



# eNEWSLETTER



oldboys@wc.school.nz | Wellington College Old Boys



## Greetings from the WCOBA President

**D**espite being our 3rd COVID year, it certainly has been a positive start to the school year. I would

like to acknowledge the staff who are so passionate about safeguarding the health and safety of the boys and our whole community. Like most schools nonetheless, Omicron continues to be with us and the School has seen a number of confirmed cases and household contacts over the past few weeks. However, vibrancy and positivity have pervaded all areas and I am sure that 2022 will be another exciting year of curiosity, innovation, creativity, deep learning, connection, involvement and fun for the students.



Many of you will know that the Board of Trustees have appointed **Glen Denham** as the fifteenth Headmaster of Wellington College and takes up his role at the beginning of Term Two.

Glen is recognised as an outstanding

educator and leader. He is currently Principal of Massey High School in Auckland and comes to Wellington College after 32 years in education, with 17 years' experience as a Principal in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Glen is also a celebrated former New Zealand basketball representative and captain. He was Head Prefect of King's High School, Dunedin in his schooling years.

I had the pleasure of meeting Glen recently and feel very inspired that he will join our school with a clear passion for his students, for learning and an expectation of high standards. Having caught up with the Old Boys' Association, acquainting himself with previous *Lampstands*, he has a great passion for ensuring current students engage with the school's history and our Old Boy community. Glen also took the opportunity to visit our Archives and was very impressed with the displays and the range of memorabilia collected over 150 plus years.

We look forward to engaging with Glen as we seek to align the Old Boys and Archives closer to the College and alongside his vision.

We continue to contract both Steph Kane and Mike Pallin for 2022 and are very thankful for the work they carry out for the Association and the Archives. I have also very much appreciated the feedback from many of you following the issue of our 2021 *Lampstand*. A number of stories, recommendations and memorabilia was received and as we digest all this mail, we look forward to sharing much of this with you throughout this year.

To the Class of 2021, welcome to the Old Boys' community! You have endured two years of lockdowns, periods of home-based learning and missed sporting, social and co-curricular activities - we are proud of your resilience and achievements.

The Old Boys' Executive and I now turn our attention to 2022 and creating a calendar of events and initiatives to introduce you to our new Headmaster and to reconnect with as many Old Boys as possible. We aim to engage with Old Boys locally and in the regions and internationally, and to support and grow our community.

**TED THOMAS, Class of 1976**

# AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 25 May

11.00am • Pavilion

**In conjunction with the Traditional matches against St Patrick's (Town), we extend an invitation to Old Boys to attend our AGM at 11.00am in the College's Cricket Pavilion.** The meeting will be followed by a lunch and refreshments.

Taking on board a suggestion that those that live out-of-town should also be able to participate, we will endeavour to have a live-feed available. In the meantime, if you have any general business you wish to raise, please email us. A reminder will be issued closer to time in order to RSVP. We hope that our new Headmaster will be able to join us at some time during the meeting or the lunch, prior to the start of the Traditional fixtures.

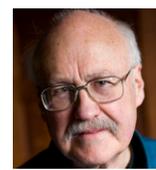
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## OBITUARIES

Since the *Lampstand* was issued at the end of 2021, we have been notified of a number of Old Boys who have since sadly passed away. A full list, with provided obituaries will appear in this year's *Lampstand*. In the interim, we thought we would share with you, those who have passed in recent times. Our condolences go to family and friends of those recorded below. If you wish to contribute to an obituary or have a memory to share, please get in touch.

CLASS	NAME	NOTES	FROM
1952	ALMAO, Charles Quentin Martin	Firth House, LLB	WAIK
1948	ANDREWS, Maurice Bary		KAP
1954	BEAGLEHOLE, Giles Cawte		CANT
1959	BRIDGE, Allan Raymond		AKL
1948	CALDWELL, Richard Pringle		KAP
1994	CASTLE, Samuel Paul		HBAY
1947	CHARLES, Ronald Barry		WLG
1953	COOMBER, Brian Stanley	1st XV 1952-53, Prefect	WLG
1956	COOPER, Ross Francis		KAP
1962	CRESSWELL, Lyell Richard	DMA, Composer ★	SCOT
1950	CURTIS, John Billing		BOP
1945	DANAHER, Martin Denis		AKL
1975	DRAKE, Michael Richard	BA(Hons), PhD	WLG
1956	EVANS, Noel George		KAP
1962	FELL, Roger Barraclough	BA Physics, MA Engin.	USA
1954	FLETT, John Alexander		BOP
1966	GORDON, Don Graham		WLG
1945	GROVER, Bruce Campbell		AKL
1949	HARRIS, Desmond George	Firth House	HBAY
1958	HOLMES, Gavin Stuart		WLG
1956	JACKSON, Peter John		NTHL
1958	KEY, Gary Clifton		KAP
1955	LYND, William David (Bill)		AKL
1962	LYSAGHT, Eric Philip		WLG
1946	MAJOR, Fouad George	PhD, Author	USA
1989	McGRATH, James Peter Miller		USA
1962	McIVOR, Ewen George		AKL
1958	METGE, Kevin James Pierre		HORO
1950	MOFFAT, John Alexander		WLG
1952	MORGAN, Victor Henry		TARA
1945	NEALE, Alexander Anthony		WAIR
1951	O'DONNELL, Warren Charles (Chas)		WLG
1964	OLSEN, Michael William (Mike)	Firth House	KAP
1988	POPE, David Michael		ENGL
1944	POWER, Cedric Arthur		AKL
1965	RAMSDEN, Peter TeRangihira <sup>MNZM</sup>	Firth House	CANT
	READ, Ronald Fletcher	Staff 1955-1961	WAIK
1951	ROBINSON, Richard Hepworth		BOP
1972	SHIELDS, Mark Raymond		WLG
1959	SINCLAIR, Ian Bruce		BOP
1947	SOLOMONS, Arnold Lewis	Pharmacist	KAP
1957	SPENCE, Arthur George		WLG
1967	STEPHENS, Donald Maxwell		WLG
1942	STONE, Arthur Richard	MB, ChB, FRACP	WLG
1948	TINGEY, Norman Barry	+ Staff 1966-68, 73-74	WLG
1948	WRIGHT, Bruce Langton <sup>PhD</sup>		CANA
1958	WRIGHT, Norman Webster		WLG

★ Lyell Cresswell (Class of 1962) was one of New Zealand's greatest composers. Born in Wellington in 1944, he had been a full-time composer, living in Edinburgh since 1985.



He kept close links with New Zealand and his music has been performed here frequently by the NZSO, the NZ String Quartet, Michael Houstoun and others. Lyell's full obituary will be in this year's *Lampstand*.

It has come to our attention that Lyell was commissioned in 1992 to compose music for the Male Voice Choir at Wellington College's 125th Jubilee. *The Way to the Stars* was seven short settings of fragments from various sections of Virgil. Performing his composition, combined past music students with present members of the College (1992) and Old Boys were invited to participate in the Orchestra or in the Choir.

Are there readers out there who can tell us more? Did you attend the Concert, did you perform and more importantly, does anyone have a copy of Lyell's composition?

## EXECUTIVE VACANCY

The Executive are on the look out for a **TREASURER** to join the Committee. We meet once a month in the CBD, either in person or via Zoom. Responsibilities include managing and balancing our xero-based accounts, preparing a monthly statement, end-of-year reports and filing said reports for the Charities Commission and IRD. Please contact WCOBA President, Ted Thomas if this is of interest:

[ted.thomas@hampton.co.nz](mailto:ted.thomas@hampton.co.nz)



## WCOBA CALENDAR

**Firth House Reunion**  
Friday, 30  
September &  
Saturday, 1 October



It looks like all systems are go for the twice-postponed **Firth House Reunion**. We have set the dates and will be in touch directly with former boarders with registration and programme details to follow.

Have a look at the annual Boarding House photos we have in our Archives Collection: [Click HERE](#)



## SPORTS EXCHANGES

25 May	v St Patrick's Town	H
15 June	v Silverstream	A
22 June	v Rongotai	A
27 June	Quadrangular	A
27 July	v PNBHS	A
8 Aug	v NPBHS	A

## 96TH QUADRANGULAR RUGBY TOURNAMENT

@ Whanganui Collegiate School

Monday, 27 June 2022 - Wednesday, 29 June 2022

There will be a function for Old Boys and supporters from all four schools on the Tuesday evening. Further details will follow.



*Wellington College supporters perform the Haka at Whanganui Collegiate in 1954.*

## WELLINGTON COLLEGE ENROLMENTS FOR 2023

**E**nrolling your son [as a son of an Old Boy] at Wellington College: **Out-of-zone** applications for Y9 2023 must be submitted online no later than 5.00pm on Monday, 25 July 2022. This includes the enrolment of brothers of current and former students, sons of Old Boys and sons of staff. The out-of-zone ballot for Y9 2023 will be held on Monday, 1 August.

**There are two Open Days for prospective students in the Alan Gibbs Performing Arts Centre:**

Saturday, 18 June 2022 at 10.30am and Monday, 20 June 2022 at 9.30am.



*1946: Students arriving for the first day of school.*

## COHORT REUNIONS

CLASS OF  
**1981**

Friday, 21  
October

CLASS OF  
**1982**

Friday, 29  
October

CLASS OF  
**1972**

Friday, 11  
November

## SCHOOL NEWS



2022 Head Prefect Team  
(L-R): Sean Wipatene, Harry Zangouropoulos and Dhruv Menon

# WE NEED YOUR HELP



### Kia ora koutou

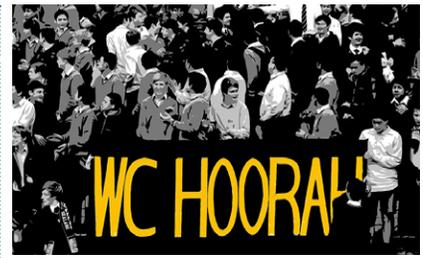
I am Harry and I am the Head Prefect for 2022. Our Y13 cohort, the last year group to have had Mr Moses, are worried that school has lost touch with some of our traditions. We also feel the school has become disjointed in some ways, and that students' pride in the school has decreased. Deputies, Sean, Dhruv and I have been working on ideas to connect the current students with the history and traditions of our school. We also hope to connect current students with Old Boys who are in positions that we aspire to be at.

I am also a Senior A Basketball player and I am interested in the history of the Club, and to learn about fellow Old Boys who have gone on to do great things in Basketball. **Are there any Old Boys can help me with some research, especially about previous teams that went to nationals, and to help the Club create a Basketball Honours Board, like Rugby, Cricket, Hockey and Football have?**

Our other objective is for our Y13 cohort teach the old chants to the rest of the school. We are the last year group to have been able to attend McEvedy Shield as a school, and we feel that the support culture has abated from previous years. Our first home Traditional fixture is coming up on 25 May against St Patrick's Town. **Are there any Old boys who could assist with words, meanings, origins and actions, and could come in to teach the Prefects current or past chants and songs so we too, are 'match-fit' for game day.**

Kind Regards,  
Harry Zangouropoulos, Head Prefect

*Please contact the Old Boys' Association in the first instance and they will pass your responses on to us to connect with you - [oldboys@wc.school.nz](mailto:oldboys@wc.school.nz)*



If you wish to read more about this year's **World Vision Runathon** and even make a donation, follow these links: <https://www.therunathon.com/> and <https://www.therunathon.com/donate>

## McCANCELLED

With the cancellation of so many big events this summer, it was déjà vu all over again as the four McEvedy Schools announced the postponement of this year's Shield Meet, scheduled for 1 March.

The schools, in conjunction with College Sport Wellington and the WCC have committed to attempt to hold the 2022 **McEvedy Shield** in September, after the completion of the winter sports season. An extra six months of training will have us winning by a record margin - fingers crossed!

(L): The 1957 Wellington College McEvedy Team in the 'march past' at the Basin Reserve.

## A TOUCH OF CLASS AND A STAMP OF AUTHORITY



**Sunday, 13 March was a special day on the Number 1 at Wellington College.**

It began with a presentation of a '100' game cap to Oscar Jackson. Oscar, who is the 1st XI Captain, began his cricket at Wellington College in 2018 and came to everyone's attention when he lifted one off the then 1st XI bowlers onto the pavilion roof as a Y9 during the 1st XI trial.

He played his first 1st XI game in Term 4 of his second year at school. Since then, he has amassed nearly 1,600 runs (in PYG) and plenty of wickets too, including eight hundreds. His cap was presented by former Headmaster, Roger Moses, after kind words from former team mates, coaches and others.

Following the presentation, the match between the 1st XI and the Old Boys' XI began with Wellington College in the field. After a couple of quick wickets, the Old Boys (coached by Roger Moses) got into their work with an especially good knock from Simon Allen (Class of 1998). A very classy 44no, cut short by a suspect hamstring. Simon was very ably supported by the last '100' game recipient, Kevin Weerasundara (Class of 2021) with a stylish 43 and Ben Cameron's 35. All told, WCOB made

228÷11 in 48.1 overs. Amogh Paranjpe and Marco Muollo were the pick of the 1st XI bowlers with three wickets apiece.

The 1st XI began its run chase against Jacob Vandenberg (Class of 2020) and Jago Sperring (Class of 2021), who offered bounce and pace the 1st XI found difficult to deal with. Coupled with Jono Sole bowling very straight, the 1st XI stuttered to 39-5. Marco Muollo and Duncan Mutch then added the only real partnership of their innings with 45 and 27 respectively. Kevin Weerasundara came in and finished the job for the OB's side taking 4-6 of three overs. Wellington College ended at 117 all out in 28.3 overs, going home with a bit of a lesson from the 'old and not so old boys'.

Richard Boag from the WCOBA Executive was on hand to present the Old Boys' trophy to Captain, Kevin Weerasundara after the game.

After the match, the Old Boys team enjoyed a really good catch up along with managers, coaches and a few parents. The OB's side had a really good day, took home the Old Boys' Cup, and no doubt would be making a few trips to the physio over the following week.

## ANNUAL PRE-SEASON FIXTURE BRINGS CLUBS TOGETHER

**O**BU Colts played the annual match against a trial Wellington College 1st XV for the Steve Letica Cup on 19 March at Boyd Wilson Park.

Steve Letica (1960-64) was a Prefect and played for the 1st XV. He went on to play for the Old Boys' club and was a Junior All Black in 1966. Steve died in 1967. The Letica Cup is an annual fixture played between the College 1st XV and an Old Boys University age grade side.

The player(s) of the day receive the Calvin Wright Memorial Cup. Calvin Wright was a staff member at Wellington College and a member of WCOBRC. Calvin tragically died in a van accident in 1976 while transporting Wellington College students to the national Cross-Country championships.

The match was the first run out for the Wellington College players, giving the coaches the opportunity to observe the fitness and skills of the boys in various positions. Even with all the changes, the boys gave OBU a real challenge, just losing by a couple of points.

While members of the Letica family were unable to make the occasion this year, it was a special moment to have members from Calvin's family attend and present the trophy in Calvin's honour.

*Below: WCOBA President, Ted Thomas was on hand to present the Letica Trophy to the OBU Captain.*



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### THE COAT OF ARMS STORY

In 1987, the then Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr A W (Wyn) Beasley, designed a Coat of Arms for the College and applied for it to be formally granted. Until that time, Wellington College had a crest and a motto which is shared by three other Wellington Schools.

A grant of Arms, on the other hand, would be unique to Wellington College. Mr Beasley's design incorporates the traditional crest and motto together with heraldic symbols to convey the College's ethos and history.

The Arms give heraldic status to the College's traditional colours, black and gold. The lamp on the shield conveys a love of learning, while the open book symbolises an open mind. The bookmark is charged with the five white plates of the Wellesley family arms, and above are the four gold stars derived from the arms of



Lord Freyberg, one of our most notable Old Boys.

The four stars also remind us of our national flag and the part star navigation using the Southern Cross played in bringing our Māori ancestors to Aotearoa. The helmet is a reminder of the medieval knights with whom heraldry arose with black and gold mantling hanging from a wreath around the top of the helmet. Finally, our motto sits above our

traditional crest.

The Arms were granted by the Lord Lyon King of Arms in Edinburgh and the Letters of Patent (above) bear the date 17 October. This date represents our Founders' Day, significant as it was the day in 1853 that Sir George Grey <sup>KOB</sup> as Governor, signed the original Deed of Endowment establishing Wellington College and it is also the day the school opened in 1874 on its present site.

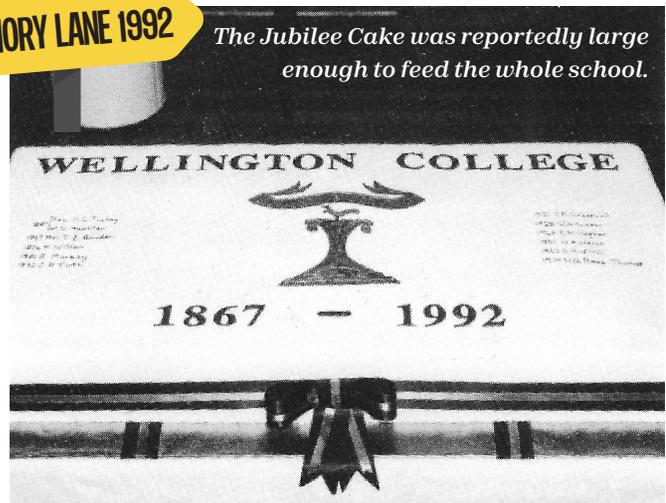


**1961 BARRACKS WEEK: SEA CADET NOTES**  
A varied programme during Barracks Week got the unit off to a fine start for the year. Elements of seamanship were learned at HMNZS Olphert, and cadets sailed in the whaler under Lt. Close.

In the annual inspection of Reserves and Sea Cadets held by Commodore Stanners, the Admiralty Cup for the best closed unit was awarded to the Wellington College Unit. Image colourised by Mike Pallin.

### MEMORY LANE 1992

The Jubilee Cake was reportedly large enough to feed the whole school.



The 125th Jubilee Celebrations took place over the Easter Weekend and all reports said that the occasion was a tremendous success.

The Weekend saw over 1600 Old Boys and partners attend the various functions, and many school friendships were re-established.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

# UNCOVERING THE FAMILY HISTORY BEHIND AN AXE

The Papa recently shared an interesting piece of history about an item in their South African collection - a fighting axe with a connection to one of New Zealand's famous families.

The fighting axe is 18cm in length, made of a curved iron blade mounted on a long, polished wood handle. Te Papa knew the axe was produced by a blacksmith in South Africa, but due to limited documentation, cannot be attributed to a particular person or group of people. It was likely made during the early 20th century, but a specific date is not known.

The axe was classified as a war hatchet when donated to the museum and axes like it would have been traditionally used during battle. The style of axe is common across Southern Africa, similar weapons were used by tribes across modern-day Botswana, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

This piece was added to the museum's collection in a donation made by Wellington College, one of 103 objects which formed the Captain Seddon Collection. These were objects collected by Captain Richard John Spotswood Seddon. In 1901, he was one of 30 Wellington College Old Boys to enlist for service in the 2nd Boer War.

Richard was the son of long-serving Prime Minister, Richard John Seddon. Richard attended Wellington College from 1896 to 1897.

Captain Seddon's collection included pieces from South Africa and Australia as well as Niue, Samoa, and the Cook Islands. It is likely the fighting axe was obtained during his time in South Africa during the war.



This image has been assessed as being orphaned works, ie. Te Papa considers them to still be in copyright, but have been unable to determine and/or trace the copyright holder.

Richard served in WWI, and was killed four days after arriving in France at the Second Battle of Bapaume on 21 August 1918. He is buried in the Hebuterne Military Cemetery, 15km north of Albert (Somme) and 20 km south-west of Arras.

After Richard's death, the collection came into the care of his sister, Mrs Knox Gilmer. She donated the collection to Wellington College's museum in his memory in 1932.

The collection remained in our care on display until the original College Memorial Hall that housed the museum was demolished in 1968. Subsequently, the replacement hall which opened in 1973 was unable to house all of the school's collections, hence Captain Seddon's collection was donated to the National Museum, and these objects remain safe in Te Papa's storage to this day.

To commemorate her brother, Mrs



Knox Gilmer also presented the Richard Seddon Memorial Cup for Public Speaking (shown above). In 1998, the Trophy was renamed to the Sir Michael Hardie Boys Trophy for Public Speaking.

Mrs Gilmer went on to have a long connection with Wellington College, serving on the Board of Governors for over twenty years and became Dame Elizabeth Gilmer in the 1951 King's Honours list in recognition of her services to education.



*In 1899, Richard played for the Wellington College Old Boys' Football Club. He is pictured seated far-left in the middle row.*

# WELLINGTON COLLEGE TRAMPING CLUB CENTENARY

**A**round 100 years, ago a Tramping Club was founded at Wellington College. The 1921 edition of the annual *Wellingtonian* contains epic stories from WWI that had only just finished three years earlier. One that stands out just a little, is of Bernard Freyberg swimming several kilometres, from one of the troop ships to the shore on the Gallipoli peninsula at midnight on 25 April 1915. He set up flares on a beach some distance from the landing site as a decoy to divert Turkish troops from where the landings would actually take place. Much of his swim was done under enemy fire. An extraordinary and almost unbelievable story of bravery and commitment.

The 1921 *Wellingtonian* also has a short article covering the founding of the Tramping Club. One of the Vice Presidents' was Mr Charles Gifford after whom the Observatory up behind the College was later named. Here is a quote from the article. *Commencing on 5 November, a series of short tramps over the hills near Wellington will, it is hoped, train our members for more ambitious expeditions into the bush country east of Wainuiomata and at the head of the Hutt Valley.*

Later the article continues, ... *we do not wish to rob cricket and other summer pastimes of their enthusiasts, but we earnestly ask all those who are not engaged in other activities to give the Wellington College Tramping Club a trial... subs 1s per annum.*

In the following years, a good number of Wellington College groups have successfully completed the 'Southern Crossing' of the Tararua Ranges. This was no mean feat, in an era when clothing and equipment, transport, lack of accurate weather forecasts and the condition of the tracks made such trips extremely challenging.



*Wellington College Tramping Club group on a Southern Crossing in 1923.*

**I**n March this year, the Wellington College Tramping Club completed a memorable Southern Crossing of the Tararua ranges in superb weather. 26 students, four staff, and two parents were treated to stunning views, crimson sunsets and some spectacular flora and fauna.

We split the group with half travelling west-east and the others travelling east-west. The trip was all the more significant for being 100 years since the first such trip by a Wellington College Tramping Club, back in 1922. A few of us attempted to re-create some of the clothing styles of-the-era. It turned out that a tweed jacket proved too warm in the balmy conditions that we experienced.

The mid-point of the trip was at Alpha hut where vehicle keys were swapped. A different story back in 1922, when the west-bound party caught the New Plymouth express from Otaki to get home to Wellington.

While the good weather allowed for us to camp out, we had the back-up of the relatively luxurious Kime hut, a far cry from the half - built 'Hector Dog Box' that would have adorned the site in 1922.

**PHIL KENDON, Wellington College Tramping Club Convenor**



*ABOVE: West-East group at the WWII Memorial Cross on Mt. Hector. Luke Clausen on the left looks dapper in retro-style hat and coat.*

*BELOW: (L) Mt. Hector Dog box, mid 1920s. (R) Kime Hut -2022*





## WE'RE LOOKING FOR GREAT COACHES...

Wellington College's Sports Director, Dave Keat, has put out a request to Old Boys who might be able to assist the current students by coaching or managing one of our sports teams. We are fortunate to already have a number of Old Boys involved in some way across a number of codes but we need more of you so the boys don't miss out. Having sport somewhat curtailed over the past couple of years, the boys are ready to get out there to participate and to represent their school.

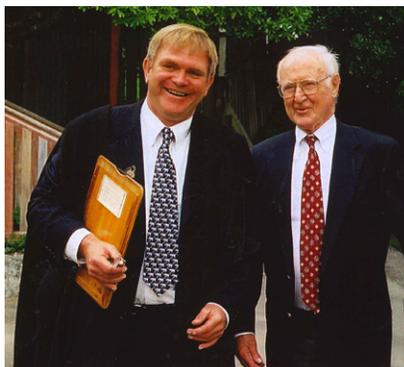
Please get in touch with Dave if you can help in any way. [d.keat@wc.school.nz](mailto:d.keat@wc.school.nz) or Tel: (04) 8022547, Mobile: 027 4149188 Website: [www.sporty.co.nz/wcsports](http://www.sporty.co.nz/wcsports)

### MEMORY LANE 2002

## Gifford Observatory re-opened by inter-stellar scientist

The Gifford Observatory Trust completed the enormous task of restoring the Gifford Observatory in time to open in March, 2002.

Rocket Scientist, NASA Luminary and Old Boy, Dr William Pickering <sup>KBE</sup> (Class of 1927) was invited to do the honours by cutting the ribbon.



*Dr Pickering, with Roger Moses, spoke to the whole school in the Sports Centre, before he officially opened the Observatory.*

### MEMORY LANE 2012



In March 2012, the new artificial turf and the remodelled Teaching and Sports Centre (which became the The Frank Crist Centre in 2013) was officially opened and celebrated by students, staff and guests. A partnership between the Wellington City Council and the College and great support from Old Boys', Parents and sponsors allowed this development to be completed.



## WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK

Wellington College has produced 35 All Blacks over the 155 years of the College's history.

Equally, there have been numerous referees originate from the sports fields of College. The iconic J.P. Firth is credited with refereeing an early NZ representative fixture against Queensland in 1896.

Our game remains strong throughout the modern era with Wellington College running more teams than any other school in the region. An emerging problem for our sport is the low number of referees participating. Our game needs more referees to help ensure that our young sportsmen are provided with the opportunity to participate.

All around NZ, there are Wellington College Alumni running around rugby fields carrying a whistle. Nick Hogan (Class of 2008) is in the current National Squad of Referees as is Marcus Playle (Head Prefect 2010).

Currently refereeing in the Wellington Club scene are Jack Sargentina (Class of 2014), Jamie Fairmaid (Class of 2009), Jack Trevella (Head Prefect 2014) and Ollie Michie (Class of 2018).

Consider taking up the whistle. It is more fun on the field than on the sideline.

Check out Facebook (Wellington Rugby Referees) or [www.wrra.org.nz](http://www.wrra.org.nz) or ring 0800 REFEREE (0800 7333 733) or contact David Walsh - 021 898 098 or [david.walsh@wrfu.co.nz](mailto:david.walsh@wrfu.co.nz)

## CORRESPONDENCE

**We received a number of letters following the 2021 *Lampstand* - some, we share with you.**

### **Merci Monsieur Girvan**

**I'm hoping that this email finds its way to Mr Gary Girvan.**

I went to Otaki College as it began taking Y7/Y8 students around 1971.

In order to participate in my chosen subjects, there was no escaping having to take French.

Mr Girvan taught French - and for the rest of my life, I've easily identified French words, phrases or words that are of French origin.

This has been great for crosswords, deciphering unfamiliar words, and pretending to be vaguely windswept and interesting at social gatherings.

I finally got to spend four days in Paris. I had no French dialogue but all the same felt very comfortable with the bits of French I encountered only requiring one pronunciation lesson from surprisingly patient taxi driver.

What amazes me is I was a very unmotivated student (around 12-years-old) I simply wanted to keep out of trouble and appear to be working .

It's some tribute to Mr Girvan that a surprising amount of French language took hold. He's some kind of teacher and it's remiss of me to have left this email so long.

Thank you Mr Girvan - you are a gifted teacher!

*Ruth Cooper*

### **Recordatio Ted Clayton**

**I was delighted to read the record of my fellow Latin classmate Ted Clayton.** We and four others shared the years of Latin together 1946-47. This final year for us was truncated by news over the radio that we should

not return for school again because of the Polio epidemic. We never returned and many of the friends from that year I never saw again.

Ted however was an exception as we continued annual seasonal greetings until this last year. His was always one of the first cards I received every holiday season. Ted also visited my wife and I in Singapore where I was teaching at Alexandra Grammar School, a school for the children of New Zealand, Australian and British troops that were stationed in Malaya. He came along with Laurie Gardiner and Jim McGregor, and we enjoyed sharing the sights of Singapore as well as memories of Wellington College.

I have fond memories of my days at Wellington College and the friends I made there. One of my favourite photos which still hangs on my wall to this day, is that of the Choir in which I sang, the photo of the large College Choir in the memorial assembly hall in 1947.

Thanks again for preserving and for sharing those special moments in all of our lives.

*John McLevie*  
*Class of 1947, California*

### **Outward Bound Experience**

Dear Mr Thomas,  
**I would like to thank you for supporting me in my Outward Bound experience.** I had a wonderful time there and I think it has made me a more resilient, driven person who is more willing to give back to my community. I think it is a really wonderful thing that scholarships are being given to help support other Wellington College boys like myself to attend this course.

My course date had to be changed due to exams being pushed back due to COVID, so I completed it in January rather than December.

Once again, thank you so much for supporting me during Outward Bound, I really appreciate it.

Thanks,

*Gray Hamilton, Y13 Class of 2022*

**Gray and fellow Y13 student, Luke Jones were both recipients of the 2021 WCOBA Scholarship and both will provide a full report in this year's *Lampstand*.**

### **Thanks to the President**

Greetings from Adelaide, South Australia.

**Very well done on another magnificent production of the *Lampstand*, that I most look forward to each year.**

Please pass on my thanks to Ted Thomas for his personal commitment both as President and Acting Treasurer, he deserves high praise for his achievements in this the most challenging of times.

I thoroughly enjoyed the article by Peter Browne together with the photo illustrating his groups well-deserved success. Peter was one of a cohort of five Ngaio Primary School lads: Stafford Smith, Murray Noble, Paul Cooper and myself who started their very first day at Wellington College being directed to join Class 3A and kept together for the next four years.

All five of us attended our Class of At the 1957 Forty Years On reunion answering to the roll called by Frank Crist whose photo leading the march during Barracks week certainly brings back a lot of memories. Frank taught us Latin in the third form with a most disciplined method of weekly tests the knowledge from which I came to respect in later life.

*John Rixon*  
*Class of 1957, South Australia*

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Long Links to WC

Dear Mike Pallin,

**The subject magazine on p21 of the 2021 *Lampstand* features a 'whole school' photo from 1877 and you have asked anyone who can 'spot a relative' to let you know.**

I have two in the photo: my great grandfather, John George Seed and his half brother, Henry Hadlow Seed.

Every male in our family attended Wellington College except my Father. His Father said to him, *I hated Wellington College, so you're going to Scots*". He in turn said to me, *I hated Scots so you're going to Wellington College*, where you attempted to teach me Science and coached our woeful Hockey team (neither of those failures were in any way attributable to you Mike!) and this year, my son began his journey in Y9.

Does the Archives still take donations of medals? - I have medals and military ephemera related to my great uncle, the late Des Buckley who was an Old Boy (his Father died in Firth House when it was an emergency hospital during the 1918 flu pandemic) and a former teacher.

*Jeremy Seed  
Class of 1987, Wellington*

### Sharing School Memories

**Thank you for sending me the December 2021 *Lampstand*.** As always each year, I'm intrigued to hear about what has gone on during the year, and, although such mention is only occasional these days, interested to get news of former classmates I've long since lost touch with.

This year, having read in the WCOBA Communications section of your call for more personal stories and reminiscences, I've been wondering if I could possibly offer a contribution.

The attached file, '*A Personal Reflection On The Motto*', is the result.

If it might be of interest, you are welcome to use it if and in any way you chose.

I have not at this stage included any biographical details or broadened my theme a little to perhaps include an anecdote about Inky Dighton. He did his best to add a little Latin in to my education. Should you wish to do so, I would however be happy to discuss these points with you by telephone.

With kind regards,  
*Robin Phillip  
Class of 1960, England*

### We will include Robin's memoirs in this year's *Lampstand*.

P.S. I see that Ernie Rosenthal is still a Member of the Executive. Please give him my warm regards.

### Historic Links

Hello Archives

**I have two caps from a past student - Knox Gilmer (Class of 1897) which may be of interest and an the accompanying note of their relevance.** These were given to me from a relative to pass on to see if the College has any interest in them.

My son Oscar Sladden is in Y11 this year, noting his great grandfather Hubert Sladden attended Wellington College in the 1890s.

*Regards, Richard Sladden*

### Reply from the Archives

Many thanks for making contact. We are definitely interested in the Knox Gilmer caps and note.

Knox was married to Elizabeth May Seddon, daughter of the Prime Minister, Richard Seddon and brother of Captain Richard Seddon, killed in WWI. Elizabeth was on the Wellington College Board of Governors for over 20 years and became Dame Elizabeth Gilmer. In 1932, she donated her

brother's collection of artefacts he had collected from South Africa and the Pacific to the Wellington College Museum. We were not aware of this collection as there was no record. Coincidentally, I was contacted by a researcher at Te Papa recently. Apparently the Captain Richard Seddon Collection was donated to the Dominion Museum in 1973 by the College. Te Papa have been able to provide photos from the collection and the story features in this newsletter.

*Kind regards, Mike Pallin*

### Correction

**Just a note about a correction that needs to be made in the next *Lampstand* issue.**

The photo of Pete Jones on page 28 - he is pictured with our older son Bryn Jones (Class of 1920) and not Luke. Luke is a Prefect in Y13 this year and the student that the WCOB, have sponsored for Outward Bound course, which he is on at this very moment.

*Rochelle Jones*  
**Our apologies for the error.**

### Feedback

Hi Stephanie and Ted

**Thank you for another interesting edition of *The Lampstand*. I look forward to it every year.**

Ted, you ask for feedback. I realise how difficult it is to communicate with us all spread throughout the globe. The idea of subscription packages has my support - after all I am 84 years old now and would be eligible for no sub!

I wonder if to get us involved (those who are interested) when the AGM comes due again, if you have considered having it available by Zoom or perhaps streaming it, as a few funerals are delivered are these days?

## CORRESPONDENCE

My interest in College continues from the days when I was President of the Auckland Branch of WCOB in 1983 and 1984! (Nearly another 40 years on). Harvey Rees-Thomas was then Headmaster and came up to our dinners with the Head Prefect to meet us. Bernie Petrie (1925) was still Secretary of the local Association - as he had been for many years prior. Thank you for all your voluntary work to keep 'the light' still shining,

Les Howe  
Class of 1954, Auckland

### Reaching Out

Dear Sirs

I attended college in years 1939-41 in classes 3a 4a and 5a. I am always

interested in reading the *Lampstand*.

I have not noticed a Class of 39-41 mentioned nor have I seen any recognition of 70 or 80 year members. I would be interested if any of my class mates are still alive. My name is Paul Saker. I am aged 96 and I reside in Auckland. I would be really interested in any reunions or connecting with fellow classmates who live in Auckland.

Paul Saker  
Class of 1943, Auckland

If anyone can help, maybe yourself or a relative who attended when Paul was there and would like to reconnect, please let us know.

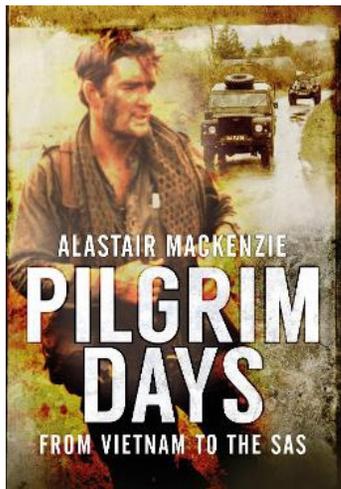


Archivist, Mike Pallin and I very much appreciate those who have been in touch. Whether you sent feedback, updated your contact details, opted for future issues to be digital, sent in news and memorabilia or given financial support - thank you!

If you have any news or memories to include in our next eNewsletter, the *Lampstand* or social media, please get in touch with Steph Kane. Email: [oldboys@wc.school.nz](mailto:oldboys@wc.school.nz)

## ON THE BOOKSHELF

Missing from the 2021 *Lampstand* was the promotion for Dr Alastair MacKenzie's PhD, Lt Col (Ret.) (Class of 1965) new book, *Pilgrim Days*, and which he kindly sent us a copy for our Old Boy Authors' Library.



*We are the Pilgrims, master; we shall go, Always a little further; it may be, Beyond that last blue mountain barred with snow.*

*If there was ever anyone who went a little further, a little beyond, it was Alastair MacKenzie. In a career spanning 30 years, Alastair served uniquely with the New Zealand Army in Vietnam, the British Parachute Regiment, the British Special Air Service (SAS), the South African Defense Force's famed ParaBats, the Sultan of Oman's Special Forces, and a host of private security agencies and*

*defense contractors.*

*Alastair lived the soldier's life to the full as he journeyed 'the Golden Road to Samarkand'.*

*This extraordinary new work from the author of Special Force: The Untold Story of 22nd Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) vividly documents, in a*

*detail that stuns, the experience of infantry combat in Vietnam, life with the Paras, the tempo of selection for UK Special Forces, covert SAS operations in South Armagh and SAS Counter Terrorist training on the UK mainland, vehicle-mounted Pathfinder Brigade insertions into Angola, and maritime counter-terrorism work in Oman.*

Industry Review: "Nicely illustrated with a special section of photographs, *Pilgrim Days: From Vietnam to the SAS*" is an

*impressively written, exceptionally informative, and inherently riveting read that is unreservedly recommended for both community and academic library Military History & Biography collections."* - Midwest Book Review

### Thanks for the memories

The Wellington College Cricket Club shared a photo with us of Jim Owen (Class of 1956) who popped along to support the 1st XI in their match at Palmerston North Boys' High School.

Jim regaled the boys about his time at Wellington College and being a Firth House Boarder.

