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Lion

THE WESLEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Learning in Residence
The next generation
of boarding

*Tales of Poppyseed
and Poppies*
The ANZAC spirit
shines on

Celebrating our Olympians

Wesley at the Olympics
...past, present and emerging



WESLEY COLLEGE

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Celebrating Wesley at the Olympics in the lead up to the 2024 Games in Paris

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Editorial

With the Paris Olympics fast approaching, it probably won't surprise you that our extended cover story for this edition of *Lion is Wesley at the Olympics*.

The world map on pages 6-7 graphically highlights our extraordinarily rich history of OWs competing at the Olympics Games, beginning with the 1908 London Games when **Sir Frank Beaurepaire (OW1909)** participated in the swimming competition.

To date, we have **Jemima Montag (OW2016)** and **Sophie O'Sullivan (OW2019)** competing next month at Paris 2024. Very possibly there will be several others, having already qualified for their events but now anxiously awaiting official selection. Over the page, Jemima and Sophie outline their preparations for Paris, and we hear from other past Olympians - athletes and coaches - who share with us what it was like realising a dream and participating in the biggest and most celebrated sports event in the world.


In this edition, we also celebrate the growing success of Learning in Residence (LiR), our boarding program at the Glen Waverley Campus. Since opening its doors back in 2016, LiR has become a vital, vibrant part of our school, and today we're close to full capacity. In our feature on boarding on page 12, we talk to staff and students to find out why.

Our Olympics feature also covers last month's wonderful Founders' Day Lunch which featured a panel of OW Olympians. The reflections they shared gave a fascinating insight into the demands of sport at the elite level. We can be blessed with all the natural talent in the world, but without the resolve and resilience required to test yourself physically and mentally across years of training, sporting success at that level is unlikely.


That's not to say natural assets aren't handy to have, of course. Our Head Coach of Swimming, Janine Bates, recalls coaching our most celebrated OW Olympian, **Michael Klim OAM (OW1994)**, in Water Polo at Wesley in the early 90s. 'Sometimes he would play goalkeeper, and the wide wingspan of his arms made it difficult for the opposition to get goals past him!' she wryly notes.

We wish our current OW Olympians all the very best for their final preparations and performance at Paris 2024. The whole Wesley community is behind you!

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 Gunditjmarra. We also recognise our ongoing partnership with the Bunuba people as traditional custodians of the Yiramalay Studio School. We offer our respect to their Elders, both past and present, who have cared for and cultivated this land, its waterways and the surrounding communities for many thousands of years and we acknowledge these groups as part of one of the world's oldest surviving cultures.



Principal's lines



Moderator Emma Carney (OW1989) with guest speakers Michael Klim OAM (OW1994), Elle Steele (OW2001) and Jodie Dobson (OW1987) at the 2024 Founders' Day Lunch

This year, in addition to an extra day in February, we have the quadrennial experience of a summer Olympic Games. For those of us interested in watching sport at the highest level, the two weeks of Olympic competition is a treat indeed. For those wishing to compete, it promises potential joy and heartbreak. The media will be full of selection quandaries and decisions over the coming weeks. Already, we have Old Wesley Collegians selected. It is a magnificent achievement even to compete.

Many readers will be aware of the Olympic motto. For many years, it was *Citius, Altius, Fortius*, which means 'Faster, Higher, Stronger'. I wonder how many around the world are aware it changed recently to 'Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together'. This message of unity is badly needed in the world today. When the Ancient Olympics were on, a truce was observed. Would that such an experience of peaceful togetherness be possible later this year.

In reminding myself of the Latin for the Olympic motto, I came across the Olympic creed: *'The important thing in life is not the triumph but the fight; the essential thing is not to have won, but to have fought well'*.

In Australia, with a long history of Olympic success, we have lost sight a little bit of the above. Caught up as we are in medal tallies, and comparisons

with other countries based on the rather spurious notion that the number of medals won is somehow a measure of worth, we sometimes forget the simple joy of competition, of performance for its own sake, of the extraordinary achievement in simply being selected for an Olympic team, of the satisfaction that comes from seeking to be faster, higher, stronger.

It is, alas, all too easy to be caught up in this, even at school. One of my regrets in my sporting life stemmed from placing too high an importance on the results of a sporting contest, rather than the experience of the fight. There is far more heartbreak than joy in sport, if winning is the most important criteria. There can, after all, be only one winner in any competition.

It has been my lot in life over the past two years to console First crews, both boys and girls, who expected to win the Head of the River but came agonisingly short. My message to both was the same. You did your best, and all the rest is uncontrollable. I was, in my youth and to my enduring regret, driven by results rather than simply doing my best.

We play sport at Wesley College for the lessons it provides about the development of character, the fostering of resilience and the understanding that life is not always fair and that you don't always get what you deserve. I find disappointment a more exacting but more successful teacher of these traits than success. There are other ways of inculcating such traits, but none as efficient. I will continue to hope, and to push, for sport at Wesley College to be about the fight, not the triumph.

I congratulate each of the Old Wesley Collegians already selected for the Paris Olympics, and those whose selection is still in the balance. Regardless of the results, they can take great pride in competing at such an extraordinary level. I hope they go higher and faster than ever before and take joy in the fight.

Nick Evans (OW1985)



Wesley at the Olympics

As we head towards the Paris Olympics in July, we celebrate our current Olympians and pay homage to the enduring legacy of more than a century of Old Wesley Collegians who have competed in the world's foremost multi-sport arena.

To date, 49 members of the Wesley community have attended an Olympics since the modern Games were inaugurated in Athens back in 1896 as either an athlete, coach, or in a professional capacity. While they have competed in different sports, they are united by the challenges that come with training and competing at the elite level; be it facing the world's toughest opponents, dealing with injuries or managing the immense pressure of expectation and anticipation. They are all defined by their courage, resilience and unwavering tenacity.

At the time of writing, we have two OWs heading to Paris, while several more have qualified and are waiting for confirmation of their place in the Australian team.



Jemima Montag (OW2016)

Jemima Montag (OW2016) is competing in the 20km race walk. Two years after she left Wesley, Jemima won gold in the 20km race walk at the Brisbane 2018 Commonwealth Games. She then competed in the 20km race walk event in Tokyo 2020, where she came 6th. Last year, she won silver at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, and in

February, took first place in the 20km race walk at the Oceania Race Walking Championships. Later this year, she will become a dual Olympian.

Currently training at the European Training Centre in Gavirate, Italy and in St Moritz in Switzerland, she says her preparation 'couldn't be going better.'

For Jemima the Olympics is unique. 'There's something emotive about the Olympic Games that definitely makes it feel more special than any other global meet I have competed in,' she said. Finishing sixth at the Tokyo Olympics, she goes to Paris with her eyes open. 'My greatest lesson from Tokyo was that despite the circus going on around me, I just needed to deliver 'an ordinary performance on an extraordinary day,' she says. 'This motto prompts me to remember the consistent training and competitions I have executed in the lead up, and that all I need is within me.'



Sophie O'Sullivan (OW2019)

Sophie O'Sullivan (OW2019) is competing in the 1500m, representing Ireland. She won a silver medal in the 800m at the 2018 European Athletics U18 Championships in Hungary. Currently a top-division athlete at the University of Washington in the US, Sophie won gold in the 1500m at the 2023 European Athletics U23 Championships in Finland, and at the Irish National U23 Championships last year, she won gold in both the 800m and 1500m.

In the lead up to Paris, Sophie is competing in the current College season in the US before flying to Europe for the summer season. 'I picked up a slight injury at the start of the year, but I'm

finding the positives and gaining new strengths in new areas – lots of swimming – so that's offering a fun challenge,' she says. 'I'm really excited about Paris. To be honest, it's still hard to believe and I don't think it will feel real until I'm there.'

Jemima and Sophie join a distinguished cadre of Wesley alumni who have reached the pinnacle of athletic endeavour on the Olympic stage – the culmination of a sporting adventure, often begun at Wesley, that saw them dedicate years of their lives to the physical and mental rigours of elite performance.



Sir Frank Beaurepaire (OW1909)

The Wesley Olympic connection reaches right back to 1908, when our first Olympian, **Sir Frank Beaurepaire (OW1909)**, represented Australia in the swimming competition at the London Games, then went on to win silver at Antwerp in 1920, and again at Paris in 1924. He was a gifted swimmer who held eight official world records across various distances in his career.

Across the 18 summer Olympic Games held since World War II, beginning with London in 1948, we've had a steady line-up of athletes competing in all but two of them. Amazingly, we've had five OWs each compete at three different Olympics Games.



Paul Guest ASM OAM KC (OW1957)

After rowing in the Wesley First VIII in 1956 and 1957, **Paul Guest ASM OAM KC (OW1957)** went on to row at Rome in 1960, Tokyo in 1964, and Mexico City in 1968. Several of Paul's medals, jackets and pockets are beautifully framed and on display in the Wesley Boat Shed.



Michael Klim OAM (OW1994)

Triple Olympian **Michael Klim OAM (OW1994)** represented Australia in butterfly and freestyle events in swimming at Atlanta in 1996, Sydney in 2000, and at the 2004 Games in Athens. He won medals at all three Olympics, and was our first gold medallist, triumphing in both the 4 x 100m freestyle relay and the 4 x 200m freestyle relay in Sydney.



Mark Philippoussis (OW1994)

Mark Philippoussis (OW1994) likewise competed in the Games at Atlanta, Sydney and Athens as a key member of the Australian tennis squad.

We've also had seven OW skiers represent Australia in the Winter Olympics – not bad, coming from a country largely comprised of desert!



Anthony Guss (OW1976)

Anthony Guss (OW1976) was our first, representing Australia at Lake Placid in 1980.

For Head of Sport, Dan Church, the strength of the Wesley sports program is that it delivers both a performance and a participation pathway under the umbrella of our ROAR sports program, an extension of the College's wellbeing program.

'Where better to dive into and engage with the ROAR pillars of RESPECT, OPPORTUNITY, ACHIEVEMENT and RESILIENCE than sport,' said Dan. 'In any given cohort, there will be students who simply like playing and participating with their friends, but for others, sport will provide them with the foundations that may take them on to state, national or international representation. We hope sport is where Wesley students find connection and lay down life-long memories of their time at school,' he said.



Wesley Head of Athletics, Tim O'Shaughnessy

With two Olympic outings as a coach under his belt, Wesley Head of Athletics and Cross Country **Tim O'Shaughnessy** has experienced the highest levels of sports performance firsthand. 'In Beijing in 2008, I was the Distance Running Coordinator, while at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, I was looking after the Marathon runners,' he said.

'Beijing was amazing. Seeing world famous athletes like Usain Bolt, Michael Phelps and the US Basketball dream team in the dining hall... I also roomed with the coach of Steve Hooker, who won gold in the pole vault - to be close to that was incredible.'



Wesley Head of Rowing, Matt Ryan

Matt Ryan, Head of Rowing at Wesley, represented Australia at Beijing in 2008 (fours crew, winning silver) and London in 2012 (eights crew, placing 6th). 'The Beijing Games was the first Olympics for all of our crew. The bond our group had was really special and we were lucky enough to come away with a silver medal. The London Olympics was a tough campaign, and it taught me a lot about life not always being smooth sailing, and that you can work incredibly hard for something and still fall short.'

Matt says his own experiences with some great coaches and as an athlete, especially in those two Olympic campaigns, 'really helped shape how I like to coach Wesley student athletes. The importance of setting standards, setting and striving for goals, of being good people... You learn so much more about yourself and the team from your losses than your wins.'

Wesley Head of Swimming, Janine Bates, has seen her fair share of gifted athletes, and places great importance on learning in the team environment. 'I work hard to focus on team bonding and building positive team culture in the Wesley Swim Team,' she says.

Janine worked with triple Olympian Michael Klim OAM (OW1994) while he was at school in the early 90s, coaching him in the Wesley Water Polo Team. 'Michael could swim down the pool faster than any other player. Sometimes he would play goalkeeper, and the wide wingspan of his arms made it difficult for the opposition to get goals past him!' she said.

To our current Olympians, we are all immensely proud of the journey you have taken to reach the biggest sporting event in the world. Whether it's winning a medal, achieving a personal best, or simply being part of the Olympic experience, the Wesley community celebrates your achievement with you.

As Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics said, 'The important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win, but to take part; the important thing in life is not triumph, but the struggle; the essential thing is not to have conquered, but to have fought well.'



1976 Montreal

James Barry AM MBE (OW1950) – Gymnastics (Administrator)
Peter Ridgway (OW1968) – Modern Pentathlon
Ross Langdon (OW1969) – Water Polo
Dr Rodney Woods OAM (OW1971) – Water Polo
Paul Nash (OW1977) – Swimming

1920 Antwerp

Sir Frank Beaurepaire (OW1909) – Swimming

1908 London

Sir Frank Beaurepaire (OW1909) – Swimming

1948 London

Dr John Bartram (OW1942) – Athletics

2012 London

Greg Varigos (OW1976) – Physiotherapist
Matt Ryan (current staff) – Rowing

2010 Vancouver (Winter)

Katya Crema (OW2006) – Ski Cross

1988 Calgary (Winter)

Richard Biggins (OW1984) – Skiing

1980 Lake Placid (Winter)

Anthony Guss (OW1976) – Skiing

1972 Munich

James Barry AM MBE (OW1950) – Gymnastics (Administrator)
Ross Langdon (OW1969) – Water Polo

1992 Barcelona

James Barry AM MBE (OW1950) – Gymnastics (Administrator)
Robert Crowe OAM (OW1986) – Road Cycling
Jodie Dobson (OW1987) – Rowing
Jaime Fernandez (former staff) – Rowing

1996 Atlanta

James Barry AM MBE (OW1950)
– Gymnastics (Administrator)
Michael Klim OAM (OW1994) – Swimming
Michael Nakamura (OW1994) – Baseball
Mark Philippoussis (OW1994) – Tennis
Shirley Zhou (OW1997) – Table Tennis
Jaime Fernandez (former staff) – Rowing

1924 Paris

Sir Frank Beaurepaire (OW1909) – Swimming

2024 Paris

Jemima Montag (OW2016) – 20km Walk
Sophie O'Sullivan (OW2019) – Athletics

1968 Mexico City

James Barry AM MBE (OW1950) – Gymnastics (Administrator)
Paul Guest ASM OAM KC (OW1957) – Rowing
Murray Chessell OAM (OW1961) – Gymnastics

1984 Los Angeles

James Barry AM MBE (OW1950) – Gymnastics (Administrator)

2016 Rio de Janeiro

Greg Varigos (OW1976) – Physiotherapist
Lori Chizik (former staff) – Basketball (Assistant Coach)

Wesley at the Olympics

1952 Helsinki

Peter Bennett (OW1938) – Water Polo

1980 Moscow

James Barry AM MBE (OW1950)
– Gymnastics (Administrator)

Ross Langdon (OW1969) – Water Polo

Pamela Westendorf (former staff) – Rowing

1984 Sarajevo (Winter)

Alistair Guss (OW1982) – Skiing

2014 Sochi (Winter)

Katya Crema (OW2006) – Ski Cross

2006 Turin (Winter)

Michael Robertson (OW2000) – Freestyle Moguls

1960 Rome

Ernest Wagstaff (OW1946) – Sailing

James Barry AM MBE (OW1950) – Gymnastics (Administrator)

Daryl Cohen (OW1953) – Weightlifting

Peter Guest (OW1955) – Rowing

Paul Guest ASM OAM KC (OW1957) – Rowing

2004 Athens

James Barry AM MBE (OW1950) – Gymnastics (Administrator)

Robert Crowe OAM (OW1986) – Track Cycling (Paralympics)

Nicholas Harrison (OW1988 and former staff) – Marathon

Kate Mactier (OW1992) – Track Cycling

Michael Klim OAM (OW1994) – Swimming

Mark Philippoussis (OW1994) – Tennis

Natalie Porter (OW1998 and current staff) – Basketball

Natalie Titcume (former staff) – Softball

1956 Melbourne

Peter Bennett (OW1938) – Water Polo

Ernest Wagstaff (OW1946) – Sailing

Blair Dixon (OW1947) – Gymnastics

William Hoffman AM (OW1949) – Gymnastics

Robert Duncan OAM (OW1949) – Rowing

James Barry AM MBE (OW1950) – Gymnastics (Administrator)

Dr Donald Ian Allen AM (OW1955) – Rowing

David Gourley (OW1956) – Gymnastics

1988 Seoul

James Barry AM MBE (OW1950)
– Gymnastics (Administrator)

2008 Beijing

Greg Varigos (OW1976) – Physiotherapist

Matt Ryan (current staff) – Rowing

Tim O'Shaughnessy (current staff)
– Athletics (Coach)

Justine Smethurst (former staff) – Softball

2022 Beijing (Winter)

Gabi Ash (OW2016) – Freestyle Skiing

Katie Parker (OW2016) – Alpine Skiing

1964 Tokyo

James Barry AM MBE (OW1950)
– Gymnastics (Administrator)

Paul Guest ASM OAM KC (OW1957) – Rowing

2020 Tokyo

Alanna Smith (OW2014) – Basketball

Nicholas Lavery (OW2016) – Rowing

Jemima Montag (OW2016) – 20km Walk

Tim O'Shaughnessy (current staff) – Athletics (Coach)

Emily Petricola OAM (former staff) – Cycling

2000 Sydney

James Barry AM MBE (OW1950) – Gymnastics (Administrator)

Greg Varigos (OW1976) – Physiotherapist

Michael Klim OAM (OW1994) – Swimming

Michael Nakamura (OW1994) – Baseball

Mark Philippoussis (OW1994) – Tennis

Megan Grant (OW1996) – Swimming (Paralympics)

Shirley Zhou (OW1997) – Table Tennis

Elle Steele (OW2001) – Swimming (Paralympics)

Jaime Fernandez (former staff) – Rowing

Natalie Titcume (former staff) – Softball

Founders' Day Lunch 2024



Our OW Olympian athletes (L-R): Alistair Guss (OW1982), Jodie Dobson (OW1987), Bob Duncan OAM (OW1949), Natalie Porter (OW1998), Michael Klim OAM (OW1994), Elle Steele (OW2001), Robert Crowe (OW1986), Katya Crema (OW2006), Nick Lavery (OW2016) and College Principal, Nick Evans (OW1985)

It was standing room only at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club as we celebrated our biggest Founders' Day Lunch ever. Having grown from just 82 OWs catching up for dinner in 1882, this year we welcomed more than 200 OWs from across nine decades, among them, nine OW athletes who represented Australia at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. An electric atmosphere filled the room, often peppered by hearty laughter, as generations of Collegians enjoyed catching up with family, old friends, teammates and teachers.

We celebrated our newest members of the Golden Lion pride, who were presented with their Golden Lion badges. An emotional President, Kate Evans (OW1998), thanked Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) for his mentorship as she steps down at this year's AGM, making way for Tom Pewtress (OW2018) to build on the amazing work that she has done in her tenure as President.

MC Mark Hibbins (OW1978) introduced Moderator Emma Carney (OW1989), a Sport Australia Hall of Fame Athlete,

multiple world champion and a World Triathlon Hall of Fame inductee, to interview our OW Olympians. Emma credits her success to her time at Wesley, where she learnt the importance of resilience while in the pursuit of excellence. She shared her knowledge of what it takes to be an elite athlete as she superbly hosted the panel that included Paralympic swimmer Elle Steele (OW2001), Olympic rower Jodie Dobson (OW1987) and Wesley's most successful Olympian, swimmer Michael Klim OAM (OW1994).

Guests enjoyed stories about the highs and lows of sport at an elite level, and how it helped to shape the people they are and the lives they lead today. A common thread among our athletes was that their failures provided the most valuable lessons, and ultimately, led to their greatest successes.

For world champion and six-time medallist Michael Klim OAM (OW1994), it was at his first Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996 that he learned the most.

Although ranked #1 in the world in the 200m freestyle, a schedule mix-up saw him miss the team bus and arrive at the venue too late to warm-up, disrupting his pre-race routine and ultimately, costing him a medal.

But rather than focus on the loss, he recognised that 'controlling his nerves and mindset' were the key to his success, as he swam best when clear-headed. Michael signed-up to compete in 150 races the following year to 'practise how he wanted to feel' before and during a race.

He also recognised that his own physical attributes weren't enough to achieve the success he desired. He had to innovate. Michael turned to technology and physiology to find his edge, developing the straight-arm swimming technique which allowed for a longer reach and increased forward propulsion with each stroke, and was among the first to test and use the new, 'fast swim' bodysuits.

Coupled with a dogged determination and iron clad discipline, Michael was 'prepared to do what was not enjoyable; what other people weren't prepared to do.' The result, which includes the famous defeat of the 'unbeatable Americans' in the Men's 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, is history.

For Elle Steele (OW2001), five-time Australian swimming representative, gold medallist and Wesley's first female Paralympian, it was her 'natural stubbornness' and 'athlete's mindset' that helped her overcome her biggest challenges. Born with Arthrogryposis, Elle has endured 37 surgeries and has had to learn to walk again five times.

Like Michael, her most significant achievements came from her biggest failures, most notably, during trials for the Athens 2004 Paralympics where an equipment malfunction – her bodysuit split mid race – cost her a place on the team by 0.3 seconds.

'It was that moment that changed my outlook on life,' explained Elle. 'It was then that I decided to live my life, rather than let my life live me, and I became a stronger and better person.' Today, she works as a professional speaker, using her story of resilience, strength and triumph over adversity to help others explore and overcome their own challenges.

Jodie Dobson (OW1987) has experienced a lot of 'firsts' in her life. She was part of Wesley's first coeducational graduating class, is Wesley's first female OW Olympian, first female President of the OWCA and the only female Fellow of the OWCA. She was also one of the first members of the Girls' First rowing crew, recruited by then Head of Glen Waverley Campus, Tony Conabere, for her height and natural sporting prowess. But her first year in the sport was, for her at least, 'a complete failure'.

'We came second to Geelong Grammar in every race that year,' she said. 'We knew we were getting better, fitter, stronger, but we still couldn't beat them. Then, the following year, we won every race, including Head of the River!' she said.

Jodie continued to row at Melbourne University Boat Club while studying dentistry, and later received a scholarship to the Australian Institute of Sport, where her Olympic dream came true, participating in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. 'I didn't win a medal, but I really enjoyed the sport, had a lot of fun and met a lot of really good people that I still call friends today. It's important to find your passion and enjoy what you do every day,' she said.

It's been the support of the swimming community that has helped Michael face his biggest challenge too, diagnosed with a debilitating neurological disorder, CIDP, in June 2020. After two years 'grieving what he had lost,' Michael drew upon the mindset he had developed during his career and started making lifestyle changes and choices to help himself and is 'in a much better place now.'

Celebrating the success of our athletes from decades past invites us to look to the future as the baton is passed to the next generation of rising stars from Wesley College. Swimmer Jess (Year 11, Glen Waverley) and runner Austin (Year 11, St Kilda Road) were thrilled to attend the Founders' Day Lunch and were inspired by our Olympian alumni who shared their journey to the Olympics, and advice on competing at the top.

Jess made a very big splash at the recent Oceania Championships on the Gold Coast as a member of the Australian Junior Swimming team. A gifted all-rounder whose specialty is backstroke, Jess competed in three individual events and three relay events – winning gold in every single one of them! At just 16 years of age, she is the highest ranked swimmer in her age group in Victoria and is going to the Olympic trials this month.



MC Emma Carney (OW1989) leads the conversation with Olympic OWs Elle Steele (OW2001), Jodie Dobson (OW1987) and Michael Klim OAM (OW1994)



Emma Carney (OW1989) with rising athletics star, Austin (Year 11)

'It's never been a goal of mine to make the Australian Junior team, but it was always at the back of my mind that if I put in the effort, I could achieve it. It's surreal to think I could be representing Australia at an Olympics,' said Jess.

Middle distance runner Austin is nothing if not resilient. After becoming national champion over 800m in the Australian U17 Championships last year, he suffered a broken foot, but made a great comeback to become the Victorian 400m champion in February this year. Following further strong performances in the National U18 Championships in April, he has been selected to compete for Australia in the U18 400m at this month's Oceania Athletics Championships in Fiji.

For Austin, the goal is clear. 'I want to qualify for an Olympics. To represent my country in the Olympics, arguably the most prestigious athletic event on the calendar and be called an Olympian would be a dream come true,' he said.



Jess (Year 11) shows her Australian Swimming Team cap to Michael Klim OAM (OW1994)

Asked for advice about how to balance school life with training, Michael, who completed the IB DP over two years around his swimming commitments, said 'You need to be diligent and have structure in your day. It's a juggling act and you will miss out on a lot, so you need a strong support team around you as well as a clear purpose about why you're doing it... sport is such a tiny spec in your lifetime, it goes by so fast. The older I get, the more grateful I become for the opportunities I have had'.

From the most senior OW Olympian in the room, Bob Duncan OAM (OW1947) to our emerging student athletes, and the coaches and staff that encourage them to perform at their very best, it was a Founders' Day Lunch to remember.

Credit and sincere thanks to the OWCA team: President Kate Evans (OW1998), Jo Bandy-Renkin (OW1996) and Josh Kidd (OW2018), for the best Founders' Day Lunch ever in celebration of the 'Best School of All'.



Wesley at the Olympics

Our OW Olympians reflect...

We asked our OW athletes to share what participating in the Olympics meant to them, how their time at Wesley prepared them for an athletic career, and what they learned from competing at the highest level. They all expressed pride and gratitude for the opportunity to be among the select few who have been chosen to represent their country.

“



‘Being an Olympian is one of many proud achievements in my life and in a lot of ways is like being an OW, as it puts you in touch with a group of very special people, just like a club, but these people are generally incredibly talented and successful yet humble people. That’s where my journey began, with a big dream in a purple uniform. Wesley taught me good time management as I was in several senior bands, rowed in the First Crew, played netball, and did six subjects. This meant I had to use every minute of my time effectively. As an elite athlete, this ability to use time efficiently is essential. So too is the need and ability to set goals and tick them off as you reach them. You have to be exceptionally good at working very closely with your team and I feel this has always been a huge strength of each of my crew members, and follows on in life to make you a better leader. I find that I always strive to be better at any task I do.’

Jodie Dobson (OW1987)
Rowing (1992)

“



‘It feels very special to have been a participant in the Paralympics. To me, it demonstrates my resilience and dedication to a goal, and I love that I can lean on the knowledge that I dreamt of achieving something and made it happen. The school was very supportive of my endeavours and helping me prepare for the Games. I would often go for a swim during PE so I could get in extra sessions, and I had a lot of time off school in Years 10 and 11 while I was qualifying. I now use elements of an athlete mindset in my work, and during my recovery from over 15 surgeries since competing as a Paralympian. The ability to focus on the task at hand and complete it at a high level has helped me learn to walk five times. I’m so grateful for the help I received to get me to the Paralympics, it’s an achievement I will always be very proud of.’

Elle Steele (OW2001)
Swimming Paralympics (2000)

“



‘What made the Olympics so special was that I got to be a part of it – I get goosebumps every time I think about it or it is mentioned (which is a lot at the moment!) My best memories from Athens are standing up on the dais and receiving the silver medal, and also the dining hall. Sitting there watching the best athletes in the world coming and going was such a buzz! Wesley’s motto ‘Dare to be Wise’ definitely helped me get there, as I was never afraid to ask questions, learn more or seek feedback. From my experience competing at the Olympics, I carry with me the desire to be the best at everything I commit to do. I also have a very global mindset, and I love to bring life lessons into my role as Head of Basketball at Wesley.’

Natalie Porter (OW1998)
Basketball (2004)



'I was in the bow seat of Australia's first pair oared boat to row at an Olympic Games. The Olympics were not as big then as they are now... to us, it was just another regatta. Nevertheless, it was the highlight of my rowing career. I was cox of the Wesley 2nd eight in 1945 and many of the values I learnt at Wesley were critical to rowing in general and Olympic selection. Rowing taught me the importance of teamwork, co-operation and not letting your crewmates down. The Olympics brought me great companionship and most of the people I rowed with have become lifelong friends. I have remained connected with the rowing community and umpired at international regattas. And, importantly, I still attend the Wesley Boat Race Dinner each year.'

Robert (Bob) Duncan (OW1949)
Rowing (1956)



'I'm most well-known for my second Olympic appearance in 2004 at Athens with a blind Paralympian named Kieran Modra, where we broke the tandem 4000m world record and won gold after I had a flat tire at the Barcelona Games twelve years prior in 1992. It's this story which I've drawn on most of all as book-end experiences of both the main Olympic Games and then the Paralympics that best defines my notoriety in the sport's history. I'm now working with all levels of cyclists, disabled NDIS-funded riders and some elite riders too.'

Robert Crowe OAM (OW1986)
Road Cycling (1992)
Track Cycling Paralympics (2004)



'I'm very proud to be able to call myself an Olympian, having represented Australia at two Winter Olympic Games. Turning a dream into reality took an immense amount of dedication, hard work, passion and, importantly, support. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to live, train and study at Mount Buller during Term 3 for four consecutive years in a row, from Years 7 to 10. This time on the snow and flexibility with how I completed my studies was pivotal in giving me the training I needed to be competitive against international athletes. Wesley was incredibly supportive of my choice to pursue a pathway into elite sport and I will be forever grateful.'

Kayta Crema (OW2006)
Ski Cross (2010, 2014)



'I have always been a proud Australian and I believe to qualify for an Olympic position is testament to the work ethic and ability of an athlete. It is a huge privilege and was a lifelong ambition of mine. I look back at my days at Wesley and regard them as some of my happiest days. Wesley taught me to reach for the stars, that I was good enough, smart enough and could achieve anything I set my mind to. Not only did I have the opportunity to train and race, I also realised my potential as a student. Being an Olympian is a huge privilege; it stays with you forever and I believe it has made me the person, employee, partner and mother I am today. Whether it is parenting or my job, I give it my all. I know that nothing is worth doing unless you commit and give it 100%.'

Kate Mactier (OW1992)
Track Cycling (2004)



'Even though I did not judge my endeavour at the Olympics a success in the immediate aftermath, those around me did, and found value and meaning in what I had done. People sharing this with me showed me how much my Olympic experience meant to others, and how my representation had given them a chance to connect with the pinnacle of sport in a more intimate way. Gradually, my own insular perspective evolved into one that is now shared with the people who watched and supported me. I now see the Olympics and what they represent differently. I see them as more than just an individual pursuit of victory, but as an event which can inspire an appreciation for human ability, just as much, if not more, for those who watch, as for those who wait in the starting blocks. This is now what it means to me to have participated in the Olympics.'

Nicholas Lavery (OW2016)
Rowing (2020)



'To participate in an Olympics and achieve the highest level in winter downhill alpine skiing has given me a great deal of confidence in life. Knowing that I have competed with the best in the world means I have the mental and physical strength needed to succeed in any task I take on, whatever the circumstances. Wesley taught me to balance scholastics and sport; you absolutely cannot have one without the other. When you're at school, work hard and to your limit on the task at hand. Then, when you're at sport, apply the same mindset, effort and intensity to your training. This is a lesson I applied during my sporting days and continue to apply today.'

Alistair Guss (OW1982)
Skiing (1984)

The next generation of boarding at Wesley



New Head of Learning in Residence (LiR), Tom Giles, gets to know boarders

It's a big decision to send your child to boarding school, but there are many benefits – something more and more families are starting to recognise, because boarding at Wesley is booming. **Paul Munn** reports.

Having been a boarding school from our inception in 1866 through to 1980, boarding really is a part of Wesley's DNA. When we relaunched boarding as Learning in Residence (LiR) at Glen Waverley in November 2016, we knew we had to reconnect with rural and regional Australia to develop a new generation of Wesley boarders. Eight years on, LiR has evolved into a thriving part of our community. We currently have 85 students boarding at LiR and are fast approaching our maximum capacity of 96.

The majority of our boarders are from regional Australia. 68% of our regional families are from Victoria, the rest largely from New South Wales, but also as far afield as Hobart and Darwin. Our international community is diverse with students coming from Hong Kong, Japan, China, Singapore and Vietnam.

Boarding is available for students from Years 9 to 12. Previously, potential boarders had the option of joining in Year 11; with demand growing, we are now seeing Year 10 filling out, resulting in many families opting for a Year 9 start to ensure they get in.

Head of LiR, Tom Giles, puts the current 'boarding boom' at Wesley down to several factors. 'First and foremost, Wesley is a great school, and its reputation is a draw for parents,' he says. He also points to the newness of the facilities and the appealing campus design aesthetic. But he notes, 'the reality is that our rival schools are also excellent, with good reputations and first-class facilities. What sets us apart is the option for coeducational boarding – increasingly an important factor in parents' decision-making – and it's also how a school supports its boarders and students within it. The level of pastoral care, opportunity to engage with a range of endeavours, and purposeful academic support is something we are proud of.'

That pride clearly permeates through the whole community. Xavier (Year 9), from Wangaratta, says 'We often get referred to as our own big family, and the people in LiR truly made me feel like I'm part of one big family made up of staff and kids from all over the world.'

Crucial parts of that 'level of pastoral care' at LiR are the live-in staff mentors



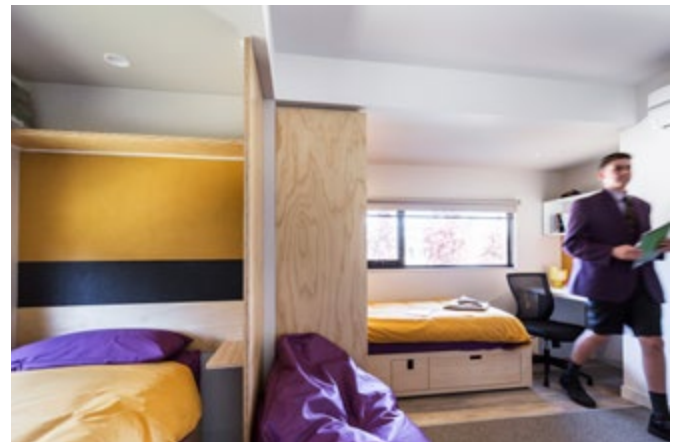
Glen Waverley School Captain Tom (Year 12), with fellow boarder Mylah (Year 10)

who provide 24/7 supervision, staying overnight in the residences. Cunzhen Yang, who has been an LiR mentor since 2017, loves the diversity of the students she works with and the variety of activities that are organised to enrich their experience. For her, 'growing together with young people' is a special thing. 'It's like a gardener seeing flowers bloom through hard work,' she said.

Her mentor colleague, Kerry O'Callaghan, also enjoys the multifaceted nature of this 'community within a community. My job is a mix between teacher, counsellor and mum figure, depending on the student and what's going on in their lives on any given day,' she says.

A huge draw at LiR is the 'range of endeavours' on offer through the wealth of our cocurricular options and the Residential Curriculum itself. There are eight programs, ranging from the fun 'Activities' program, which includes go-karting or going to a show, to the 'Future Skills' program, which helps build employment and life skills, and the all-important Wellbeing program.

Lara (Year 11) comes from a sheep farming family in Victoria's Western District. 'I love how Wesley supports students in all their different pursuits and interests,' she says. 'The school I went to in the country was small and it kind of felt like everyone had to be the same. I just wanted something different.'



Boarders at the St Kilda Road Campus in 1953 and the facilities enjoyed by Learning in Residence students today



Tilly (Year 12) from Gippsland enjoyed indoor skydiving as part of LiR's residential curriculum



Kenisha, Cate and Jasmine participating in 'Clean up Australia' Day

Amber (Year 11) has lived in Darwin all her life but chose to come to Wesley and LiR this year because she 'had heard from many people that it was a great school, and also heard about all the opportunities provided at LiR, particularly for my tennis.' A keen player, she says 'I like all the opportunities I have available, and living in a bigger city means I have much more meaningful competition in tennis, which will help me improve my level.'

Being a boarder is an immersive experience, so living and studying in the same place really does promote a culture of learning. 'One thing I have found very helpful is the one hour with a tutor we have every day from Monday to Thursday,' says Xavier (Year 9). 'It's not something I thought I would appreciate as much as I do, but having an allocated hour of study really helps build good habits and it's been very helpful to have a tutor here to help.'

Of course, being a boarder is an education in itself. When a student graduates from boarding, they typically have a unique set of skills that have been fostered through being independent, living away from home at a younger age, and learning to live with others. As our first LiR School Captain Tom puts it, 'Learning to live with people who aren't your family has allowed me to develop my interpersonal skills, and I've definitely been able to grow in confidence.'

His advice to anyone considering boarding is to 'open yourself up to the experience, keep an open mind, and grab as many opportunities as you can. Boarding school, especially at Wesley, provides such a good chance to set yourself up for success. An opportunity too good to waste,' he said.

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



Spirit of ANZAC shines in a moving student reflection

Year 11 Glen Waverley student Kirwan (pictured opposite at the Robert Grieve VC plaque unveiling) has won the 2023 Premier's 'Spirit of ANZAC' prize, an annual competition open to Victorian school students in Years 9 to 12.

The prize invites students to write a piece that explores the ANZAC legacy post-World War I and its ongoing relevance to multicultural Australia.

Excitingly, with the 11 other students from across Victoria who were also awarded the prize, Kirwan will embark on a trip to Türkiye next month to retrace the steps of the ANZACS.

In her piece, she draws poignant links between her mother's immigrant story and that of Benjamin Moy Ling (OW1900) who served in the Australian forces in World War I.



The story of Benjamin Moy Ling (OW1900) is featured at Tram Stop 20 on St Kilda Road



Unveiling the plaque (L-R): Nick Evans (OW1985), Commodore Greg Yorke AM CSC, Michael Lindell (OW1962), Dr Ross Bastian (OW1968) and Kirwan (Year 11), winner of the 'Spirit of ANZAC' prize

Tales of Poppyseed and Poppies

Orange and poppyseed cake may seem like an inconspicuous baked good, but whenever it is brought up in conversation, my mother never fails to mention it was served at her citizenship ceremony, some 24 years ago. My mother emigrated from Hong Kong when she was in Year 10, as young as I am now. In her time as an Australian citizen, she has displayed resourcefulness, fidelity and endurance by overcoming the difficulties of creating a true home in a foreign land and raising my brothers and I.

Many other stories mirror the themes that overarch my mother's journey. Benjamin Moy Ling (OW1900) served in the 4th Divisional Signalling Company in 1918 and was born in Australia to immigrant parents. Because his father was from Canton (or Guangzhou), Ling likely grew up speaking Cantonese, a language I was raised in by my grandparents and mother. I, too, am a second-generation immigrant, but I can only speculate as to whether he also struggled with maintaining strong ties with his language and culture, and identifying who he was in the context of his heritage and diverse upbringing.

Ling was originally rejected due to being 'not substantially of European origin'. Several other men of Asian descent were also stopped from offering their service to the very country they lived in, like Hunter Poon, William Wong and Samuel Tong-Way; however, in a display of the ANZAC spirit, they went on to reapply, often several times, showing endurance and reckless valour for repeatedly signing up

for a fatal war. Ling truly believed in the cause, and reportedly said, 'If Australia is good enough to live in, it is good enough to fight for.' After the war, Ling contributed to the community by being active in the Methodist Church and founding the Young Chinese League, which encouraged social connections in immigrant families and promoted better understanding of Chinese heritage.

Benjamin Moy Ling and my mother are both Australians that exemplify the ANZAC spirit, regardless of their ancestry. In fact, all the ANZACs at Gallipoli, except the 70 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers, had ancestors from different lands, a quality they share with Ling and my mum. The ANZAC spirit has not changed since the first time it was quantified, and indeed since well before then. While the context of the spirit has transformed - my mother and Ling had different trials and tribulations - at the very core, both showed enterprise, resourcefulness, endurance and many other tenets.

Whether it was the harshness of rejection for Benjamin after enlisting, or the celebration of orange and poppyseed cake for my mother, both have had defining highs and lows on this land, and both reacted to these moments with the true spirit of an ANZAC. The ANZAC story and legacy remains as a reminder of how all Australians continue to maintain the ANZAC spirit, even as the nation evolves.

Written by Kirwan (Year 11)



Wesley commemorates Robert Grieve VC

Late last year, a plaque to commemorate the bravery of Robert Grieve VC (OW1904) during the June 1917 Battle of Messines was unveiled at the St Kilda Road Campus. Located on the wall of the north tower of the main building, the plaque was designed by Dr Ross Bastiaan (OW1968), who is internationally recognised for battlefield and other plaques.



Captain Grieve. An identical plaque was installed in the market square in Messines, Belgium in July 2023.

On 9 June 1917, Robert Grieve led the men of 'A' Company, 37th Battalion, into their first major action at Messines. He singlehandedly attacked enemy machine guns, holding up the Company's advance. He was awarded the Victoria Cross (VC), the highest military award for gallantry in the face of the enemy.

Due to the generosity of his family, Wesley College became the proud owner of his VC in 1959. For many years, it was on display in Adamson Hall. A few days after Remembrance Day 1989, it survived a fire that swept through the St Kilda Road Campus Library. In 2003, the College loaned the VC to the Shrine of Remembrance, where it is now on display.

The College acknowledges and thanks the VCC for funding the plaque's manufacture.

Special guests included Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) Commodore Greg Yorke AM CSC, Chair of the Victorian Veterans Council (VCC) and Michael Lindell (OW1962), a great nephew of

Bringing history to life for our younger learners



A moment of reflection with former Australian Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies (OW1912), was one of the many highlights of the day

The 'big school' had some very special visitors at the end of 2023 when Year 2 students from the Glen Waverley Campus travelled to St Kilda Road to learn about the history of the College and how they fit into the wider Wesley community.

Many students had never been on a bus, had an excursion or travelled so far from home before, having started their school years during COVID.

Glen Waverley teacher, Donna Greig, spent a great deal of time preparing for the visit, designed to support the Year 2 PYP Unit of Inquiry into 'Where we are in place and time'. Investigating the Unit's central idea that 'Exploring evidence within a place tells us about the past and connects us to today,' the students delved into the history and people who founded our school. Donna also designed a trail for the students to follow, explaining how the First Peoples would have used the land and what the landscape would have looked like before the buildings obscured the view to what is now Albert Park Lake.

The tour included a visit to Reception to see the oldest photo of the school, as well as significant paintings and objects located in the Prime Ministers' cabinet. Students then spent time in the Waugh Room, trying on old uniforms and looking at old exercise books, report cards, pictures and crockery used by

the original boarders. Some of them exclaimed their parents had uniforms just like these 'old ones!' All items were handled with white cotton gloves, which made them look like professional archivists.

A visit to see the statue of Sir Robert Menzies (OW1912) was the highlight of the day as the students learned who he was and what he achieved. The Nye Quadrangle was a place for further discussion about the history of the school, followed by a visit to the science gallery which was another memorable moment.

Some of the students also had time to see the chapel and learn about the different religions and what the symbols mean. It was also a place to learn about John Wesley and see the stained-glass memorial windows and the names of the Old Collegians who served during World War I.

It was a learning experience too for some of the teachers who rarely get the opportunity to come to the original site.

Perhaps one of the most endearing moments was when a group of students started singing 'Grey Towers' as they walked through the Percy Lane Memorial Gates. 'And rolling years shall guard your honour still'. We have no doubt these young students will proudly continue the traditions of this great school for years to come.



Campus snapshots

Celebrating Chinese New Year in the PYP



Selyna, Claire and Eva (Year 1) prepare for their performance

Elsternwick Campus witnessed an extraordinary cultural celebration in Term 1 as our PYP students immersed themselves in the magic of the Chinese New Year.

The festivities kicked-off with a traditional Chinese shadow puppet show, enchanting all PYP students from ECLC to Year 6.

Students from Years 1 to 4 had the unique opportunity to participate in three immersive workshops: Percussion, Kung Fu/Dance and Lion Dance.

After the workshop, students took centre stage, showcasing their newfound skills to their ECLC and Prep audience. The auditorium came alive with the sights and sounds of traditional Chinese performances.

The Chinese New Year incursion was a celebration of unity, cultural appreciation, and the spirit of global citizenship that defines our Wesley community.

Wishing you all a prosperous and joyous Year of the Dragon!

Senior School shakes-up 'Taming of the Shrew'



Move aside Bell Shakespeare Company! Glen Waverley's Senior School has delivered a slick, fast-paced and uproarious rendition of Shakespeare's 'The Taming of the Shrew', brimming with wit and energy.

While Shakespeare's original reflects Elizabethan gender norms, director David Dunn offered a fresh perspective, emphasising equality in the marriage of Petruchio and Katerina. The soundtrack, featuring hits from the 60s to 80s, added zest to the performance, with standout

choreography by Keira (Year 11), who also played the role of Bianca, and a knock-out performance of 'I want to rock and roll all night' by Patrick (Year 10), complete with leather jacket and air guitar atop a four-poster bed!

From rock anthems to disco classics, the audience was captivated throughout. Congratulations to all involved in bringing this incredible production to life. The calibre of talent on display is worthy of a place on any professional stage.



Anton (Year 8) proudly shows off the Boys' Athletics Premiers Cup to John Stafford (OW1947) who sadly passed away in May

Triumph unites young and old

The success of our Boys' Athletics team over the past two years stirred nothing less than elation for John Stafford (OW1947), the oldest surviving member of our victorious 1947 team.

75 years is a long time to wait to see the cup raised again, and John was so keen to share in the celebrations that he contacted the College to pass on his congratulations and asked to have a photo taken with the current team's youngest member, Anton (Year 8).

Together with Wesley's Head of Athletics, Tim O'Shaughnessy, Anton paid John a visit, bringing the trophy along for good measure. 'John was incredibly passionate about his time at Wesley and the athletics program,' said Tim.

Both field athletes – John was a high jumper while Anton's focus is shot put and discus - they enjoyed discussing the contrasts between the athletics of then and now. 'In those days, the high jumpers used a sandpit instead of a landing mat,' said Anton. 'John said you really had to know how to land properly – the technique was very different.'

But they didn't just talk shop, with Anton discovering before the visit that John's mother had been a keen violinist. A violinist himself, he brought his instrument with him to the meeting. 'I did a small performance for him - it was a very special moment,' said Anton.

Sadly, John passed away before this edition of *Lion* was printed. We pass on our sincere condolences to his family.

Exploring the future at the 2024 Careers Expo



Students and parents gather information at the Careers Expo

In the rapidly changing world of work, young people will need to continually develop the skills to become their own career managers. At the end of March, over 300 Senior School families and students from across the College attended the annual Careers Expo hosted at our Glen Waverley Campus.

Students had the opportunity to speak to representatives from several tertiary

institutions about the different courses and study options available and meet Wesley alumni currently working in their fields of interest.

For Abi (Year 11), the Careers Expo exceeded her expectations. 'I got a lot more information than I was expecting and the representatives from each of the universities were helpful and very informative,' she said.



'I really enjoyed talking to the Wesley alumni because it reassured me that I could change subjects and still stay on track. I also learnt that I'll have multiple careers throughout my lifetime, so if I don't know what I'm doing now, it's okay, I have time to decide'.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Wesley College alumni and OWCA who generously gave their time to share their career journeys with our current cohort.

If you're interested in participating in careers events, please email owca@wesleycollege.edu.au

Learning about Liveability

As part of their 'Individuals and Societies Liveability' unit in Term 1, Year 7 students from our Elsternwick Campus explored their local community, with a particular focus on Glen Huntly Road's diverse amenities. The central aspect of this excursion was the collection of data regarding local liveability, encompassing factors like access to food, housing, transportation, healthcare and education. Through firsthand observation and interaction with the environment, students gained valuable insights into the dynamics shaping the area's liveability.

They analysed various elements of urban life, including bustling cafes, convenient supermarkets and accessible green spaces, which provided tangible experiences enriching their understanding of liveability factors. This experiential learning approach served to bridge theoretical concepts learned in the classroom with practical applications, deepening their understanding of place and identity.



The interconnectedness of people and place: Year 7 students visit the Hopetoun Gardens

Importantly, the excursion highlighted that liveability extends beyond statistical metrics or amenities; it involves nurturing a sense of belonging and fostering social cohesion within the community. As students reflect on their journey, they are

reminded that true liveability stems from collective efforts to create an inclusive and supportive environment for all, highlighting the interconnectedness of people and place and the significance of community in all our lives.



Campus snapshots

Friday afternoons at Clunes...



Liv and Cinnamon create a streetscape

We love them because the weekend is looming large, but for Clunes students, the added attraction of Friday afternoons is in the moment: their timetabled elective program. It consists of a suite of activities that vary from term to term, dependant on students' interest, staff skills and what is happening in the Clunes community.

Term 1 was full of new offerings. 'Click and Connect,' for example, challenged students to create streetscapes and stories using Lego.

Celebrating with colour, feasts and friendship

Students across the College have been reflecting on the simple yet profound spiritual practice of sharing a meal. Christians gathered for their Easter Day lunch, Jewish people attended the Passover Seder, and Hindus observed Holi by sharing sweet treats as a reminder of the victory of goodness over evil, while Muslims continued to faithfully break their fast together throughout Ramadan.

In the final weeks of Term 1 at the Glen Waverley Campus, Junior School students participated in a colour run as a fun way to engage with Holi, the festival of colours. Members of our community also gathered on-campus for what is becoming an annual event - the Iftaar Dinner, held as a fast-breaking evening meal during Ramadan.

At the dinner, Inaaya (Year 11) reflected on her experiences as a Muslim student. 'From the moment I arrived at Wesley in Year 8, I have been embraced with open arms. My differences have been not just accepted but celebrated. One of the most heartening aspects has been the overwhelming support I have

For the first time, a select group of students engaged in a book club-type elective called 'The Eleventh Hour'. They spent every Friday sharing their love of books and writing, which culminated in volunteer work for the community at the Booktown Festival. While it's exciting to be amongst the buzz of a town full of book enthusiasts, it also provided an opportunity for students to experience the importance of contributing to the community beyond our campus. This links beautifully with our Community Engagement component of the program and the philosophy that underpins our Connect curriculum.

Our 'What Happens on Tour' musicians performed to a crowd of hundreds of book worms at the festival, entertaining with a range of tunes - old, new and even a classic song sung in Chinese! This elective focuses on students trying their hand at different musical instruments and performing to different audiences over the term, helping them develop confidence to go from a simple interest to performance-worthy standards of presentation - a testament to the courage and growth mindset our students develop at Clunes.



Staff and students enjoyed the colour run

experienced from peers, teachers and the wider school community after I began wearing the Hijab. This culture of inclusivity and acceptance is what truly sets Wesley College apart. I'm immensely grateful to our school for recognising the importance of accommodating students of all backgrounds and beliefs.'

While the reasons and the sacred stories that underpin why we gather may differ, the act itself is one of sacred hospitality. When we come together, putting aside our differences, we do so much more than share a meal; we share our humanity and our humility.



Year 9 students explore CBD street art

Art on the Street

Melbourne has been one of the most vibrant and internationally recognised homes of street art for well over 20 years. As part of the 'Art On The Street' unit offered in Elsternwick's Year 9 Art curriculum, students go on an excursion into the Melbourne CBD to experience the milieu of creative works on display. Led by guides from Blender Studios, they engage with street art and graffiti in its natural habitat - the urban environment. The studio's guides are all street artists themselves, providing first-hand knowledge and perspectives on local street art culture and the community that make it live and breathe.

Our students are introduced to a broad range of exciting and thought-provoking work in a variety of media. 'Lock-ons', 'paste-ups', stencils, murals and stickers are just a few of the techniques they're exposed to on the 90-minute walk. They view work by notable artists such as Banksy, Adnate, Mayo, Lush and GiGi.

When they return to campus, students use street art techniques to create their own artworks on skateboard decks. The exposure to such a broad range of materials, styles and techniques enriches the choices and directions the class take with their own artworks.

Importantly, this excursion provides an engaging and exciting way of addressing the unit's Statement of Inquiry: 'Art on the Street' can challenge boundaries by transforming place and communicating perspectives.

Acquisitive Art Prize 2024

The 2024 Acquisitive Art Prize Exhibition was held in the RVIB Art and Design Precinct at the St Kilda Road Campus late last month, showcasing 116 creations from 90 Year 10-12 students, including our 2023 Year 12 cohort.

The competition celebrates art across various fine art media, from sculpture, textiles, installation and photography to drawing, printmaking, digital art and painting.

This year's guest judge was Vanessa White, a contemporary local artist. Vanessa's work, primarily in video and painting, explores body movements and gestures to create strong emotional impacts. Using drawing, photography, choreography and performance, she blends the disciplined gestures of dance with the expressive strokes of vibrant painting.

Our congratulations go to this year's winner of the **Acquisitive Art Prize**, Freya (Year 12), with her entry *Passing of Time*, which forms part of her VCE Art Creative Practice folio.

Vanessa chose Freya's work due its 'subtle and delicate approach that incorporated photomontage printed on silk.'

Encouragement awards were awarded to Alice Ricciotti (OW2023, IB Visual Arts) for *Photographic Memories* and Adelaide (Year 12, IB Visual Arts) for *Grounded*.

The **People's Choice** award was granted to Martina (Year 10) for her photorealist *Untitled* drawing on paper.

The **Packers' Prize**, as voted by the College's Art Technicians who hang the artwork, was awarded to Jacob (Year 12) for his analogue photography, *Crowd and Untitled*.

Special commendations were made to:

- Zara (Year 12) for *Who am I?*;
- Sabine (Year 12) for *The World Ends Here*;
- Chris (Year 12) for his metal etching print, *Sisyphus*; and
- Talia Aktepe (OW2023) for *Trapped*

We thank all of our young artists for participating in the 27th year of the Acquisitive Art Prize and congratulate them for the breadth and depth of their work.



Passing of Time (top, centre) by Freya (Year 12), winner of the 2024 Acquisitive Art Prize



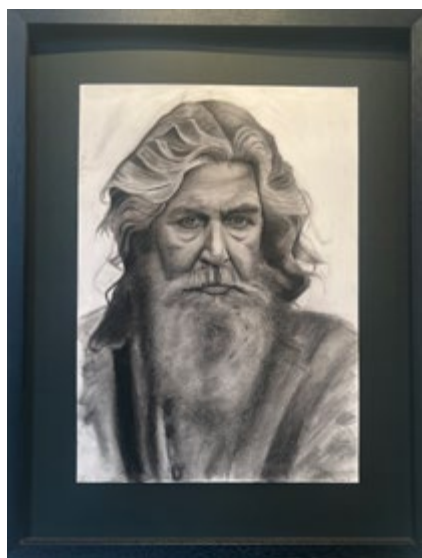
Freya (Year 12) with guest judge, Vanessa White



Packers' Prize winner, Jacob (Year 12)



Photographic Memories, created by Alice Ricciotti (OW2023)



Untitled, created by Martina (Year 10)



Grounded, created by Adelaide (Year 12)



Celebrating Founders' Day

Many OWs will recall the Founders' Day assemblies and events from their own time at school. This year, we welcomed several OWs back to the College to share their stories of courage, persistence and 'daring to be wise' with current students.

As Principal Nick Evans (OW1985) said to students about the great history of our College, 'We're just passing through,' but the impact of our actions will be something that Wesley students reflect on at Founders' Day for years to come.



Chaplain Bradon French kicks off Founders' Day celebrations at the Glen Waverley Campus



Josh Piterman (OW2003)

Josh Piterman (OW2003) is familiar to many as a world-renowned performer, singing in the *Ten Tenors*, starring in the *Phantom of the Opera* in Australia and playing the iconic role of Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables* in London. He shared with St Kilda Road Campus students that life's highlights reel never reveals the full picture.

'20 years ago, I was sitting in this hall, just like you are now. And just like you, I was working it all out.'

It was at Wesley that he discovered his passion for performing. 'I think one of the whackiest, and most wonderfully different, things I ever did at school was audition for a lead role in the musical, not knowing the first thing about it, or to be fair, the first thing about musicals.'

His director was then-teacher Nick Evans (OW1985), who shared with students, when introducing Josh, that he 'didn't think much of that early performance,' but was later moved to tears seeing Josh perform as a professional and witnessing his growth.

'My highlights reel shows what I did, but it doesn't show the lessons learnt, the struggles, the rejection, failure and the almos. Nor the love, growth, resilience and the unwavering passion,' Josh explains. 'Throughout your life, you are going to be faced with many fears, challenges and plenty of uncomfortable situations. How we respond to moments of discomfort shapes so much of who we are, and who we become. Every time we step into discomfort and come out the other side, we learn something invaluable about ourselves and the world around us and we grow as individuals.'



Kate Dempsey (OW2012)

For years, **Kate Dempsey (OW2012)** thought of herself as 'only a sporty girl' who 'wouldn't do well in the VCE'. She played softball, soccer, volleyball, tennis and swam for Wesley, but also made the most of the other opportunities on campus, and participated in the jazz band and musicals even when she thought she wasn't very good at them. Looking back, she realises that 'there was always something bigger than me to be part of' and that helped her thrive as a student and discover what she was most passionate about.

After a turbulent time in Year 11, she recognised she was facing a cross road and that she needed to stop listening to negative thoughts and putting herself 'in a box'. She committed to becoming the best she could be. She worked harder than she ever had before, and as a result, was thrilled to finish dux. She then enrolled in a law degree, so as not to 'waste' a good ATAR, but soon found it was not the right path for her. Psychology however, appealed to who she wanted to be as a person – empathetic. With the encouragement of her parents, Kate pursued her passion and is now a psychologist in mental health.

Since leaving school, Kate has continued to be a 'sporty girl', channelling the natural talent and athleticism which she had demonstrated at Wesley into a sports career. She was drafted by Richmond Football Club in 2019 into the AFLW, two years after the establishment of the league. Last year, she was named third in the Best and Fairest count. Balancing two careers has been challenging at times, but Kate continues to display the fortitude, dedication and resilience to pursue both passions.



Lauren Breadmore (OW2001)

Two OWs addressed students at Elsternwick Campus, both demonstrating that courage was a determining factor in their lives.

Former ballet dancer **Chris Rodgers-Wilson (OW2005)** has an impressive repertoire, performing with premier ballet companies including the Birmingham Royal Ballet, and later the Australian Ballet, and is no stranger to the physical and mental demands of an on-stage career. He spoke candidly about his life lessons discovered while at Wesley.

‘The Lion, representing courage, is a fantastic school symbol - courage as a personal value has served me well in my life beyond my school years,’ Chris explained. The lessons he learnt during his time at school helped him become the person he is today, giving him the confidence and self-belief to achieve anything he aspires to be. Budding dancer Will (Year 3) showed courage of his own, dancing for Chris and the entire Junior School at assembly.

Courage, persistence and self-belief were messages echoed by **Lauren Breadmore (OW2001)** at the Middle School assembly. Her involvement in many areas of school life prepared her well for the gruellingly competitive path of professional sport – which saw her ranked #4 in Australia – as well as her later career.

Today, she is Head Coach for Wesley Tennis and CEO of one of Victoria’s largest tennis academies, XSOAR Perform.



(L-R) Will (Year 3) with Chris Rodgers-Wilson (OW2005) and Will performing at Junior School assembly



Josh Pitman (OW2003) with St Kilda Road Campus students after his presentation



Kate Dempsey (OW2012) with Head of Glen Waverley Campus Sheriden Vella, Prefects and 'Wes the Lion'



Campus snapshots

From broken hearts to breaking records...

It's been a record-breaking season for Wesley table tennis, winning the APS Firsts table tennis premiership for the first time in history, sharing the title with fierce rivals Haileybury, who have dominated the competition since 2002.

This is an incredible achievement for Wesley's only coeducational, multi-generational Firsts team, who used the disappointment of last year's narrow loss as a 'learning opportunity' and 'motivation to improve.'

'Rather than viewing last year's loss as a setback or a failure, we saw it as an opportunity to improve as a team and as individuals,' said Team Captain, Gabby (Year 12). 'We had to be resilient and stay focused. Our team hasn't changed much in the past few years, and a lot of the younger players have really grown and improved in their abilities, which has been amazing to watch.'

When Gabby first joined the Firsts, she was one of the only girls on the team. Now, female members, selected on merit, make up half the team most weekends, and more than hold their own in terms of ranking. 'It has been incredible to see such an increase in the number of girls playing in the team,' said Gabby. 'I feel very proud to be leading such a diverse group of people.'

Nelson (Year 9) has been part of the Firsts team since Year 7. 'Being part of a multi-cultural, coeducational team with a female captain has been a really positive experience for me and shows how inclusive the environment is at Wesley,' he said.



Gabby (Year 12), captain of the victorious Firsts table tennis team, with the 2024 APS Premiers Cup

'I used to think table tennis was just a simple fun game, but there's so much more to the sport. It challenges me both physically and mentally, requiring quick decision-making and strategic gameplay. It has also helped improve my emotional regulation and mental toughness, as the fast-paced, competitive nature of the sport requires concentration, adaptability and resilience.'

'It's super exciting to finally win the premiership,' said Gabby. 'We have been working towards this goal for a long time, so to be able to achieve it in my final year makes it even more special. But what will remain as my fondest memory from my experience as Captain is our team debrief sessions, usually over brownies, after every Saturday morning match.'

'Gabby is such a knowledgeable and encouraging leader, bringing optimism and enthusiasm to every training session and match,' said Nelson. 'Simple things like bringing home-made baked goodies for the team to enjoy together after sport each Saturday is something we really enjoyed and appreciated. She has truly set the standard for our team and our team captain in the years to come.'

'This historic premiership is testament to the hard work and dedication of all our players and coaches. Their application and commitment to the sport is second-to-none amongst the APS,' said Head of Wesley table tennis, Luke Bertucci. 'We now look forward to defending our premiership, as all dynasties begin with one win!'

Detective story with a difference

Take a novel about an autistic teenager set on a path to solve a puzzling crime, adapt it into an acclaimed stage play, then cast it with remarkable young performers, and you have Adamson Theatre Company's powerful Senior School production of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'.

With its themes of neurodiversity, relationship breakdown and family secrets, 'Curious Incident' is layered with emotional complexity and intensity, so it's impressive that our young cast were able to deliver such committed and convincing performances across their week-long season at the end of Term 1.

Cleverly lit with LED strip lights to create different spaces, the minimalist set provided a flexible backdrop for the unfolding story, from intimate scenes at home to the sensory overload of the train station – the flashing lights, noise and frenetic choreography conveying the visceral sense of turmoil felt by

a character well and truly out of their comfort zone.

This St Kilda Road Senior School production was triple cast, which meant three student actors got the chance to play Christopher, the enigmatic protagonist.

Theo (Year 12) loved playing him. 'Something really challenging was learning to be vulnerable on stage, which is hard to do with one other person, let alone a whole audience,' he said.

'Playing a more complex character was really satisfying,' said Magnus (Year 11).

It's game, set, match for our queens of the court



Wesley Firsts celebrate four APS Girls' tennis premierships in a row

The Wesley Girls' Firsts tennis team have broken all records, winning the APS sport premiership for the fourth year in a row, their fifth premiership in six seasons.

'This is a remarkable achievement that has resulted from years of training and countless hours working together to create a culture that's not about winning, but about showing up every day and giving your best for yourself, your team and your school,' said Lauren Breadmore (OW2001), Head of Wesley Tennis and CEO of XSOAR Perform, who have provided professional coaching to Wesley tennis for the past seven years.

'Tennis is equally physically and mentally challenging. It requires good movement and footwork, concentration and patience as well as tactical knowledge and experience,' explains Vice-Captain, Phoebe. 'But it's the skills the team have learnt off-the-court that's been the secret of our success.'

Madelyn (Year 12) has been part of all five premiership teams, but clearly remembers her first experience with Wesley tennis. 'Tennis was the main reason I came to Wesley in Year 7, as I knew they had great coaches and a great team. When I started, I immediately

noticed that Wesley was different, because the focus from the coaches was not on how well we played, but on team camaraderie and the support we showed one another. We held each other accountable for our tennis and we cared.'

But her fondest memory of her time with Wesley tennis will always be her final match. 'It was the moment I realised that all the amazing moments I have had were coming to an end. However, it wasn't sad, because I knew that I would always have these great memories and friendships. It's been an honour to be part of such a talented team.'

For Captain Olivia, and Vice-Captain Phoebe, it's been a privilege to guide and support their teammates both on and off the court. 'The ROAR sports framework helped us to set goals as a team, both collectively and as individuals, and identify the values that were important to us, like respecting our opposition and making new recruits feel welcome,' said Phoebe.

'Being captain of the team will be one of the most precious memories of my time at Wesley, and I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to lead such a dedicated group of players,' said Olivia. 'I have no doubt this group of girls will continue to wear the purple and gold with pride and win many more premierships over the years to come.'

'I gained some insight into what it might be like living with and caring for a child with autism.'

For Myrsine (Year 12), it was 'a life-changing experience'. She had the added challenge of playing a boy, which she found difficult, 'but the most challenging aspect of this role came from my wish to play the role with authenticity,' she said.

'Some audience members who came to see the show were autistic themselves, and were so grateful to see themselves represented onstage. They were also moved after discovering my personal connection to the character's experiences, and I felt truly fulfilled.'



Foundation

Sustaining service for future generations

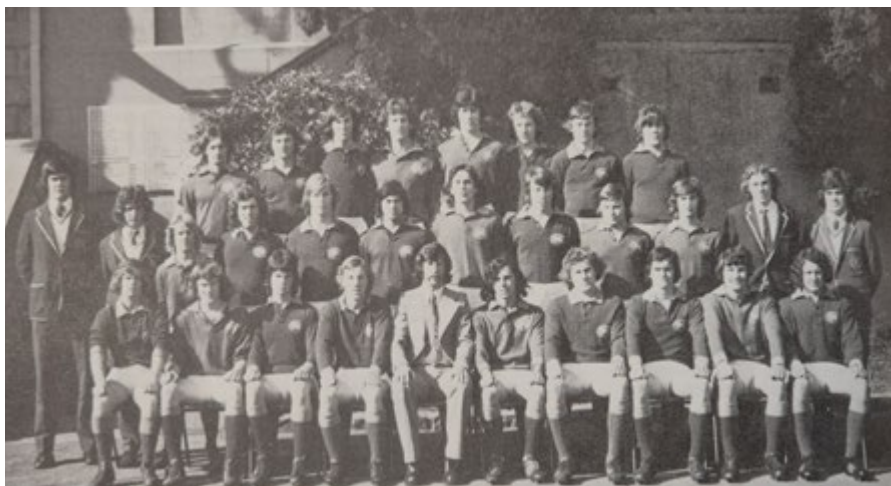


Richard Ball (OW1974)

Receipt of the *Gift Book* is a time-honoured tradition at Wesley College, presented to students at the end of their final year of school. Included within the pages are photos, stories and quotes from each graduating cohort.

In 1974, the *Gift Book* recalled that Richard Ball (OW1974) was the third generation of his family to contribute 'outstanding service' to the College.

Richard was a Prefect in both Junior and Senior School, active in co-leading the Public Question Society (PQS) in his final year, co-editor of the *Chronicle* that year and played the French Horn in the orchestra and other ensembles.



(Far right, middle row) Richard with the First XVIII football team in his role as umpire

He was admirable in his efforts in football and rowing, and notable in his service as a member of the football umpiring squad and as an athletics official.

After graduation, Richard continued as an active contributor to the College, serving two terms as President of the OWCA and as Vice President of the Old Collegians Football Club.

In 2015, Richard was diagnosed with MND. One of his final gifts to the College was the establishment of the Richard Ball scholarship, a means-tested academic scholarship awarded to a student wishing to attend the St Kilda Road Campus.

Richard's generous gift to the Wesley College Foundation will enable the College to offer to one student, who fulfils the criteria, a place at the St Kilda Road Campus from Year 7.

Friends, family and classmates from 1974 are invited to consider contributing to this scholarship so that a worthy student of excellent character may benefit from the same opportunities that Richard enjoyed.

Donations to this scholarship may be made by visiting wesleycollege.edu.au/donate

Further details are available at wesleycollege.edu.au/richard-ball

2024 ANNUAL APPEAL

To give more students like Jen (OW2023) and Sara (OW2021) access to the transformative educational opportunities offered by Wesley College, we invite you to support our scholarship fund, enabling outstanding students from a wide range of backgrounds to reach their full potential.

Your gift will help to continue the proud legacy of previous generations of donors.



DONATE NOW



If you wish to discuss a gift, please contact the Foundation Office at foundation@wesleycollege.edu.au

Partnering for Future Generations



Craig Walden (OW1981), Rosanna Tennant and Phil Lambourne (OW1980)

In 2020, as the pandemic was just beginning, Craig Walden (OW1981) and Phil Lambourne (OW1980) began a partnership with the Wesley College Foundation that will create an enduring impact for current and future generations of students.

The APS Benefits Group have now been active members of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society for five years, and in that time, have been instrumental in supporting the transformative educational experience provided to all students at the College.

The motivation to establish this partnership is deeply linked to the vision of the APS Benefits Group - to protect and enhance the financial well-being of all Australians.

'Our connection with Wesley College is especially meaningful. This partnership reflects our shared commitment to financial education and our belief in the Wesley motto to 'dare to be wise'. Wesley College not only fosters a love of learning but also nurtures a unique sense of community and support. We cherish this relationship, as it reflects our joint mission to uplift and educate, ensuring a brighter, wiser future for the next generation.'



The Wesley College Foundation gratefully acknowledges APS Benefits Group for their ongoing and generous support of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society.

The team at APS Benefits Group includes several proud Wesley alumni from the 1980s. Collectively, they believe in empowering individuals to live their best life with peace of mind knowing that they are protected in the good times and the tough times. Through a range of friendly financial services including wills and estate planning, tax and financial advice, investments and loans, their close-knit team is passionate about delivering trusted advice and exceptional customer service, firmly rooted in giving back to the community.

Wesley College aims to transform lives through an educational journey that enables every young person to grow and thrive and become a thoughtful, engaged and contributing citizen of the world. We offer a range of scholarships, provide state-of-the-art facilities and develop innovative educational programs thanks to the generous contributions from our loyal benefactors and bequestors.

Including a gift in your Will to the Wesley College Foundation – however big or small – is a powerful way to leave a lasting and meaningful legacy. We thank the members of our Sapere Aude Bequest Society and encourage and welcome new members.

Thank you to our generous partners

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



Foundation

SABS Tour of City Churches

On 28 March, Co-Patron of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society (SABS) Susie Rodgers-Wilson and Peter Rodgers-Wilson (OW1965), along with our St Kilda Road Campus Chaplain Kaylea Fearn, joined SABS members and guests for a Wesley Churches Walking Tour in Melbourne's CBD.

We began at the Wesley Uniting Church where the walls are covered with memorial plaques honouring key figures in early Methodism, the foundation of Wesley College. Those honoured include:

- Rev Daniel Draper, who died tragically in January 1866 aboard the SS London, which sank in a storm returning from England where he had selected the first Headmaster of Wesley College, James Corrigan. The books for the first school library also went down with the ship. Draper is commemorated in many ways, with a named House and with the annual award of the Draper Scholar;
- The first President of the Wesley College Council, Rev James S Waugh, is remembered with the naming of the Waugh Room;
- Walter Powell is honoured, most notably, with the award of Powell Scholar for best Year 12 student; and
- Prominent Methodist minister, the Rev William L Binks, was the father of Fredrick 'Freddie' Binks, who has the honour of being the first student enrolled at Wesley College in 1866.

The grounds of the Wesley Uniting Church also contain several buildings, including the art deco Nicholas Hall, which was a gift from the Nicholas family. Alfred and George Nicholas funded the rebuilding and redevelopment of Wesley College in the 1930s.

Each year, the College uses the church for the Year 7 Combined Chapel Service, which brings together students from all three campuses to remind them they are part of one community. At the end of Year 12, students return for another combined service to commemorate their time at Wesley coming to a close.

Our next stop was the Chinese Mission Church, which was built in 1872 by the Wesleyan Methodists and is known today as the Chinese Parish Office of the Uniting Church. In the colonial period, several boys from this congregation were offered scholarships to attend Wesley College.



SABS members and guests outside the Wesley Uniting Church on Lonsdale Street

The Kelvin Club, with a history dating back to 1865, was our location for a wonderful lunch.

We then visited Scot's Church to view the crest and flag of Australian Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies (OW1912), which was presented to the church by Dame Pattie Menzies in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II in 1983.

Our final stop was St Michael's Uniting Church, which over the decades has been a much-used venue for Wesley College, including the 2019 Commissioning of our Principal, Nick Evans (OW1985).

The tour provided a fascinating insight into the many connections between the churches and Wesley College in the lead up to Easter, an important time in the Christian calendar.



SABS members and guests at St Michael's Uniting Church



Students at the Year 7 Combined Chapel Service at the Wesley Uniting Church



The crest and flag of Australian Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies (OW1912) at Scot's Church

Grand Prix Breakfast

Few other events get the heart racing the way that the Melbourne Grand Prix does. So, it was particularly exciting to hold the fifth Wesley College Foundation GP Breakfast on the first day of practice, to be track side, and to have a panel with a unique Wesley connection.

Our own Pete Lazar (OW1995) was MC for a discussion about family, careers and of course, motor sport. We were privileged to welcome one of the world's elite sports car racers, David Brabham – an outright and triple Le Mans 24 Hours class winner, double American Le Mans Series Champion, and former Formula 1 driver.

We were also thrilled to welcome back Formula One presenter Rosanna Tennant as our second guest speaker. Host of the BBC's radio program, *Racing Torque*, Rosanna leads F1's coverage on race weekends, hosting the *F1 Live* pre- and post-race shows, as well as the *Weekend Debrief* on Sky Sports F1.

David reflected on his memories of growing up on-track with his father, Sir Jack Brabham AO OBE, and his eventual path to becoming a motor sports driver. A highlight for the guests was hearing about the lengthy court battle securing the rights to the Brabham brand after



(L-R): Guest speakers Rosanna Tennant and David Brabham with MC, Pete Lazar (OW1995)

David discovered that the family no longer owned it! Guests were delighted to learn that Jack Brabham was a long-time friend and industry colleague of the Stillwell family, cementing his Wesley connection.

Rosanna shared details of her own path to Formula One and the challenges of being a female in a predominantly male environment. With her unique perspective, Rosanna provided some very entertaining insights into the world of motorsport. Rosanna's connection to Melbourne, and her role coaching at an APS school over one memorable year,

endeared her to guests and her humorous take on 'the paddock' ensured another great event.

The Chair of the Wesley College Foundation, Nicki Lefkovits (OW1990), highlighted the role of philanthropy in the history of the College and the importance of bringing the Wesley College community together in support of current and future generations.

If you would like to discuss partnering with the Foundation, please contact the Foundation Office at foundation@wesleycollege.edu.au

Remembering Jean Oldfield



(L-R): Jean Prest, Gordon Newton and Jean Oldfield at the 2005 event

The Wesley College Foundation and the Sapere Aude Bequest Society were saddened to hear of the passing of Jean Oldfield on 22 March 2024.

Jean's father Walter Huntsman (OW1906), her uncle Harry Huntsman (OW1906) and husband Doug (OW1946) inspired Jean's significant service to the College and Foundation as Co-Patron of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society from 2005 to 2012.

Jean was a visible and dynamic support for Doug and together they contributed to the OWCA, the College and the Foundation over many years.

We extend our deepest sympathies to her children Doug (OW1970), Mardi, Bronwyn and Lisa, and their families including Old Wesley Collegians Al Oldfield (OW1999), Tim Oldfield (OW2002), Rick Gerbes (OW2003), Erin Mahony (OW2010), Linley Mahony (OW2012) and Sian Mahony (OW2016).

Jean Oldfield, along with Jean Prest, were introduced as new patrons at a SABS event in 2005 by the inaugural Co-Patron, Gordon Newton (OW1950), who also paid tribute to his inaugural Co-Patron, the late Joan Coates. Art works from the Cato Collection were on display at the event, including the magnificent Arthur Streeton painting 'Winter Landscape'. Sapere Aude.

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

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

The Society offers a rich and varied program of activities for members and their guests. We are delighted that our program attracts so many alumni, parents and the wider community to

experience the breadth of our Society's activities.

If you would like to join any of our events or become a SABS member, please contact:

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



President's report



Outgoing President Kate Evans (OW1998) with eleven past OWCA Presidents at this year's Founders' Day Lunch

Bittersweet feelings wash over me as I reflect on my time serving as the President of the Old Wesley Collegians Association. I am filled with a sense of pride regarding the progress the organisation has made, the diversity created across our representative Board, and the talent coming through by way of future leadership. At our AGM, I stepped down from my role leading the Committee but was proud to report on the significant achievements and milestones we have reached together as a group.

Throughout this past fiscal year, the focus has been on strengthening the foundation of our Association, and I was pleased to announce that we have made substantial progress. One of our key accomplishments has been the revision of our Constitution, ensuring it aligns with our evolving needs and aspirations. Working closely with OWCA partner KPMG, we have been able to tighten this important artefact and I am pleased our Committee has reshaped it positively for generations to come.

We have also laid the groundwork for our future success by conducting workshops and sessions with key community stakeholders to guide us in formulating a new comprehensive strategy, charting our course for at least the next three years. This strategic vision will serve as a roadmap for our continued growth and development, ensuring we remain adaptable and responsive to the needs of our community, and sustainable as an Association.

The Boat Race Dinner held in late March was our biggest dinner in many years due to a very welcomed change which saw the entire Wesley College rowing community embraced and celebrated. This year, we introduced the 'generational seat photo' concept. To view all the magnificent moments captured, head to our OWCA networking platform, OWConnect.

Reunions recently held for our younger cohorts have been attended like never before. They have become a highlight on the OWCA Calendar, providing opportunities for cherished connections

and joyful celebrations. The enthusiastic turnout at our combined SKR and GW 5 and 10 Year Reunions demonstrates the enduring camaraderie and spirit of Old Wesley Collegians.

Founders' Day Lunch was once again a roaring success with the theme 'OWs at the Olympics'. Our most successful Olympian, Michael Klim OAM (OW1994), featured in the conversation, alongside our first female Olympian, Jodie Dobson (OW1987) and our first female Paralympian, Elle Steele (OW2001) serving as our entertainment for the day.

At our AGM, we farewelled two members from our Board, Amy McAlister (OW2003) and Vibeke Pedersen (OW1996). Amy has served as the OWCA Secretary for many years, with much loyalty, commitment and efficiency. We are very grateful for the time she has given, and thank her immensely for her contribution. Vibeke has also been a valuable addition to our Committee. With her enduring affection and understanding of the Wesley ethos, as well as her profound ties within the Glen Waverley community, Vibs will be greatly missed.

We did, however, welcome two new Board members, the first being professional triathlete and two-time World Triathlon Champion, Emma Carney (OW1989). Emma's passion for Wesley knows no bounds. We are truly blessed to have Emma join the OWCA Board, and I personally look forward to watching her contributions to the Association.

The second is Jennifer Taylor (OW2023), joining us in her first 6 months as an OW. She held the WESMOB portfolio in her Prefect role at the Glen Waverly Campus last year and is our first Learning in Residence (modern boarding) Board member. Welcome Jen.

In closing my final President's report, I express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve as President of the Old Wesley Collegians Association for the last four and a half years. It has been a privilege to represent the 24,000 OWs all around the world. I am extremely grateful for the enduring friendships and unique connections the role has given me, and leave with countless memories.

Thank you.

Kate Evans (OW1998)
OWCA President

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Marianne Stillwell Fellow of Wesley College



Our Fellows of Wesley College (L-R): Doug Turnbull, Prof. Graeme Samuel AO, Jim Barry OBE, Principal Nick Evans, Geoff Stephenson, Marianne Stillwell, Warwick Mitchell, Prof. Rachel Webster AO and Peter Harrison

On Wednesday 1 May, the College was pleased to bestow a fellowship of Wesley College upon Marianne Stillwell. Marianne is the first woman to receive this honour, and few have such an outstanding record of service to the College.

Marianne Stillwell, a member of the Wesley College Council from 2006-2022, served as President from 2014-2022. During this period, she also served on the Finance and Risk Management Committee, and from 2010-2013, chaired the Nominations Committee. She is currently a member of the Wesley College Foundation board.

Marianne first became part of the Wesley College community in 2000 when her son Julian (OW2014) joined the Junior School at the St Kilda Road Campus. Two other children - Cameron (OW2017) and Claire (OW2021), soon followed.

In 2006, Marianne joined the Wesley College Council, replacing retiring Vice President of Council, Linda Dessau, who went on to serve as the 29th Governor of Victoria from 2015 to 2023.

Marianne has a background in secondary teaching and has worked in Australia and the United States in the finance and automotive sectors, including the family automotive business started by her father, Bib Stillwell. It was her deep understanding of the Australian education system, combined with her strong business acumen, governance and financial experience, that made her an integral and highly valued member of the College Council.

During her time as President of the Wesley College Council, Marianne oversaw a number of significant changes at the College. These included:

- The reopening of boarding at Wesley College, with the building of Learning in Residence at our Glen Waverley Campus;
- The recovery program after the fire at Glen Waverley in 2016, which included overseeing the building of The Drennen Centre;
- The 'next chapter' development at Clunes, which opened in 2022;

- The land acquisition known as the 'Cabbage Patch';
- The incorporation of the College in 2016, and the subsequent land transfer, which provided the College with a contemporary governance structure into the future. This is one of Marianne's great legacies;
- The development of the Yiramalay/ Wesley Studio School, and later, the handover to Studio Schools Australia in 2022;
- Overseeing the selection of, and transition to new Principal, Nick Evans in 2019; and
- During her time as President, the College increased enrolments from 3,100 to 3,400, reflecting strong demand for an education at Wesley.

Marianne was also President of the College during other significant moments, memorable for different reasons. She was President during the College's sesquicentenary in 2016, helping to plan an array of wonderful celebrations in our 150th year. In 2020 and 2021, it was her calm stewardship that helped guide the College community through the uncertainty of the pandemic.

In 2022, Principal Nick Evans wrote of Marianne: 'Her example will remain with me as the purest form of servant leadership I have witnessed. I am not exaggerating when I say that she has made an historic contribution to this College. For me, personally, she made the sometimes difficult transition to Principal that much easier and, more importantly, she made it fun.'

Wesley College owes Marianne Stillwell a huge debt of gratitude for the extraordinary leadership and service she has given the College. She is a worthy recipient of the highest honour the College can bestow, that of Fellowship of the College.



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OW Cricket's tour of India

Embarking on a cricket tour is always exhilarating, but when it's to a place as vibrant and culturally rich as India, the excitement reaches new heights.

In January and February 2024, Old Wesley Cricket set off on an unforgettable adventure to India, bringing together a diverse group of 20 individuals, including First and Second XI players, partners and family members. Led by our dedicated Captain, Rick Morris (OW2004), this tour was more than just cricket; it was a perfect blend of sportsmanship and exploration, immersing us in the heart of Indian culture.

Our cricket tour of India was a remarkable adventure that exceeded all expectations. Thanks to the exceptional organisation of our captain, we forged friendships and connections that will endure a lifetime.

Our journey kicked-off with a flight into Mumbai, where we were immediately swept away by the bustling energy of the city. From there, we embarked on a scenic drive to Mandawa, where we were greeted by the picturesque sight of a private cricket ground awaiting our arrival. Facing off against the Old Mayo cricket team, we secured our first victory of the tour, setting the tone for the adventures that lay ahead.

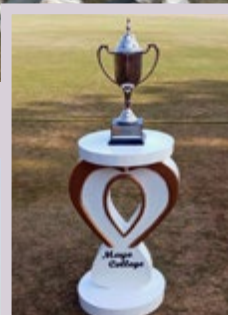
Udaipur welcomed us next, where we were graciously hosted by royalty, including Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar, the Prince of Udaipur. Despite tasting defeat on the cricket pitch against members of local teams, the experience proved invaluable, offering us a glimpse into true Indian cricket conditions. Our evenings were adorned with royal hospitality at Jag Mandir, where traditional food, music and dance left an indelible mark on our memories.

A highlight of our tour was our stay at Mayo College in Ajmer, where we were treated to unparalleled hospitality and had the opportunity to showcase our skills on the cricket field. Despite a friendly loss against the Mayo staff, our triumph over the Old Mayo Cricket Team in the 'Thakur R.R. Singh & Bruce R. Gregory Trophy' match was a crowning achievement.

The remainder of our time in India was a whirlwind of exploration and discovery. From the vibrant markets of Jaipur to a



Old Wesley Cricket celebrate their win over Old Mayo
(Inset) The Thakur R.R. Singh & Bruce R. Gregory Trophy



Old Wesley Cricket and Old Mayo College

thrilling leopard safari, each day brought new adventures. A visit to an elephant rescue sanctuary touched our hearts, while witnessing the grandeur of the Taj Mahal left us in awe of India's rich history and heritage. Casual pick-up cricket matches with locals added a fun and competitive edge to our travels, allowing us to forge connections beyond boundaries.

One of the most heart-warming moments of our tour was our visit to a small rural township, where we were welcomed with open arms. From touring the local primary school to playing cricket on a drained lake, the experience was testament to the universal language of sport and community spirit.

Greg Swann – AFL honour for a leading Lion



A colourful crowd of onlookers



Old Wesley Cricket at the Taj Mahal

As our journey drew to a close in New Delhi, we savoured the vibrant nightlife, celebrating the bonds we had formed and the memories we had created. Reflecting on our time in India, it was evident that our hosts from Mayo College had gone above and beyond to ensure our comfort and enjoyment throughout the tour.

Following a visit to Mayo College by Wesley Principal Nick Evans in November 2023, we are delighted that the cricketing contacts we have made has led to negotiations between the two schools about prospective student and teacher exchanges. Jack Ayerbe (OW1963) and Peter Rosenberg (OW1963) are to be congratulated on having the vision to identify this opportunity and for bringing it to fruition.

As we eagerly await the arrival of our Indian friends in Australia, the bond between Mayo College and Old Wesley Cricket remains as strong as ever, a testament to the unifying power of cricket.

Contributed by Ben Symons (OW2012) and Frank Opray (OW1963)



Greg Swann (OW1980) has been awarded life membership of the AFL

Greg Swann (OW1980) was recently awarded AFL Life Membership for a lifetime of service to football. He received the prestigious award at the AFL Season Launch in Sydney after 25 years as CEO of three AFL clubs – Collingwood, Carlton and Brisbane – and a pivotal role in the re-birth of the Brisbane Lions.

Having taken over the club in July 2014 during tough times on and off the field, Greg has overseen a program to restore the club to off-field profitability and rebuilt on-field performance to such a level that they have won more games in the last five years than any opposition. Greg admitted he was 'pretty chuffed' when told of the honour about a month ago, while Lions' coach Chris Fagan lauded him as 'one of football's great administrators'.

A Chartered Accountant by profession, in 1996, Greg worked with the administrator appointed to wind up the Fitzroy Football Club. He effectively ran the club for the last six months of their stand-alone existence – the irony that he now heads up the Brisbane Lions is lost on no-one. The ever-personable Lions' boss, well known and respected across the entire competition, was always a football man. He played 100 games for Williamstown in the VFA throughout the 1980s and described himself as 'a good ordinary player or an ordinary good player – take your pick.'

A fullback, he was runner-up in the Williamstown 'Best & Fairest' to Terry Wheeler, a 157-game Western Bulldogs player from 1974-1983 and 91-game coach from 1990-1994 and, living in Melbourne in what at the time was the

South Melbourne recruiting zone, spent time on the Swans list and played at U19 and Reserves level.

Williamstown, VFA Premiers under Wheeler in 1986 and grand finalists in 1985-1988, was a big VFA club at the time. Greg was invited to do pre-season training with Hawthorn ahead of the 1986 season, but at age 23, he packed up and headed overseas to see Europe in a combi van. He returned to Perth in 1987, playing with Perth FC in the WAFL before heading home to Melbourne. After deciding 'football was more fun than accounting,' Greg found himself President at Williamstown and on the Board of Football Victoria at just 28 years of age.

He was in charge at Williamstown in 1995 when the VSFL attempted to force the club into a merger with Werribee and, staying until 1998, started to display excellent credentials as a sports administrator. Greg was CEO at Collingwood from 2000-2007 when they lost the 2002-2003 grand finals to Brisbane during the great Leigh Matthews era, and CEO at Carlton from 2007-2014 in what was a rebuilding phase for the club, before being sent to Brisbane by the AFL. He was named Queensland Sports Administrator of the Year in 2019 and was sounded out by the Broncos in June 2020 for their CEO vacancy.

In this his 25th season as an AFL club CEO, Greg can take great satisfaction from the fact that the Lions are in a sound financial position with a record membership as they chase the last piece in the puzzle – the club's first flag since 2003.



The winemaking journey of Leigh Clarnette



Leigh Clarnette (OW1974) grew up in a household that frowned on the consumption of alcohol. The irony that he has enjoyed a lifetime in the wine industry is lost on no-one, least of all his 97-year-old father, who Leigh has trained to drink (and enjoy!) wine.

Born and raised in Melbourne, Leigh began his career in the Yarra Valley at Miller's Chateau (now De Bortoli Wines) in 1984, when wine making in the area was in its infancy. Having graduated from Roseworthy College in South Australia, he said coming back to Victoria and commencing his career as a winemaker in the Yarra Valley 'was a privilege'.

In 1987, Leigh was lured to Tarrawarra Estate, where he spent four years making chardonnay and pinot noir, which would be used by Domaine Chandon (as it was known then) to produce their crisp Australian sparkling. In the early 1990s, Leigh crossed the border into South

Australia and joined Padthaway Estate, where he continued making pinot noir and chardonnay. It was here that Leigh made sparkling with Australia's first traditional champagne press, housed in a refurbished woolshed.

In 1993, Leigh returned to Seppelts where he spent the next six years. For him, those years were 'winemaking heaven'. Some of the best shiraz was being made at Seppelts

during this period, including the prize-winning Chalambar Shiraz and the Great Western Shiraz.

In 1999, Leigh set off to Nagambie to establish an advanced bottling facility for McPherson Wines then in 2002, he returned to winemaking at Taltarni, the Pyrenees, where he stayed until the birth of Clarnette and Ludvigsen which he established in 2007 with viticulturalist Kym Ludvigsen.

Leigh and Kym's friendship began in 1993 when they were working together at Seppelt, Great Western. It was during a business trip to Tasmania that their friendship was formed over a passion for wine. In the years that followed, the duo travelled to vineyards across the country, experiencing the best wine Australia had to offer.

It was a match made in heaven: Kym gave Leigh new insight into the art of growing grapes and Leigh, with this new

perspective, redefined his winemaking. The core ingredients to any great wine are a carefully curated crop and an attentive winemaker. A partnership in business was inevitable, and so, Clarnette and Ludvigsen Wines was born.



The business model was simple. Kym grew the grapes at Ludvigsen Vineyard in Great Western, and Leigh made the wine. Together the pair became known for their rich and generous Grampians Shiraz. With the passing of Kym in 2013, Leigh continued to make wines for Clarnette and Ludvigsen, sourcing grapes from the vineyard that Kym had so carefully tended for many years. In 2022, Clarnette and Ludvigsen phoenixed into Clarnette Wines.

Clarnette Wines is a new adventure for Leigh, sourcing grapes from all over the Grampians and Pyrenees wine regions, letting his creativity run wild and introducing new varieties that the Clarnette label has never seen before, with a focus on small, handcrafted wines.

These days, Leigh is a semi-retired winemaker, focusing on shiraz, riesling with tempranillo and rose. The first two wines are well known by the district. In his spare time, Leigh plays golf wherever he can and is looking to travel throughout the next decade. He lives in Ballarat with his wife Karen. They have three boys and two grandsons, with another on the way!

Leigh is happy to offer the Wesley community a 20% discount when buying online at clarnettewines.com.au

Be sure to quote **WES74** at the checkout.

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

An OW's take on Alan McCulloch's World of Art

In *Letters to a Critic*, curator and author Rodney James (OW1979) has mined the rich archival treasure of the McCulloch Papers to create a lively combination of biography and illustrated book of letters.

Witty, irreverent, profound and heartfelt, these previously unpublished letters, critical essays, illustrations and works of art provide a unique insight into the art and lives of Australia's most famed art personalities as they simultaneously reveal McCulloch's role as critic, gallery director and mentor.

As critic for the Melbourne *Herald* from 1951 to 1982, McCulloch was fundamental in the nascent careers of those who were to become some of Australia's most famous artists. His monumental *Encyclopedia of Australian Art*, first published in 1968 and still in print today, has been acknowledged as the 'single most important reference work on Australian art ever published'.

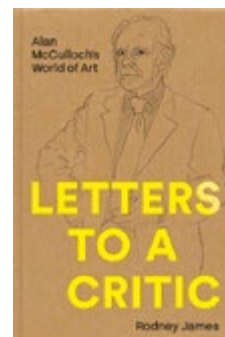
Rodney James is an Australian curator and writer specialising in nineteenth and twentieth century art writing and research, valuations, collection management, exhibitions, visual art projects and museum policy and strategy. His most recent publications include 'Blood Red: Ivan Durrant's social conscience' in Ivan Durrant, *Barrier Draw* (2020) and *Una Deerbon: Australian Potter 1882-1972* (2019), the first monograph on the art and life of this pioneering mid-century artist.



Rodney James (OW1979) signs a copy of his new book *Letters to a Critic*

Rodney said, '*Letters to a Critic* aims to document, for the first time, the extensive and broad ranging contribution of Alan McCulloch AO to Australian art, criticism, writing, publishing, galleries and exhibitions. McCulloch's legacy offered a chance to rethink and redirect Australian art history in new directions and offer new interpretations and information about many of our best-known artists.

Letters to a Critic aims to take the reader on a rich cultural journey through Melbourne and Australia's visual art development. Controversies and



engagements include: being sacked as art critic for the *Argus* in 1946 for being considered 'too left wing' in his sympathies for leading artists such as Noel Counihan and Albert Tucker;

support for emerging modern and emigre artists, including early support for neglected female artists such as Joy Hester; early championing of Australian Indigenous art through writing, exhibitions and lobbying for stand-alone museums of Aboriginal art in each state; lobbying for the Melbourne City Square and relocation of sculptures to more prominent locations; support for Jorn Utzon's original design for the Sydney Opera House against attempts to reduce it in scope and size; and criticism of major purchases for state and national collections, including that of Jackson Pollock's *Blue Poles* for the National Gallery of Australia.

Letters to a Critic is available from Miegunyah Press, good book shops or directly through the author at www.rodnejamesart.com.au/book-store

YOUR OWCA

OWCA Board

President

Kate Evans (OW1998)

Vice President

Tom Pewtress (OW2018)

Treasurer

Rob Lancaster (OW1982)

Secretary

Amy McAlister (OW2003)

Committee members

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Emma Carney (OW1989)

Alessia Francese (OW2016)

Alex Iljin (OW1982)

Luca Jolson (OW2022)

Rick Morris (OW2004)

Kunal Rastogi (OW2002)

Jen Taylor (OW2023)

Key contacts

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

Interested in becoming involved in the Executive? Contact:

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



Boat Race Dinner



The new 'Generational Seat' photo concept proved a hit with our bow seat rowers



Bob Duncan OAM (OW1949) delivers a toast to past crews



Paul Guest OAM KC (OW1957) with the 2024 winners of the Paul Guest Medal, Ella and Sam

Held at the iconic Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, a tradition as timeless as our institution itself came to life once more – the Wesley College Boat Race Dinner.

This annual event, steeped in history and camaraderie, serves as a celebration of the Head of the River race and a tribute of the generational legacy that exists within our Wesley rowing community.

This year's festivities captured the essence of Wesley's spirit like never before. As guests mingled and reminisced, the atmosphere brimmed with nostalgia and anticipation. Old tales were exchanged, laughter echoed and the air buzzed with excitement.

The entire crowd of alumni, students, parents and coaches chimed in for a stirring rendition of 'The Boating Song' led by Mark Stephens (OW1965) and heeded passionate and eloquent toasts made by Bob Duncan OAM (OW1949), Anastasia Malishev (OW1995) and Ben Sandow (OW1995).

For many, the dinner served as a cherished opportunity to reconnect with former team mates and mentors, reinforcing the sense of belonging that defines the rowing experience at Wesley College.

Year 12 students Ella and Sam were awarded the iconic Paul Guest Medal, as voted by their rowing peers, for demonstrating humility and inspirational leadership.

The unveiling of the new 'Generational Seat' photo concept stirred emotions and sparked conversations. The resulting images depict alumni, spanning the generations, proudly grouped in their designated rowing seats – a visual testament to an enduring bond that transcends time.

The 'Generational Seat' photo served as a focal point for reflection and reverence. Each shot captured carries many a story... of triumphs and setbacks, challenges overcome and shared experiences of their position in the boat, and now, new friendships forged. It was a homage to the countless individuals who have contributed to Wesley's rowing legacy, and shaped it into the sporting program it is today.

The 2024 Boat Race Dinner was not merely an event; it was a celebration of community, history, heritage and the enduring spirit of Wesley rowing – and our biggest dinner in recent years! Wesley's rowing legacy continues to thrive, inspiring generations to come.

Learning in Residence Careers Dinner



Our OW Captains of Industry: (L-R): Natasha Nosiara (OW2018), Isabella Dunwill (OW1996), Sally Walshe (OW1997), Prof. Matthew Kuperholz (OW1990), Natalie Vogel (OW1998), Simone Mangelsdorf (OW1998), Victoria Kahn (OW1999) and Christina Guerra (OW2000)

This March, the Learning in Residence (LiR) team partnered with the OWCA and Wesley College Alumni Relations to collaborate once again on an innovative experience: a careers and networking event tailored for current boarding students, giving them the opportunity to connect with distinguished Wesley alumni across various fields.

Alison Wray, Head of Careers Counselling at the Glen Waverley Campus, warmly welcomed everyone to the communal

Dining Hall for dinner, setting the stage for an evening of insightful discussions. OWs took the floor, sharing cherished memories of their time at Wesley.

The alumni then engaged in intimate discussions with smaller groups of students over dinner, who demonstrated keen interest and preparation by asking thoughtful questions about the experiences and career paths of each of our guests.

The event boasted an impressive line-up, and we thank the following OWs for their time:

- Matthew Kuperholz (OW1990), AI Professor
- Isabella Dunwill (OW1996), Actress
- Sally Walshe (OW1997), Artist
- Simone Mangelsdorf (OW1998), Psychologist
- Natalie Vogel (OW1998), Barrister
- Victoria Kahn (OW1999), Physiotherapist
- Christina Guerra (OW2000), Procurement Manager
- Natasha Nosiara (OW2018), Environmental Scientist

These exceptional individuals reflect the diverse talents and achievements of Wesley alumni, providing invaluable inspiration and guidance for current students as they navigate their own paths to success.

Buoyed by the success of the evening, we will continue to host more collaborative events within the LiR program, and across the wider College.

Revved-up excitement Auto Day 2024

Engines roared and chrome sparkled as the OWCA's much-loved Auto Day made its triumphant return on Sunday 18 February at our Glen Waverley Campus. This year's theme, 'Show & Shine', was a spectacle to behold, bringing together car enthusiasts from all walks of life.

With over 50 cars on display, from 'Everyday Drivers' to 'Cultural Icons,' 'Luxury' vehicles to 'Workhorses' and everything in between, the event truly captured the essence of automotive culture, with each vehicle telling its own unique story.

Guiding the crowd of more than 80 from the OW community through the day's festivities was the charismatic Mark Samlal (OW1982), who served as the event's Master of Ceremonies. With his infectious enthusiasm and knowledge of all things automotive, Mark kept the crowd entertained, providing insight into the history and significance of many of the vehicles on display.



Amidst the humming engines and gleaming paintwork, attendees had the opportunity to refuel and recharge thanks to the Collegians Football Club and their superb sausage sizzle, coffee from Wesley partner Rush Mobile Café, and a glorious gelato cart sponsored by the OWCA.

More than just a showcase of cars, the OWCA Auto Day served as a gathering place for alumni to connect, share stories and forge new friendships. Many thanks to Brad Gavin (OW1994) for supplying the trophies and prizes awarded on the day.



Reunions

St Kilda Road Campus 60 Year Reunion



St Kilda Road Campus 50 Year Reunion



St Kilda Road Campus 25 Year Reunion



Glen Waverley Campus 20 Year Reunion



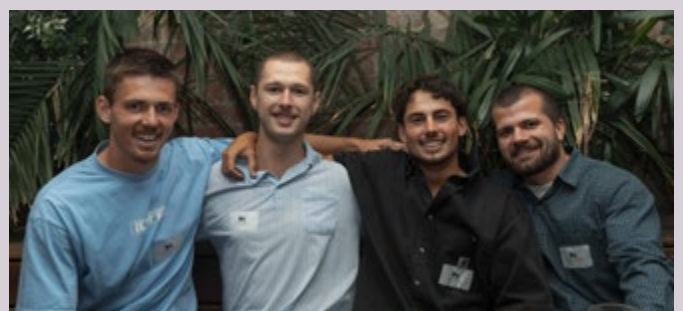
St Kilda Road Campus 20 Year Reunion



Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road Campuses'
10 Year Reunion



Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road Campuses'
5 Year Reunion



Affiliates

Collegians Football Club

After six rounds and a slow start to the year, our senior men's side now sit second on the ladder with four wins and two losses recorded. We have had many injuries early in the season and are therefore giving a number of young players some senior experience as we know this will hold us in good stead for the future. We firmly believe our second half of the year will be better than the first, so look out for a great run going forward.

Our women's seniors have also recorded four wins and two losses and sit in fourth place. This season has so far been more balanced, and we have been very competitive against all teams. We still look likely to play finals again this year in the Premier competition. Our women's program has grown to three teams and the second and third sides have been very competitive, so much so, the thirds were put up a couple of grades as they were beating teams by too much each week. What a problem to have!

The Under 19 boys sit on top of their division undefeated and with a percentage of over 300. They are set for a big year and under the guidance of coach Rick Morris (OW2004), the boys are looking the goods to go deep into finals and have a real chance to win a premiership.

In total, we are fielding seven teams each week and all teams are performing at a great level and doing the club very proud. We regularly have five wins each weekend across the board, so no-one can be disappointed with those returns!

I would like to congratulate Andrew 'Crackers' Kenneally (OW1985) on his appointment as President of Collegians Football Club. I wish Crackers all the best and will be by his side to help him wherever needed.

At our season launch, Nick Hibbins (OW1982) was inducted as a life member. This is a great reward for Hibbo whose service to the club goes all the way back to starting as an Under 19s player in 1983. Since then, he has coached Under 19s to a premiership in 2016 and was our inaugural Women's coach in 2017. He is now coaching our Reserves.



Nick Hibbins (OW1982) receives life membership award from immediate past President, Rod Nancarrow (OW1982)



Annabelle Schmidt (OW2023) and Lauren Kenneally (OW2023) are the first girls to follow in their father's footsteps and play for Collegians



Captain Sam Hibbins (OW2011) is chaired off the ground after his 200th game for Collegians

Life Membership of the Club is a great honour and Hibbo was duly humbled to receive it. He is following in the Hibbins family footsteps at the club with his uncle Geoff (OW1948), father Lex (OW1953), brother Mark (OW1978) and nephew Sam (OW2011), our current Club Captain, all making and continuing to make, unbelievable contributions to Collegians. Sam celebrated his 200th game recently, kicking three goals in the last quarter in a rare visit to the forward line.

We have had a number of successful home game functions already this year, including a great Past Players lunch after a successful season launch in March.

There is always an event coming up at Collegians, so go to the website to book and come along and enjoy a great time with great people and great football.

Our membership and sponsors are growing, but we are always looking for more people to get involved with the club.

For any questions on Collegians Football Club or to get involved, please contact Immediate Past President **Rodney Nancarrow (OW1982)** on **0412 687 430** or email **rnancarrow@iprimus.com.au**

OW Bowls

We play various games throughout the year at MCC Swinburne and MCC Glen Street against other APS schools. We have had varying success with our games. We played on Wednesday 14 February and our two rinks were able to come away with a win. Team 1 won with a score of 21 shots to 20 against Old Melbourne Grammarians while Team 2 won 14 shots to 12 against Old Scotch.

Our last game for this season was played at the Glen Waverley Bowls Club Inc on Sunday 24 March. Wesley performed extremely well, finishing third overall. Congratulations to the rink of Frank Benjamin, Peter (Bones) Rogan and Barrie Jackett for winning the best Wesley rink for the day and the best performing rink for the tournament with 30 shots up.

Overall, a great day for Wesley bowls. Next year is the 51-year anniversary of the event. It appears that Wesley won the event in 1974 and 1975. Wesley will also be the host next year, so hopefully we can bring home the prize.



OW Bowls proudly wearing their new vests, donated by the OWCA

OWCA needs 12 players per match which means that we have four rinks to compete against other APS schools. Like other schools, we are struggling to get 12 players on the day, so contact us if you'd like to play. It is a great social activity and getting out into the fresh air is always enjoyed by all who participate. The luncheons, when offered, are a good time to catch up on what has been happening in our lives and reminisce about Wesley days.

I would like to thank the Old Wesley Collegians Association for supplying new vests for the Bowls group. If you would like to join us for our future games, please contact me. We are always looking for new blood to boost up the ranks as we are all not getting any younger!

Richard Sluggett (OW1972)
Co-ordinator OWCA Bowls

OW Golf

The annual OWCA v Old Scotch Collegians Association (OSCA) Golf Day was held at Kew Golf Club on 1 December 2023. Players tested their game on a layout presented in beautiful condition. Some excellent form was on display in the fine afternoon weather. OSCA was successful in retaining the trophy, but Scott Booth's (OW1985) performance was a highlight for the OWCA. A strong fellowship has developed through the event, and we look forward to reclaiming the cup in 2024.

Peter Johnson (OW1995)



OWCA v OSCA 2023



Alex Dakin (OW1996), James Renkin (OW1996) and Richard Hosking (OW1996)

OWCA v OSCA 2023 Annual Golf Day

(Aggregate of the top 12 individual stableford scores)

**OSCA: 399 points defeated
OWCA: 384 points**

H J Kroger 4 Ball Best Ball Trophy
Won by Jim Bulling (OW1974)
and Sam Cutts (OW2007) (41 points)

Dr John Kennedy Handicap Trophy
Won by Scott Booth (OW1985)
(36 points)

Runner-up: David Crow (OW1966)
(35 points)
3rd place: Stuart Eason (OW1983)
(35 points)
4th place: Ian Lockwood (OW1985)
(34 points)
5th place: Cooper Brown (OW2021)
(34 points)

H J Kroger 4 Ball Best Ball Trophy
Won by Scott Booth (OW1985)
(77 strokes)

Nearest the pin

4th hole: John Yates (OW1979)
11th hole: Scott Booth (OW1985)
14th hole: Jeremy Cutts (OW1970)
18th hole: Stuart Eason (OW1983)

Longest Drive

7th hole: Richard Hosking (OW1996)

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for
OWCA v OSCA 2024

**Friday 15 November
at Kew Golf Club**

Good golf and great
company provided.

All welcome!



Ski and Snowboard Club



Collegians Ski Club at Breathtaker Spur on Mount Buller

The 2024 snow season is just around the corner with the official opening on the King's Birthday weekend. Club members and guests are looking forward to a season of good snow and social connection at the well-appointed Collegians Ski Club at Mount Buller, which is situated in a spectacular position on Breathtaker Spur, with magnificent views across surrounding slopes and valleys from the comfortable lounge areas and wide balcony. From the family style lodge, you can ski directly onto Standard and Wood Run, and it is a short walk or shuttle ride to the Ski School and Bourke Street, the chairlifts to the Summit, and to adjacent slopes.

Collegians Ski Club was formed in 1963 to foster skiing amongst Old Wesley Collegians and their families and to encourage alpine sports amongst students of Wesley College.

Construction of the architect-designed lodge began in 1963 by Club Members and friends. Over intervening years, it has been continually updated and modernised so that it retains its early Mount Buller heritage charm, yet provides every modern comfort and facility required by today's snow sport enthusiasts.

Most recently, Collegians completed updates to the upstairs common areas, bar, TV room and bunk room ensuites. The lodge features eight bunk rooms, three with ensuites, the remaining with dedicated bathrooms, and a spacious entertaining area which includes a lounge with an open fire, bar, two TV rooms,

dining area and a fully equipped communal kitchen. The passageways and bunkrooms are carpeted throughout, and all rooms are centrally heated for comfort and enjoyment, with a spacious drying room available for use by all. The basement has space for storage of Club supplies, lockable ski racks, snowboard racks and individual lockers for members' food, clothing and equipment.

If you are planning a trip to Mount Buller in 2024, contact our booking officer now to set up a login and review our website. Bookings open on April 8 for the season, with a bed rate for 'Friends of Collegians' of \$135/night. June 2024 beds are offered at a discounted early season rate. By contacting the booking officer on bookings.collegians@gmail.com and listing your connection to Wesley College such as past student year, enrolled children or member of staff, you will be provided with a digital login to the Collegians Ski Club site at collegiansskiclub.org.au where bookings can be made at any time during the season, subject to availability.

Marianne Stillwell

OW Cricket



Throughout the 2023/24 season, Old Wesley Cricket witnessed outstanding individual performances and notable achievements on the field. The first XI had an up and down season, just missing out on finals after two narrow losses at the end of the season. New recruit, Uli van Duyker shone brightly, finishing the season with the most runs for the side, amassing an impressive total of 303 runs at an average of 75.75. Meanwhile, captain Rick Morris (OW2004) showcased his all-around skills, leading the bowling attack with 12 wickets at an average of 19.83 and making a memorable contribution with the bat, scoring a century against Old Caulfield.

In the second XI, there were signs of progress and improvement from the previous season. Despite falling short of the finals, the team demonstrated resilience and determination, with notable performances from new recruit Tanish Prabhu (OW2022), who led the bowling with 12 wickets at an average of 9.17. Rory Wilson (OW2022) also made significant contributions with the bat, scoring 138 runs at an average of 27.6 and delivering a stellar bowling performance of 6-28 against Old Trinity.

OWCC is now looking toward the 2024/25 season with anticipation. We are always looking for new recruits so if you'd like to be a part of the fun, contact **Rick Morris (OW2004)** on **0438 081 886**. We hope to see you for pre-season in Spring!

Ben Symon (OW2012)



JOIN THE WESLEY SUPPORT SQUAD

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

Shop online at: wesleysupportsquad.myshopify.com

Cross Country

The 2024 Cross Country season has officially kicked off! Running from April to September, the season includes a blend of on and off-road events, ranging from 4km to 21km. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just starting your running journey, there's something for everyone, with shorter distance options available for all types of runners.

OW Cross Country competes against 11 other APS clubs in a total of 12 events throughout the season. Five of these events have a team format, where the combined efforts of our runners contribute to our club's championship standings. In the previous season, OW Cross Country secured a very solid 6th place overall in the Open Division. And in 2024, we're determined to build on this result!



Adam Pyke (OW2013) leads the Tan Relays

We're always on the lookout for new runners to join the club. If you're an OW, a current student or a family member of a Collegian, you're more than welcome to lace up your running shoes and hit the trails with the OW club. There's no pressure to participate in every event. It's all about having fun, staying fit and connecting with a like-minded community of runners.

For recent school leavers, joining OW Cross Country provides an excellent opportunity to stay connected with Wesley running. As an added incentive, the annual registration fee is waived for runners under 20, making it even more accessible for younger athletes to get involved.

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



Leading the singing at Founders' Day Lunch

A Chorus Lion

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

Our first performance this year was in Fitchett Hall at the Elsternwick Campus on Wednesday 8 May where we performed some Hebrew songs as part of a Shoah Memorial Service organised by the Uniting Church, which Wesley is affiliated with. The following week, we lead the singing at the Founders' Day Lunch at Kooyong, which is always enjoyable for both the choir and guests.

We have a couple of Aged Care facilities who have shown an interest in a visit from the choir, as music provides a real lift to their residents. We greatly enjoyed singing Christmas Carols at Sacred Heart Mission in St Kilda late last year.

If you have any suggestions of organisations who would enjoy a concert, or if you'd like to join the choir, please contact secretary **John Milliken** via choruslionwes@gmail.com.

New members are always welcome!

Susie Rodgers-Wilson
(OWCA Honorary Life Member)
Community Liaison Officer

Calendar

June

Sydney Event

Saturday 15 | 6.00pm
Intercontinental Sydney, Double Bay

Hong Kong Event

Sunday 23 | 3.00pm - 6.00pm
Alibi, Cordis Hotel

August

Canberra Event

Wednesday 21 | 6.30pm - 9.30pm
Cahoot's Lounge, QT

SKR (OW1984) 40 Year Reunion

Friday 23 | 7.00pm
Cato Room, SKR

October

Singapore Event

Thursday 3 | 7.00pm
Venue TBC

Elsternwick Silver Stars Lunch

Friday 4 | 12.00pm - 3.00pm
Fitchett Hall, Elsternwick

SKR & GW (OW2023) 1 Year Reunion

Friday 11 | 7.00pm
College Lawn Hotel, Prahran

Mornington Peninsula Lunch

Wednesday 16 | 11.30am - 3.00pm
Venue TBC

GW (OW1994) 30 Year Reunion

Friday 18 | 7.00pm
Alex Room, GW

SKR (OW1994) 30 Year Reunion

Friday 25 | 7.00pm
Cato Room, SKR

November

OWCA v OSCA Golf Day

Friday 15
Kew Golf Course

Geelong Lunch

Saturday 23 | 12.00pm - 3.00pm
The Geelong Boathouse, Geelong



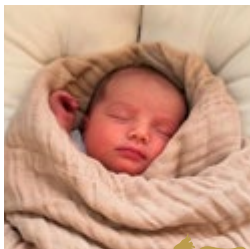
Births

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



ANDERSON

To Matthew (OW2008) and Zoe in March 2024, a son, Patrick, a nephew for Laura Anderson (OW2005) and Alastair Driver (OW2011)



COOK

To Will (OW2009) and Nikia Shepherd in May 2024, a daughter, Tahli Elise, a niece for Sam (OW2003), Sally (OW2006) and Lucy (OW2013)



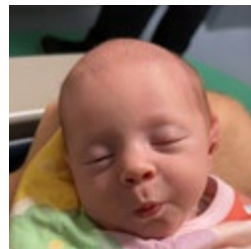
DYER

To Michael (OW2008) and Brody Driscoll in February 2024, a son, Beau James, a grandson for Wayne (OWCA Honorary Life Member) and Amanda (OWCA Honorary Life Member), a nephew for Jess (OW2010)



ELDRIDGE

To Camille and Sean Stanton in December 2023, a daughter, Mia Rose, a niece for Chloe (OW2010) and Georgia (OW2010)



GROSS

To Zac Gross (OW2004) and Monique Hardinge in December 2023, a daughter, Leah, a niece for Ella (OW2006) and Grace (OW2008)



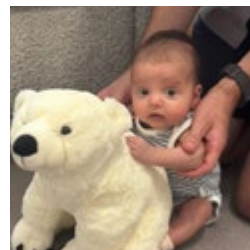
HAYSELDEN

To Bridget (Steele) (OW2006) and Greg in January 2024, a daughter, Zoe Anne, a sister for Archie, a granddaughter for David Steele (past staff), a niece for Megan Steele (OW1999) and Ellen Steele (OW2001)



JOHNSON

To Will (OW2007) and Bella in March 2024, a daughter, India Fox, a niece for Paris (OW2005) and Hugh (OW2015)



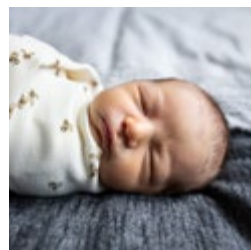
KROGER

To Simon (OW2009) and Emily (Barnuevo) (OW2009) in December 2023, a daughter, Penelope, a granddaughter for Michael Kroger (OW1974) and Helen (Elsternwick MLC 1976), a niece for Jack (OW2007)



KRONBORG

To Erik (OW2001) and Mia (Brakey) (OW2001) in June 2023, a son, Benjamin Ian, a brother for Phoebe and Freddie, a grandson for Ian Kronborg (OW1966), a nephew for Joel Brakey (OW1996), Harry Kronborg (OW1998) and Emily Kirborg (Kronborg) (OW2005)



LEVINGE

To Emily (OW2006) and Nick Mollinson in January 2024, a son, Austin James, a grandson for Peter (OW1977), a nephew for Will (OW2006)



LEVINGE

To Will (OW2009) and Lane in August 2023, a daughter, Victoria Lane, a granddaughter for Peter (OW1977), a niece for Emily (OW2006)



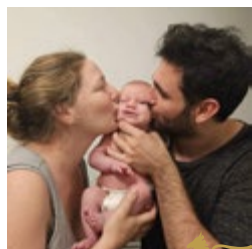
LOUEY

To Gregory (OW2007) and Kylie (Saw) (OW2007) in October 2023, a daughter, Samantha, a sister for Victoria, a niece for Warrick Louey (OW2001) and Kenneth Saw (OW2005)



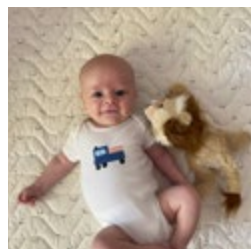
LYNCH

To James (OW2000) and Laura in February 2024, twin sons, Albie and Jack (dec), grandsons for Sue (past staff), nephews for Myles (OW2003)



NEAVE

To Phoebe (OW2009) and Nils Hebert in January 2024, a son, Archer Alexandre, a nephew for Thea (OW2003) and Sophie (OW2006)



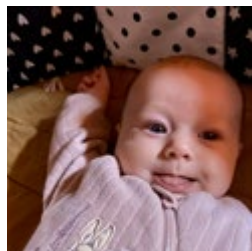
O'SULLIVAN

To Katie (OW2008) and Brady Egan in November 2023, a son, Banks, a grandson for Di Barclay (Elsternwick MLC 1975), a nephew for Ryan (OW2007)



PODOLSKAYA

To Yana (OW1993) and Clifford Castle in February 2024, a son, Connor Stefan, a brother for Clinton



POWELL

To Stephanie (OW2005) and Edmund Irwin in February 2024, a daughter, Freya Ivy, a granddaughter for Philip (OW1973) and niece for Rachel (OW2009)



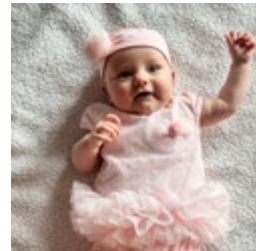
RICCI

To Amanda (Pascoe) (OW2004) and Matt in April 2023, a son, James Leonard, a brother for Edward and Alice, a niece for Georgia Pascoe (OW2007)



SIEW

To Leit-Chin (OW1994) and Aruna in July 2023, a daughter, Julia Priyanka Chun-Le, a granddaughter for Chian (OW1968) and Ying (Elsternwick MLC 1968), a niece for Sein-Huei (OW1996)



SMITH

To Andrew (OW1993) and Lynn in January 2024, a daughter, Maggie, a sister for Caelan and Aiden, a niece for Melanie (OW1996)



SPENCER

To Myra (OW2006) and Jamie McGrane in May 2021, a daughter, Caoimhe, a niece for Beatrix (OW2008)



STEPHENSON

To Britt (OW2010) and Joseph Palamara in May 2024, a daughter, Mackenzie Fia, a sister for Hailey, a niece for Ryan (OW2002) and Tyler (OW2005), a granddaughter for Terri (past staff)



ZIMBACHS

To Trent (OW2004) and Katie in December 2023, a son, Oscar



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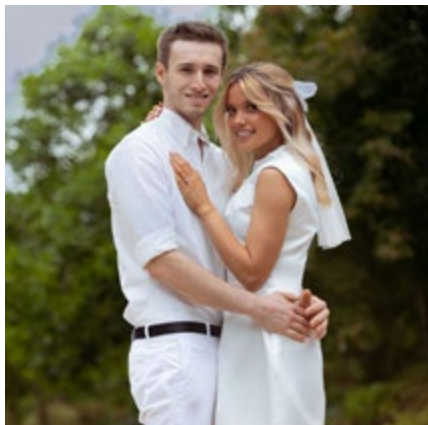
Applications can be completed online by visiting
wesleycollege.edu.au/enrol/domestic-applications

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

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



Engagements



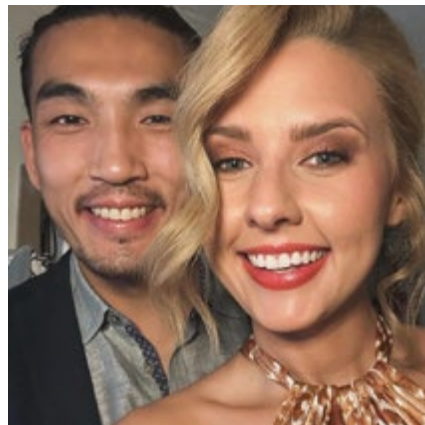
ANDERSON – GILLIES

Courtney (OW2016) to Campbell (OW2016)



CROFT – WEST

Zander (OW2010) to Gabrielle (OW2010)



FINDLAY – FELMAN

Rachael (OW2011) to Will



GODFREY – LETHBRIDGE

Michael (OW2009) to Angela (OW2009)



MARETT – MURNANE

Geoff (OW2010) to Molly



NANCARROW – PEREIRA

Tim (OW2014) to Lauren



O'SULLIVAN – EGAN

Katie (OW2008) to Brady



POLLAERS – SHARPLES

Cameron (OW2016) to Kerrie (OW2016)



STRINGER – ROBSON

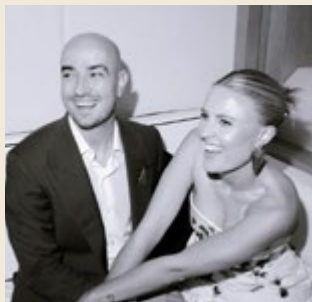
Chloe (OW2012) to Oliver

Weddings



BUCKLEY – MALDONADO

Jonny (OW1999) and Mike
on 10 February 2024



BULLING – BARLOW

Lucy (OW2010) and Josh
on 5 April 2024



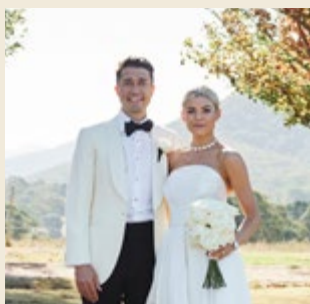
BURCH – JOLLY

Dylan (OW2007) and Madeleine
on 7 October 2023



GRIMA – SULLIVAN

Alexandra (OW2010) and
Dom on 20 April 2024



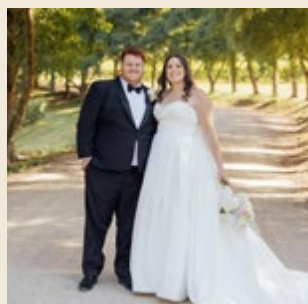
LEVINGE – WIEDERSTEIN

Will (OW2009) and Lane
on 23 February 2024



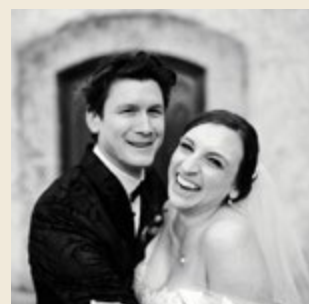
LODER – ANDREWARTHUR

Jack (OW2006) and Ross
on 7 December 2023



MARSH – ASHMAN

Sam (OW2013) and Madison
on 2 February 2024



MURDOCH – MARTIN

Lachlan (OW2005) and Jacqui
(OW2005) on 9 September 2023



NELSON – THORNTON

Lexi (OW2009) and Scott
on 24 February 2024



O'DONNELL – FERRIER

Tom (OW2009) and Charlotte
on 22 February 2022



RATTRAY – ACTON

Ellen (OW2009) and Jack
on 9 February 2024



VARIGOS – PENTARIS

Tim (OW2010) and Nikki
on 10 February 2024



Deaths

ALLAN

Bruce James (OW1962) on 16 April 2024, brother of Douglas (OW1959) and David (OW1967), father of Darren (OW1988) and Brett (OW1990), grandfather of James (OW2016) and Joshua (OW2018)

BARTON

Peter Arthur (OW1976) on 17 December 2023, father of Matt (OW2012), uncle of Belinda Woolcock (OW2012)

BOSTON

Brian David (OW1942) on 6 June 2022, son of Norman, second cousin of Gordon (OW1951) (dec)

BROWN

Graham (OW1961) on 5 November 2023

BUTLER

Douglas (Past Staff) on 17 March 2023

CALLINGHAM

Kate McCarthy (OW2002) on 27 April 2024

COCKS

George Edis (OW1957) on 17 April 2024

COLWELL

Donald Allister (OW1939) on 27 August 2023, brother of Stanley (OW1936) (dec)

ELLIOTT

Russell (OW1948) on 1 January 2024, brother of Alex (OW1940) (dec), cousin of Ann Reynolds (MLC Elsternwick 1949)

FRAZER

John Clive (OW1949) on 5 April 2024

GARDENER

Matthew (OW1991) on 9 October 2023, brother of Nicholas (OW1997)

HOSKEN

Dennis Edwin (OW1961) on 6 September 2023, father of Ben (OW1989) and Adam (OW1991)

HOWARTH

Graeme Sandford Wood (OW1956) on 22 March 2024

JAMES

Jean (Past Staff) on 7 March 2024, mother of Paul (OW1976) and Rodney (OW1979)

LEVY

Robin Abraham (OW1948) on 23 April 2024, son of Frank (OW1920) (dec), nephew of Ken (OW1932) (dec), brother of Bruce (OW1951)

MEADOWS

Norman Henry (OW1949) on 12 November 2023, father of Michael (OW1972) and Peter (OW1988)

OLDFIELD

Jean (Huntsman) (Past Co-Patron of Sapere Aude Bequest Society) on 22 March 2024, daughter of Walter Huntsman (OW1906), wife of Doug (OW1946), mother of Doug (OW1970), grandmother of Al (OW1999), Tim (OW2002), Rick Gerbes (OW2003), Erin Mahony (OW2010), Linley Mahony (OW2012) and Sian Mahony (OW2016)

OVEREND

Darren (OW1961) on 15 January 2024, son of Acheson (OW1926) (dec), brother of Loftus (OW1956) and Best (OW1957) (dec)

PHILP

John (OW1957) on 6 October 2022, brother of Robert (OW1965)

PITTS

John Michael (OW1969) on 17 October 2023, son of Deric (OW1929) (dec), nephew of Ellis (OW1930) (dec), brother of David (OW1960)

PLANT

John (OW1956) on 31 October 2023

SMAIRL

John Alfred (OW1963) on 11 December 2023

STAFFORD

John (OW1947) on 2 May 2024

SWAIN

Roger (OW1951) on 5 August 2022, brother of Peter (OW1948)

TREYVAUD

Ian Livingston (OW1960) on 18 February 2024, brother of Leigh (OW1963), uncle of Simone (OW1988)

WEBBER

Rev Alfred (Fred) (Past Staff) on 13 April 2024, father of Robert (OW1970), Christine Dagley (Webber) (Elsternwick MLC 1972), Rosemary Sluggett (Webber) (Cato MLC 1975) and Kent (OW1978), father-in-law of Richard Sluggett (OW1972) and Murray Dagley (OW1973), grandfather of John Dagley (OW1999), Stephen Dagley (OW1999), Andrew Dagley (OW2001), Melissa Dagley (OW2002), Amy Sluggett (OW2002), Matthew Sluggett (OW2005) and Russell Sluggett (OW2008)



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Remembrances



REV FRED WEBBER

(Past staff)

04/03/1929 – 13/04/2024

Reverend Alfred D Webber (B.A., B.D, Dip. Ed. Dip. R.E. Dip. L.S.) served as Wesley College Chaplain for 25 years, making him the longest serving Chaplain in the history of the College.

‘Fred’ as he was known to colleagues and friends, was born in Brisbane in 1929 to Richard (from Cornwall) and Annie (from Yorkshire). His parents were both Methodists but came separately to Australia to start a new life. The Cornwall Methodists were famous for singing hymns, and it is said that even the fishermen at sea could hear their singing.

Life was not easy for the family when Fred was a child. The 1930s were the Great Depression and being frugal and careful with money became a guiding principle for him.

He was the eldest of three brothers, a book lover and a scholar. He completed his undergraduate studies in Theology and the Arts at King’s College in Brisbane, and was ordained in 1953. Married to Della, he was a father to four children, Robert, Christine, Rosemary and Kent.

Fred’s wish was to be a minister and a teacher - something he was unable to combine in Queensland, so the family moved to Victoria and in 1967, he commenced a long stint as Chaplain at Wesley’s senior campus in Prahran.

Both Robert (OW1970) and Kent (OW1978) attended Wesley College, whilst Christine and Rosemary attended MLC Cato (now the Elsternwick Campus).

Reverend Webber graciously navigated the radical changes that swept the religious and social landscape of Australia between 1967-1991. In his time as Chaplain, he was instrumental in leading Wesley’s cultural evolution from traditional Methodist boys’ school to a coeducational college in association with the Uniting Church in Australia.

Many Wesley alumni from his time as Chaplain have memories of Reverend Webber attending their Bar Mitzvahs, Greek Orthodox Easter Services and cultural celebrations of importance to the increasingly diverse Wesley community.

In an article published in the October 1991 edition of the *Lion Magazine*, David Prest, Principal of Wesley College from 1972-1991, wrote, ‘Perhaps one of Fred’s greatest contributions to education was his pride in a multicultural Wesley, a school where tolerance, understanding, equal opportunity, reconciliation and consideration of others are part of his legacy. He saw Wesley as a microcosm of what a true society could be, and his often brilliant services and sermons fostered respect for various religions and cultures without denying his own.’

Described as a teacher of energy, care, determination, clarity and effectiveness, Reverend Webber taught HSC Biblical Studies with a liberal syllabus, eliciting consistently outstanding results from students. In contrast to many other schools, Webber’s Biblical Studies classes were a popular elective and well-attended by students who identified as Christian, atheist or adherents to other faiths.

Fred was a trail blazer. He respected and introduced the Aboriginal Dreamtime into the Victorian religious education curriculum back in the 70s. He respected people with conflicting opinions, accepted family issues that were not in the Christian doctrine and saw the good in everyone.

Many alumni from the era credit his pastoral care and encouragement to the sense of pride in tradition that fostered their feeling of belonging to Wesley College. John Wesley, who created the faith community that Fred was baptised into, had a motto which captures the essence of the man we honour and remember:



Rev. Fred Webber with wife, Della

*‘Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can’*

Contributions from Robert Webber (OW1970), Kent Webber (OW1978), Prof. Graeme Samuel AC (OW1963) and Kaylea Fearn, current Chaplain, St Kilda Road Campus

Remembering Rev. Fred Webber

If you would like to share a special memory or post a tribute to Rev. Fred Webber, please email owca@wesleycollege.edu.au and we will share it online. You can also read these tributes using the QR code below.



JEAN MARGARET JAMES

(Past staff)

03/05/1933 – 07/03/2024

In 1978, Jean was chosen to open what is now an icon in Wesley's past: the Preparatory School at Glen Waverley. She understood the extent of that challenge. Yet, throughout all the trials, tribulations and triumphs involved in starting a school, she remained a true believer. Her belief in coeducation's timeliness inspired another set of true believers, her colleagues.

Change divides even the most authentic of communities. In the 1970s, many Wesleyans wanted their daughters to wear the purple and gold. Yet, nearly as many thought that introducing girls would be the beginning of the end for this 'great Australian school'.

Jean believed that her God had called her to this task. She never contemplated failure. Her conviction was pure. Brilliant colleagues, an exquisitely unique, purpose-built architectural setting at the Glen Waverley Campus and a passion for her profession, greater than any she had felt before: everything was right! She would often say to me, 'How could we ever fail?' Her conviction, like so many of her other qualities, was contagious.

This revolution happened nearly fifty years ago. Wesley is now synonymous with contemporaneity. Our Preparatory school has since become a lighthouse not only for young Wesleyans, but for other Early Childhood educators throughout Australia. The values nurtured in those spaces are timeless.

As Jean's graduates moved their frontier of anti-gender discrimination through our school, their contribution to growth at Wesley burgeoned. They enticed others to come join them, to understand that being a good person, who valued difference in its many guises, mattered.

It was not only students who influenced that cultural shift at Wesley and in our wider community. Many of her early colleagues went on to challenging positions of responsibility at or beyond



Wesley. I often meet those OWs in their various positions of responsibility. They are now in their forties and early fifties. They affectionately recall 'Mrs James' and their memories of 'her school'.

Most adults underplay the importance of childhood, considering it simply 'games and finger-painting' but not Jean, nor those she inspired. These were the years when you learned to say with meaning, 'I can!' Years when you learned to listen, to share, to imagine, to admire, to think of others. Equally, you learned to spell, to read and to write, and to do your sums. Jean's list was endless. But most importantly, you learned to begin to put meaning into a world that was incomprehensible, full of a myriad of stimuli that had to be understood, to be systematised, to be correlated and even to be thought causal! For Jean, the best and most highly skilled teaching was done in the Preparatory years, from Beginners to Year 4. For Jean, the young mind was doing the most complex work.

At her funeral, I sat with some great Wesleyans, who knew Jean first-hand. The incomparable Kim Anderson, Pat Stevens, Judy Ridgway, Jan Lynden-Bell and Sue Stubbs, the inimitable Ross and Christine Oakley, mighty Martyn Smith and his daughter Kirrily, past Head Peter

Dickenson, and the enigmatic Brian Nankervis. They each had their own cherished memories of Jean on the countless stages she graced at Wesley.

She was, in no way, self-centred or egotistical. If there was ever a bad word spoken of Jean, I did not hear it. I was not at Wesley when someone very astute decided to name the Preparatory School oval, the 'Jean M James' oval. But I know she was absolutely delighted.

Her delight lay not in any feelings that might involve ego-stroking or something similar, but in her most private thoughts: it would be that the 'powers that be' had recognised that she had done her singularly complex and difficult task for Wesley as well as she could, that she had been very successful, and that her God would have been pleased, even very pleased.

Contributed by Tony Conabere
Head of Glen Waverley Campus (1977-1985) and Head of St Kilda Road Campus (Pahran) (1986-1995)

Remembering Jean James

If you would like to share a special memory or post a tribute to Jean James, please email owca@wesleycollege.edu.au and we will share it online. You can read these tributes using the QR code below.





JEAN OLDFIELD

15/09/1929 – 22/03/2024

Jean Oldfield is the widow of Doug Oldfield (OW1946), a past President of the OWCA, past member of the College Council, past President of Council and Fellow of Wesley College. Jean was the daughter of Walter Benjamin Huntsman (OW1905) and niece of Harry Huntsman (OW1906), who was killed near Polygon Wood, Belgium in 1917, during the Third Battle of Ypres.

Jean was a strong supporter of Wesley College over many years, in particular the Sapere Aude Bequest Society, and was Co-Patron with the late Jean Prest and Gordon Newton (OW1950).

Jean, Jean Prest and Gordon Newton worked together to instigate and develop the Sapere Aude Bequest Society as a pathway for members of the Wesley community to provide enduring benefits for future generations of Wesley Collegians. All bequestors are welcomed as members of the Sapere Aude Bequest Society and join a great coterie of alumni, current and past parents, staff and friends of the College.

A rowing four boat was named the Jean Oldfield at the Wesley Boat Shed in 1984. This boat was specifically built for the new cohort of girl rowers at Wesley College following the adoption of coeducation. In 1994, the Douglas and Jean Oldfield Courtyard at the Elsternwick Campus was officially opened.



Jean and Doug Oldfield (OW1946) at the dedication of the new courtyard at the Elsternwick Campus in 1994

Jean was educated at Shelford Girls Grammar (1937-1942) and Presbyterian Ladies College (1943-1947). Her enduring love of tennis stayed with her for her entire life. She married Doug in 1951 and subsequently raised four children – Douglas (OW1970), Mardi, Bronwyn and Lisa. The three girls attended PLC.

Apart from Jean's interest in Wesley College, she forged a long and mostly voluntary career in the Girl Guides, serving at all levels of leadership in Victoria from 1961. She was appointed Victorian Assistant State Commissioner in 1973 and served in this role for five years. Jean was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 for her enduring service to the Girl Guides, and the esteemed Emu Award for excellent service to Guiding in various appointments at a State and national level.

On completing active service in the Girl Guides, Jean took up a voluntary role with the Multiple Sclerosis Society, primarily working in their opportunity shops and distributing Christmas cards to regional MS opportunity shops around Victoria. This role continued until 2006.

Jean is survived by Doug Oldfield (OW1970), Mardi, Bronwyn and Lisa, and is grandmother to Alistair Oldfield (OW1999), Tim Oldfield (OW2002), Chris Gerbes, Rick Gerbes (OW2006), Justin Allen, Mitchell Allen, Erin Mahony (OW2010), Linley Mahony (OW2012) and Sian Mahony (OW2016). In all, Jean was fortunate to have nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Contributed by Doug Oldfield (OW1946)



Remembering Jean Oldfield

If you would like to share a special memory or post a tribute to Jean Oldfield, please email owca@wesleycollege.edu.au and we will share it online. You can read these tributes using the QR code below.





DOUGLAS BUTLER
(Past staff)

09/09/1943 – 17/03/2024

Douglas came to Wesley in 1994 during the principalship of Dr Glen McArthur and left towards the end of the principalship of David Loader OAM. His impact at Wesley was extraordinary and far reaching and energised the College's marketing and philanthropic activities.

It was through the good offices of Graeme Samuel AC (OW1963) that Douglas found his way to Wesley College.

As Graeme reflected on hearing the news of Douglas' passing, 'He was a treasure with so much expertise and goodwill flowing through his veins that he gained the admiration of all that knew him.'

Dr Andrew Lemon AM in the school history 'The Best School of All' encapsulates Douglas' contribution beautifully, '(Graeme) Samuel, too, was enthusiastic about adding class and business sparkle to Wesley. Butler was experienced in public relations in the corporate world, having worked for many years at the Westpac Bank and its antecedents. He was primed with ideas about how a school with Wesley's advantages could promote and publicise itself.'

The *Lion* magazine, which had been tossed around between the Foundation and the OWCA for some time, was given a further dose of glamour. It was Butler who brought promotional videos, advertising on trams, gimmick advertising in the press and magazines, prospectuses aimed at children as much as their parents, billboards, advertising in cinemas and other marketing ploys to Wesley.

Douglas was brilliant at his job. He was incisive, inclusive, collaborative, gregarious, direct and incredibly witty. He enjoyed the good life and had many interests including reading, food, wine and travelling, to mention but a few!

Douglas liked helping people, especially those starting out. His sage advice and expert guidance was frequently sought

and willingly given. He cared for people. Many have expressed how Douglas helped them in shaping their life's direction. If he saw a talent in you, he would have no hesitation in telling you! In this respect, he had a wide-ranging impact on many students and colleagues.

Douglas Butler made a remarkable contribution in helping to position the College for a new century. His legacy lives on in so many ways but most importantly, in the lives of the people that had the privilege of sharing his company. He embraced our motto and was the very definition of dare to be wise. He shall be remembered fondly by all who knew him.

Contributed by Kenneth W Park

Remembering Douglas Butler

If you would like to share a special memory or post a tribute to Douglas Butler, please email owca@wesleycollege.edu.au and we will share it online. You can read these tributes using the QR code below.



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

RUSSELL ELLIOTT (OW1948)

02/11/1930 – 03/01/2024

Born in Goulburn, Russell completed his education at Wesley College, after which he attended university before working at the Broadford Paper Mills until an opportunity came up to work overseas in 1957.

Russell embarked on the adventure of a lifetime, first to London where he joined Shell International and stayed until 1958, after which he lived in The Hague in The Netherlands until 1960. From there, Russell was transferred to Willemstad, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles off the coast of Venezuela; by the time he left, he was fluent in Dutch.

Around 1965, Russell was transferred to Point Fortin in Trinidad. He was an auditor with Shell and used to fly to various islands in the Caribbean to conduct audits.

In 1970, Russell was transferred to Brunei where he spent eight years as Treasurer and eight years living in paradise, truly the place he called home.

In 1978, Russell was transferred to Windhoek, Southwest Africa (now Namibia) where he lived for two years, enjoying the spectacular country and amazing wildlife. He had wonderful memories of driving from Cape Town to Windhoek.

Around 1980, Russell was transferred to Port Gentil in Gabon, West Africa. He shared memories of running across the tarmac to catch a plane as they had a



habit of overbooking. He told us, 'You would run like hell to try to get on as once full, they would shut the door and the people left behind would have to try the next flight!' During this time there, he became fluent in French.

Around 1982, Russell was transferred to Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman, which comes a close second to Brunei. In those days there was no tourism, so he pretty much saw life as it had been for centuries; an incredible country with wonderful people and a place always in our hearts.

Russell retired in 1987 but took up a contract to Lagos, Nigeria, by all accounts a pretty hairy place. His driver was called 'Good Luck' and his cook was called 'Blessing.' There was no doubt that both good luck and blessings were needed to get by in such a volatile place!

Since then, Russell had been based in Sydney. Always sporty, Russell loved his tennis and golf and played tennis until his late 80s. Up until a few years ago, Lindy and Russell went to the Australian Open in Melbourne every year, notching up 18 years in a row.

He was a fixture around Lane Cove for years, walking to his favourite cafe and book shop every day until just before he passed. It is a lovely community where the shopkeepers and café workers looked out for him.

Russell is survived by his children Mark, Lindy and Jo-Anne, granddaughters, Stephanie and Jennifer, and grandson Chris, and five great granddaughters, Georgia, May, Emma, Ivy and Anna.

A grand, adventurous life. He will be missed.

Contributed by Lindy Elliott

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Noah.LaCombre@wesleycollege.edu.au

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Chorus Lion

Susie Rodgers-Wilson
(OWCA Honorary Life Member)
+ 61 419 898 933 choruslionwes@gmail.com

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Venue TBC



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