

Lion

THE WESLEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Celebrating the 100th group at Clunes

*Our Country Road
connection*

*Agents of action...
inspiring change*

*New chapter begins
for Wesley rowing*



WESLEY COLLEGE

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Front cover image:
This year, we welcomed the 100th group of students to our Clunes Campus, which was opened in 2000.

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Editorial

Milestones may have long since disappeared from the actual pathways of our world but look how often we still use them in the abstract, to mark how far we’ve come. This term, we reached a notable one for our community, with Group 100 taking up residence at Clunes.

In our extended lead feature in this edition, we celebrate reaching this 25-year milestone by going back to the start of the journey, when *Wesley at Clunes* was nothing more than an audacious idea, then follow the path to arrive at the Clunes we have today.

Some thoughtful reflections from Clunes alumni and staff over the years – including a particularly funny anecdote Principal Nick Evans shares from the early days – highlight the richness of the learning at Clunes for our Year 9 students, and provide a taste of the formative, and at times transformative, life experience it was for so many of them.


On the longer journey our students take through Wesley College, Service Learning – an integral part of our curriculum built into the IB learning process at all levels of our school, likewise offers special moments of self-discovery.


Our ‘Agents of action’ feature on page 12 illuminates the many ways our current students are actively making a difference to their local and broader communities, and in doing so, learning about themselves. The inherent grace underpinning Gandhi’s saying, ‘*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others*,’ is manifested in big and small ways every day at Wesley, setting a pathway they can continue to follow in their lives.


Our world seems in such a difficult place right now, and while the understandable impulse might be to close in, that simple maxim reminds all of us that, as always, our real security lies in opening up to each other.

Season’s Greetings to all from the *Lion* team.

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.

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Principal’s lines

One of the joys of my career has been reconnecting with former students. The joy can be personally melancholy, as there is nothing that marks the passage of time so much as meeting a 40-year-old whom you remember vividly as a young person in a purple uniform. This year marks 30 years for me in this wonderful, mad profession.

My first Year 12 class are now turning 48. When I taught them, I couldn’t imagine myself at the age of 48, let alone all of them. One of my favourite questions at Old Wesley Collegians Association (OWCA) reunions is to ask former students how old they think I was when I taught them. Sadly, they invariably guess correctly. The grey hair and glasses now permanently on my visage, and some simple mathematics, must help. But the look of surprise when I confirm their guess is constant. For almost all of these OWs, I was younger then than they are now. It is quite a poignant moment.

One other thing strikes when I meet OWs I taught and we converse about their lives. Even the most successful have failed time and again. I was privileged last year to see Josh Piterman (OW2003) perform Jean Valjean in the West End production of *Les Miserables*. It was an astonishing moment for me. I wept. I recalled, in the moment, Josh being a slightly more than usually irritating but nonetheless charming Year 9 student. I recalled his first audition for the Senior School musicals I was involved in, and his subsequent performances. If someone had said to me at any stage then that this boy would reach the very pinnacle of musical theatre, I would probably have laughed. This is an area of endeavour to which many are called, but very few make it.

Josh has faced astonishing odds and prevailed. The Senior School were privileged to hear from him earlier this year. He spoke, at some length, about his failures, and the strength these failures gave him. Yet his life appears a catalogue of success.

The Middle School, once again at the St Kilda Road Campus, was joined by Fergus Watts (OW2003) earlier this term. Fergus left school as an All Australian footballer and was drafted at number 14 of that year’s national draft, by the Adelaide Crows. He struggled in Adelaide and played five games in 2 years. He recalled being told that he was an absolute disgrace by a woman as he was trying to eat a chicken focaccia. After moving to St



Fergus Watts (OW2003) with St Kilda Road Campus Middle School Captain Harry and Principal, Nick Evans (OW1985)

Kilda, he badly broke his ankle, an injury that ended his career.

At this point in life, Fergus was, in his own words, a complete failure. From the promise exhibited by All Australian status and a first-round draft pick, he managed just six AFL games. This is six more than almost all of us, but it wasn’t what he was predicted to be.

Three years later, Fergus founded Bastion Collective, at the age of 24. It is now the largest independent marketing and communications group in Australia, and he remains the non-executive chair. He has been CEO of the Reach Foundation and remains the Foundation’s chair.

It was this that he came to speak about in assembly. What struck me was his frank discussion of failure and how important it had been for him. His message to the students? Dare to fail.

In this modern world, where so much of what we see of others’ lives is curated carefully, it is easy to gain a warped

perception of 'success'. The modern cult of celebrity has a part to play in this. People rise without trace, and briefly flick across our consciousness without any particular talent except celebrity. Even those with talent in abundance are spoken about as if their success was an inevitability.

Behind most evidently successful lives is a litany of failure at some point. The most important jobs in my life are the ones I didn’t get. As Winston Churchill, a man out of date in this modern world but whose aphorisms are still worth reading, said 'Success isn’t final; failure isn’t fatal. It is the courage to keep going that counts.'

Wesley College, as a school, and Australian society as a whole, needs to make sure our young people have the space and opportunity to fail. Without such space and opportunity, how will they gather the courage and daring to keep going?

Nick Evans (OW1985)



Wesley at Clunes: Celebrating 25 years



Wesley College students in Fraser Street, Clunes in 2000

With its emphasis on experiential learning, community engagement and interpersonal relationships, the Wesley at Clunes program has become a foundational experience in a Wesley College education. It’s now 25 years since the first excited Year 9 students arrived at Clunes, and this term, Group 100 took up residence. **Paul Munn** looks back over the journey from there to here.

The Clunes story began in the late 1990s when Principal David Loader conceived a novel, audacious plan for a Year 9 residential program somewhere in small town Victoria, and the College Council settled on the historic gold mining town of Clunes.

When Wesley announced the plan for the \$4.5m residential campus in early 1999, the news electrified the quiet rural community of about 800 souls.

‘It’s the best thing that’s happened to Clunes since the gold rush,’ said former councillor and Booktown co-founder, Tim Hayes.

The building phase swung into action, and just one short year later, in February 2000, the first group of Year 9 students arrived on campus for the inaugural eight week program.

Jacqui Kerr (OW2003), who became a Year 9 Wesley teacher herself not so many years later, remembered the excitement of being part of that first group: ‘It was sweltering hot on the first day and eight teenage girls were squealing and running up and down the stairs, nervously stealing glances at their new housemates from the other campuses.’



Kia Hennen (OW2003) and Gabi Rowland (OW2003) on the right at the Clunes official opening in 2000

Pioneer student Gabi Rowland (OW2003) recalled she ‘was so excited and nervous’ she couldn’t sign the register.

‘It was the simple gesture of leaving a note on the bed: “Gabi Rowland, this is your bed. Enjoy!” as well as a Clunes cap and a sprig of lavender which made us feel welcome.’

The energy that came with being the pioneering group more than made up for the inevitable ‘unfinished’ nature of the campus in those first weeks.

‘Each day, something new would arrive or be done around the village which made the journey so exciting. We were able to watch the village grow. I wouldn’t have swapped it for any other term,’ said Gabi.



Victorian Premier Steve Bracks unveils the plaque commemorating the official opening of the Clunes Campus. Principal David Loader (left) assists

It’s fair to say that Clunes has never really been ‘finished’; ‘something new’ continues to arrive, from the growing relationship with Dja Dja Wurrung traditional owners, to the significant upgrade in facilities that occurred two years ago to ongoing adaptations of the curriculum.

The ‘learning to live with’ part of Wesley’s DNA has found full expression within the Clunes program, not just on campus, but within the wider local community.

From the beginning, the vision was always for the program to be ‘of’ the community and part of the fabric of the town.

Today, this takes many forms, including volunteering at community events such as Booktown and the Clunes Show, shopping at the local supermarket, greengrocer and butcher, and working with the local primary school.

‘Research suggests that Year 9 is the perfect age for experiential learning,’ says Head of Campus, Tara Clark. ‘We believe that creating unique and meaningful connections with the community helps students to identify their place in the world and see how they can make an impact.’

A key element in the curriculum, the Passion, Agency and Connection Project, acknowledges this, allowing students to choose a topic of personal interest and create a project that addresses a community need or issue, empowering them to become active and engaged global citizens.

Mia, who was at Clunes in Term 2 with Group 98, created a children’s picture book about how women in rural communities are affected by the gender pay gap.

‘I went to the local primary school and read my book to the Year 1s,’ said Mia. ‘It mostly focused on Malala, Florence Nightingale and Emma Watson, but with the stories simplified for younger kids.’

Madison from Group 97 built a model of an aircraft engine to demonstrate how sustainable aviation fuel can be a viable alternative to help make aviation a greener industry.

‘I learnt so much about the effects of carbon emissions from aircraft, and about constructing models and using different online programs such as



Making some new woolly friends



Building the chook shed



Jane Van Der Weyden (OW2003) and Steven Fullinfaw (OW2003)

Tinkercad,’ she said. ‘I loved the process of creating and exploring different ways to get my topic across.’

Another addition to the curriculum is the highly popular farm visit program. Issues around sustainability, ethics, conscious consumerism and connection with land take on real-world relevance as students get hands-on experience at local farms.

100 groups of Year 9 students across 25 years have now had their educational journey enriched by their term at Clunes, and all because a school community said ‘yes’ to their Principal’s inspired vision.

As Principal Nick Evans reflects, ‘It was an astonishing innovation in education to put such a campus in the middle of a rural community, and what a success it has been.’

And so, to the next 25 years of the Wesley at Clunes story. What might it look like? Tara already has a few ideas.



Patrick McMullan (OW2003) on the bus in Term 1, 2000

‘I envisage expanding learning even further into the outdoors,’ she said. ‘I see us working alongside our Indigenous elders, local farmers and community groups to become an even more valued and integrated part of the Clunes rural community.’

However it develops, it’s clear the essentials of the experience will abide for the next 100 groups. Perhaps Nick Boyd-Cain (OW2003), also a member of Group 1, says it best as he reflects on adjusting to life in a new community that was still forming around him: ‘It really made the experience feel true to its intended purpose: taking us out of our comfort zones, challenging us, making us respond, and in doing so, building some skills that don’t emerge in the course of a normal schooling experience.’

‘It left quite an indelible mark, one that I’m really grateful for.’

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



From Group 33 to Group 100 Honouring Alensten Wu (OW2011)

The message Alensten Wu (OW2011) shared with Group 100 is that time really does fly.

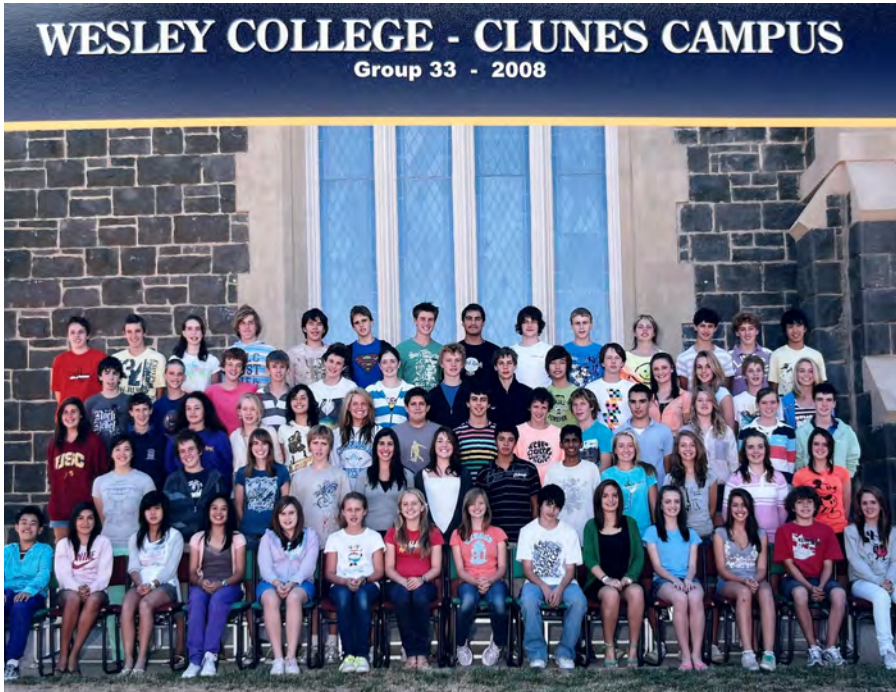
As a member of Group 33, Alensten attended Clunes in Term 1 of 2008. He loved his time at Clunes so much that he was moved to donate to the Wesley College Foundation - Clunes capital campaign. Having the opportunity to walk around the campus and the township of Clunes, he reflected on the fact that Clunes has not really changed in the last decade, but the campus has truly been transformed.

The College was thrilled to unveil the *Alensten Wu Art Studio* at Clunes at the Presentation Day for Group 100 on Sunday 1 December. The naming of the studio is fitting recognition for Alensten's significant philanthropy and recognition of his positive impact during his time at Clunes.

Alensten visited House 12 where he and other students spent eight wonderful weeks. Alensten was also keen to walk into town to see the Post Office... the place where he collected the care packages sent by his mother, which included the coveted instant noodles!

Principal Nick Evans offered a vote of thanks to Alensten and wife Sandy who are *Double Purples*, a small and special group of couples who both attended Wesley. Reflecting on his time at school and at Clunes with the families gathered for Presentation Day, Alensten noted that Group 100 will enter Senior School next year, and in just three years, will be finishing their time at Wesley. And perhaps three years after that, they will finish their tertiary studies. Time flies, and experiences like Clunes are both important and transformative, and often make a bigger impact than we might realise at the time.

We extend a huge vote of thanks to Alensten for his generosity, and his continued support and advocacy of Wesley... as he said in his speech: 'Wesley Now and Always'.



Alensten Wu (back row, far right) attended Clunes as part of Group 33 in 2008



Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) with Alensten at the Art Studio unveiling



Alensten in front of House 12, which was his 'home away from home' in 2008



We made it! Group 1 at Clunes in 2000

'Two churches in a field of mud, in between some houses.'

Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) reflects on the early days at Clunes...

'The first time I went to see what became the campus at Clunes was in 1998. The entire staff of the College was piled into buses and driven up the Western Highway for the first day of Term 3.

Anyone who attended Clunes in Term 3 will know that the weather can be brutal at that time of the year. It certainly was on this day. As the rain pelted down on the convoy of buses, and the temperature dropped into single digits as we approached the township of Clunes, more than one or two of us were wondering what on earth we were doing.

These rather summary judgements weren't helped by our first glimpse of the site. My overarching memory is of mud. Two churches in a field of mud, in between some houses. I am sure there were other impressions at the time, but this was over 25 years ago. Many of us, as we returned to Melbourne, wondered why we were even looking at this place.

Not to be deterred by nay sayers, David Loader persevered, and his vision came to pass. A wonderful experience was had by the sensible, mature and hand-picked Group 1 in 2000, but Groups 2, 3 and 4 didn't quite follow the same path! From this shaky start, and with more programming and support, Clunes grew. Despite the shakiness, there was always learning. And many of my Year 12 students in subsequent years would reflect with great fondness on their Clunes experience.

I really got to see Clunes in action once I became Head of Middle School in 2008. I would spend a night at Clunes every term, which would often involve eating dinners in a house, cooked by the students. There were some memorable meals.

One spectacular dinner was produced by a student who took his own pots, pans and knives to Clunes. His housemates sensibly relieved him of all other duties and he produced, in return, a spectacular dinner every evening. Other meals proved memorable for different reasons.

One time, I remember turning up to a house and was greeted by the welcome smell of roasting chicken. The bird was produced with great ceremony, surrounded by vegetables. A carving knife was produced, flourished and then cut into the chicken. It went in about a centimetre and stopped. The same thing happened on the other side. Confusion reigned. It took 30 seconds for me to think of the important question: 'Did you defrost it?' The answer came back: 'Did we have to?' It sent me elsewhere for my dinner.

Schools, for a very long time, considered academic learning to be the be-all and end-all of education. But life is about so much more than the completion of assessments and performance in examinations.

The ability to live with others, to negotiate and compromise, to share, to experience life in a different part of Australia, to know you need to defrost a chicken before it goes in the oven... these are just some of the real lessons that a term at Clunes imparts.'





A special time in a special place

We are about to take a journey on a road less travelled. Where we shall end I cannot say. What I do know is that the journey promises much and will provide many surprises along the way. To all those who embark on "Wesley Clunes" good luck and may those who dare to dream the impossible, be rewarded with experience and a life both satisfying and full of richness.

Robert Marshall 6-2-2000
Head of Clunes, 2000-2004

Part of the wonder of Clunes is that the experience is both uniquely individual and intensely communal.

These reflections from some of our Clunes alumni present a kaleidoscope of big and small memories that enliven a special time in a special place, providing a taste of the formative, and at times transformative, life experience it was for so many.

As Kate Loder (OW2006) reflects, 'It felt like Clunes was giving us tools for our future, even if we didn't quite understand exactly how or why they might be handy at the time.'

Tom Pewtress (OW2018)

'My time at Clunes was a formative experience which I reflect on fondly to this day. Group 63 (Term 2, 2015) enriched my understanding and connection to the history of Victoria and the city of Melbourne. Be it dreamtime stories or our colonial past and the gold rush, the Friday afternoon bus tours exploring sites all across central Victoria and engaging our history expanded my understanding of who we are. Truly formative in understanding our modern context.'

Kathryn Tripodi (OW2007)

'I was in Group 19 (Term 3, 2004) at Clunes. I have so many memories... I even made a Memory Box! I remember buying our own groceries and cooking our own meals as a house of eight, meeting at 7.30am every morning to find out what was happening that day, gaining independence and life skills by being allowed to walk to Fraser Street with a buddy to pick up mail, get a deep-fried mars bar or just chill off-campus. I also remember using the blue phone in Jubilee Hall (no shoes allowed!) to make phone calls home, making new friends and doing different classes compared to normal school, like bird watching, sunrise walks, dancing, bike riding and music, along with a heap of others. I found Clunes challenging as I was so home sick, but I was proud that I lasted the whole term.'

Amy McAlister (OW2003)

'I still remember the anticipatory buzz around the Middle School when Clunes was first announced. As the first year level to attend, we had no idea what to expect. Now, 25 years on, I look back on Clunes with fond memories of eight weeks filled with wonderful friendships, questionable creative pursuits and countless musical performances in the bluestone church. We navigated our way through culinary experiments, along with more than a few laundry disasters. A dear friend still hasn't forgiven me for shrinking her beloved drama tour jumper! All-in-all, we not only survived the experience, but thrived, building resilience, resourcefulness and a sense of responsibility. I'm very thankful to have been an inaugural student at Clunes back in 2000.'

Josh Kidd (OW2018)

'I am so thankful to have spent a term living at Wesley Clunes. It was a great opportunity to develop lifelong skills, memories, and to connect with students from all three campuses. Clunes has such a rich history: it's Victoria's first gold town, a filming location for Mad Max (1979), and now a home away from home for 100 groups of Wesley students! Wesley Clunes was a truly formative experience in my life, and I make sure to visit the town (and bakery) every year.'

Fergus Watts (OW2003)

'I was Term 4, Year 1 of Clunes. In its first year, Clunes was the Wild West! Which I loved! It gave me a taste of independence away from my family and I thrived. The opportunities across sport and music were vast and the ability to create my own rules was liberating in many ways. Term 1 at Clunes was the perfect time for me. I loved the town and the campus. Looking back, it was the harder times and the conflict that I learnt the most from. The looser environment outside of school put the decision making squarely back on the student. That took some getting used to. I can't recommend Clunes highly enough as part of developing as a young person.'

Katya Crema (OW2006)

'Clunes was a transformative experience that really did contribute to shaping me as an adult in a positive way. Being away from home for an extended period at such a pivotal age taught me independence, responsibility, and the importance of resilience. These weeks were filled with learning, connection, and moments that pushed me out of my comfort zone, fostering personal growth and confidence. The memories of late-night conversations, teamwork in the kitchen, and discovering new perspectives will stay with me forever. It's an experience I would love my children to have, as it builds character and lifelong connections.'

Nick Boyd-Caine (OW2003)

'I still remember how rough the campus was when we arrived as part of Group 1. Landscaping hadn't been completed, the houses were not quite ready, and we didn't have hot water in ours for weeks! Rather than a negative, it was great having such a stark, visual reminder that this was all new territory. The staff, the students, the school... everyone was taking the plunge together.

The best part was the freedom we had to choose and direct how, and on what, we spent our time. That really underpinned what I understood the purpose of Clunes to be; breaking kids away from their routine, pushing them into new and challenging situations and seeing what we made of them. The trust that went into that was pretty significant but for the most part, I think we repaid it.'

Alastair Davis (OW2006)

'Reflecting on my time at Clunes during just my second term at Wesley, I remember it as a fantastic experience that challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and helped build relationships that lasted throughout my school years. The close-knit community and hands-on learning are experiences I still reflect on, and I feel fortunate to have been a part of it all.'

Lorenzo Parronchi (OW2011)

'Clunes was a memorable and formative experience. I think I took it for granted at the time, but having two months away with your friends and peers to learn and grow and explore is pretty special. Being exposed to the world in new ways. Learning to budget, planning your shopping and your meals, cooking, cleaning, exercising, and living with friends and peers for the first time and all the dynamics that come with that. Learning to navigate life. Learning about community. Researching and presenting on a topic of passion, and oh, I'd almost forgotten the crazy movie marathon soiree at the end. What a time to be alive!'

Kate Loder (OW2006)

'Every person that goes to Clunes has their own unique memories of their time - but there is also a sense that we've all had a shared experience, no matter which term or year we attended. Something that sticks in my mind is a Clunes unit called, 'People, Places, Soulful Spaces' which gave us the opportunity to spend extended solo time in nature, observe our surroundings, journal our experience and sit in mindful reflection. These are ideas that are only just creeping into school curriculums as valuable concepts now, over two decades later. It felt like Clunes gave us tools for our future, even if we didn't quite understand exactly how or why they might be handy at the time.'





Group 100 reflect...

'Clunes Group 100 marks a significant milestone for Wesley College - a celebration of 25 years and 100 groups of students experiencing life in this unique and special place.'

It's a legacy worth celebrating, and it's been an honour for us to be part of this remarkable moment in time,' said Scarlett.

'Being in Group 100 has reminded us that we are part of something much bigger - a tradition of learning, growth and connection that spans decades. The memories and lessons will stay with us, shaping who we are long into the future.'

From exploring the outdoors in Connect, to giving back through community engagement, expressing creativity through PAC, and mastering life skills like cooking, each of us has grown in ways we couldn't have imagined. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our parents, who gave us this amazing opportunity, and the dedicated Wesley staff, who guided and encouraged us every step of the way.

To the school, the Clunes community, and everyone who made this experience possible - thank you for creating a program that has truly shaped who we are.'



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'It's crazy to think that 99 groups have been to Clunes before us! It feels really special that we are the 100th group, like we're part of something big. Every day here is awesome.'

James

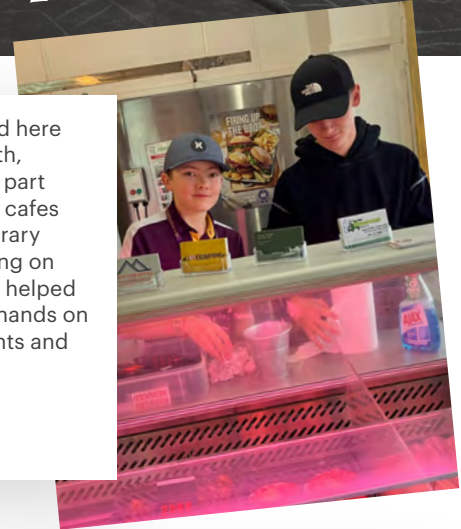
'One of the most enriching experiences we've had here at Clunes has been the opportunity to engage with, and support, the local community. Students took part in a variety of activities including working in local cafes and news agencies to helping in the Creswick Library and Clunes bakery and even doing some gardening on campus. Through these experiences, we not only helped others but also learned about ourselves, gaining hands on skills, growing more confident in new environments and contributing to something larger than ourselves.'

Ivy



'At Clunes, we were given the unique opportunity to learn in ways that we never could if confined to a classroom and the languages program was no exception. Every language class - French, Chinese, Japanese and German, shifted its focus to vocabulary related to household work, cooking and living with other people, and each group was given the opportunity to cook a dish from their respective cultures. So much of our work was self-directed... we are beginning to understand that the effort we put in determines how much we get out of life which is invaluable heading into our senior years of school.'

Maddie



'A definite highlight of my time at Clunes has been the friendships I've made. I'm a bit shy but I came with an open mind, and I've made closer bonds with my existing friends from my campus and formed new friendships with students from other campuses which is really nice. I also started cooking at Clunes - before coming here, all I could cook was vegemite on toast and now I can do bacon and eggs and simple fried rice!'

Hirun



'One of my favourite things at Clunes was the FASTA program which provided a chance to go off campus with your tribe to play games against other tribes like frisbee and dodgeball. It doesn't matter how skilled you are, everyone can just have a go, make new friends and have fun! I enjoyed cooking before coming to Clunes and I've really enjoyed trying out new recipes while I've been here. I'll be taking some of these back to share with my family.'

Angus



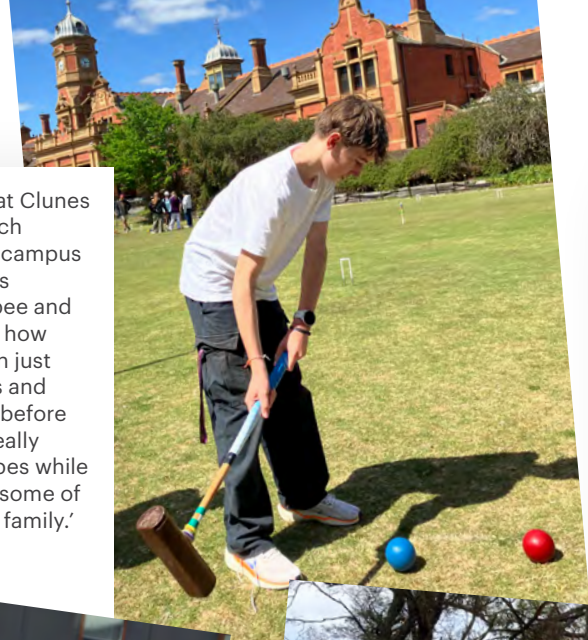
'The Electives program at Clunes really had something for everyone... from Headliners (Music) and Best in Show (Art) to Gear Up (Biking), PALS (Sport) and Woodwork. We all learnt a lot and discovered skills we didn't know we had and now I really like building stuff. The Electives program is certainly up there as one of the highlights of my Clunes experience.'

Edward



'One of the most memorable parts of our Clunes experience was cooking. For many of us, this was our first real opportunity to cook on our own, and it came with its challenges - burnt toast, mismeasured ingredients and lots of trial and error. For others, it became a way to express creativity and show appreciation for friends. Cooking at Clunes taught us skills far beyond the kitchen, like teamwork and resilience. It wasn't just about food; it was about building community, learning independence and creating memories that will last long after this experience has ended.'

Ethan



'The PAC program was great. Back in Melbourne, we're usually given a topic to explore but for your PAC, you can do anything that interests you and the teachers are so supportive. For my PAC project, I created a dress based on an endangered species of bird - the orange bellied parrot, to raise awareness about their conservation. I used different types of recycled materials and pinned it on a mannequin to make a dress for the presentation day.'

Piper



'Connect was a program which provided time for us to immerse ourselves in the environment and learn through experience. We learned so much about the land and its deep connection to the First Nations peoples who have cared for it since creation, and about ourselves. Through moments of reflection, especially during the day and (for some) night solos, we explored concepts like solitude and loneliness, gaining new perspectives and fostering a deeper connection with nature and ourselves. It has been a great journey.'

Milli

'It's difficult to narrow down the best thing as there are so many facets to the Clunes program. I met so many people - particularly through the PAC (Passion, Agency and Connection) project and I got to go in depth into a topic that I found interesting, not something that was just given to me by a teacher. The Connect Program was another highlight, as we got to explore community, self and the environment through activities like the Mount Beckworth hike and the day and overnight solo. It was so freeing to be by myself in the woods with my thoughts and doing something mindful.'

Milandra



Agents of action...



Rose from Year 2 feels a ping in her heart when she helps others

Some of the most powerful learning for Wesley students happens outside the classroom in the service of others...

Woven into Wesley’s culture is a commitment to *service learning*. Built into the curriculum and integral to the IB learning process at all levels – the PYP, the MYP and the IB Diploma Program - it encourages our students to understand their capacity to make a meaningful contribution to the world by actively and generously helping others. In short, they learn to be agents of action.

There’s no minimum age to be an agent of action. In our Junior Schools, service action in the PYP is seen as a vital component of learning, and even at this level it takes many forms: fundraising, volunteering, advocacy for important causes, promoting social justice, engaging in social entrepreneurship and making informed lifestyle choices.



Jack (Year 12, St Kilda Road) busts a move on the dance floor with Pia from Flying Fox

A good example of this is Rose, a Year 2 learner at Elsternwick, who had the idea to raise money and books for those in need. Her initial idea grew into a fundraising event for 1, 2, 3 Read to Me, a not-for-profit group supporting children’s literacy. Then, wanting to help those living rough this winter, she initiated a community drive for pre-loved jackets to pass on to people living in very difficult circumstances.

‘People that live rough on the streets... it can be hard to help them, but we have to try and do something,’ she says.

‘Every time I do something like this, I feel like I am standing on top of the world. And maybe it helps them to stand up as well. Helping people, both kids and adults, is amazing. I feel a ping in my heart.’

Agency, empathy and compassion are naturally strengthened in our learners from these service experiences; equally, it strengthens their academic learning. The applied nature of service learning brings relevance to classroom learning, helping students gain a deeper understanding of academic concepts and build their critical thinking skills.

Fundraising, of course, can be fun. During this year’s WiSSH Week, one of the many student-led activities, ‘Teacher Gunging,’ encouraged donations with the promise

that the teacher who received the most donations by the end of the week would be doused with a bucket of gunge in front of the entire school. WiSSH (Wesley is Supporting Sacred Heart Mission), a key annual fundraiser for the MYP at our St Kilda Road Campus, has raised an impressive \$34,000 for Sacred Heart Mission since its launch in 2020.

It can also be very entertaining. The hugely successful ‘Together We Will’ concert staged in Cato Hall at the Glen Waverley Campus last month raised an impressive \$8,000 across two performances to support rural communities in Eswatini (see Snapshot story on page 22).

In Senior School, ‘Service’ forms one of the three central pillars of the Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) program – an essential element that students complete as part of their IB Diploma Program. Service is often regarded as one of the most transformative aspects of CAS, fostering self-awareness, facilitating diverse interactions and experiences, and encouraging the development of international mindedness amongst our students.

‘With nearly 150 Glen Waverley students participating in CAS, there have been a variety of initiatives within the school, and beyond, seeking to model a generosity of spirit,’ says CAS Coordinator, Tim Box. ‘BBQ fund raisers for the Good Friday and MND appeals, hospital visits, support for the PanKind Walk at The Tan, mentoring Junior School students in science and sport, marching up Swanston Street on Anzac Day and Poppy sales at The Glen were all in the mix.’

Likewise, students at the St Kilda Road Campus made all sorts of contributions to their local and wider communities, including fostering kittens through the Lost Dog’s Home, organising local



Fundraising can be fun: Teacher John Cilione gets a good gunging



Harper (Year 12, St Kilda Road), helps Alila get ready to tackle the zip line

beach clean ups, helping at community tree planting events, and musical performances at retirement homes, among many other experiences.

A special student-led initiative at both our Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road Campuses was a food drive of canned goods – ‘Cans for A Cause’ at Glen Waverley and ‘Canstruction’ at St Kilda Road – to benefit hunger relief charity Foodbank and the Asylum Centre Resource Centre. The usual casual



Canstruction in progress

clothes day gold coin donation became a can donation, and the ‘canstruction’ involved students competing in their Houses to construct the best sculpture from all their donated cans.

Another extremely popular annual service opportunity for Year 11 and 12 learners is the Flying Fox camp; this year, it involved over 70 students volunteering time over their winter school holidays to become a buddy at a camp for children with disabilities and additional needs. This pushes many students beyond their comfort zone and challenges their thinking about their role in the community.

‘The best perspective I have gained from my position is how truly supportive, caring and genuinely kind-hearted our community is,’ says St Kilda Road Charities and Community Service Prefect, Cody. ‘Regardless of the initiative, the topic, the charity or the cause, one thing that has stayed consistent is the way our community rallies together, advocates together, and proudly takes action together.’

St Kilda Road CAS Coordinator Amanda Stefancic agrees. ‘The ‘magic’ of service through the CAS program is that when students seek out and participate in these experiences, they grow in their view of themselves as citizens who contribute to the world around them,’ she says. This is just as important as the academic skills they gain through their school lessons.’

The transformative effect of service to others, so beautifully encapsulated in Gandhi’s maxim ‘The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others’, manifests itself time and again at Wesley as our agents of action, engaged in helping others, experience their own special moments of self-discovery.

For Lola from Year 12, her moment came at the Flying Fox camp. ‘It was such an amazing experience,’ she says. ‘My buddy was such a lovely person. It was amazing how she was able to communicate in such different ways. I’ve grown so much as a person, and it has really taught me how to adapt to the world in new, creative, and often simple ways.’





Kirwan at the Lone Pine monument on the Gallipoli peninsula

Spirit of Anzac: Kirwan’s story

Our June issue of *Lion* featured Year 11 Glen Waverley student Kirwan’s poignant *Tales of Poppyseed and Poppies*, a personal reflection on the ANZAC legacy that won her the 2023 Premier’s Spirit of ANZAC prize. Together with 11 other winning Victorian students, she travelled to Türkiye in early July for an eight-day study tour of Istanbul and the Gallipoli peninsula. Here, she reflects on that journey.

‘Türkiye’s oceans and rivers around Istanbul and the Gallipoli peninsula are a sparkling blue, even clearer than some of the most beautiful beaches in Australia. At the Ari Burnu cemetery, the graves of Commonwealth soldiers overlook this calm, pristine water in a peaceful, bittersweet kind of way. This final resting place of both the bodies and memories of fallen soldiers is somewhat of a contradiction to the way in which they died, but it reflects how Turkish people turned around and forgave the very ANZAC soldiers that invaded their homeland in a violent manner. The gardens are well tended to by locals, and there is no rubbish in sight.

To have the opportunity to visit a country with incredible historical significance was really touching. In Australia, much of our Indigenous heritage was destroyed, along with their stories, languages and songs, and whatever physical remnants that have been left behind are often placed behind a glass barrier to prevent any damage.

This happens a lot less in Türkiye. In Istanbul, our tour guide pointed out a gorgeous fountain gifted by Kaiser Wilhelm II to the Ottoman Empire; we saw a stray dog washing its feet in said fountain, while others washed clothes and hands. Even sacred sites, like the Hagia Sofia, had walls covered in initials, where you couldn’t tell if they had been left by tourists or ancient Romans. I touched the walls of the city of Troy and stood upon roads that had been paved nearly 3000 years ago, and everyone around me acted like this was ordinary.

This casualness that people had with their surroundings challenged a lot of pre-conceived perspectives I subconsciously held about the world around me. It’s easy to consider the present to be detached from the past when you are living in Melbourne, like two works from the same author: similar in style and form, but different in context and characters. It took this experience in a foreign country to make me realise that they are inextricably linked. The present cannot be without the past, and the past is never really gone, it just permeates in different forms, whether that be language, customs, traditions or monuments.

I learnt a lot about the spirit of the ANZACs while I was there, which was the intention of the trip, funded by the Victorian government. It also reminded me that there are two sides to every story. It’s easy to forget that the Turkish people also sent away their sons, fathers,

brothers and husbands with tears in their eyes when they were invaded. But somehow, with grace and humility, the Turkish people opened their arms to the mourning mothers of the ANZACs, for ‘having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well’, as Mustafa Ataturk put it. The Turkish won the battle of Gallipoli, but saw no need to inflict further harm after the war was over.

This kindness extends to today. People got excited when they learnt I was Australian (not American) and would rush to tell me about their relative that was studying here, or the summer trip they had taken to Brisbane. It’s a clear example of how the past still has a place in the present, and how modern friendships are both a reflection and a product of human connection in history. The lack of animosity between previous enemies should be celebrated, alongside the courage of the ANZACs. Recognising that both sides were equally tenacious and resilient in horrible circumstances is at the core of understanding the ANZAC spirit and passing this spirit on.

My passion is in remembering and sharing stories, and so I share this with you.

At the Ari Burnu cemetery, with the ocean in the background and the sun beating down relentlessly, I visited the grave of Sergeant Stephen James Sweetland, a clerk who lived in Box Hill, only three minutes away by train from my local station. Like me, he went to Wesley. His first year was in 1895, probably 3rd or 4th grade, and he was a talented athlete. He was clearly a strong and daring individual with a clear sense of justice, as he enlisted less than two months after the war broke out and was put into the 8th Light Horse Regiment. He died, aged 29, not too far from the sea that is now his view while he rests for eternity. His grave has this inscription: ‘Those who knew him best, loved him most.’



The grave of former Wesley student, Sgt S J Sweetland (OW1895)

The Country Road connection



Country Road’s Steve Bennett (OW1965)

Country Road celebrated their 50th anniversary this year – an extraordinary milestone for a business operating in the highly competitive fashion industry.

While our contemporary links to the iconic Australian fashion brand have included Wesley College parent Elle Roseby’s recent six-year stint as Managing Director and an exciting new internship program, our connection, in fact, goes all the way back to the beginning some 50 years ago, when Stephen Bennett (OW1965) founded the company with his former wife Pam, who had come up with the concept. Steve’s sister, designer Jane Parker, joined a year later, and then he invited Peter Vial (OW1963) to join the fledgling venture.

Peter and Stephen reflect on their partnership and those exciting early days:

Peter: Steve Bennett approached me to discuss joining him in his fledgling venture in late 1976 – having met each other at Wesley in the 1960’s. We discussed the future potential for the business which was then turning over \$400,000 per annum.

He told me he felt this could be built to \$1 million in the next few years. I was excited by his offer, and had no expectation that I was jumping onto the Steve Bennett ‘rocket ship’ that subsequently took off into the stratosphere!

Within three years, turnover had grown to over \$6 million with six retail stores and a booming wholesale business. The key drivers of this, and the subsequent very rapid growth, were Steve’s laser focus on quality across all aspects of the business, and his ground-breaking product innovation.

He used menswear factories to make womenswear product due to their superior quality machinery and Japanese fabrics due to its high quality and affordable price. He maintained minute attention to detail in all aspects of the business. For example, choosing real pearl Takase buttons instead of cheaper imitations.

We also employed many wonderful people, 80% women, many of whom commenced training in the distribution centre so as to be exposed to all garments and products before they moved on to other divisions of the company.

By 1986, the company had grown to 40 stores operating across Australasia, with a turnover in excess of \$50 million.

Steve’s leadership and unwavering focus on the brand’s products, customers and wonderful team resulted in him being recognised as ‘the Ralph Lauren of Australia’.

I witnessed his remarkable brilliance growing the brand to its market leadership in womenswear, menswear, homeware, store design and marketing, and later expanding it to Japan and the USA. His astonishing achievement is now deservedly recognised, as he has finally been honoured with the Australian Fashion Laureate for Lifetime Achievement.

Stephen: Pete Vial and I first met in Wesley Cadets in about 1962 and have been great friends ever since. Joining me as a partner and General Manager of Country Road in 1977, he was the driving force in setting up our retail stores, managing the growth of the brand and ensuring its financial stability, which allowed me to focus on product development and marketing.

The 25 or so years we worked together were both incredible and ground-breaking, and we are proud that the brand we built, along with an amazing team of dedicated employees, is now celebrating its 50th year.

Wesley internship at Country Road

The Wesley-Country Road connection continued this year with Elle’s appearance as guest speaker at the International Women’s Day Breakfast at our St Kilda Road Campus, and an exciting internship program for two of our 2023 graduates. It emerged from a deeply engaging presentation on business strategy and sustainable design that Elle generously gave to our Year 12 IB Design Technology students last year.

Kit Horman (OW2023) and Saskia Elliott (OW2023), currently studying design and arts respectively at Melbourne University, joined the marketing team at Country Road back in April for a week of invaluable on-the-job experience.

‘There were many takeaways from the experience,’ said Saskia. ‘A standout for me was the vast range of jobs needed within large companies such as Country Road, and how those positions and teams work together and collaborate.’

Kit agrees. ‘We met with each marketing department in the office. It was highly beneficial to learn how they began their career path, as it was often quite diverse. Their stories assured me that a straightforward path is not the only way to achieve goals. It also demonstrated the flexibility of career changes.’

She especially enjoyed her time with the homewares team. ‘We had a lot in common with them regarding CAD (Computer Aided Design). This directly related to what we did in our Wesley Design class, so it was great to see this in a real-life scenario,’ she said.



Peter Vial (OW1963) with interns Kit Horman (OW2023) and Saskia Elliott (OW2023)



New chapter for Wesley Rowing on the Yarra

Having first joined the Public School boat race in 1871, it was not long until Wesley won its first Head of the River in 1874. One hundred and fifty years after that win, the Wesley rowing community gathered to celebrate the final stage of redevelopment of the rowing precinct.

Wesley's Boat House has been a feature of the upper part of the Yarra for more than a century, however the landing had become a source of immense frustration for many users of the river. The upside-down river has, for decades, deposited silt at various points along its winding course, with the Wesley landing being one of those.

The possibility of launching boats in the mainstream of the Yarra, rather than in the muddy waters around Herring Island, would have been unimaginable to our earliest rowers. A new pontoon now offers a safe solution for launching boats and can be used no matter the level of the tidal Yarra.

The precinct includes the substantially refurbished boat house, a new state-of-the-art floating pontoon, sealed car park and driveway necessary for boat transport, landscaping and retaining wall. The works have been more than a decade in the making, and it is due to the generosity of the Wesley rowing community that the precinct is finally complete.

Contributors have included the expert guidance of well-known architect and lifelong Wesley rower Peter Sadow (OW1966), original designer David McGlashan (OW1946), John and Wendy Mitchell and family, Will and Grant Crothers and families, Ron and Elizabeth Rosanove and family, Karen, Craig, Dean and Jason Joel and families, and Richard and Anthony Hall and families.

The Hon Paul Guest ASM OAM KC (OW1957) together with the Captains of Boats, Caitlin Woods (OW2024) and Hunter Isaacs (OW2024), had the honour of breaking a bottle of champagne over the newly inaugurated pontoon.

Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) offered a final message to current and future generations of rowers, that their time in the rowing program is a source of great joy and that their use of the precinct and the pontoon is safe and successful.



Captains of Boats, Caitlin Woods (OW2024) and Hunter Isaacs (OW2024), christen the new Wesley pontoon alongside Wesley Head of Rowing, Matt Ryan



Our rowers get ready to try out the new pontoon

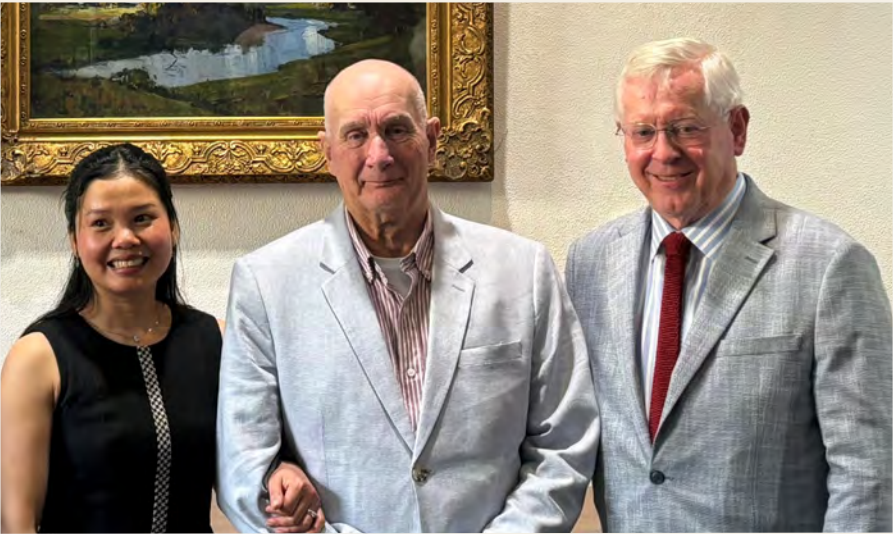


Caitlin Woods (OW2024), the Hon Paul Guest ASM OAM KC (OW1957) and Hunter Isaacs (OW2024) at the launch of the new pontoon



L-R: Peter Sadow (OW1966), Rick Williams (OW1963) and Helen Williams at the launch of the new pontoon

By bonds of life united...



Roger Hawthorn (OW1968), wife Hien Tran and Dr Ross Bastian (OW1968)

You could say it started with one teacher – Mr Lindsay Newnham, who taught Ancient Greek and Roman History and Latin for 39 years who inspired a lifelong curiosity in Roger Hawthorn (OW1968). You could also say it was helped by Roger's aunt and uncle, Betty and Alfred Wall, who financed his first overseas trip where he visited the lands he had learned about and demonstrated a remarkable generosity when the Wall family donated land which became Chum Creek.

These examples have led Roger Hawthorn, former teacher at the St Kilda Road Campus, to generously donate some of his fascinating collection of antiquities which will reside in a special cabinet in the College's History Gallery. His hope is that the objects will inspire other students to learn, collect and give back to the school that has given him a life pathway. The collection covers ancient Roman, Greek, Chinese and Vietnamese pieces, acquired over a lifetime and inspired by his days at Wesley.

Lindsay Newnham was a methodical teacher. Described by some as 'exacting and rigorous', he was a great intellectual who kept meticulous notes on all the events and people of Wesley during his time, from when he started in 1947 until his retirement in 1985, at which time his subjects also stopped being taught at Wesley.

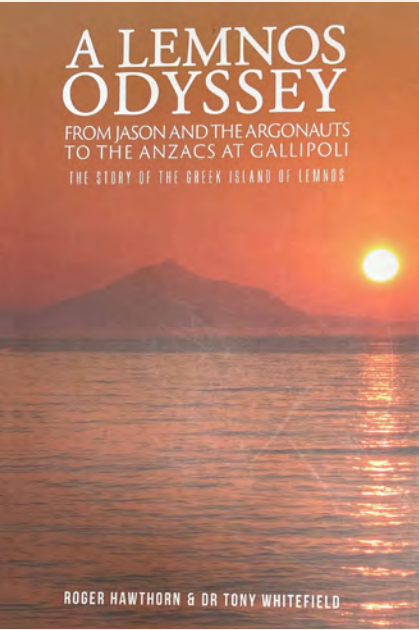
The College has been a grateful recipient of the many documents and books he used while working here. His outwardly reserved demeanour hid a pride in his students which he could only express once exams were over. He had been Dux at his own school, Carey Baptist Grammar, and was interested in the Arts as well as intellectual pursuits. He worked behind the scenes as Prop Manager for many of the school plays, and wrote the lyrics to *All Of Us Are One*.

Roger was his student, so later, as a fellow teacher, found it very disconcerting to return to Wesley College and sit in the staff room with his former revered teacher, and call him Lindsay, not Sir!

This lifelong interest has led him to write possibly the only history of the Island of Lemnos, covering its ancient Greek occupation right up to the end of World War I. This book, with a foreword written by Dr Ross Bastiaan (OW1968), is also in the College Collections.

After leaving teaching at Wesley, Roger remained in contact with a number of alumni, and having been inspired by one of his own teachers, has gone on to inspire others. It is his hope that his gift of antiquities will light a spark of curiosity in future generations.

Margot Vaughan
Curator of Collections



'A Lemnos Odyssey' by Roger Hawthorn (OW1968)



Egyptian amulet



Hittite pot



Hoi An pot



Terracotta horse and rider



Small glass bottle



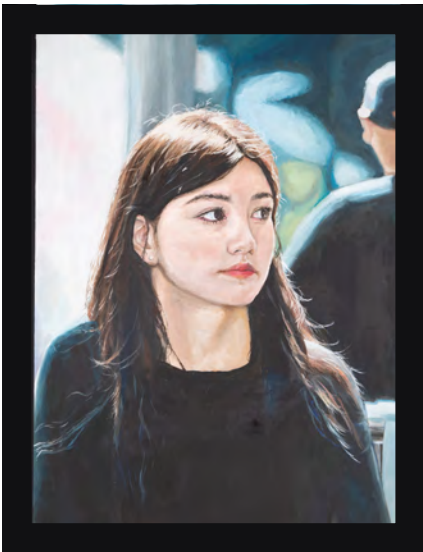
‘No house style’: Visual Arts flourish at St Kilda Road

That Wesley’s art department has ‘no house style’ is a badge of honour for the visual art students and their teachers at the St Kilda Road Campus. The comment was made at the opening of this year’s Graduate Art Exhibition in October by judge Sarah Tomasetti, visual artist and Studio Lead of Painting at RMIT University, when she was speaking about the range and diversity of voices on show.

‘I can see the quality of the art teaching at Wesley College,’ she said, ‘because there is no house style: each student has been encouraged towards developing an authentic voice and visual language.

When there is a rich variation in the approaches that have been taken, we can see the hard work of the art teachers and technicians who have supported the students to take risks and trust themselves.’

The Art Acquisition Prize went to Year 12 student Amy for her painting ‘Waiting for the Tram’. ‘This is a very arresting painting, and it has the quality of the film still, which is not easy to achieve in a still image,’ said Sarah. ‘The figure looks as though she has just stepped into the frame and might be just about to step out. Precision and lightness of touch characterise this winning work.’



Amy’s prize-winning work ‘Waiting for the tram’

A full house of students, parents, friends, staff and guests admired the work generated by 72 students from a range of subjects, including VCE Art Creative Practice, Visual Communication Design and Media and the IB Diploma Program Visual Arts and Film subjects.



Ava received an Encouragement Award for ‘Tea Party’

The exhibition opening was followed by ‘Wesley On Screen’, a showcase of films, documentaries, music videos and animations by IB Film and VCE Media students.

‘Wesley College deserves its strong reputation for visual arts which is recognised at a tertiary level,’ said Sarah. ‘This exhibition exemplifies that reputation.’

The dangers of tribalism



Celebrating debating, and honouring Stuart: Leila, Heather and Ethan

There’s nothing like a tale of ‘star-cross’d lovers’ to engage an audience, and St Kilda Road Senior School students were hooked when Year 12 student Leila opened her Hollaway Oration at

this years’ Arts Awards assembly in September with a chilling tale about her own great-great-grandparents, who arrived in Western Australia in the 1870s to try their luck in the gold rush.

Leila won last year’s Hollaway Memorial Prize for Debating, established to honour the memory of long-time staff member and keen debater Stuart Hollaway, who tragically lost his life in a climbing accident in 2015. The prize is awarded annually to a student who has made a significant contribution to the debating program and public speaking. This year’s prize was awarded to Ethan from Year 11.

Stuart’s mother, Heather Hollaway, was thrilled to attend the event again this year. ‘It’s wonderful to be included in the assembly, which is both emotional and very special for me,’ she said. ‘That Stuart is remembered of so fondly after 9 years is heart-warming.’

Leila used her address to explore the dangers of tribalism. She sees the same forces that saw her great-great-grandparents murdered at the hands of family members - an ‘us and them’ mentality where individuals are divided by personal loyalties above principles – driving the ‘digital tribalism’ of today’s social media. She cites tech billionaire Elon Musk’s X platform as ‘an echo chamber for amplifying fears, anxieties and hatreds, rather than facilitating civil dialogue.’

Leila noted that while tribalism is inevitable, the biases that form as a consequence can be cured. Her antidote? Curiosity. ‘Stepping out of our self-perpetuating bubbles and echo-chambers and being respectfully curious about individuals and groups that we might think of as ‘other’ allows us to be guided by principle over tribal allegiance,’ she said.

Magical moments with Matilda



Year 6 student Olivia shone in the principal role of Matilda

Staging Tim Minchin’s much-loved musical Matilda Jr. successfully requires some magic ingredients: a gifted girl with a vivid imagination, a supporting cast of larger-than-life characters, and dollops of immense joy with a sprinkle of mischief. All of these boxes get ticked several times over on any given day at the St Kilda Road Campus Middle School, so it’s no surprise that the Adamson Theatre Company had everything required to stage a sold-out run of Matilda Jr. this term.

Ably co-directed by Media Studies teacher Karissa Robertson and Marlo Stephenson (OW2023), the show offered our young performers the opportunity to channel their heart and humour into this sparkling musical, reimagining the classic Roald Dahl story.

Students from Years 5 and 6 joined the usual Years 7 to 9 cohort to bring the production to life. ‘The older students really stepped up to help inspire those new to the musical process,’ said Karissa.

‘It seemed as though the positive themes of kindness, compassion and empowerment permeated through the learning process, allowing the cast to flourish within each of their roles.’



The stellar cast of Matilda Jr. brought heart and humour to the stage

Having only recently started performing, winning the role of Ms Honey was ‘a dream come true’ for Cecilia in Year 8. ‘Playing such a heartfelt and complex character really pushed me. I loved Ms Honey’s nurturing and gentle spirit and how she sees the best in everyone. Her kindness really inspired me, both on and off the stage.’

For Fraser (Year 8), taking on the role of the villain required him to dive deep into his character’s complex personality. ‘I really enjoyed playing Miss Trunchbull

because she has so much unexplained context in the story,’ he said. ‘I find it more fun to play evil characters, and they always get a lot of laughs.’

The performance energy the cast brought to the songs and the choreography made the production a delight.

‘This magical show made way for some beautifully magical moments of learning and growing,’ said Karissa, ‘and despite all the ‘revolting children’ jokes, the cast were far from it!’



Campus snapshots

Wesley Girls’ Athletics go back-to-back



It's time to celebrate! Wesley girls are the 2024 APS Athletics Champions!



Nick Evans (OW1985) celebrates back-to-back wins by the Girls’ Athletics team with Co-Captains (left) Charlotte Nielsen (OW2024) and (right) Olivia da Costa-Alves (OW2024) and Head Coach of Athletics, Tim O’Shaughnessy

After an unprecedented double victory by our Boys’ and Girls’ team last year, the 2024 spring season of sport saw our Girls’ team once again claim the APS Sport Combined Athletics Premiership!

This is the second consecutive win for the Wesley Girls’ team since their seven-season winning streak from 2012-2018 and is testament to the depth of talent and commitment of the whole team.

Held at Lakeside Stadium in October, ‘the finals’ saw our girls triumph convincingly, despite the pressure and significant competition from archrivals Haileybury and Caulfield Grammar who finished in second and third place respectively.

‘Going back-to-back is a hard thing to do,’ said team Co-Captain Olivia da Costa-Alves (OW2024), ‘and to be able to achieve this when other schools are looking so strong was something really incredible.’

For Co-Captain Charlotte Nielsen (OW2024), the secret to their success was their strong team bond. ‘It goes way beyond being just teammates; we truly care about each other,’ she said. ‘It’s that love and connection that fuels our passion for athletics, and makes every achievement feel so special.’

Olivia sees their motivation to win stemming from that same place. ‘As much as athletics is an individual sport, at the end of the day we are a team, and so when we lose the motivation to put in the work for ourselves, we do it for each other.’

Head Coach of Athletics, Tim O’Shaughnessy, was full of praise for their efforts. ‘Charlotte and Olivia were an amazing inspiration with their motivating emails and team bonding exercises,’ he said. ‘Team Manager, Nana Owusu-Afryie, also had the team as tightknit as I have ever seen at Wesley.’

The boys finished in a respectable third place in a very tight result, with only 16.5 points separating the top three schools – a huge effort amongst fierce competition.

Congratulations to all our spring athletes and their amazing coaches for their extraordinary achievements, and to all members of the Girls’ team for this outstanding victory.

Combined Suzuki Strings Workshop

The 2024 Combined Schools Suzuki Strings Workshop, held at Caulfield Grammar on Sunday 20 October, was an exceptional experience for the 29 Prep to Year 6 Elsternwick Campus violin and cello students who participated.

The workshop brought together talented young Suzuki students from various schools to enhance their musical skills and deepen their passion for playing strings. Elsternwick Music teacher, Emma Rodda, highlighted the advantages of group learning for music students, noting it teaches them to ‘make small adjustments to their playing and reinforces their repertoire in real-time. The social aspect not only strengthens their musical abilities, but fosters a supportive, collaborative learning environment,’ she said.

A highlight of the day was the final performance, where the students proudly showcased their hard work and progress. It was inspiring to see the joy and confidence on their faces as they performed together as an ensemble.

‘Our Elsternwick students actively participated in all activities, sharing smiles and overcoming personal frustrations,’



Emma Rodda leading the String Ensemble

said Emma. ‘They demonstrated Wesley’s ROAR values by respecting peers and teachers, maintaining a ‘can-do’ attitude and seizing the opportunity to attend this extra-curricular Sunday activity. Their perseverance in achieving musical excellence showcased their resilience and determination.’

Overall, the Combined Schools Suzuki Strings Workshop was an incredible experience and highly recommended for any young musician looking to improve their skills and connect with fellow music enthusiasts.

Wesley parents learn about learning



Hands and minds on: Elsternwick parents return to the classroom

Re-entering the school room as an adult can be a fascinating experience for our parents. At Elsternwick this year, we invited them to attend workshops in our Junior and Middle Schools to gain a better understanding of how their children learn at Wesley.

Workshops in the Primary Years Program explored what makes a PYP learner through the lens of the IB learner profile and ‘hands on’ and ‘minds on’ learning engagements, giving participants an experience of what learning looks like, feels like and sounds like within the PYP at our campus.

The first MYP workshop of the year focused on concept-based learning and inquiry. Parents worked through a thinking routine similar to those their children would use, developing a better understanding of not just what we learn, but how we learn at Wesley College. For many, this was the first time experiencing learning the way their children do every day.

‘This is more like the way of learning I experienced at university and is similar to the style of strategising used in real-world workplaces,’ said Gretchen, mother of Stella in Year 8. ‘There’s a real benefit to my children learning a method that is similar to adult learning. Content is widely and easily available now; it doesn’t need to be memorised in the same way as before.’

The collaborative nature of these workshops underscores the importance of the home-school partnership, emphasising the shared goal of supporting children’s development.

These events help to strengthen these connections, ensuring that both parents and educators work together to benefit our students. The greater the understanding and experience that parents have of how their children learn, the greater the role they can play in supporting learning at home.



Campus snapshots

Together We Will...



Wesley Student Theatre Glen Waverley students in the 'Together We Will' concert

Last month, in conjunction with Possible Dreams International, Wesley Student Theatre at Glen Waverley presented the 'Together We Will' concert - a sensational show featuring the incredible talents of Wesley students who performed a variety of song and dance numbers from past productions such as *Legally Blonde Jr.*, *Annie*, *A Christmas Carol* and *The Taming*

of the Shrew. Our goal was to raise funds to change the lives of those most in need.

Possible Dreams International is a non-profit organisation which supports rural communities in the Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland). The program aims to raise awareness and funds for the embattled citizens of Swaziland who suffer extreme poverty, endemic disease and

malnutrition. The populace has a severely reduced life expectancy, yet the Swazis remain positive and smiling as they face death and despair. The long-term goal is for them to lead healthy lives with sufficient food, clean water, sanitation and medicine.

Possible Dreams International was founded by Maithri Goonetilleke, Associate Professor of Global Health at Monash University. Maithri has spent years working with the poor and marginalised communities of Swaziland, an area devastated by the HIV/AIDs epidemic. His non-profit foundation raises funds to address structural determinants of health in the most rural and remote parts of the country and is entirely managed by Indigenous Swazi people.

The values of Possible Dreams International are grounded upon four main tenets: Compassion, Integrity, Empowerment and Respect. As such, raising funds to improve the lives of Eswatini's people is very much in keeping with the ethos of our school's founder, John Wesley. For many years, with the support of the Wesley Executive team, the Glen Waverley Student Theatre have wholeheartedly contributed to this venture, raising funds via ticket sales. We are extremely proud that through this year's concert, we raised \$8,000 for this very worthy cause.

Ambassadors for a day



Late last term, Year 9 students from across the College took part in a Model United Nations General Assembly. This unique immersive experience unfolded across all three campuses,

with 50 students from the St Kilda Road Campus joining their Year 9 peers at the Elsternwick Campus.

A Model UN is a full-day simulation of the United Nations General Assembly, where students act as ambassadors from various countries, engaging in discussions on pressing global issues. This year's session focused on the topic of Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, with the goal of fostering dialogue, negotiation and diplomacy to find the most balanced solution.

Each student was assigned a country represented in the UN and, in the lead-up to the event, researched their country's stance on AI. Wesley's Digital Learning Practice team presented on the implications of AI, covering its impact

on humans and daily life beyond the experience of familiar tools like ChatGPT. This background helped students create well-informed arguments aligned with their countries' perspectives.

With a fully recreated UN General Assembly setup, representatives from the Model UN organisation adjudicated the event, and students followed official UN protocols throughout the day. At the conclusion of the debate, the students voted on a new AI resolution statement.

Stepping into the shoes of their assigned countries with such an authentic simulation really helped them to understand different global perspectives on a significant current issue, and to appreciate the goals of the UN.

Fond farewells at the boarder's dinner



Students, parents and staff celebrate connection at the Boarders' Dinner

Living on campus is a special experience, and across their final years at school, our Learning in Residence (LiR) students become a very close-knit group. We're very proud that Wesley has developed a residential program, enabling each and every one of them to flourish and feel connected.

This October, in the approach to the final exams, that sense of pride and connection was celebrated with the Boarders' Dinner, held to farewell our 23 graduating boarders. The event was especially poignant as these young people have spent their formative years with their Wesley family at their 'second

home'; the powerful social bonds they have formed with their peers will likely last a lifetime.

A superb dinner was served for parents and students, who were joined by Principal Nick Evans, Head of Campus Sheriden Vella, and Head of Boarding Tom Giles. Some of the graduating students gave moving speeches about their experience living in residence. LiR Prefect Tilly and Vice Prefect Hamish both reflected thoughtfully on their time as boarders.

Hamish, from Wagga Wagga, is the second in his family to graduate from Wesley. In typical style, he gave some funny and touching advice to students new to boarding life.

Current Year 11 LiR students Jack and Zali reflected on the profound impact the graduating class had on the boarding community. Zoe from Year 10 gave a real tear-jerker of a speech, very real and close to home. She's the third in her family to make the move to LiR from Wagga Wagga - a testament to the extraordinary experience offered to our students.

It was a night to remember, with students, parents and staff mingling afterwards, sharing precious memories. We wish our graduating boarders of 2024 all the very best on their journey beyond the school gates.

ELPP recognised as 'best practice' in student support



Wesley's English Language Preparation Program (ELPP) has been showcased by the Department of Education as best practice for 'Integrating English language and academic skills support,' as recently published in the Best Practice International Student Engagement Guides.

This accolade validates the quality of Wesley's inhouse program which is specifically designed to support local and international students' linguistic, academic, cultural and social orientation at Wesley College.

'I am thrilled that the program has been recognised for best practice in academic skills support, said Susan Mu, Head of the English Language Preparation program. 'Each year, we witness the immense benefits of supporting new students not only in English language learning, but in understanding the norms and expectations of teaching and learning at Wesley, from participating in classroom discussions and responding to open ended questions to learning how to analyse and evaluate and express their own opinions.'

'As parents of two ELPP students, we cannot overstate the invaluable support provided by the program,' said Shannon and Bo. 'Moving to a new country presented numerous challenges for our children, especially in adapting to the English language and academic expectations. Through personalised instruction, engaging activities and targeted language support, the program equipped them with the linguistic skills and confidence needed to excel in their studies. It also instilled in them a love for learning and the resilience to face future challenges. We are forever grateful for the program and all the teachers' unwavering support, and the profound impact it had on our family.'



A gift of education



Deidre Greig in 1950

Dr Deidre Greig MLC Elsternwick 1950 was defined by an insatiable curiosity about the world and a deep passion for learning. From her early school days at MLC Elsternwick, Deidre's love of education was nurtured and grew, becoming a lifelong commitment. She believed strongly in the transformative power of learning and, through a generous bequest to the Wesley College Foundation Scholarship Fund, ensured that her legacy would continue to support future generations of students at the Elsternwick Campus.

Deidre Ngaio Fuller was born on 19 July, 1934 and began her education at MLC Elsternwick at the age of 10 in 1945. She fondly remembered her early years at the school, and when she left in 1950, requested that this year be recorded as her alumni year, following the practice of the time. Deidre completed her senior

school education at MLC Hawthorn, where she served as a prefect in 1951 and as Vice Senior Prefect in 1952.

After graduating, Deidre pursued degrees in Social Work and Education, laying the foundation for a distinguished academic career. She lectured at the University of Melbourne for over 40 years, earning a Masters Thesis in Juvenile Justice and a PhD in 1999. Her doctoral dissertation, *Neither Bad nor Mad: The Competing Discourses of Psychiatry, Law and Politics*, earned her respect as a leading scholar in her field. Deidre was also deeply involved in professional organisations, including the Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law, where she served as President.

In 1961, Deidre married Alex Greig, and together they raised four children - Raya, Kendra, Jarrod and Piertra. After retiring, the couple moved to the Mornington Peninsula, where Deidre could focus on her family history research and was



Deidre Greig in December 2022



Prefect portrait, 1950

actively involved in the local community. She also travelled the world extensively with Alex.

Deidre's family remembers her as a tireless learner, who had a deep curiosity and a commitment to personal growth. She had an insatiable thirst for knowledge, whether it was about people, cultures, or the world at large. This kind of mindset often leads to meaningful connections with others and a lasting impact on those around her. They are honoured that, through her bequest to Wesley College, her journey of intellectual exploration will continue to inspire and support young minds for generations to come. MLC Elsternwick was the foundation of her lifelong curiosity, and it is fitting that her gift will help foster that same spirit in future students.

This is the living legacy of Dr Deidre Greig - the gift of education.

Visit to the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)

On 22 October, the Sapere Aude Bequest Society (SABS) hosted a visit to the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). This event was part of the rich program of activities presented by SABS that is designed to connect members of the wider community of Wesley College, introduce the work of SABS and encourage others to support the Wesley College Foundation by way of leaving a bequest. One of the key objects of the Foundation is to grow the Scholarship Fund, thus creating opportunities for more students to experience a Wesley education than may otherwise have the opportunity.

Our visit started with coffee rather appropriately at Sir Osborn Café on the ground floor of ICI House (now known as Orica House), which was completed in 1958 by architectural firm Bates, Smart and McCutcheon. It was the first building allowed to exceed the height limits set in Melbourne in the early 1900s, and the first office building to be added to the Australian National Heritage List. The café was named Sir Osborn after the key project's architect, Sir Walter Paul Osborn McCutcheon (OW1912).

At the RACS, we enjoyed a fabulous tour of the landmark building and viewed their superb collection of art and artifacts. We were hosted by the engaging curatorial team who reminded everyone that the heritage of great institutions should never be taken for granted, while highlighting the legacy of so many past surgeons. There was a beautiful portrait of Weary Dunlop which reminded everyone of his extraordinary contributions in WWII and post war history. Our group was enthralled.

One of the highlights of our visit related to Charles Butler (OW1926). Charles' children Charles (OW1969), John (OW1967) and Vicky, along with their partners, attended the tour and shared his remarkable story. Charles was severely injured by machine gun fire at Gona, Papua New Guinea, in WWII and sustained wounds to his eye, mouth and shoulder. It took nearly ten days for him to be stretchered to Port Moresby where he was treated in an American evacuation hospital and then at the East Grinstead Hospital in Britain from mid-1943 to 1945. During this time, the Australian command assumed he was missing in action.



SABS members and guests outside the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Charles returned to Melbourne in 1946. He spent 12 months at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital and had approximately 80 operations in the UK and Australia. The Butler family had a rich collection of documents and images to show the RACS archival staff and likewise, they had an amazing collection to share with them that included his surgical photos and facial plaster casts. Charles was one of earliest pioneering patients to have plastic surgery and as the photos revealed, given the nature of his wounds, the surgery proved very successful.

Charles discovered that he was incorrectly listed on the Melbourne Cricket Club honour roll commemorating members who died during World War II. For years, he took delight in taking visitors to the MCG to point out his name and he often jokingly referred to himself as a one-eyed Melbourne supporter!

Our visit was one of the best ever. It was oversubscribed and brought together many members of the Wesley community. If you would like to learn more about SABS and its activities and events, please contact **Prue Lowther** on +61 3 8102 6213 or email prue.lowther@wesleycollege.edu.au



One-eyed Melbourne supporter, Charles Butler (OW1926)



Charles (OW1969), Vicky and John Butler (OW1967)



Foundation

A reunion, 70 years in the making



Peter Williams and Don Ord, Class of 1954

Peter Williams (OW1954) and Don Ord (OW1954) were close friends at Wesley in the 1950s, but life took them in different directions, and they eventually lost touch. Now in their 80s, both have led rich lives, each with a wealth of experiences and stories.

In June 2024, after seven decades, they were reunited through Prue Lowther, who upon learning of their school friendship, organised a reunion. Prue drove Peter to Mansfield where they were generously welcomed by Don and his wife Lyn into their home. Don greeted them at the door dressed in some of his old purple and gold school uniform and their faces lit up with smiles that bridged the years.



Wesley College Fifth Crew 1954

They shared memories long tucked away, reminiscing about 1954 Form 5b, a school trip to Magnetic Island Queensland, and the 1954 Fifth Crew.

The photo of the rowing crew has hung proudly in Don's home for all these years, with Peter as cox and Don as bow. As they flipped through Don's photo albums, stories of their classmates and their happy days at Wesley flowed effortlessly.

This reunion was not just about reconnecting but celebrating the passage of time and the enduring beauty of friendship. Peter and Don cherished their time together and look forward to another reunion in the future.

School mates forever!



Enjoying a school trip to Magnetic Island

Remembering our Past Co-Patrons: Peter Boag and Jean Prest

The Wesley College Foundation and the Sapere Aude Bequest Society were saddened to hear of the passing of Peter Boag (OW1963) on 26 July 2024 and Dr Jean Prest on 17 August 2024.

Peter was an active and immensely generous member of the Wesley community through his many interests, including his beloved Collegians Football Club. Peter served as Co-Patron of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society from 2012 alongside Susie Rodgers-Wilson. We extend our deepest sympathies to Jennie and family.

Jean was an accomplished history scholar, an inspiring teacher and educational leader, and outstanding contributor to Wesley College and to the Wesley College Foundation over many years. We particularly acknowledge her



Peter Boag (OW1963) and Susie Rodgers-Wilson

role as Co-Patron of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society from 2005 to 2012. We extend our deepest sympathies to her children David (OW1977),



Dr Jean Prest

Ian (OW1979) and Lydia, and to their families, including Old Wesley Collegians Elizabeth Prest (OW2009) and Alexandra Prest (OW2012).

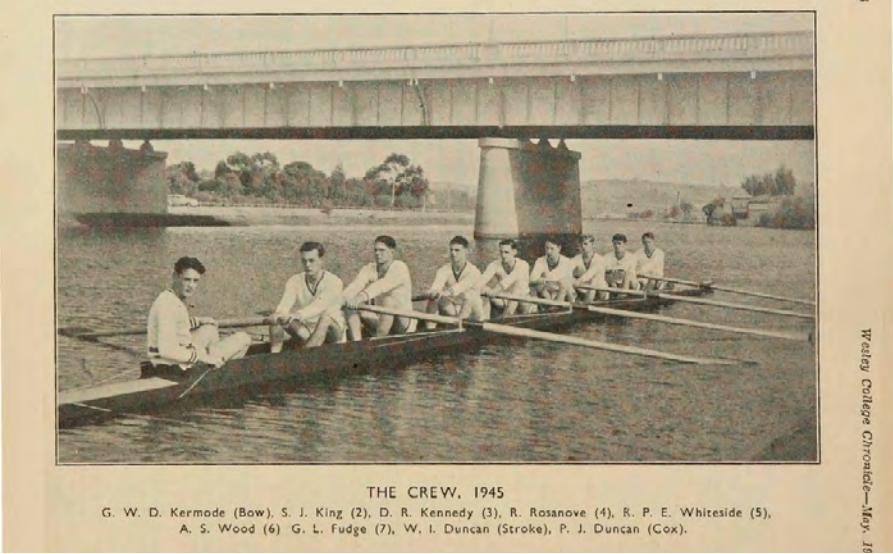
Eighty years on...

For Ron Rosanove (OW1945), the love of rowing has never faded. Ron still finds time to enjoy a regular coffee down near the boathouse and eagerly anticipates the Wesley crews rowing past. Seeing the purple and gold brings a familiar flash of nostalgia and pride. Ron proudly rowed in the Wesley College First Crew in 1944 and 1945 and began coaching rowing in his final year at Wesley and for a further five years while at university.

Ron and Elizabeth Rosanove have generously supported the College for many decades, including the boathouse and the naming of the Ron Rosanove Bay.

Eighty years on, it was a true delight to see Ron recently gathered with family, friends and rowers in the boathouse, a place so close to his heart.

Bow, you're hurrying.



Wesley First VIII rowing crew in May 1945



Ron Rosanove (OW1945) and wife Elizabeth



Ron Rosanove (OW1945) with Wesley Head of Rowing, Matt Ryan and members of the Boys' First VIII rowing crew



The College we know today owes much to the values and vision of our founders and, importantly, inspiring acts of generosity through donations, gifts and bequests over many generations.

Thank you to all that have left a gift to the College in their Will.

The Sapere Aude Bequest Society (SABS) was established in 1996 to honour those that have remembered Wesley College in their Will. If you wish to notify us of your bequest to Wesley College, we would be honoured to welcome you as a member of SABS and to share with you our exciting calendar of events and functions. We are delighted that so many alumni, current and past parents and members of our wider community have experienced the breadth of our SABS events this year.

For a confidential discussion on leaving a Bequest to the College, please contact **Prue Lowther**, Bequest Manager at prue.lowther@wesleycollege.edu.au or +61 3 8102 6213



Foundation

Your invitation

Founders’ Day Thanksgiving Chapel Service

Sunday 4 May 2025 at 10.00am Chapel, St Kilda Road Campus

Our College Chaplains - Pastors Kaylea Fearn, Bradon French and Reverend Peter Rivett, extend a warm invitation to join them for a special Founders’ Day Thanksgiving Chapel service featuring the beautiful sound of the organ followed by morning tea.

We particularly extend this invitation to members of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society and our wider community, including those who were married or baptised in the Chapel. If you would like to share a photo from your special day in the Chapel, please email **Prue Lowther** at prue.lowther@wesleycollege.edu.au

Bookings are now open, with limited availability. Please be aware that a \$20 charge will apply to cover the cost of morning tea.



Scan to buy your tickets

Remembering Verna Cook and Joan Swain

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Verna Cook, MLC Elsternwick 1948, on 14 May 2024. Verna dedicated many years to the SABS Advisory Committee and generously supported the Scholarship Fund in her Will. We send our condolences to her family, including her sister Catherine Orme

MLC Elsternwick 1950, brother Jim Cook (OW1955), nephews Alexander Cook (OW1987), James Cook (dec) (OW1987) and grandniece Cassy Orme (OW2021).

We also acknowledge the passing of Joan Swain on 21 May 2024, wife of former Wesley Chaplain Rev Peter

Swain (OW1948). Joan and Peter are well known in our community, with Joan often accompanying Peter to College events and reunions throughout their 66 years of marriage. We thank Joan for remembering the College in her Will and extend our sincere condolences to Peter and the family.



An afternoon at the cricket

APS 1st XI Wesley College vs Carey Grammar

Friday 21 February 2025, from 1.25pm

Kroger Front Turf, St Kilda Road Campus

Join us in the Rose Garden 4.30pm – 6.30pm

Post match chat with coaches

Drinks and finger food will be served

Tickets \$45

<https://events.humanitix.com/an-afternoon-at-the-cricket>

Enquiries to Prue Lowther at prue.lowther@wesleycollege.edu.au



Scan to buy your tickets

Wesley College Foundation Partners

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







WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE

Thank you. Generous gifts to the Foundation’s philanthropic priorities have demonstrated the incredible support within the Wesley community, for which we are deeply grateful. We also extend thanks to members of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society who have included the Wesley College Foundation in their Wills.

Every donor and bequestor plays a vital role in strengthening the Wesley community, inspiring others to donate and to volunteer, and transforming the lives of our young people. We are immensely grateful for the generosity of our community and every gift, no matter the size, makes a lasting impression on future generations.

- Mr Geoff Allen

Mr Geoffrey Allen AM

Tony Ayerbe Bursary

Mr Russell Baker

Estate of Jock and Nancy Balding

Estate of Richard Ball

Mr Ye Bao

Mr Stephen Bennett

Mr John Bitcon

Prof Geoffrey Blainey AC and Mrs Ann Blainey

Ms Clotilde Blanchet

The late Mr Peter Boag

Estate of Frank Brettell

Ernest Lonsdale Brown Scholarship

Mr John and Mrs Annie Butler

Ms Alexandra Cameron

Fred J Cato Charitable Fund

Ms Paula Chadderton

Mr Gary Chan

Mr James Cherry

Mr Nicholas Chin

Mr Chris Clark

Mr Peter and Mrs Jan Clark

The Clarke Family

Mr Charles and Mrs Jo Cohen

Mr Andrew Cole

The Cole Family

Mr David Collins and Ms Anne Mullins

Prof John Collins AM and Mrs Mandy Collins

Estate of Verna Cook

Prof David Copolov AM OAM

Mr Robert Cousland

Mr Grant Crothers and Ms Amanda Walton

Mr David Crow OAM

Mr Andrew and Mrs Melanie Croxford

Dr David Dammary

Ms Fiona Dickson and Mr Marcus Speed

Mr Andrew Dobson

Mr Rick Dungey

Mr Richard Edwards

Mr John Etherington AM and Ms Jennifer Round

Mr Nick Evans and Ms Elly Ackland

Mr Jason Fabbri

Mr Malcolm Goldby-Foard

Ms Julie Goode

Mr Cameron Grant

Ms Jill Gregory

Estate of Deidre Greig

The Honourable Paul M Guest OAM KC

Dr Peter Habersberger AM RFD and Mrs Pam Habersberger

Mr Cameron Hagger and Ms Lyndall Sullivan

Mrs Genevieve Hansford

Mr Matthew Hicks

Mr Graham Hobbs

Mr Michael Hocking

Mr Jonathan Huntsman

Mr Richard and Mrs Julie Husband

Mr Jonathan Isaacs and Ms Nicki Lefkovits

Mr Brett Jefferson

Dr Joe Johnson CSC OAM AAM

Mr Runbin Kang and Mrs Yuanyuan Gu

Mr Theo Kerlidis and Ms Katherine Horne

Music Royalties

The Kotsanis Family

Mr Rob Lancaster

Mr Tony Lee and Ms Tracey Louey

Mr Adrian Lennard

Mr Rex Li and Ms Jenny Wong

Ms Laini Liberman and Mr Ben Rozenes

Mr Pieter and Mrs Maryclare Los

Ms Tabitha Lovett

Mrs Prue Lowther

Mr Euan and Mrs Rosemary Luff

Mr Wenbin Luo and Mrs Weiwei Li

Mr Tregarthen Marks

Mr Daniel Markus

The late Mrs Liz McQuire

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Ms Susan Nam

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Mr Frank Opray

Mr Donald Ord

Mr Motoki Ozaki

Mr Grant and Mrs Jennifer Peck

Ms Josée Pinsonneault

The Pollock Family

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Ms Sheriden Vella

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President’s report



A busy quarter it has been in the life and times of the Old Wesley Collegians Association! In August, we hosted an event with Canberran OWs who came together in a successful networking night with students, public servants and other OWs involved in interesting and varied careers, largely contributing to the good of our nation in the capital. It was wonderful to catch up with so many familiar faces and to see our Canberra community going strong.

We also saw the Collegians Football Club undertake another season of finals campaigns, resulting in a Premiership for the Under 19 Men’s team coached by the OWCA Board’s very own, Rick Morris (OW2004). Congratulations to Rick and the boys, along with all other Collegians players involved in the season this year.

The Collegians Football Club is a proud affiliate of the OWCA that we support via our annual sponsorship and contribution to the Collegians Future Fund, which you can find out more about if you head to the Australian Sports Foundation website, and search Collegians FC Future Fund. The Future Fund is a joint initiative between the OWCA and Collegians Football Club to future proof the organisation financially. Anyone is welcome to make a contribution to the Future Fund and we encourage any support possible.

In October, Luca Jolson (OW2022) and I spoke at the St Kilda Road and Glen Waverley Valedictory Dinners respectively, welcoming the Class of 2024 to the OWCA. Always a proud moment for the President and Board members to attend and welcome new cohorts to the OWCA, and this year was just as special. We welcome you once again and hope you take advantage of all that your Life Membership can offer – it really is a rich and special network.

As a committee, we continue to work towards achieving our strategic vision for the next three years and plans are being prepared for how we deliver on key pillars of this strategy. Our ‘Golden Lions’ social engagement strategy continues with the commencement of our first chauffeur service by Frank Opray (OW1963) to a Collegians football match in the final month of the season. We are

proud to commence this offering for our Golden Lions, and we welcome anyone to contact us should you wish to use this service to access an OWCA event in the future. We will provide an Uber, taxi or fellow OW to pick you up and drive you to any of our events – and of course, drop you home!

Finally, we are proud that the Collegians Car Club (CCC) has been struck and officially acknowledged as an affiliate of the OWCA. For any classic or modern car lovers in our community, feel free to reach out to the OWCA office can connect you with our new car club which serves as a group to enjoy the passion of cars through your OW connection. The CCC will also be proudly showcasing their range of member vehicles at their next OW Auto Day on Sunday 23 March, 2025. We welcome all expressions of interest to showcase vehicles and encourage you to attend this event.


That’s a wrap from me for this year – I wish all OWs, parents and teachers a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year from the OWCA. We look forward to seeing you at one of our many and varied events in 2025.

Tom Pewtress (OW2018)
OWCA President

#oldwesleycollegians

YOUR OWCA

OWCA Board		
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Tom Pewtress (OW2018)		
Vice President		
Alessia Francese (OW2016)		
Treasurer		
Rob Lancaster (OW1982)		
Secretary		
Emma Carney (OW1989)		
Board Members		
Jack Ayerbe (OW1963)		
Alex Iljin (OW1982)		
Luca Jolson (OW2022)		
Rick Morris (OW2004)		
Jen Taylor (OW2023)		
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 Board? Contact: Kate Evans (OW1998) kate.evans@wesleycollege.edu.au		



Giving 2025 Day

SAVE THE DATE – Thursday 1 May, 2025

As the current custodians of Wesley College, it’s up to us to ensure that the College continues to thrive.

We’re inspired by our motto, ‘Dare to be wise,’ and we’ve embraced the challenge expressed in one of our values: ‘...We respect the past, but we look to the future and are motivated to always make things better...’

That’s where we are. Determined to make transformational changes now that will give Wesley College every opportunity to be ‘the best’ for future generations.

Where diversity in our school community is real and meaningful and comes from a deeply held belief in equity and inclusion. And where our campus buildings and facilities respect the environment, reflect the needs of our students and teachers, and inspire amazing educational outcomes.

Wesley College would not be here without the generosity of generations of donors. The impact of their gifts has been life-changing for thousands of children and families.

Be part of this legacy - join us for the 2025 Giving Day and help shape the future.



Peter Harrison (OW1969)

From Rome to London with passion and purpose

In the European summer of 2024, three friends - all retired and ready for a challenge, set out on an unsupported cycling journey from Rome to London. What began as a shared goal of pushing our physical limits quickly evolved into an unforgettable adventure, full of moments that combined history, personal goals, and community purpose.

Our team consisted of Chris Jones from New Zealand, Steve Seymour, a friend from Melbourne, and me. All three of us have done many cycling trips over the years in Europe, New Zealand and Australia. We had all dreamed of doing something extraordinary in our retirement, and in this case, a long-distance cycle ride through six countries ticked all the boxes. With no support crew, we carried our gear on touring bikes, staying in budget hotels and youth hostels along the way. It was just us, our bikes, and the open road for 73 days.

Riding for a cause

One of the primary motivations for me on this journey was raising funds for Alkira Disability Services in Australia, a charity close to our hearts. I have been involved at Alkira on its Board for 47 years. Our goal was to raise \$35,000 to support a café fit-out that would train participants with intellectual disabilities to become baristas and café staff. This cause added a deeper sense of purpose to our physical and mental endurance. Through sponsorships and donations, we're proud to say we reached our goal, knowing that every push of the pedal was for a greater purpose.

Climbing the Stelvio Pass

On a more personal note, climbing the Stelvio Pass in the Italian Alps was a bucket-list item for me. Known as one of the most famous and challenging cycling routes in the world, its hairpin bends and staggering elevation gains had long captured my imagination. When we finally reached the base of the Stelvio, after days of riding through Italy's sun-drenched countryside, I could feel the anticipation building.

The ascent was nothing short of gruelling - 48 switchbacks winding up to 2,757 metres - but the view from the top made every drop of sweat worthwhile.



A man and his penny-farthing... making new friends on the road

Standing there, surrounded by snow-capped peaks, I realised how much of this ride was about testing our limits. That moment will remain etched in my memory as one of the high points of our trip, both literally and figuratively.

Paris Olympics: A golden opportunity

From the Alps, we made our way toward one of the most exciting parts of our journey: the Paris Olympics. By sheer luck and perfect timing, our route coincided with the Olympic Games, allowing us to attend several events. The most memorable for me was watching Australia's Grace Brown clinch gold in the cycling time trial. To witness such an historic victory as cyclists ourselves felt incredibly inspiring. Being in Paris during the Olympics added an extra layer of excitement to our adventure, mixing our physical challenge with the world's greatest athletic competition.



Peter at the Stelvio Pass in the Italian Alps



Visiting the Grieve plaques in Mesen, Belgium

Retracing History: POWs and war memorials

Beyond the physical challenge, our ride had an historical dimension. Chris, our teammate from New Zealand, had always been fascinated by World War II history. One of the ride's key objectives was to retrace the steps of a friend from New Zealand who was a POW and involved in a march of POWs from camps in Austria at the end of the war. Riding through those landscapes, where soldiers once faced unimaginable hardships, added a poignant layer to our journey.

We also made a point of visiting the WWI battlefields, including a stop at Mesen to pay respects to Robert Grieve VC (OW1904), a famous Old Wesley Collegian who earned his Victoria Cross during the war. Seeing the plaques and memorials in person brought home the immense sacrifice made by those who came before us, many of whom were not much younger than we were when they fought.

Countries and challenges

Our route took us through six countries: Italy, Austria, Germany, France, Belgium and finally, England. Each offered its unique flavour, from the cobblestone streets of small Italian towns to the orderly bike paths of Germany, and the rolling hills of southern England. The diversity of landscapes and cultures kept the ride interesting day after day. However, it wasn't all smooth cycling. Italy's heat made for some tough

riding days, especially as we wound through the scenic but sweltering Tuscan countryside. The wind became a formidable opponent when we reached the southern coast of England, often pushing against us as we powered through the final leg of our journey. And then there was the issue of taking bikes on trains - booking in advance was necessary, and trains run on time, often leaving us scrambling to ensure we didn't miss a connection.

Surprisingly, we encountered very few mechanical problems along the way. Our touring bikes held up well under the strain of nearly 4,000 km and 25,000 metres of climbing, with only the occasional flat tyre or minor adjustment needed.

The rhythm of the ride

Our daily routine became second nature after a few weeks on the road. We would wake early to maximise the daylight, aiming to be on the road by 7:00 or 8:00am. Breakfast was either enjoyed at our accommodation or grabbed on the go, with a quick stop for morning tea or a much-needed coffee fix. The ride would continue until lunch, which always marked the halfway point of our day's distance.

After a brief rest, we'd push through the afternoon, often rewarding ourselves with an ice cream if the weather was particularly hot. The goal was to reach our destination by 4:00pm, but on longer



Waiting for the ferry at a UK river crossing

or more difficult days, it could be as late as 6:00pm. After showering and taking care of essential tasks like washing clothes and updating the ride blog, we'd relax and refuel for the next day's challenge.

Final leg: Cirencester and the Cotswolds

Our ride concluded in England, where one of the final highlights was visiting the home of a fellow cyclist in Cirencester, nestled in the beautiful Cotswolds. After weeks of riding, it was a joy to reconnect, share stories and celebrate the completion of such a monumental journey.

After 73 days on the road, 51 of them serious riding days, our trip finally came to an end. We covered nearly 4,000 kilometres, climbed 25,000 metres and visited six countries. Each day brought new challenges, but also new rewards, from breathtaking views to pieces of history brought to life, or simply the satisfaction of a hard day's ride.

Reflecting on this adventure, I'm reminded that cycling is about more than just physical endurance. It's about the people you meet, the causes you support, and the memories you create. For me, this ride will forever stand as a testament to what can be achieved when you combine determination, passion and a sense of purpose.

Peter Harrison (OW1969)



Felix wins prestigious MSO award



Felix with fellow percussion students from the Conservatorium at the Iwaki Auditorium

Accomplished percussionist and drummer Felix Gilmour (OW2022) has been awarded the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's prestigious Snare Drum Award.

Felix is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music Performance at the Melbourne

Conservatorium of Music, specialising in classical percussion and timpani, under the guidance of Brent Miller. His musical journey, which began with private lessons in piano, drums, concert percussion, music theory and composition from an early age, has been marked by an

impressive array of achievements. A member of the Melbourne Youth Orchestras program from 2018 to 2023, Felix now plays with the University of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the University of Melbourne Wind Symphony. He is also a member of the MCM's percussion ensemble, Myriad.

What makes Felix's recent accomplishment even more meaningful is his dedication of this award to the memory of his first percussion teacher, Jenny Morrish, who taught him at Wesley's Elsternwick Campus. Jenny was the very first recipient of the MSO Snare Drum Award 20 years ago, making this a full-circle moment for Felix. Her guidance and inspiration clearly left a profound impact on Felix, who continues to honour her legacy through his outstanding musical contributions.

Open to undergraduate percussion students across Australia and New Zealand, the MSO Snare Drum Award offers a unique opportunity to develop advanced audition skills and performance techniques in a professional environment. As this year's winner, Felix received a handcrafted snare drum created by local maker Lou Mastro, along with mentorship from Robert Cossom of the MSO and a chance to sit in on rehearsals with world-renowned conductors and soloists.

We congratulate Felix on this remarkable achievement and look forward to following his bright future in music, filled with continued success and inspiration. His dedication to his craft and the memory of his mentor is a testament to his character and talent.

An OW's fight to protect our winters

I was cursing my luck while hiking up and over Mt Stirling through rain, sleet and mud to reach Craig's Hut in August this year. I had a split-board strapped to my backpack weighing me down, and I was wearing snowboarding boots - this wasn't part of the plan. The unseasonably warm August had stripped natural snow from all but the highest peak of the mountain when we should usually be seeing peak snow depths.

Why was I taking part in this act of masochism? For an off-grid backcountry screening of the film 'Alpine Odyssey', a project of adventurer Huw Kingston who documented his 2022 winter journey across 700km of Australia's mountains. This unique screening was part of a wider film tour, raising funds for Save The Children and Protect Our Winters Australia, an organisation of which I am a director.

As we reached the summit of Mt Stirling, I looked over at the neighbouring Mt Buller. It was brown and bare, giving me flashbacks to 2006.

Anyone in the Australian snow community will remember just how shocking the 2006 season was. As a teenager representing Wesley in the Interschools competition at Mount Buller, I couldn't believe I was racing on a tiny strip of man-made snow, and then having to catch the chairlift down the mountain to get back to Buller's village. The 2006 season broke me, seeing how much money and effort my family was investing only to see conditions this poor - I didn't snowboard for years afterwards.

Back to 2024: two poor back-to-back snow seasons not so long after enduring the harsh COVID lockdowns are seeing Australia's alpine communities hurting. People are nervous. What happens if the snow doesn't fall next year too? This is why I'm involved with Protect Our Winters Australia (POW). Australia's alpine regions are incredibly unique and bring so much joy to so many people, but they are under threat. POW offers the outdoor-loving community a way to unite and take action against the threats to our mountains - of which climate change is the big one.

POW is a completely volunteer-run organisation, operating on the 'smell of an oily rag'. Despite these challenges, we've gone hard this year - commissioning the most up-to-date scientific research looking at the



At the screening of 'Alpine Odyssey' in Melbourne

economic, social and environmental impacts that climate change is having on Australia's alpine regions in the form of the *Our Changing Snowscapes* report. Authored by Australian National University and the Australian Mountain Research Facility, the research highlights a series of interconnected effects on alpine tourism, regional communities, hydroelectricity, high country water flows to the Murray-Darling Basin, carbon sequestration, high country ecosystems, and First Nations communities. Simply put, the mountains are far more than just a destination for snow sports - these places are critical to our nation.

Within a week of releasing *Our Changing Snowscapes*, we had over 420 press appearances, leading to several meetings in parliament to raise the profile of the challenges our mountains and our alpine communities face with our political class. The reality is, Australia's mountains are the most at risk to climate change impacts in the world - but it is not too late to save them.

Australia's alpine regions are considered the 'canary in the coal mine' by the rest of the world. What happens to our snow, our environment and our regional economies offers a look into the future for the Northern Hemisphere, should the world fail to respond to the challenges of climate change rapidly. We need to move quickly and with ambition.



POW Australia Chair, Alastair McLeod (OW2009)

What can you do to help?

The first step is to get informed! Go to protectourwinters.org.au and take a look at the *Our Changing Snowscapes* report.

As a wise man once said, 'don't get angry, get active'. We need more volunteers and we need more funding. Reach out to the team at POW Australia to see how you can give back and protect these precious places for future generations.

Alastair McLeod (OW2009)

IGFF

Sexual Abuse Prevention



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

Practical welfare and therapeutic referrals

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

Engagement with the National Redress Scheme

Supporting Survivors, families and communities impacted by Institutional abuse

Professional advocacy and mediation

Help Health Hope

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

34 DECEMBER 2024

A small, stylized lion logo, likely representing the University of Melbourne.

Reunions

Elsternwick Silver Stars Lunch



Mornington Peninsula Lunch



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

Glen Waverley Campus 1994
30 Year Reunion



St Kilda Road Campus 1994
30 Year Reunion



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



Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road Campuses' 1 Year Reunion



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

OWCA vs OSCA Golf Day



Wesley x Cato Ladies Golf Day



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



Affiliates



2024 Women's Reserves Premiers

Collegians Football Club

We look back on season 2024 with great pride. Collegians Football Club fielded seven teams in 2024 with more than 220 players involved in the club over the season.

Our men’s programs faced many challenges throughout the season, with injuries to several key players. This gave the coaching staff the opportunity to play some of our young, up-and-coming players who held themselves well at the top level. We had seven players in the VAFA Under 19s representative team who all played senior football in 2024. Eddie King (OW2022), Jasper Davy (OW2022), Richie Andrews (OW2023), Ben Hill (OW2023), Will Pewtress (OW2022) and Will Dean (OW2022). Congratulations to all on an outstanding season. None of them played any games in our Under 19 premiership team which shows the great depth within the men’s program.

Congratulations to Nathan Boucher (OW2017) and Luke McCleary (OW2016) on representing the VAFA in the senior state team who travelled to Perth to play Western Australia.

Our women’s program saw the introduction of a thirds side into the divisional section. With strong results in Div 4 over the first four rounds, this saw them being regraded up to Div 1. This proved a very difficult division against teams for whom it was their only side. Our players should hold their heads high as they battled every week with a smile.

I would like to thank Dom Lucarelli, Nick Hibbins (OW1982) and Rick Morris (OW2004) who all leave the club after many years of hard work. From the players, parents and supporters, I pass on our sincere gratitude.

I would like to thank the committee for their hard work and support in my first year in the role. It has been a year with some challenges off the field and their support has been greatly appreciated. The committee comprises Rodney Nancarrow (OW1982), Cassandra Highfield, Andrew Hind (OW2001), Hannah Singleton (OW2014) and Stephanie Loendidis. My thanks especially to Rod, as immediate past president, for your support in the handover year.

A big call out to Rosemary Nancarrow and Sue Lee for their tireless work feeding our players after training on Thursday nights, and our members, sponsors and supporters at our home game lunches.



2024 Men's U19 Premiers

Thanks to Hannah Singleton, who did a power of work for the club on and off the field as a premiership player and committee member. We can proudly say we are now one of only a few clubs who are accredited as a Women’s & Girls Chartered Club. This will go a long way to helping Collegians continue to build our women’s program into the future.

Men’s Under 19s – Premiers!!

On a freezing morning with sideways rain, our Under 19 Men took to the field against Preston at Trevor Barker Oval with a loud and rowdy crowd behind the goals. In a low scoring start to the match, they could not seem to shake Preston, and scores were tied at the main break.

A rev-up from Rick Morris and some tactical moves from Ash Heriot settled the nerves, and it was truly the final quarter where the Lions stood up. Opening with three quick goals, they went on to kick two more after the midfield rose to the occasion. The crowd went wild, and the game was done and dusted. The Lions were Premiers!

Jake Cotchin was handed ‘Best on Ground’ honours for his commanding performance. On behalf of Collegians, we congratulate all players who pulled on the jumper for the side this year for the Under 19s (there were over 45!)



2024 Best and Fairest Winners - Krystal Russell and Jasper Davy (OW2022)

To Rick Morris and Ash Heriot, thank you both for your efforts leading these boys in 2024. They all played for you and because of you and could not have achieved the Premiership without you. To Arty and Dave Cotchin, thank you supporting the boys each week. To families and friends, thank you for showing up each week and supporting your boys in their Premiership win.

Women’s Reserves – Premiers!!

On a windy Sunday at Elsternwick Park, it was purple and gold from the get-go as our girls stamped their authority early on against Old Scotch. We scored four goals in the opening term, holding Scotch to just a single point, and locked in for what would be an even more exciting second quarter!

We opened the second with two very quick goals, pushing our margin out to 48 points at the main break. It was the second half where we tore the game open, barely allowing Scotch to pass the centre circle where our defenders, headlined by Kim White, commanded the game and took intercept mark after intercept mark. We scored another four goals in the third term and a final goal in the last quarter, taking home an 80-point Grand Final victory for the ages.

Brooke Tuszyński starred with two goals, as did Bella Rees, Jess Stolz, Kate Dudley and Aoibhinn Henderson. Sunday Stoney also dominated in the ruck in what was a true team effort! Chelsea McDermott was named ‘Best on Ground’ for her mighty efforts, with a goal to go with it! Well done to all involved in the inaugural women’s premiership.

Sponsors and Members

Thank you to our loyal sponsors; without your generous financial support, we wouldn’t be able to field our teams and provide the program we do. In particular we’d like to thank the OWCA - Tom Pewtress (OW2018) and Kate Evans (OW1998), Mercedes-Benz Waverley - Craig Howard, Bastion - Fergus Watts (OW2003), Texco - Tom Bull (OW2007), Bendigo Bank East Malvern - Ruth Hall, Big Wet Spring Water - Michael Opie (OW1989), Total Facility Maintenance - Brad Woolhouse (OW1988) and Jon Docking (OW1988), Tellurian Wines - Daniel Hopkins (OW1990), Tennant CS - Jonathan Isaacs, Tregear Partners - Greg Tregear (OW1983), Fontic - Alex Dakin (OW1996), JGC Electrical - Corey Cassidy, KOR - Steve Pewtress. And of course, to all our Coterie and Club members – we wouldn’t survive without your support.

Thank you to all our coaches who put in a huge amount of work and countless hours throughout the season to make sure our teams performed at their best. We have an extremely professional medical team headed up by Ryan Edwards from the Sports Clinic of Melbourne. It is a big job keeping seven teams safe and healthy.

We are looking for more off-field help in 2025, either at a committee or sub-committee level, please reach out if you are interested in getting involved.

For enquires relating to Collegians Football Club or to get involved, please contact President Andrew Kenneally (OW1989) on 0499 490 580 or email akenneally29@gmail.com

Club Awards

- Best Club Person:**
Nick Canny
- Outstanding Service:**
Peter Milford (OW1971)
- College Award Boys:**
Felix Kneipp
- College Award Boys:**
Noah Thorpe
- College Award Girls:**
Acacia Sutton

2024 Best & Fairest winners

- Senior Men’s**
(The G.W. Hibbins Award):
Jasper Davy (OW2022)
- Men’s Reserves**
(The H.J. Stewart Award):
Jack Meacham
- Senior Women’s**
(The S. Rodgers-Wilson Award):
Krystal Russell
- Reserves Women’s**
Chloe Kamberis
- Men's Under 19's**
(The Rice Award):
Alex Gebert (OW2022)
- Men's Thirds'**
(The George Teale Award):
Quinn Schwarz
- Women's Thirds'**
Mili Ledgerwood



OW Cricket Club

With the new season underway, the Old Wesley Cricket Club is buzzing with excitement, and we're ready to build on last year's successes. We are also looking forward to spending our Sunday afternoons with a lovely bunch of lads, enjoying the sunshine and playing good cricket.

Looking ahead, the club is also eagerly anticipating the next chapter in our international relationships. In January 2025, we'll be hosting our friends from Mayo College here in Australia, giving us a chance to show them the best of OWCC hospitality, and to defend the trophy we brought home from India in January 2024. It's a rare opportunity to strengthen our ties, compete on our home grounds, and make new memories.

A huge thank you to our committee members, Branford Gruar (OW2012), Rick Morris (OW2004), James Dowland (OW2016), Kyle Clarkson, Karen Sharkey

and Oliver Browning (OW2011), for their tireless work behind the scenes. Also, thanks to Bree (current student) for helping us out with our socials.

We welcome all alumni and friends of OWs to join us as we kick off this exciting season. Whether you're a seasoned player or looking for a fun, inclusive environment, OWCC has a place for everyone. Training is on Wednesdays at Wesley's Glen Waverly Campus from 5:30pm and on Thursday evenings from 5:15pm on the Back Turf at the St Kilda Road Campus. Thursday night training is followed by a meal and drinks at a local pub.

For more information or to join the team, contact **Rick Morris (OW2004)**, Head of Recruitment and team Captain on **0438 081 886**. Let's make this season one to remember. Go Wesley!

Ben Symon (OW2012)



OWCA Bowls

Unfortunately, while we were able to retain the trophy last year, the annual match against the West Brighton Club had to be abandoned due to cold and wet weather. We are hoping to reschedule for some time early in 2025.

We normally play against Scotch, Carey and Melbourne Grammar during the season. At the APS tournament day in March 2025, we compete against bowlers from Scotch, Xavier, Haileybury, Carey, Melbourne Grammar, St Kevins and Caulfield Grammar. All games commence at 11am and conclude at 2pm with a break at 12.30pm for lunch. The only exception is the West Brighton game that commences at 1pm.

For the APS tournament day and competition throughout the season, we accept bowlers who are Old Wesley Collegians or relatives of OWs such as parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. The OWCA supplies bowlers with a bowls top and the rest of the uniform is owner supplied. I can purchase Wesley caps or bucket hats for those bowlers who require them (at cost).



If you would like to join us for future games, 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

2025 MATCH SCHEDULE:

Wednesday 15 January 2025
OW, OCG, Old Scotch at MCC Swinburne

Wednesday 12 February 2025
OW and OM v MCC at MCC Swinburne

Sunday 23 March 2025
v APS Inter Schools at Glen Waverley Bowling Club
Host: Wesley College

OWCA Golf



OWCA v OSCA 2024



Scott Montgomery, Head of OSCA and Peter Johnson (OW1995), with the trophy presented to this year's winners... Wesley!



David Kennedy (OW1966), David Crow OAM (OW1967), Robert Burns (OW1967) and Prof. Field Rickards (OW1966)

The annual OWCA and Old Scotch Collegians Association (OSCA) Golf Day was held at Kew Golf Club on 15 November. Players were presented with a beautiful layout on which to test their game. Some fine play was on display in the sunny morning weather.

A dedicated team effort resulted in the OWCA successfully regaining the trophy contested between the two associations. Performances by Nick Shortis (OW1995), Geoff Allen (OW1993) and Birwin Yu (OW1995) were highlights.

The fellowship developed through the event continues to grow and we look forward to the 2025 edition!

Contact **Peter Johnson (OW1995)** for further information on **0419 119 786**



James Walsh-Buckley (OW1994), Anthony Wheaton (OW1993), Scott Booth (OW1985) and Geoff Allen (OW1993)

OWCA v OSCA 2024 Annual Golf Day

(Aggregate of the top 12 individual stableford scores)

OWCA: 332 points defeated **OSCA:** 292 points

H J Kroger 4 Ball Best Ball Trophy
Nick Shortis (OW1995) and Birwin Yu (OW1995) (46 points)

Dr John Kennedy Handicap Trophy
Geoff Allen (OW1993) (36 points)

Runner-up:
Scott Booth (OW1985) (35 points)

3rd place:
Nick Shortis (OW1995) (35 points)

4th place:
Birwin Yu (OW1995) (34 points)

5th place:
Nick Ashby (OW1985) (34 points)

R W Chenoweth Championship Trophy
Nick Shortis (OW1995) (74 strokes)

Nearest the pin

4th hole:
Field Rickards (OW1966)

11th hole:
Nick Ashby (OW1985)

14th hole:
Tom Duggan (Staff & APS Golf)

18th hole:
Geoff Allen (OW1993)

Longest Drive

16th hole (Men's):
Tom Duggan (Staff & APS Golf)

16th hole (Women's):
Sandy Wijeratne (OW2003)

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for
OWCA v OSCA 2025

7:45am, Friday 14 November
at Kew Golf Course

Good golf and
great company.

All welcome!



A Chorus Lion

A Chorus Lion bids a fond farewell to Doug Heywood (OAM) and Alex Cameron (former Head of Music at Wesley College Elsternwick). Doug and Alex have been an integral part of A Chorus Lion over the past 14 years.

In 2011, Alex took on the role as Choir Director; however in 2012, was unable to continue due to other commitments. In 2013, Alex introduced us to Doug, who offered to lead the choir for the next three years. We have been fortunate to have now enjoyed 12 years under his musical directorship, with Alex supporting us as a talented singer and pianist. During Doug and Alex’s time, we have grown significantly not only in numbers (there are now over 40 of us), but also in skill and confidence.

A Chorus Lion is a very special community choir and has a warmth that feels like an extended family. Like all families, we have shared highs and lows. Doug and Alex have always been there to support us in these moments. The highs have included the joy of performing Christmas Carols at the Langham Hotel, performing at various aged care facilities and at Wesley College functions, to the low of saying goodbye in song to one of our favourite members at his funeral.

Doug and Alex have always been generous offering their skills, grace, patience and humour. We will cherish many memories, from Alex leading us with our signature song ‘The lion sleeps tonight’ to Doug leading us in ‘Always look on the bright side of life.’

The COVID years proved difficult for



Alexandra Cameron and Doug Heywood OAM

many community choirs; however, via Zoom, through the skill, support, patience and especially the humour of both Doug and Alex, we emerged intact. The choir has grown even stronger now that we can sing together again and experience the joy of producing beautiful harmonies.

Although it is extremely sad to say farewell to Doug and Alex, we are looking forward to a new chapter in our story and are thrilled to welcome our new Choir Director for 2025. Maggie Dunleavy, at

29 years old, is currently completing post graduate study in a variety of musical fields and is a highly talented musician with classical training and experience leading community choirs.

In parting with Doug Heywood and Alex Cameron, we will not say farewell, but rather thank you and good luck in your move to Bendigo. We will see you later, as we always look on the bright side of life!

Contributed by Rosanne Osborn (Vice President)

OWCA Auto Day 2025

Please join us for the Old Wesley Collegians Auto Day, brought to you by the newly formed Collegians Car Club. To be held on Sunday 23 March 2025, from 10:00am – 12:00pm, at Wesley College, Glen Waverley Campus.



Please come along and enjoy, or showcase, your cars, bikes, and trucks. Free entry for registered cars and visitors.

The Master of Ceremonies will be Tom Pewtress (OW2018), President of the OWCA.

For more information please contact: Brad Gavin (OW1994) President Collegians Car Club: collegianscarclub@gmail.com

Contacts

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Athletics/Cross Country
Adrian Pile (OW2000)
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Bowls
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Chorus Lion
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Collegians Car Club
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Collegians Football Club
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Collegians X Hockey
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Peter Sun (OW2015)
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Births



BARR

To Alex (OW2011) and Krystal in September 2024, a son, Everett Ambrose Ricardo-Barr, a nephew for Libby Barr (OW2014), Christina Buchanan (OW2006) and James McDonald (OW2006)



BRENKER

To Jason (OW2007) and Stephanie (Batsakis) (OW2007) in May 2024, a son, Frederic, a grandson for Richard Brenker (past staff) and Rosetta Batsakis (past staff), a nephew for Madeline Brenker (OW2009), Penny Batsakis (OW2009) and Anthea Batsakis (OW2011)



BUCHANAN – MCDONALD

To Christina (OW2006) and James (OW2006) in July 2024, a daughter, Josephine Elizabeth, a niece for Andrew McDonald (OW2004), Alex Barr (OW2011) and Libby Barr (OW2014)



CASTRAN

To Max and Ally in October 2024, a daughter, Daisy Lorna, a sister for Bodhi, a granddaughter for Paul (OW1978), a niece for Zoe (OW2012)



KARANTONIS

To James (OW2011) and Madeleine Mangano in August 2024, a daughter, Grace, a niece for Laura (OW2013)



PEACH

To Nadine (Denison) (OW2008) and Shannon in November 2024, a son, Patrick Charles, a brother for Oscar and Wilbur, a nephew for Grant Denison (OW2006)



PHILIP

To Hannah (Simon) and Harry in October 2024, a daughter, Summer Mary Lou, a granddaughter for Matt Simon (OW1978), a niece for Lloyd Simon (OW2007) and Max Simon (OW2009)



REYNOLDSON

To Luke (OW2006) and Charlotte in June 2024, a daughter, Annabelle, a sister for Luke Jnr, Isabelle, George and Henry, a great granddaughter for David (OW1953), a granddaughter for Andrew (OW1977), a niece for Nick (OW2008) and Olivia (OW2010)



SHUTLER

To James (OW2010) and Claire in September 2024, a son, Elliot August, a grandson for Annette Rome (past staff), a nephew for Toby (OW2011) and Miranda (OW2014)



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

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.

Weddings



BARCHAM – HAMPTON

Alistair (OW2019) and Nicole on 10 October 2024



DONNAN – COOPER

Alexander (OW2011) and Tia on 14 August 2024



ELDRIDGE – LARNE

Chloe (OW2010) and David on 29 November 2024



FREDERICK – MOUNTNEY

Rachel (OW2015) and Ethan on 29 August 2024



LODER – BRASH

Jim (OW2004) and Anna on 12 October 2024



STRINGER – ROBSON

Chloe (OW2012) and Oliver on 21 November 2024

Engagements



GOLD – VICKERY

Josh (OW1998) to Ingrid (OW1999)



MCKAY – VAN LUNENBURG

Maddeleine (OW2011) to Dean



WELSH – THOMSON

Jessamine (OW2010) to Willow

Deaths

ALEXANDER

Joshua William (OW2021) on 28 September 2024, grandson of Trevor Clark (OW1961), grandnephew of Rodney Clark (OW1958) (dec) and Chris Clark (OW1964)

BARBER

John Clifford (OW1956) on 19 February 2024, brother of Geoffrey (OW1950)

BOAG

Peter David (OW1963) on 26 July 2024, son of David (OW1935) (dec), grandfather of Hannah Wolf (OW2020) and Harrison Wolf (OW2023)

BOOTHEY

Joan (MLC Elsternwick 1956) (Green) on 2 October 2023, great aunt of Oscar Pearson (OW2012)

BRIGGS

Roger (OW1968) on 18 August 2024

BURLEY

Steven Francis Burley (OW1967) on 4 September 2024

CHRISTIE

Denise (MLC Elsternwick 1952) (McNeillage) on 20 August 2023

DAKIN

Ian Richard (OW1953) on 22 October 2024, brother of Peter (OW1963), father of Ric (OW1981) and Tim (OW1987), uncle of Victoria (OW1991) and Alex (OW1996), grandfather of Mardi Goldsworthy (OW2017)

DAVIS

Stephen Cyril (OW1982) on 9 August 2024

DICKINSON

Edward Fenton (OW1955) on 17 October 2023, great uncle of Christopher McDonald (OW2014) and Luke McDonald (OW2019)

ISAACS

Robert Lewis (OW1945) on 30 October 2024, brother of Alan (OW1940)

MCEWING

Fraser Beath (OW1956) on 27 October 2024, brother of Brett (OW1959)

MOFFAT

John Woolven (OW1962) on 13 September 2024

PEMBERTON

Rodney (OW1964) on 23 November 2024, father of Emma (OW1995) and James (OW1998)

PREST

Jean (SABS Patron) on 17 August 2024, former wife of David (Past Principal), mother of David (OW1977) and Ian (OW1977), grandmother of Elizabeth (OW2009) and Alexandra (OW2012)

SAUNDERS

Robyn Margaret (MLC Elsternwick 1956) (McDonald) on 27 June 2024

SCOTT

Peter John (OW1952) on 17 October 2024, son of Walter (OW1925) (dec), brother of David (OW1960) (dec)

SELLECK

Richard George (Rick) (OW1958) on 3 October 2024, son of George (OW1915) (dec), brother of Bryan (OW1947) (dec) and David (OW1957)

STEEDMAN

Alan Peter (Pete) Steedman (OW1961) on 10 July 2024, son of Alan (OW1935) (dec), nephew of Keith (OW1938) (dec), brother of Keith (OW1964)

SULLIVAN

Stanley Victor (Victor) (OW1958) on 7 June 2024

SUMMERS

Merrick Litchfield (MLC Elsternwick 1941) on 22 July 2024, sister of Bob (OW1940) (dec) Robert Isaacs (OW1945) passed away about a month ago. He is the brother of Alan Isaacs (OW1940)

Obituaries

DR. ELIZABETH JEAN PREST

23/10/1930 – 17/08/2024



Dr Elizabeth Jean Prest (Wadham), former wife of David Harris Prest, (Principal, Wesley College, 1972-1991), Wesley parent and past Co-Patron of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society, was born in October 1930, the only child of Ernest, footballer, and Gladys (Jolly), artist and homemaker. She grew up in the leafy eastern suburb of Roslyn Park, Adelaide and died peacefully in Carlton aged 93.

Jean was born during the Depression. During the war years, and with her father away, she excelled in humanities at Adelaide High School and in 1949, went on to study at the University of Adelaide, where she sparked a life-long interest in the history of the colony of South Australia and the formation of the Commonwealth of Australia.

An historian at the time wrote, ‘In 1952, Elizabeth Jean Wadham was probably the forerunner of academic research in South Australian women's history with her honours history thesis titled “Women's Suffrage in South Australia (1883- 1894)”. In 1953, Jean completed a Master’s degree on “The political career of C. C. Kingston (1881-1900)” - a significant contribution to the study of one of South Australia's most important pre-federation and reforming Premiers and one of Australia's first federal ministers.'

After a hiatus of several decades, and when retired, Jean revived her interest in this aspect of Australian history and was ultimately awarded a doctorate from the University of Melbourne in 2005 for her research into the life of Sir John Langdon Bonython, the proprietor of the Adelaide Advertiser. She became a Senior Fellow of the History Department at University of Melbourne.

Although Jean was an accomplished writer, researcher and teacher in her own right, she will be remembered by readers of Lion as ‘the Headmaster’s wife’, an unassuming title that belies her contribution to Wesley College, and indeed, the other schools run by my father throughout his career. In the 1960s, it was not uncommon for Jean to fill in at short notice when teachers were unavailable at Wolaroi College, Orange. In the 1970s, when schoolboys were terrified of being conscripted to the Vietnam war, she took on a pastoral role in the boarding house at Scotch College, Perth. Even after Wesley, Jean continued to support my father in his roles at Goulburn Valley Grammar School and at Melbourne University.

Once my father was established at Wesley College in 1972, Jean quickly supplemented her role on the home front with an academic position at Latrobe University. She tutored in Women’s History and a unique subject then entitled ‘Revolutions’.

After five years at Latrobe University, Jean taught briefly at Lauriston and then MLC, where she was Head of Middle School from 1984 until retirement in 1990. At the same time, Jean made a very significant contribution to Wesley College. She seemed to be forever cooking for dinner parties and staff social events at which she made material contributions to robust discussions on aspects of education. She attended a range of Wesley sporting matches, plays and musicals, boarders’ chapel services, and speech nights. She also provided a sounding board for my father, and for many years, Monday nights were set aside for dinner with Professor John Keeves, principals from other schools and various luminaries of Australian education.

There were some teachers who seemed to follow my parents from school to school, as if part of our family. Dawson Hann knew Jean from childhood in Adelaide; others followed from their first days as graduate teachers. Some favourite school students became teachers themselves and remained friends for life. One student from Wolaroi College, Jacob Zeephongsekul, moved into our home and stayed for ten years!

In 1981, Jean was delighted to have a Wesley rowing boat named after her - and she loved the picnics at Geelong on boat race day - although her passion for sport was mainly focussed on tennis and AFL football. Jean was captain of her

high school tennis team and represented University of Adelaide in the inter-varsity competitions while a student. She had great success in her youth, winning the Adelaide hard-court event in 1947 and was runner-up in the English southern counties tournament in 1956. Later in life, she took great pleasure in trouncing teenage girls while teaching at MLC.

Having a father who was a Norwood FC champion and SANFL ‘Hall of Famer’, it was no surprise that Jean was immensely proud of my brother Ian (OW1979) when he played in a Wesley First XVIII that were undefeated APS champions. She was, of course, proud of all of us, and thrilled when her two eldest grand-daughters, Elizabeth and Alexandra, dressed in the purple uniform and attended the St Kilda Road Campus. Grandma was present at their concerts, plays, netball matches and speech nights, and loved helping them with homework.

During her retirement, Jean accepted a role on the Sapere Aude Bequest Society as a pathway for members of the Wesley community to provide enduring benefits for future generations of Wesley Collegians. She thoroughly enjoyed the meetings; partly to enhance the direction of the society, and also for the regular catchups with old friends such as Jean Oldfield, Gordon Newton (OW1950), Helen Drennen and others. Jean was also on the board of St Hilda’s College at Melbourne University, a keen member of the Lyceum Club, and active in various book clubs and regular tennis outings well into her 80s.

We celebrated Jean’s life at the Uniting Church, Toorak, on Friday 30 August. It had been raining all week, but as the service ended, the clouds lifted. The church hosted morning tea in a garden of roses, and many friends stayed for hours recounting various stories of my mother’s life; her amazing academic achievements, her ability to do three things at once (like mark essays, knit and cook dinner), her ability to connect with strangers, and her endearing vagueness, which was encapsulated by Dawson Hann’s poem ‘The Woman Who Missed the Beatles’.

Jean is survived by her three children David Prest (OW1977), Ian Prest (OW1979) and Lydia Dowse, their partners Beverley Prest, Kylie Colless and Julian Dowse, and five grandchildren Elizabeth Prest (OW2009), Alexandra Prest (OW2012), Finlay Colless-Prest, Neve Colless-Prest and Konrad Dowse.

Contributed by David Prest (OW1977)



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PETER DAVID BOAG
(OW1963)

7/01/1946 – 26/07/2024



Peter joined Wesley College in Year 6A in 1957 in the Junior School, and soon proved to be a remarkable all-round sportsman with football, in particular, his passion. By Year 12, given his exceptional academic ability (he was named the Alexander Warne Scholar), he gained entry to Law at the University of Melbourne.

In 1964, Peter moved to Queen’s College, as so many of his peers did in the 1960s, to pursue his law degree. He was actively involved in the life of the College and, as was the case throughout his life, he was a well-liked and much respected member of the College community.

After completing articles, Peter chose not to pursue a career in the law, but rather, joined the family clothing company, J Boag (Clothing) Pty Ltd, founded by Jean Boag in 1926. A milestone for the company occurred in 1956 when J Boag was woven into Melbourne’s Olympic

history by winning the bid to craft the Australian men’s Olympic uniform. Peter eventually became the third-generation manager of the company which specialised in the manufacture of shirts and pyjamas in factories in Brunswick and Rosebud. Later, the company founded the wholesale City Collection brand of sustainable clothing for corporate work and healthcare. The brand continues to this day.

In addition to his corporate commitments, Peter had time to pursue, with passion, a diverse range of interests. He was an avid outdoorsman, accomplished skier, passionate fisherman, nature lover, twitcher and bibliophile. He went out of his way to introduce and involve many of his friends in these pursuits.

One entity never far from his heart was Collegians Football Club. He was a prominent player in the 1960s and 1970s, a long serving committee man, a consistent and substantial financial supporter and, until very recently, a regular and enthusiastic supporter on game days.

In a quiet but most effective way, Peter was a consistent and generous philanthropic supporter of his various passions, not least of which being Wesley and Queen’s Colleges. Both institutions benefited from his generosity and only with some reluctance did he allow them to honour his name on the buildings he helped fund. Not least of these were the Jack Clarke Building at Queen’s, remembering the outstanding Vice Master during Peter’s time there, and the History Gallery at the Wesley St Kilda Rd Campus, illustrating his lifelong fascination with history. In each of these cases, along with many others, only reluctantly did Peter permit his generosity to be publicly recognised.

Eventually, he allowed himself to be swayed by the argument that his gesture would be an incentive for others to follow his example. His amplified legacy therefore remains.

Beyond this philanthropic passion, Peter will be remembered by all he came into contact with as a kind, modest, interested and gracious man, ever a gentleman and a compassionate citizen.

He was proud to have supported members of his extended family to attend Wesley College. Hannah Wolf (OW2020) and Harrison Wolf (OW2023) attended the Glen Waverley Campus, Isable is currently in Year 8 at the St Kilda Road Campus and her brother, Theo, will begin Year 7 there in 2026.

His final days, supported by his wife Jennie and a broad array of family and friends, were spent at Arcare Malvern East, where the insidious onset of dementia eventually took its toll. However, his cheeky grin was there until the finish. He will be deeply missed.

Contributed by Frank Opray (OW1963)

At the College Council Meeting on Wednesday 31 July, Principal Nick Evans tabled a condolence motion on the passing of Peter Boag (OW1963).

‘Wesley College Council expresses its deep regret at the death of Peter Boag (OW1963) member of The Nicholas Circle and places on record its appreciation for his long service to Wesley College and tenders our profound sympathy to his family in their bereavement.’

Moved: Nick Evans (OW1985)
Seconded: Prof. Rachel Webster AO
Carried

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RICHARD GEORGE SELLECK (OW1959)

30/01/1942 – 3/10/2024



Rick was the much-loved youngest son of George Gray Selleck (OW1915) and his beautiful wife Elsie, and younger brother of Betty, Bryan (OW1947) and David (OW1957).

Rick had a wonderful childhood growing up in Barham, NSW on the family’s orange orchard and pastoral properties: Riding his horse ‘Jet’ to school which was a step-up from having to pour hot water into the metal handlebars of his bicycle to keep his hands from freezing in the winter months (or so the story goes); water skiing in irrigation channels, towed by one of his brothers driving the utility alongside the channel bank, before progressing to gliding the beautifully wide, mighty Murray River on a single ski (at times even barefoot). The Selleck brothers loved their water skiing almost as much as their rowing.

Rick started boarding school at Wesley College in 1954 at 12 years of age and like his father and brothers, was a gifted and, strong rower.

In 1957, at age 15 and possibly one of the youngest ever competitors, Rick rowed in the Wesley First VIII in the Head of River, his brother David stroke of the crew and Rick number 2. Rick went on to be stroke in the Wesley First VIII at Head of the River in 1958 and 1959.

After finishing school, Rick worked for the family agricultural business until being given guardianship of beautiful Gulpha Station at Mathoura, NSW in 1966. In the same year, Rick married Kate Montgomery and had three children: Virginia, Annabelle and Nicholas (Nick) (OW1990).

Rick put his heart and soul into running the 3500-acre sheep and wheat property and achieved some remarkable results and record-breaking prices for fat lambs, wool and wheat. Numerous improvements were made to the historic property, which was once a Cobb & Co carriage horse changeover station. Droving sheep on horseback was a favourite task for Rick and his daughters. Rick and son Nick shared a great passion for motorbikes, with Nick going on to become Victorian U21 motorcross champion and build a successful career in riding and touring.

During the 1970s and 80s, Rick and family enjoyed many great times with good friends from Wesley, including Kron Nicholas (OW1959) and Irvin Rockman (OW1955) and their families. All three friends had great senses of humour and would try to out-do each other with their joke telling at dinner parties.

During these years, Rick was a local Mathoura Shire Council member, volunteering his time to work on many community-based projects.

After selling Gulpha Station in 1986, Rick moved to Echuca in Victoria and started an agricultural contracting business which took him to many parts of Australia. He then moved to Gisborne to be closer to family and his much-adored grand-daughter, Olivia.

In 2019, Rick moved to Port Macquarie in New South Wales, again to be close to family. Although he had health issues, he remained independent and determined, and his cheeky sense of humour remained.

The Selleck Family’s contribution to rowing at Wesley College was honoured in 2011 when a new rowing VIII boat was named after them. This boat is still in use today.

Rick is survived by brother David (OW1957), son Nick (OW1990), daughters Virginia and Annabelle, nephew Tony (Butch) Selleck (OW1977), niece Debbie Schnizler (nee Selleck) and cousins Bob Bitcon (OW1948) and Jim Bitcon (OW1957).

A special thank you from family to John Henshaw (OW1959) who rowed with Rick in the 1959 First VIII Head of the River crew and was a great friend and support to Rick, especially in the later years.

Contributed by Annabelle Selleck

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IAN RICHARD DAKIN
(OW1953)

09/09/1936 – 22/10/2024

Ian (Dake) was born in Ivanhoe, the first child of Winsome (Wink) and Eric Dakin, and older brother of Peter (OW1963). The family lived at 15 Waldemar Road, Eaglemont. He commenced at Ivanhoe State School in 1944 and entered Wesley College Junior School in 1947 and the Senior School at Punt Road in 1949.

Dake was in a class called ‘The Twenty’ which was for gifted students, however, Ian’s subsequent academic results proved to be closer to average! That being said, he embraced all aspects of life at Wesley College (except gymnastics) and developed a large number of lifelong friendships, including boarders, right up until his passing. These included David Venville (OW1954) (dec), Ian Ristrom (OW1953), Bob Manuell (OW1953), Ian Unkenstein (OW1955) (dec), Geoff Stephenson (OW1953) and Bernard Freedman (OW1951).

He played Under 15 and Under 16As cricket and footy but was disappointed to miss the First XVIII in Year 12 following an injury. Dake was a good tennis player and participated in most House sports. He kept playing tennis with a number of OWs and other friends until a few years ago.

Ian enjoyed the Cadets, proudly bringing home his 303 rifle on the Punt Road bus and the train from Clifton Hill Station to Eaglemont, and also actively participated in community service projects.

Family life in Eaglemont was happy; he spent a lot of time with our cousins and friends around the Yarra River at Wilson Reserve where he was a member of First Ivanhoe Sea Scout Cubs.

After finishing school in 1953, Ian was invited by his uncle to join Jackson & Co Customs Agents. He started work in 1954 and obtained his Customs Agent’s License. He spent his early years on the waterfront amongst Wharfies, Painters & Dockers and Customs Officers and was subsequently made a partner of the firm. Ian retired in 2001 after 47 years with Jackson & Co.

As with most things, Ian actively participated and became State President of the Customs Agents Institute. He subsequently joined the State Chamber

of Commerce and Rotary Club of Melbourne, remaining active for nearly 30 years.

In 1980, lifetime friend Mike Pointer, from Geelong Grammar, invited Ian to be an inaugural Member of the Australia China Chamber of Commerce.

Ian married Anne Leggo from Beaumaris on 19 December 1961. Sadly, she died of mesothelioma in 2008, which is not dissimilar to the lung condition pulmonary fibrosis that Ian suffered with for several years prior to his passing. They lived in Mount Waverley and had three children, Ric (OW1981), Felicity and Tim (OW1987), with brother Peter (OW1963) married to Di and their two children, Victoria (OW1991) and Alex (OW1996) attending Wesley.

Ian was an enthusiastic ‘old boy’ and parent:

- Member of Glen Waverley Parents Association, Secretary then President 1975-1976
- School Council Member for 3 years
- OWCA Committee Member and President in 1989
- Social activities included weekly Wesley tennis organised by Lex Hibbins (OW1953)
- Regular past OWCA councillors and pub lunch groups and annual Cup Week fishing trips with participants in those activities including Lex Hibbins (OW1953), John (OW1953) and Rob Hicks (OW1955) (dec), Denis Dowty (OW1953), John Gellie (OW1951), Warrick (OW1959) and Brian (OW1957) Mitchell, David Prest (Past Principal), John Hall (OW1951), Geoff Stephenson (OW1953), Russ Baker (OW1951), Neil Evans (OW1957), Peter Harrison (OW1969), Jim Barry (OW1950), Geoff Wagstaff (OW1949), Gordon Newton (OW1950), Doug Turnbull (OW1970), Graeme Samuel (OW1963), Philip Powell (OW1973), Field Rickards (OW1966), Rodney Aujard (OW1961) and many more!

Ian often mentioned that, apart from Annie and his family, attending and maintaining an active involvement with Lord Somers Camp and Power House was a life changing experience. He had planned to play footy with Old Wesley Collegians, but an old school friend, Leigh ‘Curly’ Grant (OW1951) encouraged Ian to join Power House Amateur Football Club in 1956. He was a Member of the 1959 ‘Championship Team’, undefeated



Dake in his Wesley school uniform

in C Section of the VAFA. He coached the Under 19s, was Secretary, then President, of PHFC in 1971 and 1972 and was later awarded Honorary Life Membership and then Legend Status of Power House Football Club. His passion for supporting young people from all walks of life was amazing.

Ian and Peter were proud of their father Eric, who was an outstanding footballer and cricketer at Caulfield Grammar and with the Melbourne Cricket Club. He was a champion footballer with old Caulfield Grammar, being the first person to kick 100 goals in a season.

Ian was an avid Melbourne Football Club supporter and really cherished their 2021 Premiership. Like Peter, he was a 67-year Member of the MCC, 50 year old Member of the Athenaeum Club and long standing Member of Royal South Yarra Tennis Club.

Dake’s enthusiasm, commitment and ‘where there is a will, there is a way’ attitude inspired a generation.

Contributed by Peter Dakin (OW1963)

STEVEN FRANCIS BURLEY
(OW1967)

05/04/1949 – 04/09/2024



Steve grew up in Ivanhoe, where his family were well known as his father owned a popular menswear store in Burgundy St, Heidelberg. He had a younger brother but, unfortunately, their early family life was unstable and later, Steve became his brother’s major carer before he tragically died at the age of 18.

Steve loved his football and had a big frame even as a youngster. As a 14-year-old, he played senior football for Heidelberg, and held his own against the men. This passion for football was with him all his life. After schooling locally, Steve commenced at Wesley in 1965 in Year 11. His main source of fame at Wesley stemmed from his great skill as a footballer. In his first year, he made the First XVIII and was regularly among the best players each match. In 1966 he again played outstandingly and was quoted by the daily paper of the time, *The Herald*, as being the best centre-half back in the Associated Public Schools. While he was a fine player, his teammates don’t remember Steve for his exertions on the training track and as a result his second half performances were not as strong as his first! In 1966, he was a member of the Football Sub-Committee and elected Captain of Football in 1967, when his season ended in the third round with a bad knee injury. He received his Honour Colours for football in 1965.

Off the football field, Steve was a fine contributor to school life. He was a member of the Swimming team in 1965, on the Hattam House Committee in

1966 and 1967, and Captain of Hattam in 1967. In that year, he was on the Games Committee, the Tuckshop Committee and became a School Prefect. Steve made a name for himself as the school appeals Secretary in 1966 and was Co-Chairman of the Boat Race Promotions Committee. With all that going on in his life, he still managed to matriculate with what he called ‘five good passes.’

Those ‘five good passes’ were good enough to gain entrance to Monash University to do economics and politics. He was making his way at Monash until it was incumbent upon him to shoulder the family responsibility, assisting his mother and entirely supporting younger brother Kevin, a move which meant he had to get a real job while still studying. He took up teaching at Preston Tech without a degree or much support, trying to control 16-year-olds who didn’t really want to be there. Maintaining order made his days difficult but survive and thrive he did.

Upon leaving Monash, he joined Federal Customs checking inbound freight. Steve was honest, forthright and certainly didn’t mind speaking his mind, all qualities which, combined with his size, he found very useful in the rough and tumble of the Melbourne Docks.

Steve played football at Collegians for a short time before moving to the Monash Whites for three years, two as Captain Coach and winning one Premiership. Although his fitness levels were no longer at their peak, he was still a fine player and on two occasions he kicked 100 goals in the season at full forward. He then became Assistant Coach at University Blacks for two seasons.

In the early 1980s, Steve took a management role with Union Shipping and lived in New Zealand. He returned to Australia in 2000 and subsequently retired at the age of 55. Soon after, Steve purchased a home located between the front and back beaches in Rye, on two large blocks amidst Moonah trees. This home was a haven, a place where he was able to pursue a number of his passions including collecting a huge variety of different bottles of port, an interesting hobby given that he simply collected them without drinking them.

Steve loved music, mainly jazz, rhythm and blues, and country. He collected 12,000 CDs over his life and still had them all when he passed. He bought in bulk and many of the CDs were never opened. He was focussed on Frank Wills and his Texas

swing and became an aficionado of this music genre. His love of music was what took him into the world of community radio at 3RPP (Mornington) for several years before moving to Casey Radio in 2011 where he worked until August 2024. He had three shows on radio, two called ‘Hill Billy Swing & Blues’ and ‘Feral Fifties Fever’. His genre was music from the 1920s to the 1980s, and he was passionate about Casey Radio, where he served on several committees including the Board and, for a period, was Program Director.

Many descriptors come to mind when we think about Steve Burley; passionate, private, honest, spoke his mind (and didn’t care if you disagreed with him), sports lover (especially the Pies), generous in his support for Not-for-Profit organisations that impacted his life, keen sense of humour and loyal friend. He was a man of strong convictions and had many an opinion about the conduct of business, office politics, road traffic and much else. He could frequently wrap up a vigorous discussion, drawing on all his resources of logic and debate honed over many years at Monash and Carlton pubs with a pithy epithet. End of argument. Not settled. Just finished. Moving onto the next world issue which required solving.

Steve was fastidious about his garden. It was immaculate, always planted out and he was forever finding ways of improving it where he could. He was proud of what he presented (even though he employed gardeners to implement his ideas). Steve also loved his dogs. His shepherds and pincers were his family, and he doted on them. Steve did not marry and unfortunately had no other family once his parents had gone. Sadly, his passing has meant the end of his strain of the Burley family. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Contributed by David Crow OAM
(OW1967)



Calendar

February

SKR & GW (OW2015) 10 Year Reunion
Friday 7 | 7:00pm
The College Lawn Hotel, Prahran

An afternoon of cricket
Friday 21 | 1:25pm
Kroger Front Turf
St Kilda Road Campus

SKR & GW (OW2020) 5 Year Reunion
Friday 21 | 7:00pm
The College Lawn Hotel, Prahran

SKR (OW2005) 20 Year Reunion
Friday 28 | 7:00pm
Rose Garden, SKR

SKR (OW2000) 25 Year Reunion
Friday 28 | 7:00pm
Cato Room, SKR

March

GW (OW2005) 20 Year Reunion
Friday 14 | 7:00pm
Coates Pavilion, GW

GW (OW2000) 25 Year Reunion
Friday 14 | 7:00pm
Alexander Room, GW

OWCA Auto Day
Sunday 23 | 10:00am
Gregory Oval, GW

March (cont.)

Boat Race Dinner
Monday 24 | 6:30pm
Leonda by the Yarra

SKR (OW1975) 50 Year Reunion
Friday 28 | 7:00pm
Cato Room, SKR

April

SKR (OW1965) 60 Year Reunion
Friday 11 | 12:00pm
Cato Room, SKR

May

2025 Giving Day
Thursday 1 May

**Founders' Day Thanksgiving
Chapel Service**
Sunday 4 | 10:00am
Chapel, SKR

OWCA AGM
Wednesday 7 | 6:30pm
Waugh Room, SKR

Founders' Day Lunch
Friday 16 | 12:00pm
Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club

APS Golf
TBC
Victoria Golf Course

August

SKR (OW1985) 40 Year Reunion
Friday 22 | 7:00pm
Cato Room, SKR

September

GW (OW1995) 30 Year Reunion
Friday 12 | 7:00pm
Alexander Room, GW

SKR Prep VIII 73 Year Reunion
Wednesday 24 | 12:00pm
Waugh Room, SKR

October

Elsternwick Silver Stars Lunch
Friday 3 | 12:00pm
Fitchett Hall, Elsternwick

Rob Webster Lunch
Friday 10 | 12:00pm
Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club

SKR & GW (OW2023) 1 Year Reunion
Friday 10 | 7:00pm
The College Lawn Hotel, Prahran

November

OWCA/OSCA Golf Day
Friday 14 | 7:45am
Kew Golf Course

SKR (OW1995) 30 Year Reunion
Friday 14 | 7:00pm
Cato Room, SKR

The 2025 Wesley Gala Night

Saturday 9 August 7.00pm
Palladium at Crown

Tickets: \$180
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Theme: Purple and Gold



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2025 Boat Race Dinner



The OWCA invites you to the 2025 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 24 March, 2025 Leonda by the Yarra Head to the OWCA website for more details

2025 Founders' Day Lunch

After the BIGGEST lunch ever in 2024, the OWCA invites you to the 2025 Founders' Day Lunch, showcasing Wesley's football talent

Date: **Friday 16 May**
Time: **12 noon**
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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Shanghai**
Conrad Hotel

**Saturday 15th March
Guangzhou**
Sheraton Hotel

**Sunday 16th March
Hong Kong**
Cordis Hotel

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2025 Regional Events

4-6 Mar
Wimmera
Field Days

27-29 Mar
Farm World
Lardner
(Gippsland)

16-17 May
Mildura
Field Days

19 Jun
Boarding
Schools' Expo
Griffith

20-21 Jun
Boarding
Schools' Expo
Wagga Wagga





WESLEY COLLEGE

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA - SINCE 1866

Giving 2025 *Day*

SAVE THE DATE – Thursday 1 May, 2025



ABN 55 611 238 530 CRICOS 00354G