone.



Behind the prize: The story of a street, a winery and two leather-bound books



'Marli Terraces' on the Esplanade in St Kilda was home to the Johnston family. Source: Victorian Collections

The Archives at Wesley are a wonderful place, full of artefacts and items of historical significance, many of them valuable to the history of Wesley, but also others that tell a story of early Melbourne.

A few weeks ago, a very kind lady let us know she wanted to donate two prize books back to Wesley. She said they were very old and belonged to someone in her family. When they arrived, we had a close look and researched the boy who received the prizes. His name was William Edward Johnston. His story is intertwined with that of early Melbourne, after the Gold Rush of the 1850s.

William started at Wesley in 1868, aged 11 and as student number 193. His brothers George Alfred and Stuart would follow in 1870 and 1872 respectively. His father was James Stewart Johnston, and his address given as Craiglee, Sunbury.

William's father James was an energetic and vocal Scottish migrant who arrived in Melbourne in 1840. He co-owned and

then later became the general manager of the *Argus* daily newspaper.

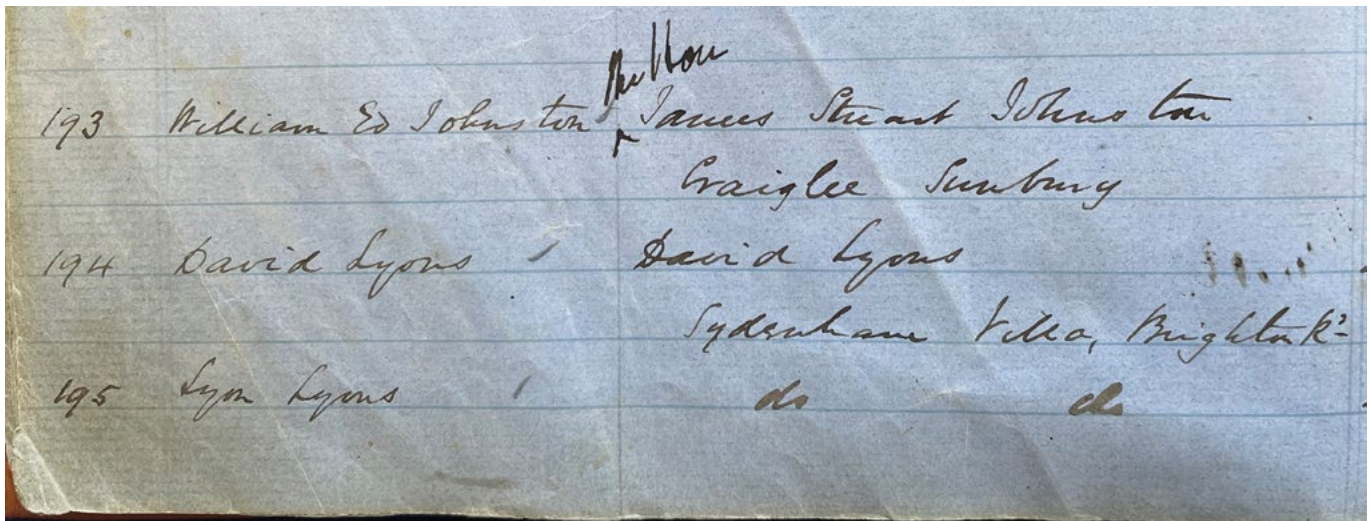
He spoke publicly and persuasively in favour of separating Port Philip from New South Wales, and against transportation of convicts. He built 'Marli Terraces' in St Kilda on the Esplanade and lived there for periods of time.

He became active in politics and was commissioner of several portfolios, including Education. As early as the 1850s, he argued for a National Education system. Quite possibly, it was his concern for education, together with his involvement with the *Argus* newspaper, that Dux of the College was awarded the *Argus* Prize, 'a gift of the proprietors'.

It is because of his political activities that a street that runs from Collingwood to

Fitzroy was named after him – Johnston Street. He had achieved all this and bought land in Sunbury to plant vines by the time young William came to Wesley. Although William did not take on viticulture, his brothers did and the winery prospered. Craiglee is still going today.

William clearly did well at school, having been awarded a book in 1869 inscribed 'Special Prize for highest percentage of marks for classes 3, 4, 5 and 6'... in effect, Dux of the Junior School. It was titled *The World of Ice, the Whaling Cruise of the Dolphin*. Again in 1870, he was awarded Second Prize for English and Writing, a book on *The Works of Flavius Josephus*. Perhaps not surprisingly, the books are in excellent condition: it seems the dense texts might not have appealed to a young boy.



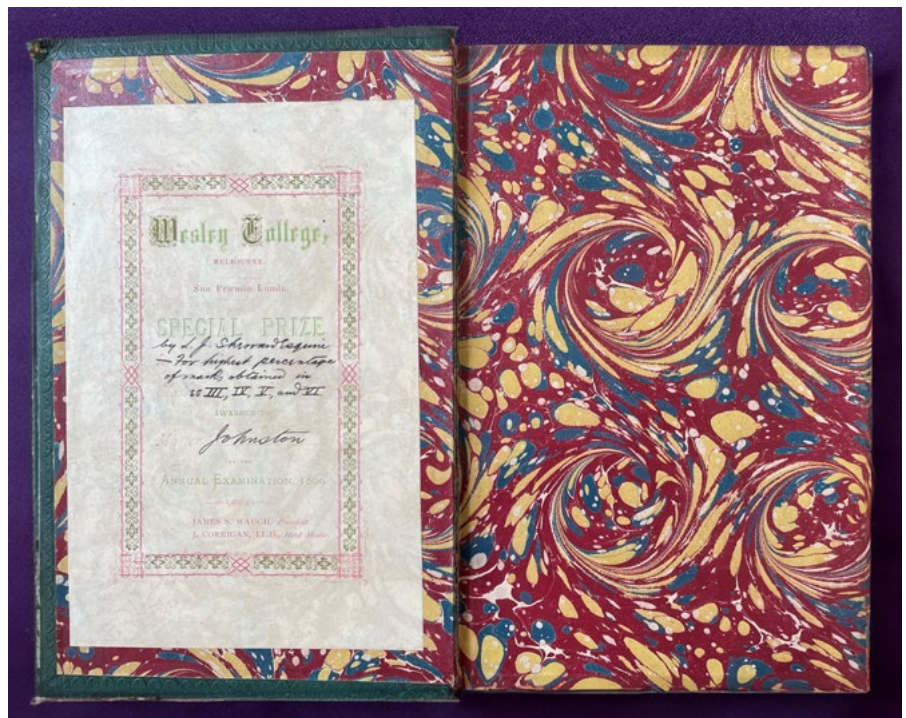
William Edward Johnson – Wesley College student number 193



The Craiglee winery still operates today

The bookplates themselves tell of an earlier Wesley history – the school motto is different. The *Chronicle* of 1925 records that *Sapere Aude* was used from the first Prospectus, but *Sua Praemia Laudi* was only used for Prize books from 1866 to 1875. It is a quote from the Roman poet Virgil in his book *Aeneid I*, and means 'Merit has its own reward', a fitting motto as a reward for excellence.

William left Wesley and went to study, gaining his Bachelor of Arts in 1876



Special prize awarded in 1869 'for the highest percentage of marks for classes 3, 4, 5 and 6'

followed by his MA and LLB. He remained very attached to his old school and was elected President of the first OWCA in 1882. Despite its well-attended social events, the Association was short-lived and disbanded after two years, to be revived 12 years later.

He had a successful career as a County Court judge, married Clara Wallace and had a family, living at Ballark in Toorak. His family were linked to many other notable families at the time, including the

Wallaces and Clarks who were involved in racing and farming. He died at his home in 1919. Sadly, his first son died young, but his second son, also named William, became a doctor, serving with distinction in both world wars.

The people may have passed on but through a street, a winery, and two leather-bound books, their memory lives on.

Margot Vaughan
Curator of Collections



Campus snapshots

The Peace Lily project

Senior School classrooms at our St Kilda Road Campus all looked a little greener this year thanks to Head of Student Wellbeing Leonie Abbott's 'Peace Lily Project', which saw every Tutorial Group take on the care of their own peace lily.

'The goal for the project was twofold,' she says. 'Firstly, creating an environment with an element of nature helps students consider the environment they create. The other focus was to care for something beyond themselves. Peace lilies are very demonstrative plants. They tell us when they are thirsty, feeling constrained or undernourished.'

While some groups found the idea of plant care a bit of a hassle, others literally embraced their lily with open arms.

'Interesting that this mimics the role wellbeing can play in our own lives,' says Leonie. 'It's either something we take responsibility to develop, or something we ignore.'

'It was my hope to help students collectively look after something and respond to its



With love we flourish: (L-R) Zoe, Lilly, Lauren and Alice with 'Karhli' the peace lily

needs, as a way of modelling how important wellbeing is to nurture and nourish.'

Year 10 students Zoe, Lilly, Lauren and Alice lavished so much love and attention on their group's lily 'Karhli' that she soon flowered and outgrew her surroundings.

The girls promptly organised more soil and a larger pot for her.

'Checking on Karhli and taking care of her is a bright start to our day,' says Lilly. 'We never forget to water her or make sure she's growing well – it's become a hobby between us'.

The power of role models



Two Eloisas. A hugely influential figure in her time, Chilean Dr Eloisa Diaz forged significant health initiatives in her long medical career and went on to become a women's rights champion

When she was 10 years old, Year 12 St Kilda Road student Eloisa found out she shared her name with the first female doctor in South America, Dr Eloisa Diaz.

'I share with her not only a surface-level characteristic, but a heritage and a passion, and because a woman with my heritage and my name achieved



something big, I saw that I could too,' said Eloisa in opening this year's Hollaway Oration, delivered to the Senior School in a special assembly at the end of Term 3.

Eloisa was the winner of last year's Hollaway Memorial Prize for Debating, established to honour the memory of long-time staff member Stuart Hollaway,

who tragically lost his life in a climbing accident in 2015. The prize is awarded annually to a Year 11 student who has made a significant contribution to the debating program and public speaking. This year's recipient is Leila.

The empowering effect of role models, especially for women, was at the centre of Eloisa's speech. She cited the huge success of the Matildas in the recent World Cup as an example.

'When you see yourself in the world around you, succeeding, and you believe that you have the potential and the right to achieve, you can excel,' she said. 'Genuine representation, a world where all people are free to dream because they have seen themselves succeed, is not a fantasy. It is based in fact, and it is within our grasp.'

Ten-year-old Eloisa wanted to follow in Dr Eloisa's pathway into medicine. That aspiration has passed, but the impact on her life remains.

'This is the power of role models, of seeing yourself reflected in the world around you,' she said. 'It's not about being inspired to achieve the same things, but about knowing that you can.'

Staff vs Students: Chess Challenge at St Kilda Road

There are many very keen – and very good – chess players at the St Kilda Road Campus. Chess Club, which meets in the library every Wednesday at lunchtime, attracts up to 90 players at a time. Students also regularly play each other on their laptops at recess.

That enthusiasm recently spilled over into a lunchtime Staff vs Students Chess Challenge, where students faced off against players from amongst our staff, playing five minute per side 'blitz' games.

For Year 11 student Michael, playing the teachers was great fun. 'Dr Mog (Eugene Mogilevski) had me under pressure the whole time because I knew how good a player he was. I've had him as a teacher in the past and already knew he is a strong character. I was eager to play him to keep up a relationship with him.'

Daksh from Year 9 finished eighth overall out of 299 student players in the Open Secondary Division (Years 7–12) in the State Chess Finals in October, so perhaps unsurprisingly, he won all three of his games against the staff. Of his final game, he said 'Mr Attanasio fought back fiercely and launched a counterattack, but I managed to keep my position intact. We played it out and in the end, I had a dominant grasp on the position.'



Your move: French teacher Dr Eugene Mogilevski faces off against Year 11 student Michael. In the background, Administrative Assistant Vincent Attanasio plays Year 9 student, Daksh

His love of this game is clear. 'Chess is an amazing game,' he enthuses. 'It requires and develops many technical and analytical abilities. Most of all, it's fun and rewarding when you come up with a game-winning, tactical combination.'

While the academic benefits of playing chess are well known, Chess Club organiser and Individual Needs teacher Chris Doerre also points to its clear social

value. 'Many students who earlier in the year felt they didn't have close friends have, through a shared and developing interest in chess, established strong friendships and developed a newfound sense of belonging,' he said.

And the challenge results? Despite their best efforts, the staff team went down to the victorious students, who won 11 – 7. Better luck next year, teachers!

The Last Goodbye at Glen Waverley



The Year 12 Breakfast: A time to express gratitude

On Friday 13 October we waved goodbye to our Year 12 students, the Class of 2023. For these young men and women, many of them a part of the Wesley tapestry since ELC, it was an emotional but exciting moment.

The culmination of over 12 years of formal schooling; a coming of age, a defining

moment, as they launch themselves into adulthood and life beyond the school gates.

It was a day of celebration, recognition and gratitude. Recognition of the hard work and tenacity required to make it this far; of the dark days of COVID which affected so many; but mostly, of the

Wesley community – our parents, students and teachers, and the vital partnership that helped get them to this pivotal moment.

It was also a time for the students to express their gratitude for the opportunities they have been given, for the generosity of their teachers, and for a school culture that supported them on their intellectual, emotional and personal journeys.

Our Class of 2023 shared mixed feelings on the day. Many expressed excitement about the future, nervousness about upcoming exams, and (one or two) great joy at never having to wear a school uniform again! Ultimately, there was one commonality: a sense of surprise, of contemplation, and of reflection as they acknowledged the end of one chapter, and the beginning of another.

Vale, Class of 2023. We look forward to hearing about your adventures ahead.



Campus snapshots

Helping 'Zarli Girl'



Clunes Group 95 students Sienna, Marlo, Alice and Jessica get busy in the kitchen

Whether it is a smile, a positive greeting, or simply taking the time to really listen to their response when you ask someone how they are, our Wesley at Clunes students learn how a little effort can profoundly impact someone else's wellbeing.

Part of living in a small community is experiencing this impact first-hand. In Term 3, Group 95 heard of a family within the local community experiencing a

difficult time. Little one-year-old Zarliah - 'Zarli Girl' - is battling a rare, aggressive brain cancer. She's enduring multiple operations and rounds of chemotherapy, and this has had a devastating effect on her family.

The Clunes Community Leadership group at Wesley at Clunes really wanted to do something for them, and chose to cook for them during this terrible time. This is the response they received:

Dear G95 Wesley College,

We would just like to say a massive thank you for all the meals you prepared for us! I was very blessed when I heard that you have all spent time making meals when you don't even know us, but then I saw how many, I was blown away!

Our journey recently has been a very challenging one, and most of the time cooking is the first thing that we either don't have the time, facilities or energy to do, so your meals have been very much appreciated.

Our little boy Mason had been loving the sausage rolls and lasagna on tap!! So once again a big thanks you to you all. It's so nice to be a part of a community that supports each other in tough times.

Jake, Tioni, Mason & Zarliah

Moon festival takes the cake

Last term, the Wesley Elsternwick Chinese community adorned our campus with colourful decorations, some having been made by our Junior School students in Chinese classes. The occasion? The Mooncake Festival!

Also known as the Moon Festival or the Mid-Autumn Festival, it's a harvest festival celebrated in Chinese culture. Held on the 15th day of the eighth month of the Chinese Lunar calendar, it commemorates and celebrates the end of the Autumn harvest. Students learnt all about the festival at special presentations during their assemblies.

The hits of the day were the bubble tea - made by Elsternwick Campus parents - and a mochi dessert, which were served up to students and staff. For those yet to experience this increasingly popular drink, bubble tea, which originates from Taiwan, is a very milky tea, often blended with fruit and fruit juices, with tapioca pearls ('Boba', hence bubbles) at the bottom of the drink.



Bubble tea anyone? Elsternwick parents serve up a tasty treat to celebrate the Moon Festival

If this doesn't sound like you, then a mochi dessert might hit the spot! Essentially a rice cake, it's a cute round bun made of soft and chewy rice. It's delicious.

We thank our Chinese community for their generous contribution and time in supporting this lovely cultural celebration.

Playing around with poetry

Having delved into the magical world of poetry in Term 3, Year 8 students at Glen Waverley were well primed for a lively poetry workshop presented by the Complete Works Theatre Company earlier this term. Exploring a range of Australian poetry from bush ballads to First Nations and slam poetry, the workshop was divided into three sections.

First up was a hilarious and energetic performance of two ballads, Banjo Patterson's *Mulga Bill's Bicycle* and Henry Lawson's *Past Carin'*. These early Australian poets aimed to give voice to the landscape and characters from the bush. Using costumes, props and their own expressive skills, the three actors of the company convincingly brought these narrative poems to life, helping students understand how rhyme, rhythm and structure can tell a story.



The wheels come off *Mulga Bill's Bicycle* during the poetry workshop

Our Year 8s were then guided through a process to devise their own poems based on Australia's unique landscape. Experimenting with various sound devices, focusing on imagery, and composing one line at a time, they produced some sophisticated ideas and images.

To finish off, the actors performed some slam poetry. This is expressly written for performance, and a popular way to engage teenagers. They demonstrated how rhythm, improvisation, word play, and slang can be used to tell a story, express emotions and contest ideas - a complete contrast to the formal structures of poetry from the past.

'Standing Up for Shakespeare' on tour



International Drama Tour students in front of a statue of William Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon

One of the most unique Year 8 English Literature programs in Australia, Glen Waverley's *Standing Up For Shakespeare* (SUFS) allows keen students to develop

their skills in English by studying and performing Shakespeare, rather than through the regular Language and Literature program.

Using a learning-by-doing methodology, David Dunn (Drama) and Jane Pulford (English) devote class time to both textual analysis and performing adaptations of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *A Christmas Carol*. As well as developing English skills, it introduces students to the aesthetic of great literature, through actively performing and collaborating with their peers.

A group of SUFS alumni now in Years 9 and 10 jetted off during the September school holidays for a drama tour of the UK. They performed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Pinocchio* at a number of schools and venues across England and participated in workshops at the historic Globe Theatre.

For Year 9 student Patrick, it was an experience he'll never forget. 'The tour was incredible... attending classes with The Royal Shakespeare Company, sightseeing in locations such as Cambridge and Canterbury, and attending a variety of performances, plus a visit to the museum of Gothic author Mary Shelley! The whole experience was truly unforgettable.'



Campus snapshots

Fostering a love of science



Sam (Year 9) teaches Year 3 students about electricity

The theme for this year's National Science Week, *Innovation - powering future industries*, underscores the vital role of innovation in sustainability, economic growth and progress. As we know, science and innovation drive significant advancements in health, technology and the environment, so as educators, it's our responsibility to inspire the next generation of innovators who will shape the world and drive future industries.

National Science Week at Elsternwick in 2023 featured campus-wide activities for students of all ages, including colouring competitions, poster contests, online quizzes and hands-on learning experiences. Year 9 students took on the teaching role and led Junior School classes, explaining scientific concepts and conducting experiments to spark curiosity and foster a love of science in younger learners.

The AI Academy visited to teach computer coding and artificial intelligence to students from Years 3 to 6, and Professor James McNamara from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute shared groundbreaking work on curing heart disease using stem cells. These experiences deepened students' understanding and appreciation of the incredible field of science.

Empowering our young leaders

This year, Elsternwick's Year 9 student leaders were empowered to plan and facilitate a series of 'Student Leadership Workshops' for their younger counterparts in Years 5 to 8.

Year 9 students worked together to prepare and deliver four workshops across Terms 2 and 3 on the topics of 'Leadership Attributes', 'Presentation Skills', 'Managing One's Team and One's Time' and 'Teamwork and Teambuilding', honing their own leadership skills along the way.

Planning these workshops with their target audience in mind, they made interactivity and engagement high priorities, including activities such as icebreakers, quizzes, role plays and demonstrations, small-group discussions and team games.

The benefits of this student-centred, student-led approach are two-fold. Our Year 5 to 8 leaders reported that they benefited greatly from the opportunity to



Student agency in action: Year 9 leaders lead a workshop for their younger counterparts

learn from and alongside their Year 9 mentors. Our Year 9 leaders gained valuable feedback from workshop participants, meaning they could reflect on this feedback following each workshop to refine their approach from one session to the next.

Students learning from students along the leadership development journey – what could be a more powerful way of encouraging and empowering our young leaders?

Learning about ourselves, others, and the natural world

For our Year 3 students, their Chum Creek camp is often their first step into the outdoors and step out beyond the family unit. They learn to be independent and have a positive overnight experience with their peers. This camp can also be a first for many parents, who can be even more nervous about Chum Creek than their own child. By the time students reach Year 8 and go to our Lochend camp, not only are parents reassured about their child's independence and skills at camping, but students themselves have learnt some important life skills.

Our three Outdoor Education sites, Chum Creek, Lochend and Mallana, provide a deliberate sequence of outdoor learning for our students - about themselves, others, and the natural world. Activities such as bushwalking and camping in all weather conditions and for various lengths of time teaches individual resilience. At the time, it can feel hard when it's wet and you must carry a heavy pack. But when you're surrounded by your peers who are struggling just like you, and in an environment so pristine and awe inspiring, you're often buoyed along, one step at a time. By the time you've finished your walk, you feel proud that you 'did it', that you survived. You've learnt along this journey to 'dig deep' and celebrate every achievement. These celebrations can be as simple as getting to the top of the mountain or sharing a meal with the group. They are simple, but genuine.

Students have an opportunity to live and work together with peers they may not have spent time with. Problem solving challenges, like how to set up a tent or how to light a fire, foster communication skills, conflict resolution and group cohesion.

Chum Creek, Lochend and Mallana also provide our students with three incredibly pristine and diverse environments to learn and journey through. Each site is unique in its Indigenous culture and histories, flora and fauna. Students are immersed in these natural environments, with their breathtaking scenery and experiences, fostering a connection to our natural world which will strengthen their stewardship and protection of our planet for generations to come.



Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) and Lochend staff member Zac Ray with Year 8 students from the St Kilda Road Campus enduring sideways rain with a smile while walking the Great South West Walk near Lochend



Year 8 students working on 'Generation Circles' which teach students about the timeline between Indigenous inhabitants and the colonisation of Australia



Recognising our oldest Golden Lion Dr Graeme Sloman AO (OW1944)



Dr Graeme Sloman AO (OW1944) and wife, Isabel

For the last few years, Welsey has celebrated Graeme Sloman AO as our oldest OW in attendance at the annual Golden Lions and Founders' Day Lunches. At 96 years young, Graeme has had an extraordinary life and is an inspiration within the Wesley community.

In his school days from 1937 to 1944, Graeme was in Corrigan House, was a keen footballer playing the second XVIII, a talented debater, avid gymnast and involved in the library's program of activities. Upon leaving school, Graeme enlisted in the army in 1945 and found himself on the Bellarine peninsula at Forestry Camp. With Wesley mates Alec Wood, Ian Parkin and Bruce Gregory, the purple and gold connection was never far away.

When Graeme and Isabel married, it was Bruce Gregory who served as the best man. Little did Bruce realise that he would later marry Judith, whom he met at the Sloman wedding as she was Isabel's bridesmaid. Bruce and Judith would

become very close friends with the Slomans, regularly travelling together on impromptu camping adventures and family holidays and continuing the long-standing family friendship to this day.

Professionally, both Graeme and Isabel worked in health and medicine. Isabel had trained and worked as a nurse and transferred her considerable experience to social welfare which led to the role as the coordinator of the clinic at the Royal Childrens' Hospital, responsible for the wellbeing of patients with cystic fibrosis. Graeme studied medicine and had a long and distinguished career in academic clinical medicine and clinical practice at the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH).

Graeme's work has been celebrated by the University of Melbourne, RMH, Ambulance Victoria, the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) and Epworth Health Care, to name a few. Graeme's work has been credited as ground-breaking and instrumental in the introduction of major innovations in the practice of cardiology in Australia and his work has been published in notable medical scientific journals including The Lancet, the American Heart Journal, The New England Journal of Medicine and the British Heart Journal.

But it is here at home that a very visible legacy has been left with Graeme's pivotal role in the establishment of the



Lt-Col J G Sloman (OW1944) was guest of honour at the annual Unit Dinner in 1965

Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance (MICA) service in Victoria, his work in clinical settings with implantable pacemakers and in the establishment in 1981 of cardiac care at Epworth Hospital.

In 2017, Ambulance Victoria celebrated Graeme's 90th Birthday, recognising the 'father of MICA' who was so well loved by his colleagues that they 'loved going back to work each day'. Andrew Tonkin (OW1961) notes that it was Graeme who mentored him during his medical studies and inspired him to become a cardiologist too.

By the time Graeme was in his final year at Wesley, the network of Sloman family members was already well-established with four generations connected to the College.

In more recent years, Graeme and Isabel's own children Colin (OW1979), Robert (OW1976) and Alistair (OW1970) all attended the College and have since been followed by grandchildren Ben (OW1999), Andrew (OW2001), Dom (OW2004), as well as an American granddaughter, Malia (OW2001) who came to Melbourne for a year, found a place at Wesley, and even found Bruce Gregory looking out for her during recess on her first day at school.



The Sломans are one of many generational families at Wesley College

When Graeme and Isabel decided that they would no longer drive, the Wesley network brought Abby Traeger (OW1997) into their lives to provide assistance. Abby is a member of the extended Loder and Rodgers-Wilson clans and testament to the impact of the College across generations.

There can be no doubt that Graeme and his wife Isabel have lived the words of the song *Wesley Now and Always*. 'Of friends true evermore, Wesley has a store' could be no more evident in the lifelong friendships and enduring connections of the Wesley College community.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

The Wesley College Foundation gratefully acknowledges our 2023 Sponsors who support our events, programs and activities.



Out and about with the Sapere Aude Bequest Society

We are immensely grateful to members of the College community who have become members of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society (SABS). Bequests, from SABS members and from anonymous donors, have made an enormous impact on the lives of staff and students over many generations.

From scholarships to facilities, gifts bequeathed to the College have provided opportunities that connect the Wesley community and inspire generations to come.

SABS members enjoy a diverse program of events and activities and, in recent months, SABS has presented three fantastic events: a special viewing of artworks by the artist Norma Bull at the Victorian Artists Society, a tour of

the magnificent mansion and grounds of Bishopscourt, East Melbourne and a morning of music at Wesley College Elsternwick Campus.

For information regarding the Sapere Aude Bequest Society and its activities, please contact:

Prue Lowther, Bequest Manager
prue.lowther@wesleycollege.edu.au
Tel: (03) 8102 6213

Sharing the College collection



Artist, Norma Bull



Wesley Curator of Collections, Margot Vaughan with guests at the Norma Bull exhibition

Wesley College is fortunate to hold an impressive art collection that has been developed through the generous benefaction of many members of the Wesley College and wider community.

Many readers will be familiar with the Alec Cato Collection, with its 'who's who' of Australian artists such as Arthur Streeton, Fredrick McCubbin and Harold Herbert. However, the College is also the holder of an impressive collection of works by the distinguished artist Norma Bull who achieved notoriety for her portraits and English World War II paintings.

It was with great pleasure that the College collaborated with the Victorian Artist Society (VAS) to present a selection of Norma Bull's artworks in their fantastic building in East Melbourne. The VAS hosted a delightful informal morning tea for SABS where members and guests heard from Rosemary Noble, exhibition curator from the VAS, and Kenneth Park from Wesley. Our Curator of Collections, Margot Vaughan, was also on hand to answer questions and guests had the opportunity to view the other exhibitions and the magnificent VAS building.



Untitled (Flower study 2) Oil on canvas

Bishopscourt welcomes Wesley

A large crowd of SABS members and guests gathered in the glorious sunshine in front of Bishopscourt which is the oldest house in East Melbourne and residence of the Anglican Bishop and later, the Archbishop of Melbourne, since 1853.

Our SABS group was warmly welcomed by Joy Freier OAM, wife of Philip Freier, the 13th Archbishop of Melbourne. Guests enjoyed a delightful morning tea in the impressive reception rooms followed by tours of the house and garden. A real feature of the garden is the sweeping front lawn dotted with fine trees and the garden is testimony to the hard work and commitment of the volunteers who care for it.

Our group were truly delighted with the visit and tour of Bishopscourt and helped in the fundraising to preserve the house and garden by stocking up on jams, plants and other treats from the volunteer-run shop. Our thanks go to Joy and the many volunteers who made this memorable visit to Bishopscourt possible. It was, as they say, 'a truly wonderful day out' in marvellous Melbourne.



Genevieve Hansford and Jan Barry



SABS members and guests on the sweeping front lawn of Bishopscourt



SABS members and guests enjoy morning tea in the stunning reception rooms of Bishopscourt

The Sapere Aude Bequest Society plays a vital role in the Foundation's philanthropic programs.

It brings together like-minded members of our College community who have a passion for assisting young people in their educational journey.

The Society offers a rich and varied program of activities for members and their guests. We are delighted that our program this year has attracted so many

alumni and parents to experience the breadth of our Society's activities.

If you would like to join any of our activities or join our Sapere Aude Bequest Society, please contact:
Prue Lowther, Bequest Manager
prue.lowther@wesleycollege.edu.au
Tel: (03) 8102 6213



Annual Business Breakfast

Prof. Graeme Samuel AC (OW1963) launched the 15th Annual Business Breakfast at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins on Thursday 16 September.

An audience of more than 250 alumni, parents and friends enjoyed an insightful discussion by our outstanding panel of guests on 'Australia's Energy Future: The transition from fossil fuels.'

Our panel of experts included:

- **Dr Alan Finkel AC** - Former Chief Scientist of Australia
- **Prof. Rachel Webster AO** - Head of Astrophysics at the University of Melbourne and President of the Wesley College Council
- **Kelly O'Shanassy** - CEO of the Australian Conservation Foundation
- **Sarah Barker** - Partner at MinterEllison, and leader of MinterEllison's international Climate Change and Sustainability Risk Governance team
- **Eytan Lenko (OW1993)** - Technology entrepreneur and CEO of Boundless

Drawing on references to the recently launched book *Power Up: Unleashing the clean energy supply chain* by panellist and past parent, Dr. Alan Finkel AC, Graeme challenged all attendees to think deeply about the entire ecosystem of energy in Australia.

Sarah Barker, partner at Minter Ellison, extended the thinking to a far wider scope, noting the progress being made in the EU, where the onus is on businesses to consider their supply chains in much the same way they are required to consider privacy compliance.

College Council Chair, astrophysicist and geo-thermal advocate, Prof. Rachel Webster AO, shared the benefits of renewables from sun, wind, wave and heat generated by the earth's core, but noted the real opportunity presented by generation as close to the source of consumption as possible. While solar is Australia's greatest local opportunity, there remains considerable complexity in the network and distribution systems for energy that require innovation and new investments.



Prof. Graeme Samuel AC (OW1963), Dr. Alan Finkel AC and Prof. Rachel Webster AO



Prof. Rachel Webster AO, Eytan Lenko (OW1993), Kelly O'Shanassy and Sarah Barker



Prof. Graeme Samuel AC (OW1963) and Dr. Alan Finkel AC listening to Kelly O'Shanassy

This opportunity gives rise to environment and biodiversity challenges which Kelly O'Shanassy, CEO of the Australian Conservation Foundation, reframed as the need to protect nature as we look for next-generation solutions to our insatiable appetite for energy in everyday life. Kelly shared the urgent need for improved planning to better coordinate policy, legislative and practical solutions to ensure that incentives exist to support changes in the short and long term.

Despite Australia's historic dependence upon fossil fuels, panellists advocated for the enormous opportunity presented by household solar and the transformative impact of electric vehicles. Eytan Lenko (OW1993), CEO of Boundless, discussed his organisation's efforts to accelerate

Australia's move toward decarbonisation, citing initiatives such as the National EV Summit and The Careers for Net Zero Fair as evidence of the burgeoning opportunities in the new energy sector.

Alan's sobering summary was that global warming is undeniable and that we need only look at the temperatures recorded in the second half of 2023 to know that time is of the essence. Graeme showed us, once again, that the Wesley community can wrestle with complex issues and come away energised to contribute to positive impacts far beyond our own community.

Want to know more?

www.boundless.earth

www.acf.org.au

www.minterellison.com/people/sarah-barker



Chair of the Wesley College Foundation, Nicki Lefkovits (OW1990) welcomes guests



Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) with guest speaker, Dr. Alan Finkel AC



MC Pete Lazer (OW1995) introduces our panel of experts to the audience



Members of the panel enjoy breakfast at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins



The discussion continues over breakfast



Music Melodies at Elsternwick

SABS concluded 2023 with a special 'Music Melodies' event at the Elsternwick Campus on Friday 24 November.

Over 100 parents, SABS members and guests were welcomed by Head of Campus, Jacinta Janssens and enjoyed a wonderful program of music prepared by Alexandra Cameron, Head of Music at Elsternwick.

This included performances by the Middle School Choir, the Violin Ensemble, Year 8 Trio, solo performances and the McArthur Strings, named after former Wesley College Principal, the late Glen McArthur, who was a great advocate for the music program at the Elsternwick Campus. We were also thrilled to welcome Glen's wife Jenny and his daughter Catherine Thomas, who is a current teacher at the Elsternwick Campus.

Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) spoke warmly of the student performances and thanked SABS members for their ongoing philanthropic support of the College.

One of our SABS patrons, Susie Rodgers-Wilson (OWCA Honorary Life Member), highlighted the important contribution that the society makes to the College and wished all of our guests a wonderful festive season as they enjoyed morning tea in the courtyard.

We look forward to seeing all of our SABS members and friends in the new year.



Guests were entertained by members of the McArthur Strings, named after former Wesley Principal, Glen McArthur



Genevieve Hansford with Heather and Russell Rolls (OW1963)



Jenny McArthur and daughter, Catherine Thomas (OW1996)



Alexandra Cameron leads the Middle School Choir



OWCA President Kate Evans (OW1998), Chair of the Wesley College Foundation Nicki Lefkovits (OW1990), Peter Harrison (OW1969), Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) and SABS Patron, Susie Rodgers-Wilson with Isabel and Graeme Sloman AO (OW1944)

'Philanthropy in music education through contributions of resources, funding or expertise is key to supporting and encouraging our music students and enhancing their music education programs. Support from individuals, organisations or established musicians comes in many forms including donations of musical instruments, scholarships for music students and funding music classes and workshops. The goal is to ensure that our young students have access to quality music education and opportunities to develop their musical talents and skills. It's a way of investing in the next generation of musicians and fostering a deeper appreciation of music.'

– Alexandra Cameron
Head of Music, Elsternwick Campus



WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE

Our warmest thanks and gratitude to our community of 2022 and 2023 donors who continue to support Wesley College, and in doing so, are the catalysts that transform the lives of young people.

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President's report



Here we are once again, looking towards the closing of another year; and what a productive year it has been for the Old Wesley Collegians Association. By December, we will have re-tweaked our Constitution, finalised the Memorandum of Understanding between the OWCA and the Collegians Football Club and locked in our planning sessions that will allow us to create our next five year strategy, taking us through to 2030.

Our recent reunions have been very well attended. It has been such a privilege to experience the excitement in the rooms at these key milestone moments; the first ever Glen Waverley Campus 30-year

reunion in October, the St Kilda Road Campus 30-year reunion and the combined St Kilda Road and Glen Waverley Campuses' Class of 2022 reunion with 103 engaged OWs buying a ticket!

It was amazing to be a part of the Collegians Football Club Senior Men's Grand Final win at the end of September. Congratulations to club President Rod Nancarrow (OW1982) and Captain Sam Hibbins (OW2011), as well as the entire club and the committee on a fantastic season. It is an honour for the OWCA to be an ongoing, permanent partner with the longest running and most successful club in the VAFA competition.

Following our AGM in June, the OWCA was pleased to welcome two new members to our Executive Board, Rick Morris (OW2004) and Luca Jolson (OW2022).

Professionally, Rick is a leader in the recreational health and wellbeing industry, but many of you would know him as the President, Captain, Treasurer and Community Relations Manager of the very prosperous Old Wesley Collegians Cricket Club. Rick has played an integral role in the relationship between the OWCC and the Old Mayo College Cricket Club in Rajasthan, India. He is also the Head Coach of the Collegians Football Club Under 19s team.

As for Luca, he completed his time at Wesley College only last year in the IB Diploma Program. He is currently studying a double degree in Law and Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) at Monash University and spends his free time tutoring Year 11 and 12 students in IB Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.

Over the past year, there have been numerous OW volunteers giving back to students at the College by offering their time and expertise – whether it be speaking at Founders' Day or other themed assemblies, partaking in networking, mentoring and career events and sessions, or being involved in the Primary Years Program Exhibition at both campuses. We earnestly thank those OWs who have so willingly given their time.

Please note, the OWCA Calendar of events and reunions for 2024 is listed on page 48. Make a diary note now of those dates that are relevant to you. As always, stay tuned to the OWCA social channels, Instagram and Facebook, or visit owca.net for more timely updates.

It has been a particularly enjoyable year serving the OWCA as its President. The privilege to travel overseas to represent and connect with OWs from all over the world was an honour. I thank the College for this opportunity.

Warmest holiday greetings and best wishes for the upcoming year from the OWCA. We look forward to connecting with you again in 2024.

Kate Evans (OW1998)
OWCA President

#oldwesleycollegians
#bleedingpurpleandgold
#WomenofWesley

Addressing historical harm

There are some dark periods in the history of Wesley College and we have learnt much from listening to survivors who were harmed during their time at school. Wesley College is profoundly sorry for the harm to former students that has resulted from the actions of employees from the College's past.

This message is first and foremost an acknowledgment and apology for this harm. It is also recognition of the extraordinary courage it takes for survivors to come forward. It is hoped that this statement is evidence of Wesley doing its best to make appropriate restitution of historical abuse and to demonstrate our commitment to supporting survivors in any way we can.

The OW community has our assurance that we are committed to, and work tirelessly for, the protection of all children from all forms of child abuse. The College has worked directly with survivors to develop this message and also to provide support to former students who may be suffering as a result of historical abuse.

The various areas of support that are available to the Wesley College community are included below:

Charter with IGFF

Wesley has established a Charter of Cooperation with IGFF. IGFF provides services for survivors including mental health care, legal representation, support to access the National Redress Support Service, police liaison, social welfare and full wrap-around support.

IGFF draws on more than twenty years of specialist trauma-informed case management and advocacy services for survivors, families and communities impacted by institutional abuses.

IGFF Contact Details:

Address: **223/838 Collins Street Docklands, VIC 3008**

Office: **1300 12 IGFF (4433)**

Email: **igff@igff.org.au**

Website: **www.igff.org.au**

Whistleblowing

Your Call Whistleblowing Solutions has been appointed to receive and manage reporting with impartiality and confidentiality.

When making a report use the organisation ID: **WESLEYSAFE**

Phone **1800 718 514** from 9am-12am AEST Mon-Fri (excl. public holidays) or visit **yourcall.com.au/report**

Child Safety Policies

We have strengthened College policies and procedures which support child safety, community and individual health and wellbeing and apply to all members of the College community.

We have increased compulsory training and compliance for staff and contractors with modules relating to Victorian Child Safe Standards including all forms of abuse, anti-discrimination and equal opportunity, and College practices and procedures for child safety.

We offer direct contact to escalate issues to the Principal for OWs.

Email: **principal@wesleycollege.edu.au** or Phone: **03 8102 6100**

These initiatives represent our commitment to the entire Wesley community to ensure that we maintain a culture of ethical behavioural standards, compliance and good corporate governance.



They complement our commitment to detecting and preventing illegal, unethical and unsatisfactory conduct or misconduct through a process that ensures members of the school community can report their concerns freely and without fear of repercussion.

This is not an easy subject to address. We take heed from the courage of our survivors to face into and own our past, while ensuring support and protection for past, present and future generations of the Wesley College community.

For some people, this may be confronting or overwhelming. If you need to talk to someone, support is available.

Lifeline: Call **13 11 14**

IGFF: Call **1300 12 4433**

	<p>A partnership between the College and IGFF to provide support to former students who may be suffering as a result of historical abuse.</p>
	<p>Practical welfare and therapeutic referrals Providing trauma-informed and confidential support to Survivors and Secondary Survivors Engagement with the National Redress Scheme Supporting Survivors, families and communities impacted by Institutional abuse Professional advocacy and mediation</p>
<p><i>Help Health Hope</i></p>	<p>1300 12 IGFF (1300 12 44 33) igff@igff.org.au www.igff.org.au</p>



The people we remember

We weren't at all surprised by the overwhelming response we had to our social media post encouraging OWs to let us know if they had a teacher, coach or mentor that mattered to them. It can be hard to quantify why certain teachers made a difference in our lives. Some pushed us to work harder than we thought we could. Others gave us confidence, good advice or support in hard times. Some helped us stay out of trouble or gave us direction. What we remember now, sometimes decades later, more often goes beyond the subject matter and can have a profound impact on our lives.

There was overwhelming appreciation for some teachers such as **Phil De Young**, **Jackie Coker (Bond)**, **Greg Wilms**, **David Graham** and **Ian 'Doc' Johnson**, so famous for his caring demeanour, fun teaching style and his amazing collection of bow ties! **Frank Colasurdo**, the 'Great Man' who always went above and beyond, as well as the legendary **Ian Rojo** (who got more 'likes' than any others on our post!) Many simply commented 'legend!'



Ian Rojo with the 1995 Badminton team

Fiona Samuel (OW2001) cited his care and compassion beyond the outstanding classroom teaching. Kelly McMaster (OW2001) said that Rojo was hands down 'The Best' when it came to support and encouragement. There were also a lot of 'likes' for **Tim Box**, who Jessica Morgan (OW2009) thanks for '...so many lightbulb moments in History and English – his calm demeanour and humour was so appreciated by his students. Mr Box, you were the teacher that showed me the power of having a growth mindset and helped me believe I was smart and capable. You are one of the reasons I went on to become a teacher!'

Many OWs attributed their current professions to the experience they had

with certain teachers at school. Scott Dowsing (OW2007) wanted to thank **Mark Frater** as 'he is the reason I am now a teacher.' It was **Richard Brenker's** IB Geography class that set Georgina Wright (OW1995) on her career path and for Jessica Green (OW2006) it was the kindness of **Kate Lefel** who 'inspired my love of psychology and made sure I was taking care of myself by keeping my backpack for the night so I could have a rest without the pressure of study, prescribing some *Greys Anatomy* instead! As a psychologist, I am now teaching lots of clients the same message of selfcare.'

Catherine Osborne (OW1998) recalls what **Lorraine Salter** told her in Year 11 Chemistry: 'Scientists need to have good imaginations because so much of what they study can't easily be seen. I kept that gem with me during my career as a microbiologist!'

James Brown has recently returned as the Head of Senior School at St Kilda Road. Cass Fuller (OW2007) had 'Brownyn' for Politics in 2006 and says, 'Since my time at Wesley, James and I have never lost contact and I guess you could say his teaching role has gone above and beyond the norm. We have stayed in contact over the years, and he has coached and mentored me through my work in Asia, New York and now London. We share a mutual love for all things politics and sport, especially cricket and AFL, and while he is a diehard Hawthorn supporter and I am a Geelong fan through and through, that's probably the only thing we ever disagreed on!'

Cass isn't the only one. Josh Piterman (OW2003) lumps **James Brown** in with **Nick Evans**, **Dawson Hann** and **Tony Scanlon**, affectionately labelling them

'The Big Four'. 'I'm forever grateful for the lessons and guidance of these four men. It is a gift that three of them remain in my life physically, 20 years later. Tony's spirit always lives on. Thanks gents and thanks Wesley.'

Many who tread the boards of the Adamson Theatre Company (ATC) will agree, particularly in regards to the partnership of **Tony Scanlon** and **Dawson Hann**. But it was the speedy, quiet presence of **Sabino Del Baso** that was appreciated by so many. He was recently awarded an OWCA Honorary Life Membership.

Tabitha Gillard (OW1995) maintains Sabino, '...completely changed my life. I was a shy, quiet, terrified of heights (and most things!) teenager and I joined his



Sara Liversidge and Sabino Del Baso
OWCA Honorary Life Members

tech crew at the ATC in Year 8 way back in the 1990s. He brought me out of my shell and showed me I could do anything I put my mind to (even getting up ladders and scaffolding to set lights). Because of the things I learned from Sabino, I had the courage to move overseas on my own and I am now a Software Tester and can change a light bulb with my eyes shut! I'm still terrified of heights but don't let that stop me (I have even been to the top of the Eiffel Tower!)

And who could forget the legend that was the big man, **John Lee** and the amazingly supportive **Marg Arnold** who led the Big Band and the choir respectively. Whether it was on the stage, in a classroom, on the sports field or as a member of the pastoral care team, we are proud to share some of the many comments we received about our staff from across the decades.

“

'**Belinda Houston** was the ultimate teacher, friend and mentor in my early days. I have such fond memories from being in her class. I'm still in touch with her to this day - she's a true gem. And **Chris Mannix** had such an impactful way to teach Economics that made it easily consumable, which helped spark a real interest in the subject. He was a kind and highly relatable fella that I really enjoyed being around.'

Matt Hoiles (OW2002)

“

'There aren't enough positive words to express how appreciative I am for having been able to learn from **Nathan Armstrong (OW1998)**. He made learning so fun and something that we all wanted to do. He believed in all of us, and I'll never forget how much magic he brought to our English classes. Kids who had spare periods during our English class would sometimes come to our English class to learn from him. Gamut group forever!'

Stella Silagy (OW2012)

“



James Brown, Nick Evans, Richard Brenker, Sara Liversidge, Jill Calder and Marg Amble in the 1990s

'**James Brown** was such a positive and caring mentor and friend and I was thrilled to be given the chance to give these special people a shout out. I love that you are doing this, and I wanted to send you my list of teachers I still talk about regularly because of their positive influence on my life more than 30 years ago.' Kristy was lucky to be coached by **Janine Bates**, saying, 'I always looked up to her, she's a legend: and her waterpolo and coaching skills were amazing. There was also **Lindy Grahn**: because of her I studied engineering. A great start to a career I am proud of. **Dr. Johnson** was able to make chemistry make sense, to this day! **Marg Molina** brought a new level to netball at Wesley. I'm still talking about how **Sharelle McMahon (OW1995)** pushed me out of GA into C (where I'm still playing!) I always think of **Mr (Andrew) Hobbs** when I hear *Blister in the Sun*! **Phil Pinnell** was our Head of Middle School which is a tough job - he did it really well. He ran a tight ship but was also kind. And **Alastair Clarkson**: there's a reason he's such a good AFL coach! Probably the same reasons I loved having him as a PE teacher.'

Kristy Old (McIntyre) (OW1994)

“

'**Peter Rees** is a standout. He really did introduce positivity as a concept. Let's not forget the poetry! I still know *My Country* by Dorothea Mackellar by heart.'

Rosheen Nikakis (OW1993)

“

'**Nigel Starr** for his humour and acceptance.'

Graeme Stol (OW2009)

“



Garry Dodd and James Brown with the Hon. Peter Costello and students in 2004

'I went on to study teaching due to the influence of teachers like our Principal **Nick Evans (OW1985)**, a man who inspired my love of History and with whom I had the privilege to share a classroom, as we team-taught the IB History course in my tenure on the teaching staff at the College. But there were other legends that inspired me; **Lindy Grahn** for the way she cared, **Garry Dodd (OW1973)** for his humour that kept us so engaged, **Jill Caple** for her tolerance(!) and guidance, **Janine Bates** for her support and legendary coaching skills and **Sara Liversidge** for the passion for teaching that she showed then and continues to show now.'

Lucy Gilfillan (Rodgers-Wilson) (OW1995)



James Brown, Ian 'Doc' Johnson and Jill Caple with Senior Prefects in 2001



“

'**Peter Foley** inspired me in so many ways as a teacher, band director, musician and mentor from teaching me trombone as the only female trombonist in the year level in Grade 6 up to making it into the Mt Gambier Generations in Jazz Division 1 Superband in Year 10. In bands with Mr Foley, the 'groove' was everything and nothing was unachievable if we all helped each other. I really had the time of my life learning from the ground up in those sessions. Now as a 27-year-old, I work with some other professional musicians and Peter Foley's name comes up in circles around town and I've heard only the most wonderful things spoken of him. Who knows if I would have moved to Nashville and pursued my career as a musician if not for my foundations under the wing of Mr Foley. Regardless, I feel very privileged that I got to witness his mastery during my time at Wesley.'

Jazzy Bade-Boon (OW2013)

“

'I never picked up much as an accounting student, but **Peter Burke's** 'more than the minimum' catchphrase has been in my head for nearly 30 years.'

Greg Bruce (OW1995)

“

'There were quite a few but the ones who stood out most were **Colin Shnier, Bill Lyon, Stuart Holloway and Greg Falk.**

Jason Conway (OW2007)



John Lee leading the Big Band

“

'**Ian Mills** was my Grade 7 teacher who provided more support, warmth and guidance than he ever probably realised. Youth and young adulthood can be so difficult to navigate, and Millsy made this easier for all of us. **Kim Barlow (Koot)** was my Year 12 Psychology teacher, who made psychology cool. She broke down all the stigma that counselling and psychology used to attract, and was pivotal in my decision to enter, and ongoing love for the profession of psychology. I am so indebted to these amazing people.'

Meera Aurora (OW1994)

“

'**Ian Mills** was legend of a guy who had the patience of a saint in teaching maths to those who had zero interest. **Peter Rees** introduced the concept of positivity to me in Grade 6 and **David Knight** - everyone loved Knighty!'

Larissa Dudley (OW1993)

“

'**Daryl Forde**, for me, was an inspiring teacher. Still a friend now, forty years on.'

Brett Halliwell (OW1982)

“

'My unequivocal vote is for **Greg Wilms**. He made me love accounting which no body else has ever managed to do!'

Meredith Cairns (OW1993)

“



Phil De Young

'**Lex Hibbins (OW1953)** and **Phil De Young**. Great teachers and mentors.'

Adam Mayhood (OW1990)

“

'**Ian Mills** helped a generation of Wesley students calculate their Stableford Score!'

Lachlan Fooks (OW2001)

“

'**Greg Wilms** challenged and encouraged me when I most needed it. I would not be where I am today without his teaching.'

Nick Smith (OW2010)



Dawson Hann in 1984

'Dawson Hann (bleed for Frederick!!), Phil De Young and his ALP tie and Roger Hawthorn all had a tremendous influence on me.'

Mark Jenkins (OW1980)



Stuart Holloway with David Browne (OW2010), Pat Zippel (OW2010), Rory Loder (OW2010) and Henry Hosking (OW2010)



Garry Dodd with Legal Studies students at the 2002 Business Breakfast

'There are so many! In no particular order, Dawson (a one name legend), Garry Dodd (Economics), Phil De Young (Politics and leadership), three great rowing coaches in Peter Shakespeare, Doug Goodwin and Andrew Keneally. There was also Ana Hicks, Adele Flood, David Shepherd, Robert Renton and Lisa Hasker at Elsternwick who oversaw an amazingly nice culture. And David Prest, who on my first day at Elsternwick came up and said, 'Welcome Scott. If the school suits you as much as that blazer does, you'll do well.' To which I thought, 'Wow, that's so nice!' and simultaneously, 'Oh no, first day and I'm already on the Principal's radar!'

Scott Hudson (OW1993)



Anthony Zapis with Tom Bulling (OW2007) and Dan McCloskey (OW2007)

'I'll never forget how supportive Stuart Holloway and Anthony Zapis were during a very tough period.'

Danielle Heyes (Elmer) (OW2009)



Sal Paas

'Sal Paas inspired a love of Geography! I'm still eager to learn about places when I visit them. I love travel and nature and it all started with Ms Paas.'

Jessica Green (OW2006)



Mark Hibbins (OW1978), Sam Hibbins (OW2011) and Lex Hibbins (OW1953)

'I loved Geography with Sal Paas. Her enthusiasm and humour helped me settle into Senior School when I was struggling. I always looked forward to her classes and definitely look back on those lessons very fondly. Thank you Ms Pass!'

Megan Mallet (OW2002)



Hurrah for the gold and purple flag we love



Collegians Football Club in 1895

The Collegians Football Club, an institution steeped in tradition and success, has a rich history of premierships that span over a century.

Established in 1892 by LA Adamson, the club has been a powerhouse in the world of Australian Rules Football, winning the inaugural premiership as well as in the centenary year in 1992. To date, the club has won a total of 21 Senior Men's premierships, which is the most of any club in the Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA).

The 1950s and 1960s marked a golden era for the club. One of the most famous and successful contributors was Geoff Hibbins (OW1948) (dec) who was captain for eight years, six of which he also coached and two of which he acted as Club Secretary. He also won the 'Best and Fairest' award six times at the club, and was five times 'Best and Fairest' for the VAFA. One of his greatest contributions though, which stands us in good stead today, was to develop the club's culture.

Winning games (whilst an extremely desirable outcome!) was not the primary reason you joined Collegians. Geoff was adamant that fair play was mandatory and that the club should provide a support network of friends and mentors for the players. The lasting benefit of this philosophy was evident on Grand Final day this year, when thousands of loyal supporters were at Elsternwick Park to see the boys claim an 85-point win over St Kevins Old Boys.

The Hibbins name has long been synonymous with the club. Geoff's older brother, Ian (OW1945) (dec), known to all as 'Heffa', was a regular at home games until his death in 2017. Younger brother Lex (OW1953) (dec) was an outstanding Collegian, playing in five premierships as well as coaching in 1963 and becoming President of the Club in 1975. Lex's son Mark (OW1978) played 197 games for Collegians, coached the club for seven years and was Co-President from 2017-2021. He played in back-to-back premierships in 1992 and 1993 and coached back-to-back A Grade premierships in 2011 and 2012. Brother

Nick (OW1983) played in the 1980s and 1990s and is the current Men's Reserves coach, having previously coached the U19s and Senior Women's team. Mark's son Sam (OW2011) carries on the legacy, captaining the team to victory in September.

We are fortunate to have many, many members who have supported the club over the last 130-odd years, too many families to mention here. There are names going back 100 years that still maintain a close connection to the club they love, and many are enjoying its current resurgence.

Collegians has grown enormously over the last 30 years with the introduction of an Under 19 and Thirds' team and our first women's team in 2017, captained by Christine Nancarrow (OW2016), daughter of Club President Rod (OW1982).

Fielding so many teams does, however, present a logistical and financial challenge. Our success is built on the back of a dedicated committee and the amazing support base Collegians is famous for.



Collegians Football Club - 2023 Senior Men's Premiers

In 2019, the Collegians FC launched a Future Fund plan. Earnings of the Collegians Football Club Future Fund will accumulate in the fund until the sum of \$500,000 has been achieved. Income derived from this sum in the fund may then be used for the current expenditure of the club. The goal of the Future Fund is to raise one million dollars by the club's 150th Anniversary in 2042.

This year the Collegians Football Club Future Fund has reached an important milestone with over \$200,000 now raised.

As we move into the 21st century, the Collegians Football Club continues to be a force to be reckoned with. Our approach to recruitment, development, and fostering a sense of community within the club has allowed us to remain competitive. The support of passionate fans and dedicated club members has been integral to our continued success. The club's storied history, marked by triumphs and challenges, serves as a reminder of the importance of dedication, teamwork and community in the world of sports.

Collegians Football Club is not just a club; it is a living, breathing embodiment of Australian Rules Football and the indomitable spirit of its players and supporters.

As we continue to evolve and strive for greatness, our legacy of premierships remains a cherished chapter in the broader history of the College. It is a legacy that will undoubtedly continue to grow as we forge ahead into a bright and promising future.

Want to make a donation?

To make a donation to our great club, visit collegiansfc.com.au click on 'Our Club', then select 'Donations.' Our partnership with the Australian Sports Foundation enables us to offer tax deductible donations. A non-tax-deductible donation can be made by contacting **Rod Nancarrow (OW1982)** on **0412 687 430** or **rnancarrow@iprimus.com.au**

The Club would like to thank the following supporters for their generous donation to the Collegians Future Fund:

Huw Apted (OW2007), Tim Baxter (OW2004), Lois Bell, James Bennett (OW1981), Michael Bickford (OW1971), Charles Cohen (OW1970), Jeremy Cutts (OW1970), Richard Edwards (OW1963), John Etherington (OW1972), Andrew Greenway (OW1993), Richard Henebery, Geoff Hibbins (OW1948) Estate, Lex Hibbins (OW1953) Estate, Mark Hibbins (OW1978), John Hicks (OW1953), Keith Irvine, Brett Jefferson (OW1988), Ed Johnson (OW1964), Michael Johnson (OW1998), Shane Joyce, David Kerr, Rob Lancaster (OW1982), Trevor Lands, Toby Loakes (OW1993), Bob Loder (OW1944), Rick Loder (OW1973), Stephen Mount, Rod Nancarrow (OW1982), Frank Opray (OW1963), Nick Pike (OW1982), Susie (OWCA Honorary Life Member) and Peter Rodgers-Wilson (OW1965), Bruce Stewart (OW1968), Greg Tregear (OW1983), David Walduck (OW1962), Chris Warner (OW1978), Brad Woolhouse (OW1988), and the Old Wesley Collegians Association.



Great golf courses of the world



Gary Lisbon (OW1984) was a chartered accountant with KPMG who always had a love of golf and never saw himself as an accountant in the long run. He started working with 1991 Open Champion Ian Baker-Finch, before branching out into running corporate golf days, which then led to capturing images of golf courses around Australia. 'This was my real passion and soon developed quite significantly with golf clubs contacting me to capture images of their courses around the world', explains Gary.

Gary first published *Great Golf Down Under* in 2010 which showcased images he captured from courses across Australia and New Zealand. This sold out and was followed by volumes 2 and 3 of the same title – both of which also sold out.

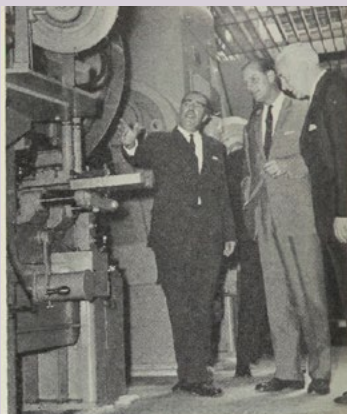
Gary's latest project, *Great Golf Courses of the World*, is set to be equally as popular. 'I long had a desire to produce a book of courses from around the world and earlier this year, it came to fruition. This unique 288-page panoramic-layout book features more than 400 images from 100 courses in 20 countries,' he said.



Each region begins with a commentary written by Gary before a series of breathtaking photographs from key golf courses in that area.

Many of the images were captured by Gary on a 13-week golf odyssey post-COVID in 2022 when he took more than 32,000 images and visited and photographed 89 golf courses, heading as far north as the Arctic Circle in Norway where his golf course images included the Northern Lights at Lofoten Links.

For more information about the book, or to purchase your copy, use the QR code or visit greatgolfcoursesoftheworld.com



OWs on the money!

This image from a 1965 edition of the *Chronicle*, which is in the Prime Minister's cabinet in the reception area at our St Kilda Road Campus, shows **Harold Holt (OW1926)** and HRH Prince Philip viewing the machine used to produce decimal currency during a trip to Canberra.

Holt was instrumental in changing our currency and **Fritz Osbourne (OW1925)** (pictured on the left) was the Superintendent of the Mint at that time.

Another connection to our currency is through **Cyril (Max) Robinson (OW1950)** who designed the polymer \$10 note.

At a time when our currency is once again changing, even if it is going out of fashion, it's nice to see the Wesley connection to its history.

School ties that bind

In February 1973, **Mike Hibbs (OW1978)**, **Steve Godwin (OW1978)**, **Neil Croft (OW1978)** and **Dave Okey (OW1978)** all started Year 7 at Wesley's Syndal Campus (now the Glen Waverley Campus) from various primary schools, joining the 'old boy' (who had started in Year 4) **Graham Charlton (OW1978)**. Placed into the four Houses of Nicholas, Draper, Powell and Waugh, the five sports nuts quickly formed a bond through a mutual passion for cricket and football on the Stewart or Williams ovals.

Neil shares his recollections:

'We all got into trouble (Charlton always the cause) with the kindly Head of Campus, Bruce Gregory (OW1944) or the fierce assistant Mr Chesterfield, and we all were in awe of the sports master, Mr Thomas (who we all knew had run the boundary in the 1969 VFL grand final). We sang all the Wesley songs such as *Grey Towers* and the hymns as well, *Jerusalem* a favourite, now preferred by the English cricket supporters before play in a test match. We sang these and many others, firstly under the tutelage of music teacher Jim Wastell in Cato Hall, and then later of course, in Adamson Hall.

We were treated to somewhat risqué jokes from soon-to-be Head of Campus, Tony Conabere, in English in Year 9. We were scolded by Mr James or Mr Tozer in Maths, we were treated to the loud American twang of John Pogany-Powers in Year 10 English as he taught us *Arthurian Legend*. We had trips to Chum Creek where ex-Melbourne VFL star Bryan Kenneally ran the show. They were amazing memories.

None of us were super scholars but a few of us achieved 'Colours' in our respective sports which not surprisingly, meant more to us at the time (and probably now for that matter!) Fifty years on our friendships and memories remain, despite the tyranny of distance. We all attended each other's weddings and together have represented the school several times at OWCA v OSCA Golf Days and APS Golf days as well. We caught up at Christmas last year to cheer up Hibbsy



The undefeated 1974 Wesley College Football Team



Celebrating 50 years of friendship! Back row (L-R): Graham Charlton and Neil Croft
Front row: Dave Okey, Mike Hibbs and Steve Godwin

after a knee replacement and recently gathered for a weekend to celebrate 50 years of friendship. We talked about our wives, ex-wives and kids, old memories of

the school, teachers and schoolmates. We toasted to our friendship, which began at Wesley all those years ago and has endured to this day.'



Reunions

Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road Campuses' Class of 2022 Reunion



Glen Waverley Campus 30 Year Reunion



Glen Waverley Campus, Class of 1993

St Kilda Road Campus 30 Year Reunion



St Kilda Road Campus, Class of 1993



Andrew Smith and Heidi Lecluse



Toby Loakes, Fiona Battershill
and Geoff Allen



Chelsea Bristow,
Lisa Stojanovski and Joe Lewis



Sharni Page, Ricky Feldman
and Travis Fitch



Dan Harvey and Stuart Roberts



Leah Lord, Paul Jefferies
and Craig Walker



Sam Kennedy, Sara Liversidge,
Lucas Docking and Simon Ross



Nick Gold, Koren Wines
and Benjamin Neville

Connect with your OW network

- Reunions
- Networking Events
- Affiliate Groups
- OWCA/OSCA Golf Day
- Founders' Day
- Gala Dinner
- Regional and International Events
- Foundation Events

Follow us on



Share your news:
owca@wesleycollege.edu.au

View our calendar of events:
owca.net



Join our global OW business directory:



Affiliates

Collegians Football Club

2023 has been one of the best years for Collegians Football Club in quite some time. We fielded six teams – four men's and two women's, with four of them playing in finals and our Senior Men's team winning the Premier Section premiership by 85 points in the Grand Final again St Kevins Old Boys.

This is the highest men's competition in the VAFA and would be regarded as one of, if not the best, suburban competition in Australia. It sits just under the VFL which is second to the AFL. Winning the Premiership is a huge achievement and we have assembled a terrific squad.

The fact that 17 out of the 22 in this team are OWs is terrific and 15 of the 22 are aged 24 or under, which bodes well for the future. We are hoping for a sustained period of very strong competition, continuing to challenge for premierships in the years to come.

Our Under 19s team made the preliminary final and both our women's teams played in finals, so the club is in a very good place going forward. Our women were promoted to the Premier Section this year and to make finals in our first year with both Reserves and Seniors was a fantastic achievement. We were only one of two teams to have both Seniors and Reserves in the finals in the Premier Section.

I implore all Wesley footballers, male and female, to come and be part of Collegians Football Club, as it is a terrific place to play very good football and a very social place to enjoy competitive sport while having a great time both on field and off field.

Our senior men have only lost five of their last 30 games, finishing the home and away season two games clear on top of the ladder with a percentage of over 180%. This means they are ruthless and had some very big winning margins during the year; the Grand Final was no exception. Once we got on top, the boys just kept playing 'their way' and the scoring shots told the story: 35 to 15. The 85-point margin was the second biggest in Premier Section history and the largest since the 1930s. This competition has traditionally been very hard fought and has produced a lot of close games; to be



Our victorious Senior Men's team celebrating their 2023 premiership win

2023 Best & Fairest winners

Senior Men's
(The G.W. Hibbins Award):
Sam Sofronidis

Men's Reserves
(The H.J. Stewart Award):
Flynn Siassios (OW2017)

Senior Women's
(The Susie Rodgers-Wilson Award):
Jessy Gardner

Reserves Women's
Amanda Godfrey

Under 19's
(The Rice Award):
William Houghton

Thirds'
(The George Teale Award):
Oscar Glover (OW2015)



Sofia Bartolucci and Dom O'Dea chair Amanda Godfrey off the ground in her 50th game for Collegians

by far the best side of the year was very pleasing for all at the Club.

Jared Rivers has resigned as senior coach due to family reasons and we have been extremely lucky to be able to appoint one of our senior assistants, Jordie McKenzie, in his place. Jordie came to us with Jared three years ago and is very passionate and excited about taking over as coach. All other coaches at the club will be reappointed for season 2024. It is great for our players to have this level of continuity in their coaching.

Now to back it up next year! This winning feeling is something you can get very used to, so let's strive to make this a special time at Collegians Football Club. It has been an honour and a privilege to be President of this great club, but I will be stepping down at the end of the year and Andrew Kenneally (OW1989) will be taking the club forward for the next exciting part of the journey. Go Lions!

To stay up to date with Collegians, visit www.collegians.com.au where you can also subscribe to our newsletters and purchase your season memberships. You can also follow Collegians on Instagram @collegiansfc

For further information, contact Rod Nancarrow (OW1982) on 0412 687 430.



CFC Captain Sam Hibbins (OW2011) with the 2023 Premiership Cup and some of the action from the 2023 Grand Final match against St Kevins Old Boys

OW Cricket

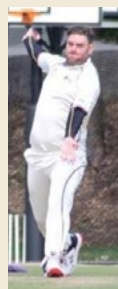
Another cricket season is upon us, and the Old Wesley Cricket Club is ready to hit the ground running. Last season was big for the club. Strong recruitment in the off season saw OWCC introduce a 2nd XI team into the fold for the very first time in its history.

Our 2nd XI was competitive all season and provided depth to the 1st XI when required. The club also worked closely with the school to enable the relocation of our primary home ground to the Front Turf of the St Kilda Road Campus. This season we are looking to make progress, grow the club further and get more people involved.

The OWCC inaugural committee has also been created with Branford Guar (OW2012) selected as our fearless leader and President. This new committee signifies a gear shift for the OWCC towards long term club success, on and off the pitch. With the club in such great shape, there is no doubt that the season bodes well for the baggy purples. Having just missed out on finals last season, we are hungry for success.

For those interested in joining a team, we train on Thursday nights at 5:30pm on the Back Turf at the St Kilda Road Campus. This is followed by a pub meal on Chapel Street. Our matches are 40 overs per side, on Sunday afternoons (some Saturdays) at some of Melbourne's premium turf grounds.

We welcome all abilities and commitment



levels. We aim for success but the most important thing for us is to create a fun, inclusive club culture where everyone enjoys their cricket and each other's company.

We are also very excited for the new year. In January 2024, 21 members of the OWCC family will be touring India, playing cricket on some of the best test wickets in the subcontinent.

The OWCC has strong ties with Mayo College in India and this tour follows a previous tour of India (2020) and reciprocal tours (in 2019 and 2022) where the OWCC hosted the Old Mayo

team here in Australia. We can't wait to strengthen those friendships and test our skills on the subcontinent next year.

If you are interested in joining the OWCC, contact our Head of Recruitment, **Rick Morris (OW2004)** on **0438 081 886**. Rick was also appointed Captain for the upcoming season. Rick is a passionate and experienced cricketer who is looking forward to leading the team to success.

Ben Symon (OW2012)



A Chorus Lion

'A Chorus Lion' is the Wesley College Community Choir open to alumni, parents and friends of the College. Led by Doug Heywood OAM and with the support of our very talented pianist, Carl Stevens, the choir rehearses each Wednesday evening during term time in the Stillwell Recital Centre at the St Kilda Road Campus, singing a range of songs.

With soprano, alto, tenor and bass singers and happily, an increase in numbers, we are creating some really good music and the practice sessions are extremely enjoyable and uplifting! We performed at the Sacred Heart Mission in September and are returning there for a Carols Singalong with the residents in December.

If you have any suggestions of organisations who would enjoy a concert, or if you'd like to join the choir or want more information, please contact the secretary John Milliken via email choruslionwes@gmail.com New members are always welcome!



Members of 'A Chorus Lion' are led by conductor Doug Heywood OAM

OWCA Bowls

We commenced our bowls season at MCC Swinburne on Wednesday 6 September where six brave players enjoyed a great day of bowls. At our next event on 20 September, we retained the trophy against West Brighton in a wonderful day of bowls and as always, the hospitality from our host was fabulous. It is always great to keep the trophy in the name and hands of the OWCA. The latest match was played against MCC at MCC Swinburne. We had one rink score of 12 to 12 while the second rink won 17 to 14, so the OWCA had a successful day.

We normally play against Scotch, Carey and Melbourne Grammar during the season and at the APS tournament day in March 2024, we will compete against bowlers from Scotch, Xavier, Haileybury, Carey, Melbourne Grammar, St Kevins, and Caulfield Grammar.

For the APS tournament day and competition throughout the season, we accept bowlers who are Wesley Collegians and relatives of OWs such as grandparents, aunts and uncles.



Wesley retains the cup from West Brighton

The OWCA supplies bowlers with a bowls top and the rest of the uniform is player supplied. We can purchase Wesley caps or bucket hats for those bowlers who require them (at cost).

We have a longer season this year, but our player numbers are declining. We have 20 names on the list, but we struggle to have enough available for our matches so if you would like a game, please let me know.

If you would like to join us, please contact me on 0403 023 288. We are always looking for new blood to boost up the ranks as we are not getting any younger!

Richard Sluggett (OW1972)
Co-ordinator OWCA Bowls

2024 MATCH SCHEDULE:

Wednesday 17 January
OW and OCG v Old Scotch
at MCC Swinburne

Wednesday 14 February
OW and OM v MCC
at MCC Swinburne

Sunday 24 March
v APS Inter Schools
at Glen Waverley Bowling Club

Collegians X Hockey



Fun times at the 2023 Presentation Night

As the curtain falls on yet another winter season, it's heart-warming to witness the return of active play within our community, following a couple of tumultuous years. One delightful highlight this year was the enthusiastic participation of several junior members, such as Alex English and Jasper and Cameron Miller from the Glen Waverley Campus, injecting youthful energy into our club.

With winter now behind us, our focus shifts to our recently concluded Presentation Night, an event that witnessed an exceptional turnout and an abundance of merriment. The introduction of a photo booth was a delightful addition to the evening's festivities, and we wholeheartedly recommend it for any future events.

As we transition into the upcoming social summer season, we're thrilled to announce the commencement of both the men's competition at Elwood on Tuesdays and the mixed competition at Monash Clayton. These endeavours present an excellent opportunity for those seeking to maintain their fitness levels and hone their sporting skills.

We extend a warm invitation to everyone to join us. We're certain that you'll find ample enjoyment playing hockey with us! For more information, contact me on **0418 553 212**. We look forward to a summer filled with camaraderie.

Scott Booth (OW1985)

Cross Country

The 2023 Cross Country season concluded in September. The OW team had several highlights this year including Adam Pyke (OW2013) taking out the award for '2023 Athlete of the Year' for the overall competition for the second year in a row. Adam had an amazing season as the fastest athlete in nine of the 12 events. The Club Championship result saw the OW Open team placed 6th overall which was a solid result given our smaller size compared to some of the larger clubs that can field multiple teams in the Open division. This result is something for us to build on in the 2024 season.



Adam Pyke (OW2013) being presented with the '2023 Athlete of the Year'

OW Cross Country competes against ten other APS collegian clubs in the Associated Public Schools Old Collegians Amateur Athletic Association (APSOC). The season runs from April to September and includes both on and off-road events ranging from 4km to 21km with the option to choose between longer and shorter distances in several events. Five of the events over the season have a team format with the combined results of teams from each club counting towards the club championship result and two of these events are relays.

We are always keen to welcome new runners of all abilities. Family members of collegians and current students are also welcome to run with the OW club. The 2024 season will kick-off next April.

Contact **Adrian Pile (OW2000)** if you are interested in getting involved or would like any further information via adrian.pile@bigpond.com.



OW baton change at 'The Tan' relays

Notice of the Old Wesley Collegians Association Annual General Meeting

DATE: Wednesday 5 June 2024
TIME: 6.30pm
LOCATION: Waugh Room,
St Kilda Road Campus

Open to all Old Wesley Collegians.
Please direct any enquiries to
owca@wesleycollege.edu.au



JOIN THE WESLEY SUPPORT SQUAD

MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE
Including chairs, umbrellas and apparel
such as t-shirts, hoodies and caps.

Shop online at: wesleysupportsquad.myshopify.com



Births



ANGELUCCI

To Stephanie (OW2010) and Cameron Antonuccio in June 2023, a son, Luca Lorenzo, a nephew for Michael (OW2011)



BONNAR

To Cameron (OW2010) and Belinda in February 2023, a son, Louis Bonnar



DALKIN

To Nic (OW2008) and Georgie in May 2023, a son, Louis Barry



HARSONO - WIDJAJA

To Kathylyne (OW2005) and Pauliady (OW2006) in July 2023, a son, Kairo, a brother for Louella, a nephew for Patesia Widjaja (OW2000) and Antony Harsono (OW2003)



HORN

To Tahlia (OW2008) and Sam Brownbill in October 2022, a daughter, Millie



JAGER - GUMLEY

To Mitchell (OW2006) and Jessica (OW2006) in February 2023, a daughter, Florence Eva, a sister for Hugo, a niece for Daniel Gumley (OW2008) and Paul Jager (OW2003), a granddaughter for Glenis Gumley (past staff)



LODER

To Jack (OW2006) and Ross Andrewarthur in October 2023, a son, Ivor, a brother for Oli, a grandson for Rick (OW1973), a nephew for Alex (OW2003) and Rory (OW2010)



MESZAROS

To Andrew (OW2001) and Dina Kayali in April 2023, a daughter, Elodie Sana, a sister for Eden, a granddaughter for Daniel (OW1952)



RAY

To Matthew (OW1999) and Rebecca in June 2023, a son, Thomas Christopher, a brother for Louis, a nephew for David (OW1999)



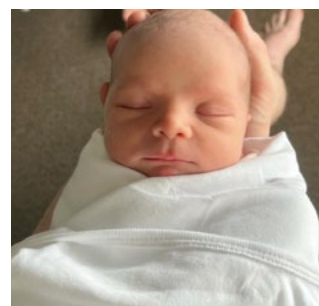
ROGERS

To Penny (OW2004) and Michael Phelan in May 2023, a son, Franklin John Osborn, a brother for Baxter, a nephew for Ali (OW2006)



ROMANIN

To Millie (Casey) (OW2010) and Matt in September 2023, a daughter, Mia Caterina, a sister for Sophia



SHARP - SINGLETON

To Saacha (OW2011) and Matthew (OW2013) in November 2023, a son, Hugo Charles Sharp, a nephew for Mia Sharp (OW2014), Hannah Singleton (OW2014) and Nikita Singleton (OW2017)

Weddings & Engagements



GUMLEY - REES

Daniel (OW2008) and Chloe
on 28 October 2023



LYNCH - SIMMONS

James (OW2000) and Laura on
15 September 2023



ONG - CHO

Kenny (OW2011) and Rachael
on 14 October 2023



ELDRIDGE - LARNE

Chloe (OW2010) to David

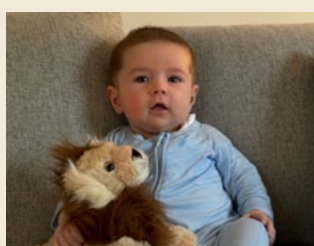
Lion Cubs

We are pleased to welcome the next generation of Lion Cubs to the Wesley community.



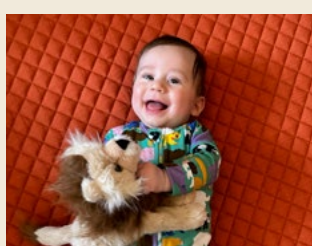
DYER

Hayes, son of Jess (OW2010)
and Jack



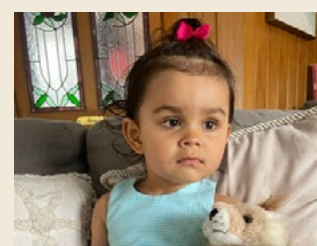
LODER

Louis, son of Jim (OW2004)
and Anna



SHILBACH

Leo, son of Jennifer (OW2003)
and Nic



WIJERANTE

Penelope, daughter of Sandy
(OW2003) and Tom Harrison

ENROL

YOUR CHILD

AT WESLEY



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

Don't leave it too late.
Apply today

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

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

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



Calendar

February

SKR & GW (OW2014) 10 Year Reunion

Friday 16 | 7pm
College Lawn Hotel, Prahran

OWCA Auto Day

Sunday 18 | 11am
Glen Waverley Campus

SKR & GW (OW2019) 5 Year Reunion

Friday 23 | 7pm
College Lawn Hotel, Prahran

March

SKR (OW2004) 20 Year Reunion

SKR (OW1999) 25 Year Reunion

Friday 1 | 6.30pm
Rose Garden & Cato Room, SKR

GW (OW2004) 20 Year Reunion

GW (OW1999) 25 Year Reunion

Friday 15 | 6.30pm
Coates Pavilion & Alex Room, GW

Boat Race Dinner

Monday 25 | 6pm
Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, Kooyong

April

SKR (OW1974) 50 Year Reunion

Friday 5 | 6.30pm
Cato Room, SKR

SKR (OW1964) 60 Year Reunion

Friday 12 | 11.30am
Cato Room, SKR

May

Founders' Day Lunch

Friday 17 | 12pm
Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, Kooyong

June

OWCA AGM

Wednesday 5 | 6.30pm
Waugh Room, SKR

Sydney Event

Saturday 15 | 6.30pm
Intercontinental, Double Bay

August

Stillwell Business Networking

Tuesday 13 | 6.30pm
Brighton BMW, Brighton

Canberra Event

Wednesday 21 | 6.30pm
Cahoot's Lounge, QT

August (Cont'd)

SKR (OW1984) 40 Year Reunion

Friday 23 | 6.30pm
Cato Room, SKR

October

Elsternwick Silver Stars Reunion

Friday 4 | 11.30am
Fitchett Hall, Elsternwick

SKR & GW (OW2023) 1 Year Reunion

Friday 11 | 7pm
College Lawn Hotel, Prahran

Mornington Peninsula Lunch

Wednesday 16 | 11.30am
TBC

GW (OW1994) 30 Year Reunion

Friday 18 | 6.30pm
Alex Room, GW

SKR (OW1994) 30 Year Reunion

Friday 25 | 6.30pm
Cato Room, SKR

November

Geelong Lunch

Saturday 23 | 12pm
The Geelong Boathouse, Geelong

YOUR OWCA

OWCA Executive

President

Kate Evans (OW1998)

Vice President

Tom Pewtress (OW2018)

Treasurer

Rob Lancaster (OW1982)

Secretary

Amy McAlister (OW2003)

Executive members

Jack Ayerbe (OW1963)

Alessia Francese (OW2016)

Alex Iljin (OW1982)

Luca Jolson (OW2022)

Rick Morris (OW2004)

Vibeke Pedersen (OW1996)

Kunal Rastogi (OW2002)

Key contacts

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

Interested in becoming involved in the Executive? Contact:

Kate Evans (OW1998), President, OWCA
kate.evans@wesleycollege.edu.au

Deaths

ABBOTT

Lachlan Brian (OW2019) on 1 September 2023, grandson of Bruce (OW1962), son of David (OW1984), nephew of Cameron (OW1987)

BROWN

Howard William (OW1957) on 25 August 2023, son of Olwyn (OW1927) (dec), nephew of Douglas Forster (OW1917) (dec), Jack Forster (OW1930) (dec) and Norman Forster (OW1936) (dec), brother of Geoff (OW1965), cousin of Norman James (OW1960), father of Timothy (OW1989)

COOMBS

Peter Syndal (OW1949) on 11 July 2023, grandfather of Simon Kerwin (OW2013) and Oliver Kerwin (OW2015)

CURRIE

Robert (Bob) Richard (OW1969) on 17 October 2022

DAY

Alan George (OW1941) on 13 October 2023, brother of Max (OW1948), father of Stuart (OW1967) (dec) and Christopher (Tiff) (OW1968)

EASTAUGH

Graeme Wolseley on 19 March 2022

ENGLISH

Richard Francis (OW1955) on 25 June 2023, brother of Geoffrey (OW1946) (dec)

HAASZ

John Francis (OW1963) on 8 September 2023, father of Peter (OW1996)

HALL

Douglas Edward (OW1944) on 30 December 2022, father of Stuart (OW1975)

HAYES

Timothy Kevin (Past Staff) on 28 October 2023

JOWETT

Zachary (OW2019) on 27 August 2023, brother of Samson (OW2022)

LEVY

John Weetman (OW1954) on 1 November 2022, brother of Peter (OW1958) and Geoffrey (OW1965), father of Ross (OW1978)

MURROWOOD

Andrew James (OW1964) on 31 October 2023

NEILSON

John Leslie (OW1948) on 18 October 2020

PERCY

Gary John (OW1967) on 2 September 2023

TROON

Michael (OW1968) on 18 November 2023, brother of David (OW1966) and Stephen (OW1969) (dec), cousin of James Owens-Brownbill (OW1985)

WOODHOUSE

David Wheen (OW1950) on 6 September 2023, brother of John (OW1946) (dec), father of Colin (OW1978) (dec), uncle of Geoffrey (OW1974)



SELWYN ALLEN FUNERALS
Selwyn & Geoff Allen



Selwyn (OW1966) & Geoff Allen (OW1993) have been serving the local community for over 20 years.

Along with their experienced staff, they offer personal, dependable service with over 100 years combined experience.

Secure, pre-paid and pre-arranged funerals.

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E enquiries@selwynallenfunerals.com.au

selwynallenfunerals.com.au



The Old Wesley Collegians Association is proud to have recently formed a new working and pro-bono relationship with KPMG, the global network of professional firms. We thank them for their support.



Obituaries

JOHN FRANCIS HAASZ (OW1963)

31/01/1947 – 08/09/2023

Janos (John) Haasz was born in Budapest. His parents, Márta and Alfred (Frédi) were of Hungarian Jewish background. They met in 1941 but were separated by the terrible events of World War II. Both lost many of their close relatives in the Holocaust, but against the odds, Márta and Frédi survived and were reunited in March 1945. They married immediately and nearly two years later, John was born.

An only child of refugees, John was quiet, serious and studious. Having begun at Camberwell Boys Grammar, halfway through his secondary schooling John moved to Wesley College. He always did well academically, winning several scholarships and exhibitions. Despite being the least war-like person imaginable, John enjoyed being in the cadets at Wesley, where he led the Intelligence unit. He matriculated in 1963, at the age of 16, as Dux of the school in maths and sciences. John was then awarded a National Undergraduate Scholarship, one of about 10 granted by the Australian National University each year to attract the nation's best students. He also received a Victorian Government Senior Scholarship and a Commonwealth Scholarship.

John had just turned 17 when he moved to Canberra in 1964, and his four years at ANU were among the happiest of his life. John cherished his memories of this time. He lived at Bruce Hall, among a cohort of interesting and clever students from



across Australia, many of whom have remained friends to this day.

John enjoyed a lifelong career in computing, which included periods at the Bureau of Meteorology, various companies in Melbourne, London and the Netherlands, lecturing and programming at Monash and Swinburne Universities, and 20 years in technical leadership roles at Australia Post. A career highlight was designing and leading the development of a new software language called POGO in the mid-1970s. POGO was notable for being transportable across machines and operating systems and was adopted by the US aerospace company McDonnell Douglas for its voice response systems. John was always generous with his knowledge.

John retired from the workforce in the late nineties. In 2002, he returned to his first love – physics, completing his second Bachelor of Science with First-Class Honours at the University of Melbourne in 2006. After inheriting a generous legacy from his hardworking parents, he began to support various organisations in science, the arts and education. Over the years, these have included the Australian National University, the School of Physics at the University of Melbourne, the Australian National Academy of Music, Red Stitch Theatre Company, the Burnet Institute, the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, The Institute of Inquiring Minds, and Wesley College, among many others. He thought carefully about which organisations to support, and in what way. In particular, he wanted to encourage women to pursue careers in science, open educational opportunities for Indigenous Australians and support the marvellous young musicians at ANAM.

John was a man of science. A scholar and a gentleman. He got a great deal out of life and gave much back. He helped his community, friends and family quietly, in thoughtful and practical ways. He has been taken from all of us much too soon, but we are fortunate to have been part of his life.

John is survived by his partner, Belinda, his children Kimberley, Fiona and Peter (OW1996), and grandchildren Remy, Emma, Henry and Charlie.

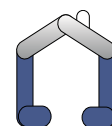
Contributed by Peter Haasz (OW1996)

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PETER SYNDAL COOMBS (OW1949)

22/04/1931 – 11/07/2023



Peter was born in Prahran, the only child of Dr Francis and Lily Coombs, who hailed from Tasmania. He grew up in his father's first practice in Katamatite until they moved to Numurkah in 1938, forming life-long friendships with families with strong connections to Wesley - the McKenzies, Sellecks and Bitcons.

Peter joined the Wesley College Junior School in 1943, aged 11, as a boarder. The whole Wesley College property in St Kilda Road had been taken over by the army in 1942 during World War II and urgent arrangements were made for the 450 senior schoolboys to share half days at Scotch College, while 200 junior schoolboys were relocated to Mayfield, a school in Malvern. The 40 boarders lived at Bromley in Toorak and later, at Kooringa in Malvern. These were seminal years for Peter, instilling strong values of mateship, his love of sport and a deep devotion for the school. The end of a term resulted in steam train journeys back home to Numurkah, eating the 'best ever' meat pies at Seymour Station and sharing the train with girls from MLC and PLC, a highlight.

Peter's friend from Numurkah, Bob Bitcon (OW1948), became a Wesley boarder in 1946, sharing a dormitory of six boys which included Peter.

Like his father Frank, who had been 'Champion of Tasmania' in the 100-yard sprint, Peter was a gifted sportsman, a good all-rounder in Junior School cricket, football, swimming, tennis and athletics. Peter was appointed Captain of the Junior cricket and football teams and Head of the Junior School Boarding House. He completed Years 7 and 8 before graduating in 1945 to Senior School after the military had completed its wartime use of the College.

In August 1946, Headmaster Neil MacNeil died suddenly in his home, part of the College in those days. Hundreds of students formed a double line of honour as the coffin was carried from the Chapel along the Punt Road footpath to the hearse waiting in Moubray Street. Twelve days later, the unbelievable happened with the sudden death of Acting Headmaster, Arthur Gwillim. Gerry Hattam took over as Acting Headmaster until the end of the year when the new Headmaster, Wilfrid Frederick, was appointed, bringing a new era of change and ideas. They were amazing days, never forgotten by those who were there.

In Senior School, Peter was in every Athletic Team from 1945-1949, captaining the 1949 team. The 1945 and 1947 teams were APS champions. Peter's furthest long jump of 21ft 2.5in at the House Sports stood unbeaten for decades. He also represented Wesley in the First XVIII Football team from 1947-1949 and First XI Cricket team in 1948 and 1949 playing in the team with Barry Stevens (OW1948). Peter was awarded Colours for Athletics in 1946, Football in 1947 and Cricket in 1948 which qualified him for the much-coveted trifecta, his name added to the Triple Colour Honour Board.

Peter was also a champion swimmer, winning many events both at school and in State Scout events. In 1948, he was appointed a Probationer and in 1949, his final year, made a Prefect, Captain of Adamson House, Head of Boarding House and Community Service organiser.

At Wesley, Peter earned the nickname 'Crusher' due to his muscular physique and impressive form on the football field, and 'Doc' in reference to his father who sadly died in October 1949 in the Alfred Hospital during Peter's final year.

Twelve days later he ran the race of his life, winning the 100-yard athletic championship race at Wesley in 10.3 seconds for his father and Adamson House.



Students form a double line of honour at the funeral procession for Headmaster, Neil MacNeil in August 1946

On leaving Wesley in 1949, with a glowing reference from Headmaster Frederick, he began his career as an Executive Trainee for Vacuum Oil (now Mobil). He became area manager based in Ararat, playing for the local football and tennis clubs. It was while playing tennis in Ararat that he met his wife, Leonie McMillan. They married in 1958 with Bob Bitcon as best man and Peter Norman (OW1949) as groomsman.

Peter and Leonie were married for 65 years, during which time they moved to Bacchus Marsh, becoming involved with the life and people, buying and running their own drycleaning and laundrette business and opening branches in the growing suburb of Melton. Peter became involved in the local community, becoming a Bacchus Marsh Shire Councillor, member of Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce.

Peter's family ended up learning his school songs thanks to a lifetime of renditions of 'The Boating Song', 'The Best School of All' and 'Grey Towers', to name a few. Those from Wesley fortunate enough to share part of their lives with him will remember Peter for his kind, giving nature, and love for the best school of all.

Peter is survived by his wife Leonie, daughters Fiona and Tina, grandsons Simon Kerwin (OW2013) and Oliver Kerwin (OW2015), granddaughters Rahni and Asha, and great-grandchildren Jada, Meela and Jai.

Contributed by Bob Bitcon (OW1948), Tina Coombs and Simon Kerwin (OW2013)



ANDREW MURROWOOD (OW1964)

16/07/1947 - 31/10/2023



Andrew was born in Melbourne and raised in Malvern as the only child of Alice and Jack Murrowood. In 1958, he commenced his education at Wesley in Form 6A under the watchful eye of Roy Norry and soon proved to be a bright student. He also proved to have the 'gift of the gab' and earned the nickname 'Trappy' because he showed little inclination in keeping his mouth shut! At sport, Andrew played football as well as cricket and swam for

the school swimming team. However, it was at gymnastics that he really excelled under the expert coaching of Bonnie Franks, and he was selected to compete in the Victorian State Junior Gymnastic Titles in 1962.

Andrew also learned to play the clarinet. He performed with it very proficiently in the school orchestra under the baton of Stuart Wilkie and also played in various jazz ensembles. It was from this experience that his great love of music originated and led to him playing guitar and banjo as well as attending classical music concerts later in life.

After matriculating from Wesley at the end of 1964, Andrew went to the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (as it was then) and studied for a Diploma of Metallurgy. During those undergraduate years he shared a house with David Eade (OW1965) and Robert Lawrence (OW1964) and played football with Collegians. His first job involved testing for signs of fatigue failure in aircraft components. Soon after, Andrew joined Alcan, a Canadian mining company and aluminium manufacturer, where he found managerial roles far more to his liking than being a 'boffin' or technical specialist.

It was at Alcan where he really developed his leadership skills and demonstrated his

flair for successfully managing people and finances. Whilst with Alcan, Andrew was transferred to Sydney, then Brisbane and then back to Melbourne where he subsequently became Chief Executive Officer of Ronstan Marine, a company that manufactures sailboat hardware and rigging components. His business career involved many other senior positions that included Regional General Manager for Chandler Macleod, Chairman of Chalmers Transport and Principal of his own management consulting company.

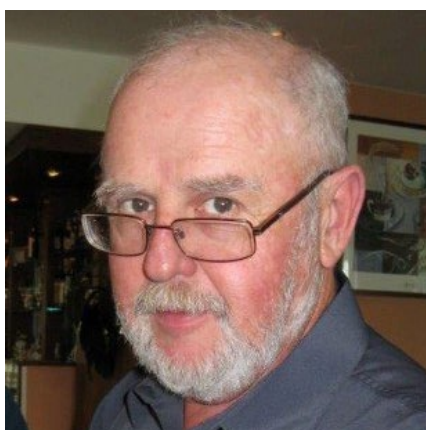
In 1985 and 1986, Andrew was President of Collegians' Football Club, and it was in 1986 that Collegians won their first Amateur A Grade Premiership for 25 years under his leadership. In 1989, he joined the Athenaeum Club as a loyal and enthusiastic member. He became its Vice President in 2021 and would have become Club President in 2024.

Apart from the demands of his business responsibilities, Andrew was a devoted family man and a loving father and grandfather. He is survived by his two daughters, Kate and Anna, and his grandson, Levi James.

Contributed by John Bitcon (OW1965) and Ed Johnson (OW1964)

ROBERT CURRIE (OW1969)

17/11/1951 - 17/10/2022



Rob attended Wesley College from 1966 to 1969 and will be remembered for his contribution as the goalie for the First XI Hockey team and the friendships he made through that fraternity. His contribution to hockey continued after leaving Wesley as a team member of OW Hockey teams for

many years. He also attended the Founders' Day Dinner for many years with his schoolmates after leaving school.

After leaving Wesley, Rob joined the Commonwealth Bank where he served for many years. During this time, he indulged his interest in clothing with a part-time job at Wardrops in Melbourne, where he worked alongside his father and mother. After leaving the bank, he pursued his love for the outdoors in landscape gardening and garden maintenance, starting his own business. This eventually led to him being President of the Lawn Mowing Contractors Association.

He also had a love for his Holden Monaro (noted for being the last Monaro off the production line prior to closure of the GMH Dandenong Plant) which he kept in pristine condition for many decades. His passion for the Monaro resulted in him taking leadership positions at the Monaro Club of Victoria. He was also a prime mover in organising a very successful annual veteran and vintage car show in Colac.

Rob married Robyn in Lorne in 1978. They had two children and after initially living in

Montmorency and Eltham, he moved to Colac, where he immersed himself in the local community. Among his passions was his long-standing interest in military history which led Rob to be actively involved in the operations of the Colac RSL. Totally committed and enthusiastic about everything that he turned his mind to, Rob also made pragmatic and worthwhile contributions to the local gun club, football and netball club and bowls club.

Rob will be remembered for his gregarious, humorous and engaging disposition, as well as a penchant for a somewhat unorthodox wardrobe! With a predisposition to making sure that things were always done right, Rob championed many causes that were to benefit significantly from his involvement.

Rob died in Colac after a short illness. At his funeral his family and many friends remembered Rob for his engaging and generous nature. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him, but particularly by his family, Robyn, Liz, Chris, Charlie and Oliver.

Contributed by Peter Harrison (OW1969) and Ivan Benjamin (OW1969)

TIMOTHY KEVIN HAYES

(Past staff)

24/11/1950 – 29/10/2023

Tim Hayes was a community leader and internationalist who rejuvenated the township of Clunes and saw its population double.

Tim had strong family connections to the Victorian Labor Party, especially at the time of the Democratic Labor Party split of 1955 and wrote about this in his chapter 'Faith of our Fathers' in *The Great Labor Schism: A Retrospective* (2005) edited by Costar, Love and Strangio. This interest in politics shaped his public life.

In 1998, after working in local government, Tim and his partner, Michael Waugh, purchased an impressive historic building in Clunes which was once the old Telegraph Hotel. It had been a Cobb & Co coach terminus and was one of the places where the founding fathers discussed federation and the constitution. At the time, the impressive Clunes building was known as Keebles Country House and was run as elegant accommodation and a restaurant. The pair continued to run this business for eight years.

Tim recognised the value of tourism in renewing country towns and called a committee together to form a sister city relationship with Coloma in the US. Like Clunes, it had been the place of gold's first discovery. The sister city relationship was officially acknowledged by the El Dorado County Board in February 2000.

Tim and his committee held annual celebrations in the extensive grounds of Keebles which raised funds for local clubs and groups. These had an American theme, were joined by US officials, and often celebrated Broadway musicals.



Tim Hayes with Julia Gillard in 'Widow Twankey's Confectionary Emporium' in 2011

At this time, Tim joined the staff as administrator of the newly created Year 9 residential campus of Wesley College in Clunes. Tim was the interface between Wesley and the Clunes community. His background in hospitality and local government stood him in good stead, as did his wickedly irreverent sense of humour and his impeccable understanding of how to make things work. Under his leadership, Wesley and Clunes formed a strong relationship, which endures to this day.

In 2001, he was instrumental in setting up a Clunes committee to steer the '150 years since gold was discovered' celebrations. These were so successful, the events won the Judges Award for Best Tourism Association Event in the Region at the 2002 Goldfields Tourism Awards.

Tim's love of theatre saw him form the local amateur society where its annual productions included the musical *The Boyfriend* and the Australian classic, *Dimboola*. He and his partner established 'Widow Twankey's Confectionary Emporium and Ice Cream parlour' as a fantastical shop on Clunes main street in the theme of *Aladdin*.

The bright colours and magical display of confectionary created a tourism icon and assisted the reinvigoration of Fraser Street. They operated this business until 2021.

In 2006, he was elected councillor and in 2007, became Mayor of Hepburn Shire. One of his most outstanding achievements was the \$3.23 million redevelopment of the Clunes Museum and Interpretive Centre and significant renovations to the Clunes and District Agricultural Show grounds.

In 2007, with Graeme Johnstone, Linda Newitt and Tess Brady, he founded 'Clunes Booktown', a long-running project which significantly enhanced tourism and prosperity in the town. Its annual festival attracts around 15,000 visitors and is a highlight on the regional calendar. For 10 years, Tim oversaw the secretariate, ensuring the organisation was well-run but flexible enough to be creative and embrace opportunities. He oversaw the 2010 bid to join the International Organisation of Booktowns, the first membership offered to a town in the Southern Hemisphere.

He served on several community and local boards including as Chair of the Central Highlands Regional Libraries Corporation (2010-2012) and as a member of the Community Bank, Creswick and District, taking an active role on the board from 2014 until 2021 where he served as a member of the Business Development Committee and Chairperson of the Audit and Finance Committee.

Whip-smart, funny and a person of great substance, Tim's contributions to his community will be counted for many years to come.

Tim died on 28 October 2023 after an illness and is survived by his partner Michael Waugh.



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Showcase your cars, bikes and trucks from the following categories: Everyday Driver, Bombs, Racing, Luxury, Cultural Icons, Speed, Off Road, Workhorses, Fiat Jolly and Friends

The Master of Ceremonies for the day will be Mark Samlal (OW1982). Coffee and food available.

Registrations are now open. For more information, please contact owca@wesleycollege.edu.au

2024 Boat Race Dinner



The OWCA invites you to the 2024 Boat Race Dinner, proudly supported by the Alan Mitchell Club. A celebration across the whole Wesley College rowing community and includes the presentation of the Paul Guest Medal.

Monday 25 March, 2024 from 6.30pm

Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club

Head to the OWCA website for more details



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2024 Founders' Day Lunch



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Date: **Friday 17 May**
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Venue: **Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club**

Keep an eye on the OWCA website for more event details.

For further enquiries, email owca@wesleycollege.edu.au



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