



Queen's College
The University of Melbourne

In Aeternum

The Queen's College and Wyvern Society magazine 2025



The Allen family 4 generations

A brilliant career

Literary agent to our
finest authors
Fiona Inglis

The ties that bind

Mischief, money
and mateship

Mamma Mia!

The ultimate
feel-good show

Safe water saving lives

Wyvern of the year
Fleur Maidment



Mamma Mia!

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Queen's stands, the Wurundjuri people of the Kulin nation, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Wyvern feature – Fiona Inglis

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Diamond anniversary of Eakins Hall

Eakins Hall, the heart of our College, has echoed to the celebratory sound of spoon bangs for 60 years. Prior to its opening in 1965, our JCR served as the College dining hall.

It was named after David Hugh Eakins, (Wyvern 1917), Chairman of the House Committee 1948–65, who was known to his work colleagues as ‘Dave’, his family as ‘Hugh’, and with irony, by his fellow Queen’s students as ‘Romeo’ because he was brought up in Omeo, Victoria.

In 1939, Eakins joined the Australian Army as an engineer, rising to the rank of Major. After the war, he joined the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board, where he was appointed Chief Engineer.

In 1968, wine appeared for the first time on student tables at the Valedictory Dinner.

Chef, Stephen Diamond (appropriately named), has spent much of his life in Eakins Hall as the College’s longest serving staff member, starting in 1976.





Queen's – a warmth and hum all its own

By Dr Michael Stepniak

What struck me when I first stepped into Queen's still strikes me now. This place has a warmth and hum all its own. A shout across the Quad. A knot of Queeners loud at a soccer match. A staff member pausing to ask a student a question, quietly and with care. Doors left ajar in the corridors. The hush in Formal Hall as a nervous student stands, dissolving into a boisterous cheer. Queen's breathes an honest breath.

From the start, this College has been different. Quick, Sugden, and their fellow Methodists were quiet radicals of their set. Beyond resourcefulness, they prized welcome and conscience even more than cleverness, purpose before prestige. That breadth endures. Here, character counts as much as wit. This is a space that welcomes a wide set.

Students carry this forward. The Sugden tradition is not a relic. It is GC members risking honesty. It is the elegance of the recent Jazz Soirée, the gusto of *Mamma Mia!* performances ending in ovations, a fresher conducting a pit orchestra with virtuosity. It is the corridor conversation where leaders wrestle with truth and care.

I am grateful for those who steady this place: staff who shoulder hard tasks with courage, Council who hold us to our best, Fellows and Wyverns who return with wisdom and generosity. A special thanks to Dr Ian Marshman AM, our Council President, who has gone far beyond duty in supporting my family through this transition.

The culture here is strong. To keep faith with it, and to let Queen's grow further into itself, three big chances now stand before us.

First: to lift Queen's as a residential college of excellence. Our warmth and student spirit are strong, but support for study, creativity, innovation, wellbeing, and moral courage must be made stronger.

Second: to deepen what makes us distinctive.

Born of Methodism and emboldened by Australian grit, Queen's spirit is egalitarian, plain-spoken, and steady; ready to lift the person beside you. It gives more than support for study. It gives belonging, courage, and a habit of carrying care into the world.



That makes Queen's an asset not only within its walls but for the region and the world, especially in our ties across Asia, where so many friendships and futures now take root.

Third: to build financial strength, so our spirit is matched by resources and our welcome widened for generations to come.

One of the most exciting projects now under way, with the help of Nicole Crook, Executive Director of Advancement, and Council's support, is laying the groundwork for a fundraising campaign to magnify Queen's impact.

Queen's has always formed graduates who carry conscience, humour, and courage into the world. This campaign will allow more students of promise but limited means to flourish here, and leadership programs to stretch them for lives of service and influence.

The true power of such a campaign lies not in numbers but in futures realised: a rural student becoming a doctor; an Indigenous student shaping the College's future; a student from Southeast Asia forging ties that tilt two countries toward understanding; a Wyvern carrying courage into public life.

Together, we can lift Queen's to the level of influence its spirit deserves. Wyverns and friends have always

been our strongest force. Now we can widen the circle further, and let Queen's impact be further felt not just within these walls, but across the nation and the world.

In many areas, renewed work is under way: taskforces on sustainability, aiming for a lighter footprint; on Indigenous engagement, guiding us into truer relationship; on postgraduate life, to strengthen community. These are not committees for their own sake, but talk turning into accountable work.

Stewardship must also be visible. The Campus Refresh is one sign: a multi-year program shaped with students and staff, tackling deferred maintenance and ensuring our spaces show the welcome and care we expect.

Partnerships matter too. With historic allies like Wesley College, and with new ones. With our Fellows, whose wisdom must become a more lively resource for students. Such ties widen the circle and remind us Queen's never stands alone.

As for belonging... Anne, Tilda, and I are grateful beyond words to be here. We have been so warmly welcomed. And that means the world for the work ahead.



Tom Keneally
and Fiona Inglis

Fiona Inglis
(Wyvern 1979)

A brilliant career

It's a truth universally acknowledged, that a good author, whether proven or full of promise, must be in want of an agent.

Considered top in her field, literary agent Fiona Inglis (Wyvern 1979) represents many of Australia's most successful authors. Thomas Keneally, Liane Moriarty, Markus Zusak, Jane Harper, Robert Drewe and Christos Tsiolkas, to name a few. Fiona is Managing Director of Curtis Brown and Founding President of the Australian Literary Agents' Association.

The plot for Fiona's own story has its share of twists and turns, sadness and joy, all overlaid with persistence and hard work. The girl from The Rock (near Wagga Wagga) grew up on a farm, boarded at Melbourne Girls Grammar for secondary school, then came to Queen's.

"I was from an all-girls school and moved into Queen's where men and women shared bathrooms. I didn't do any extracurricular activities, just partying. The strongest friendships I made were in College. I absolutely loved it."

Fiona started science then changed to arts in second year which was a much better fit, overlapping with Magda Szubanski in a subject then called 'Women's Studies'. Years on, Fiona represented Magda with her first book, *Reckoning: A Memoir*.

"Magda is one of the smartest women I have ever come across.

She is well read, researches very thoroughly, and has a beautiful turn of phrase."

Being a keen reader, Fiona knew she wanted to work in publishing. After a stint in London with a small academic publisher, she returned home and joined Allen and Unwin, then Harper Collins, and finally Curtis Brown, where close friendships have been formed with authors.

"One of the first people I signed up was Andrew McGahan with a novel he had written which was the prequel to *Praise*. About five years ago he died of pancreatic cancer and he signed the last book he published, 'Dear Fiona, it's been such a journey, from *Praise* until now.' I gave a eulogy at his memorial service. That was a story with bookends. His was the first book I edited and agented and then I went on to represent him for 10 more books. Lovely man."

In 1999, at Fiona's insistence, Curtis Brown bought 'The List' from literary agent Jill Hickson.

"It was a really prestigious list of authors, Kathy Lette, Tom Keneally, Bryce Courtenay among others, I managed them for Curtis Brown and became managing director. Tom Keneally, bless him, said he didn't really need an agent but we got on so well he joined us anyway. He is the most adorable man in the world, smart about the state of the world, the arts, politics, everything."

Monumental success came in the form of Liane Moriarty.

"I read her first manuscript *Three Wishes* and her fine ear for dialogue, acute observational skills were there. She captures exactly the way people speak and react. I like to think I recognised that in her first book. Now, as her agent, I negotiate her film and TV mini-series' deals as well."

And author Markus Zusak.

*“When he came to me with *The Book Thief*, he said, ‘No-one is going to read this book, it’s set in World War II, everyone dies, it’s narrated by a character called ‘Death’. I read it and thought, this is a very sad story but it’s strong and original. It got on the young adult list in America, and went on to sell 16 million copies.”*

Every best seller has a peripety, Fiona’s personal and professional turning point came in 2003.

“I orchestrated a management buy-out of Curtis Brown Australia. After the deal we had a big party at our office and my colleague brought along her mate ‘Chook’ (John Wills), who I had met a few times. I was smoking a cigar, having taken off my heels, and Chook and I were on the balcony when he started kissing me. I said, ‘You can’t do that. All those people inside are either my colleagues or my clients, this is a really bad look.’ Then he walked inside and said, ‘Excuse me, I have an announcement to make. Fiona and I have fallen in love and are going home together.’ I was 42. Billy was born 10 days before my 43rd birthday, Harry 20 months later.”

An intense time followed, Chook was made redundant in 2012, then there was more change.

“In retrospect it was a really good thing Chook was able to be a fulltime dad as he was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer in August 2015 and died in October. Only six weeks. He had time to say goodbye



to the boys, and have some really great talks. They remember him well because of those three years. I did the whole senior school journey by myself, while running a business. I feel quite proud about that now, but at the time I just kept going.”

After 40 years in the industry, Fiona has seen a lot of change, professionally as well.

“At first, we were terrified about e-books, and more recently about streaming services, we thought they would lead to a massive contraction of the market, but it didn’t happen. Now I’m nervous about the changes

AI will bring, but I think people will still pay for human writing. It’s a whole brave new world.”

Fiona now shares her love of literature.

“My husband Cathal de Burca and I fell in love while reading Irish writer Kevin Barry. We met online then when we first met in person, I took him a hardback of a collection of short stories called, *That Old Country Music*. Half an hour after we parted, he sent me a text saying, ‘Kevin Barry is the bomb.’ ‘Snap’. We both love to read.”

Finis? Not yet.



Installation of the ninth Master

Dr Michael Stepniak's installation as ninth Master of Queen's College held on Sunday 25 May, 2025, was a very special event as it is only the ninth time to occur in the College's 137-year history. Led by Rev Sharon Hollis, the chapel was brimming with past Masters, Masters from other colleges, Fellows, Wyverns, staff, and students.

Chairman of Council, Dr Ian Marshman AM, acknowledged Dr Stepniak's place in Queen's history.

"Past Masters comprise three ordained ministers, two historians, two scientists and one classicist. The College community has benefited from this diversity of backgrounds and disciplinary expertise. Michael Stepniak brings professional strengths, remarkable energy and great empathy to the Master role. We look forward to music becoming a key part of the conversation across the College."

As tradition dictates, representatives of the College community passed the Master's ceremonial ring along, charging Michael with their hopes for his tenure.

Cassie Silberberg, General Committee President, spoke on behalf of the students.

"We are excited for you to be a part of this flourishing community of future leaders, innovators, researchers and so much more."

"Together, we'll continue building a Queen's that reflects the best of its traditions and the full potential of its students."

The ring was then passed to Dr Katti Williams (Wyvern 1994) former Arch Wyvern, who spoke on behalf of the Wyverns.

"As Wyverns, we offer this: to walk beside you, to speak with honesty, and to help ensure Queen's becomes not only what it has been, but what it dares to be next."

Katti passed the ring to Nicole Crook, Executive Director of Advancement, representing the staff.

"Michael, we pass you this ring with a promise: we will do our work and do it well. We ask the same of you, as we share the work of keeping Queen's steady in what it stands for, and generous in how it grows."

On behalf of the Fellows, Professor David Vaux AO, Principal Fellow, received the ring.

"We stand for rigorous thought, honest conversation, and care – the kind that takes time, and often, quiet courage. Michael, we pass you this ring not as ornament, but as invitation. Guard what is worth keeping. Let go of what lingers only by habit."

Then on receiving the ring, Michael spoke.

"I don't arrive merely as a guest. I've come to work. I've brought tools, some stubbornness, and above all, a love; for the mess that is learning and living, for the beauty found in art, in nature, and each other, and for the promise of what might be possible. To be a student is not just to learn, but to hunger for learning. What endures here is the brilliance of students, the loyalty of alumni, the care of staff, the long memory of Fellows, the stewardship of Council."

The ceremony was followed by a celebration in the JCR with musical performances from Eilish Murphy (1st year Commerce), and the Seraphim Trio, who were joined by Michael.

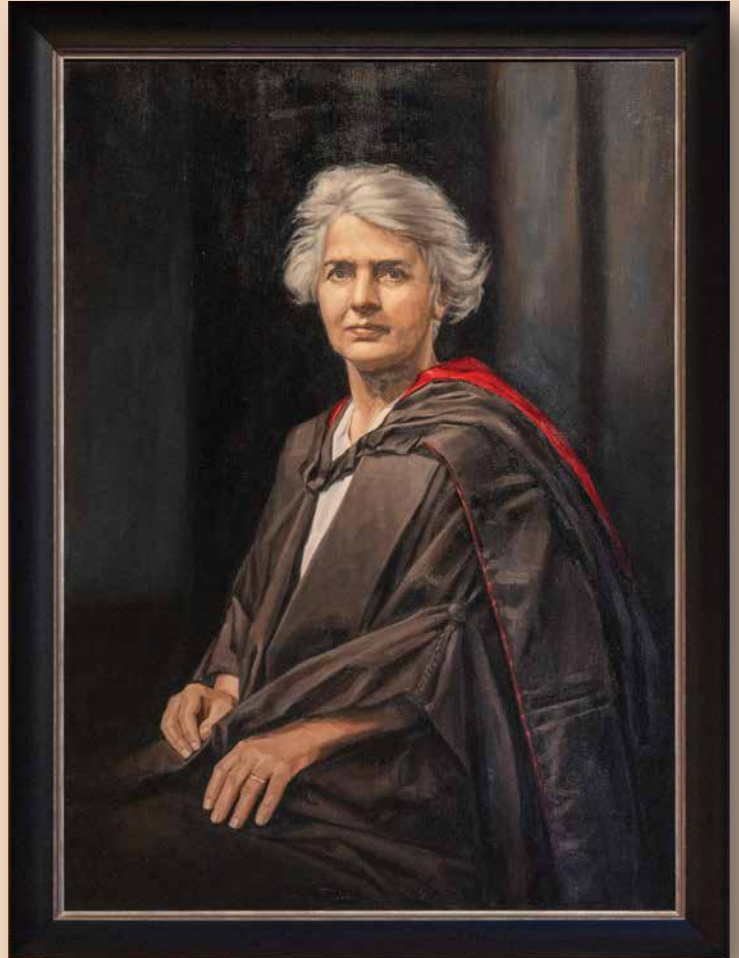
Famed and framed

We are thrilled to share that through the Portrait Project, the essence and pioneering spirit of Dr Mary Clementina de Garis (Wyverna 1900) has been captured by prominent artist Marie Mansfield. The portrait, proudly displayed in the Queen's College Junior Common Room, is the first of many female portraits to be displayed in this space, serving as a perpetual source of inspiration for current and future generations.

One area of support for this historic initiative that has been particularly pleasing has come from the Queen's College Student Club. Cassie Silberberg, President of the General Committee, believes having women honoured in this way acknowledges that women enrich all facets of Queen's life.

"This will help better reflect the values of the Queen's community and pay homage to the inspiring women who have come before. It is my hope that the portrait will inspire women to believe in themselves to make a difference. There are often additional barriers for women to be involved, which lends itself to feelings of exclusion."

"The portrait will say to us that women are important members of the community. This increase in representation is a small act, but will make a large difference in the minds of both current and future Queen's community members."



Portrait of Dr Mary Clementina de Garis by artist Marie Mansfield

Dr de Garis was a trailblazer on many levels. As the second woman to graduate from Medicine in Victoria, Dr de Garis joined the Scottish Women's Hospitals and served as Chief Medical Officer and Surgeon in the 4th America Unit in Ostrovo, Northern Macedonia, under the Serbian Army at the Balkan Eastern Front during the First World War for 18 months. In charge of 250 people, and with malaria, typhoid and dysentery as constant companions, she courageously performed difficult surgeries through air raids and in all weather, including snow. For her service she was decorated by the Serbian government.

After postgraduate study overseas, she practised with distinction as an obstetrician in Geelong, where she was the city's first and only female medical practitioner until 1941. Dr de Garis conducted research to improve infant and maternal mortality rates and pioneered the introduction of high protein diets for pregnant women. Her work at the Geelong Hospital was commemorated with the naming of De Garis House.

Artist, Marie Mansfield was the Portia Geach Memorial Award winner in 2021, and a finalist in the Archibald Prize twice. Her portraits capture the essence of her subjects' character within a moment.

Passing the baton

Queen's College thanks Dr Ian Marshman AM, for his contribution to our College over his seven years as President of Council.

Queen's will always hold a special place for Ian and his extended family. Through the generosity of others, the College provided a transformational educational experience for Ian's father Dr Ray Marshman (Wyvern 1932), the son of a battling retired Mallee farmer.

"Today, Queen's is special because of the genuinely rich and diverse interdisciplinary campus experience the College affords students from a wide and diverse background. The culture of 'no-one left behind, no-one misses out' is distinctive and to be cherished."

Ian reflects on several highlights.

"The whole College community – students, staff, management, Wyverns, Fellows and Council responded well to the challenges of the COVID -19 pandemic. The fact we became stronger and more united is testimony to the collegiality, commitment and goodwill displayed by everyone associated with the College.

"Another highlight has been the establishment of the Sugden Institute, through which the community has enjoyed some remarkable presentations on a range of contemporary issues confronting society.

"Finally, the installation of Dr Michael Stepniak as the College's ninth Master and Head of College was a truly



Dr Ian Marshman AM

wonderful occasion, one of grandeur, ritual and superb music, and also of personal reflections and insights."

Ian is confident Queen's will continue to thrive with ongoing goodwill and tangible support from our generous constituency.

"I leave Council knowing the College is in great shape. We have superb leadership, expert governance, extraordinarily talented students, committed staff and generous and supportive Wyverns and Fellows."

"We are engaging constructively across the wider community, and have exactly the right ambition to shape our distinctive place within Australian higher education and the wider community."

The Queen's community congratulates Council Vice President, Associate Professor Megan Robertson (Wyvern 1980) on her new role as President of Queen's College Council.

Queen's holds many happy memories for Megan as a medical student.

"As many students find, Queen's was a pivotal time for me. There were long hours of study but with my

fellow medical students we certainly managed a lot of sport and fun too. I really thrived on the opportunity to engage in strong discussions and debates within our cohort."

Megan is looking forward to continuing to give back to College, now as President of Council.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my role as Vice President of Council, it's wonderful being able to repay the opportunities I gained through my time here as a student. I am very much looking forward to implementing plans already in place and preparing the way for the continued success of Queen's College."

The Queen's College community thanks Ian for his commitment to the role of President of Council, and wishes Megan well in her new role.



Associate Professor Megan Robertson

The College Choir

A beautiful group of talented singers



By Will Fellows, Director of Music

Every Tuesday evening 15 students meet in the JCR to sing together in choir. They loosen up the body, do breathing exercises, and warm up the voice before singing music from all periods and genres.

Over the last two years Queen's College Choir has gone from strength to strength, doubling in size, performing in chapel services, College events, recordings, and regional tours. Some of these singers join the choir having very little singing experience, but have put themselves out there to try something new, continue a passion, or develop already-held strong musicianship skills. Over the course of the year they have grown so much, as a group and as individuals. Their sight-reading skills, ability to learn new music, and performance presence have improved due to the opportunities at the College.

In the first semester the choir performed a varied programme from Palestrina, an Italian Renaissance composer, all the way to the Beatles at Christ Church,

Beechworth. It was wonderful to see choral scholar Elise Curry perform *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*, having grown in confidence hugely since joining the choir. The students relished the opportunity to bond, learn sacred and secular repertoire, and sing to such an appreciative audience. Beechworth was so grateful they have asked the choir back already for 2026.

After a restful semester break, the choir sang beautifully *We Will Remember Them* by Elgar at the ANZAC Service and Oratio. In preparation for Dr Stepniak's Installation Service, the choir enjoyed a fun, informative workshop.

The Installation Service exhibited the choir at its absolute best –

Choral clinician, Michael Fulcher was impressed with the group's willingness to learn, saying, "This is a choir to watch. They're a beautiful group of talented singers with a very bright future".

you can hear this on the College's YouTube page.

This semester, the choir has performed at the College Open Day impressing prospective students and families and wrapped up 2025, singing in the End of Year Service.

It is so wonderful to hear your post-performance comments praising the choir, which always brings a smile to the singers' faces when I relay the message. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has supported the choir this year. It means a lot.

Listen to the choir's recording of Drop Drop Slow Tears: <https://qns.cl/ddst>

Australia Day Honours 2025

Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

Past Master Professor David Runia AM (Wyvern 1969)

For significant service to tertiary education, and as an academic in the fields of humanities and social sciences.



Professor David Runia knows Queen's well, having been a student 1969-1971, and our seventh Master from 2002-2016.

"When I first came to Queen's, I appreciated expanding my horizons in the wider Australian world, as I came from a migrant background. I enjoyed building friendships with fellow students who were doing quite different studies, and was greatly helped by the mentoring of the Master Dr Parnaby, his wife Joy who taught in the history department, and the Vice-Master, the amazing Jack Clarke."

As Master, David enjoyed working with young people.

"It was mentally really invigorating to change the focus of my work to the leadership of an academic community, but also really challenging, especially in the early years. I worked hard to develop more scholarships so that students from less privileged backgrounds could attend. I also loved interacting with people from different areas of life, including parents, Wyverns, university and College staff. It was a joy to see the College flourish."

The recent honour is pleasing personally for Professor Runia, but also as it is a recognition of the importance of the various fields in which he has been active.

"I taught and conducted research in ancient philosophy and classical culture for many years, which all started with my Latin lessons at The Geelong College.

"I passionately believe that the study of the humanities and the classics is valuable for society at large, that history and philosophy are relevant to today's world. In making us think about how we should live and act."

Plato and Aristotle still have much to teach us, in the role of thought and reflection, of excellence and goodness."

Asked what his mantra is, Professor Runia said his aim is to give thanks every morning for the promise of a new day, and to commit himself to doing some good in whatever happens on that day.

Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

Dr Elaine Ong AM (Wyvern 1983)

For significant service to veterinary medicine, and to animal welfare and rescue, awarded in 2023.



Through fires, floods, animal abuse within the home, and urban encroachment on native habitat, Veterinarian Dr Elaine Ong AM (Wyvern 1983) has been there to help. Starting her charity, Vets for Compassion (VFC) in 2009, the pro bono CEO has been a first responder in Australia, and made a lasting difference further afield.

"I assisted with a major programme for stray dogs in Bali, that led to a project in China called 'Train the Trainer', where we train vets to work with stray animals –promoting de-sexing, and animal welfare. That became self-sustainable, and was endorsed by the World Veterinary Association. Now we are in India and Nepal as well."

Elaine was a founding member of the Australian Veterinary Association Emergency Taskforce, and through this role and VFC, has responded to every fire since Black Saturday (2009), including Mallacoota (2019), Ballarat (2024) and the Grampians this year. Not to forget the floods in Lismore, NSW (2022). She has also supported survivors of domestic violence.

"Some women don't leave their abusive partners because they don't want to leave behind their animals. These animals are quite traumatised so we care for them until they are ready to go to foster homes."

Elaine is also a specialist darter, tranquilising and relocating native animals that are displaced or injured in metropolitan Melbourne, but due to a lack of green pathways, are unable to escape.

An ability to balance all her roles is a throwback to her time in Queen's. "It wasn't easy trying to juggle sports and part time work with study, but I really enjoyed it."

"What Queen's taught me was that some of the people who balanced social life with study actually did as well as those who studied all day long. Everyone found their own groups and connected. It was a good community."

King's Birthday Honours 2025

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Dr Jack Ayerbe OAM (Wyvern 1965)

For services to veterinary science.

Dr Jack Ayerbe founded Newtown Veterinary Clinic in Geelong more than 50 years ago, where he now works as a consultant. His service to the community goes well beyond his practice, having contributed to the Barwon Health Foundation, Newtown Council, as a Councillor, The Geelong College as a board member, the Baker Institute as an advisor, the CSIRO, the Australian Veterinary Association, and the RSPCA, where his contributions were recognised with an honorary life membership and a meritorious award.

"I have been lucky enough to participate over the years in many community activities. Anything that I have been involved with has always required a team effort and I believe, through this award, I represent all the great people I have had the privilege to work with."

Jack believes his decision to enter Queen's was predetermined, as at that time, it was a natural progression for Wesley students to apply for a place at Queen's.

"On a sunny Sunday afternoon in February 1965, Tony Oakley (Wyvern 1965) – with whom I 'wifed' for three years – and I arrived at Queen's dressed in jacket and tie, grey trousers, white shirt, polished black shoes and a degree of innocent arrogance. We were now entering 'orientation week'. We were only 18 and were provided with maids who cleaned our rooms and had to address us as 'Mister'. We found this very difficult and asked our maid, Mrs French, to call us by our first names."

Jack remembers his time at Queen's very fondly.

"My years at the College were three of the happiest of my life. Having said that I believe that the institution has been greatly improved culturally by becoming co-ed. I regard myself as having been greatly privileged to have attended Queen's and I hope that the scholarship programme will enable many students from a humble background, like myself, to be able to attend the College."

After graduating, Jack moved to the UK and Ireland and enjoyed a great time in city and rural practices. He tries to live by four ideals.

"Never give up, be tolerant of others, challenge conventional wisdom, and never lose your sense of humour."



Emergency Services Medal (ESM)

Graham Gales ESM (Wyvern 1973)

For distinguished service as a member of the Australian emergency service.



Graham Gales has served his local community of Bright for more than 40 years, contributing to more than 2,000 rescue operations in some of Victoria's most treacherous terrain. As Controller of the local VICSES unit since 2022, Graham has focussed on innovation, having played a key role in advancing rescue techniques and developing specialist equipment. He is also President of Upper Ovens Landcare, a board member of the local Bendigo Community Bank, and helps restore huts in the High Country.

A coin toss was directly responsible for Graham's journey to Queen's.

"In 1972, there was a conference in Melbourne which included a program for secondary science students. Two people from my school applied and I won the coin toss. The accommodation was at Queen's so when I applied for university, I also applied to Queen's."

Coming to Melbourne was an eye-opening experience for the shy boy from Wangaratta.

"Queen's was another world from my life in the country, with all the clever, confident, extroverted, garrulous, knowledgeable people, with lives full of unusual experiences, and opinions and views that were new and challenging. The best way to fit in was to participate."

"After Queen's, I followed a career as a teacher and a curriculum consultant. When I moved to Bright, I maintained my 'joiner' outlook, participating in many local and regional organisations and events over the years."

Graham's father once wrote, 'Service to humanity is the best work of life and the help we give to our fellow man helps to pay for the time we spend on this earth.' He sees his involvement in the SES and engagement in the community as a fulfilment of that sentiment.

Benji Light

1st Year Arts

Benji has embraced every opportunity life has offered him so far. He balances his studies, while contributing to Queen's through sport, debating and dancing, works for the Australian government, and is representing the University of Melbourne at the National Model United Nations (NMUN) in Canada.

"NMUN is the world's largest, most diverse, and oldest ongoing university-level Model UN, and is formally associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications. I volunteer for Melbourne University's Model UN Society external relations team, doing outreach to consulates and non-profits."

Coming to Queen's from Canberra, Benji's arts degree represents his

broad range of interests, focussing on politics and international studies, and psychology. He also plays the flute, and has represented Australia in futsal. His enthusiasm for life is infectious.

"I am loving it all – my study, work, living in Melbourne and the College itself. I'm very busy but I'm fascinated by everything, it's lots of fun trying new things. I work part-time as a policy officer in the Office of Road Safety within the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts and am involved in projects related to improving road safety across Australia. During my time there, I have also run the department's futsal and soccer teams, and have helped teach French through its Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Network."

Benji knew Queen's was the College for him because of the welcoming community, from the open-door policy, to filling dining tables.

"One of my favourite things about Queen's is that people are so supportive of one another regardless of how good someone is at something. It doesn't matter, they just love to see you have a go. I've participated in as many sports as possible. I had a great time with soccer, it was my first-time playing hockey and I was the goal keeper. Queen's has allowed me to try out things and discover what I'm interested in while also supporting my career development. I've loved the networking events too. I have aimed to squeeze every last drop of value out of my time at Queen's College and the University of Melbourne."



Douglas Dorward

Master of Management (Accounting)

Douglas Dorward at right

Catching a bus in southern Africa will soon be a whole lot easier thanks to Zimbabwean born Douglas Dorward. With his freshly-minted app 'Kupi', bus tickets can be planned for, and purchased online from anywhere in the world.

"'Kupi' means, 'where' in Shona, the local language in Zimbabwe. I can purchase tickets by paying with my UK bank card, through Visa on Apple Pay into a South African bank account for a bus from Zimbabwe to South Africa. It is amazing. I've been working with developers to create a WhatsApp chat bot for customers. I have catered for Zimbabweans not always having access to mobile data or Wi-Fi by including the ability to top up both on the app, so we also sell airtime and data bundles for mobiles, electricity tokens for peoples' homes and Wi-Fi bundles too."

There have been several bumps on the road to bus ticket sales for Douglas.

"It's quite challenging because the whole bus industry is quite informal and part of my worry is that I might

be a little bit too early for them. Quite often the buses don't operate on schedule so buying tickets in advance has not happened, but it is becoming a thing between the main cities such as Harare, Bulawayo, and Victoria Falls. It's tough, I'm learning you have to go to the market, you can't expect the market to change for technology."

After studying an MA in International Relations and International Law at the University of Edinburgh, Douglas found university options limited in southern Africa and non-existent in Zimbabwe. Melbourne offered Douglas the opportunity to pursue a change in direction, from politics to accounting.

"The change has been big. There's a lot more to accounting than I realised, it's not as black and white as I thought. Coming from Zimbabwe, there's not much of a career in politics there. Politics has given me a good foundation, an understanding of the world, but I needed something more concrete for a career and accounting gives me that foundation for business."

Douglas is also enjoying the foundation Queen's provides.

"Being a part of this supportive community has allowed me to focus on my studies while pursuing 'Kupi'. Queen's wants the best for you and it's been amazing to have had exposure to a variety of engaging events, from black tie jazz nights to business breakfasts – there's no shortage of community and networking opportunities."

Developing the bus ticket app to improve life back home, and as a fourth generation Zimbabwean, his love for his country is clear.

"Growing up it was amazing living in Africa, with the space and being able to go on safaris, be in nature. It was like an adventure. Zimbabweans always look on the bright side, make-a-plan, we are very industrious and positive people. Despite everything that is thrown at Zimbabweans, we have a friendly, positive demeanour. I may be biased."



Kevin O'Brien speaking with Dr Michael Stepniak at the Sugden Institute's Indigenous Oration



Finding limits

Kevin O'Brien, a Kaurareg–Meriam descendant, Principal Architect at BVN shared his approach to designing with Country and culture front of mind, at the Indigenous Oration on Thursday 21 August.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Gallery of Australia (ATSIGA). Image courtesy of BVN.

"I am interested in the intersection between culture and modernity. There is a difference between owning and belonging. We design a lot of high rises and that's a transactional situation, the thing of value, and what matters is the square meterage. When we talk more to the idea of belonging, it affects your behaviour. It's about identity, character, other things drive us, whether it's someone's home or a shared public space. It's not transactional, it's absolutely relational, when architecture is in that space, the outcome is a very different one. I enjoy that."

Presenting the *Finding Country Exhibition* at the 2012 Venice Architecture Biennale sparked a deeper engagement with the arts for Kevin. Collaborations with First Nations creatives – Archie Moore on *Kith and Kin* for the 2024 Venice Biennale, and Issac Drandic on *Dear Son* for Queensland Theatre 2025 – have shown how the arts reflect and question our national identity.

"In my after-work hours, I move from the traditional practise of architecture to the performing arts, and visual arts. I'm in awe of the creatives who work in those industries, there's a fire inside them that can't be put out. When I do those projects it's incredible therapy for me. Working with creative people at the end of a day of working on big architectural projects, fills my cup."

For the last five years, a project close to Kevin's heart has been the design for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Gallery of Australia in Alice Springs.

"We started the project with 18 months of research into Country and community in Alice Springs, Arrernte Country. It made us understand the Country better, as guests. The MacDonnell Ranges have very clear meaning for that community, but we didn't want to mimic them, just help amplify them. In the same way as architects make space to receive light, we have framed that landscape within the building. It's the character and identity of that space."

By running the atrium to the side, rather than the middle of the gallery, Kevin ensured the whole MacDonnell Ranges can be seen.

"This is a technically resolved, very highly tuned building. It's about allowing art and culture to come forward. The purpose of this building is to sit back behind it. Parts of that Country are revealed to you as a living, breathing, contemporary of the 'now' experience, then on the right, are the rooms for exhibitions so you have culture on both sides."

The Master, Dr Michael Stepniak, thanked Kevin for presenting the 2025 Indigenous Oration.

"As one of Australia's most influential Indigenous architects, with a practise deeply grounded in Country and three decades of visionary work, thank you for challenging us to consider how the arts can reveal what has been hidden, call us to deeper listening, and renew our shared commitments to truth, identity, and justice."



The Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne



We will remember them

The ANZAC Oration on Thursday 1 May shared by Dr Katti Williams (Wyvern 1994) and Philip Powell, Wesley College past student and Fellow, opened fittingly with the Queen's choir, led by Director of Music, Will Fellows, singing Edward Elgar's, 'We Will Remember Them'.

Katti gave an enthusiastic presentation on the architects who designed Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance, Philip Hudson and James Wardrop.

Katti's PhD thesis comprised the first sustained academic study of the Australian early 20th century architect, William Lucas, whose design for the Shrine came runner-up to Hudson and Wardrop's. Not pleased with the result, Lucas gained a reputation as one of the sorest losers in architectural history, accusing the winners of plagiarism.

Had Lucas's design won, Melbourne's war memorial would have been a free design of a theatre, including a large circular plaza, and a raised block

in the centre, to be the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The entire site was to be on the raised area at the corner of Flinders and Exhibition streets with a clear view of the bay, referencing the waters by which the ANZACS departed and returned home.

Initially, co-winner, Hudson wanted the Shrine to be empty but changed his mind, thinking that it needed to embody a soul. Katti found this to be a very perceptive Australian response characterised by the absence of the dead and the distance from their graves.

"The Shrine has maintained its appeal largely because of the interior space, as it brings an exquisite pang of realisation. Rather than an empty tomb, they alluded to a tomb, centering the stone of remembrance, sinking it below floor level, ethereally lighting it from above, giving the visitor the feeling they are approaching a grave, but there is no grave, just a simple stone bearing the inscription, 'Greater love hath no man.' A truly powerful, poignant reminder of the absence of the Australian dead."

Katti's address was fittingly followed by Philip Powell who shared some of the stories of former Queen's College and Wesley College students' military service.

Forty-six deaths are recorded in the

Queen's College chapel for the two world wars, 31 from WWI, 15 from WW2, with 21 of them for past students from Wesley too.

Sam Ettingove (Wyvern 1917) buried in the Brighton cemetery, died 20 May 1918, was studying law when he enlisted in early 1918.

Philip said, "That was a brave thing to do because in 1918, you knew you were going to the Western Front, a pretty hideous environment. Unfortunately, while in training camp he was killed in a motorbike accident, on Glenferrie Road. He was born in Belarus and he and his cousin decided to come to Australia a few years before the war. Their mutual uncle was Sidney Myer. The cousin he came out with was Sir Norman Myer."

Philip shared the story of Waldo Warne-Smith MC (Wyvern 1913)

"He died 20 September 1918 in the hospital in Rouen, of the wounds he received when he took out a machine gun post. He and both his brothers served, one died and the other, Ivor was the first person to win two Brownlow Medals, and also captained the Melbourne Football Club to a premiership."

The ANZAC Oration gave all who attended the chance to pause, reflect, and remember them.



Philip Powell

The only way is up

Caroline Berg
2nd year Science/Engineering



When you mention working at NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) in the future, Caroline's face lights up. It might seem like a pipe dream but with her love for space, matched by the opportunities she has embraced so far, her career could well launch like the rockets she builds.

"I am drawn to engineering, because it utilises problem solving, using inspiration from the world around us to make it a better place. I enjoy the idea of exploring something completely new, and there's a lot of scope for that in aerospace and space exploration. At the University of Melbourne, I have been lucky to join the ARES (Aerospace and Rocket Engineering Society). ARES has been a really special experience, so hands-on. We are building a rocket that goes 30,000 feet. I am the sub-team co-lead for the recovery system, which is how we get the rocket back down safely."

The Queen's connection with Caroline's rocket challenges is strong. "Within the ARES team there are four Wyverns and it has shown me what it means to be a Queener. They have all welcomed me and I have learnt a great deal from them. I'm so grateful that they are both friends and mentors."

Caroline spent her summer pursuing another space related opportunity.

"I spent three months helping develop the content for micro-credentialed courses in space related fields with the Starmaster Institute. The opportunity came through a Queen's connection. It made me more passionate about the engineering aspects of what I do, and appreciate the hands-on, design work I have done. It was so cool to see the curriculum start at the very baseline of the history of space, then go into all the different aspects such as what it means to practise medicine in space, what the systems you need in a satellite are, and the benefits of going into space in general."

Caroline was born in America and lived in Colorado until she was 15, when her family moved to Geelong. As her auntie Dr Caroline McFarlane (Wyvern 1998) had been to Queen's, she decided to check it out.

"I toured Queen's and fell in love with the community. I was really looking forward to that on-campus university experience, and Queen's has provided that."

"The academic support has been incredible too. I have found a lot of my classes quite challenging and having the support of Wyverns in

tutorial sessions has really helped me. Queen's has given me a lot more confidence. It's like coming home, I know I am going to be supported. If I didn't have a great day at my engineering studies, that's ok, I'm going to have dinner with my friends and they will brighten up the day, and they are there to celebrate the wins as well."

For Caroline, the only way is up.

"We would be fine if we didn't go to space but I like that humanity wants a challenge and I see the thrill in the challenge of exploring further and pushing ourselves to achieve more. The next frontier for exploration is definitely in space."

Caroline received the prestigious Queen's College Council Prize for 2025.

The intention of the prize is to encourage the academic ambitions and prospects of students to experience new cultures, develop valuable skills and prepare for a global future. The prize will go towards Caroline's attendance at the America's Space Forum – an inaugural conference dedicated to advancing the space sector internationally.

Empowerment through education

Emilia Sterjova

PhD in Law, researching the rule of law, governance and anti-corruption law in Indonesia

Emilia is supported by The Lionel Phillips and Takahiro Chikashima Graduate Scholarship for Asian Studies and the Lance Castles Indonesian Scholarship



After being involved in a student politics club in first year university, Emilia decided to run for a seat on one of Australia's largest local governments, the City of Whittlesea. By 22 she was Mayor, the youngest female mayor in Australian history.

"I was a triple minority - young, female, and of Macedonian heritage. I was passionate about politics, and making meaningful change for my community by implementing policies that could really help people of different backgrounds. I also saw the difficult side of politics and witnessed the dismissal of the Whittlesea Council during my time there."

"Politics can be ruthless. I learned a lot of hard lessons, but I can turn that into something really positive and learn about ways I can help my community. Right now, I'm pursuing that through academia. Education can be incredibly empowering."

Having studied Indonesian culture and language since she was 12, Emilia has two strong avenues to consider.

"One is anti-corruption work, I'm already a federal government lawyer, so potentially I could work for our national anti-corruption commission one day. The other avenue is diplomacy because of my strong interest in Indonesia, it would be a shame not to use that skill set and passion. I would also like to work in strengthening Australia's ties with Indonesia."

To lighten it up, Emilia loves to dance.

"I am a salsa and bachata dancer. I really enjoy Latin dancing and recently did a professional/amateur performance in front of 400 people with my dance instructor. It was a magnificent experience and an achievement I will cherish forever."

Emilia is a very appreciative person, grateful for the inspiration offered by her mother, for her education, and the chance to give back.

"I'm the first in my family to graduate from university. Being raised by a single mother made me value

education deeply. I saw my mum working multiple jobs to make ends meet. When I was very young and she was struggling, she told me that even though things may appear hopeless, I could create change in the future by studying as hard as I could, to better understand the world, enabling me to help, and give back. There's people in the world who either don't have the opportunity or capacity to be educated. I'm very thankful for the privilege of education, it's something I never want to take for granted."

Emilia recognises the difference financial support has made to her life.

"I am very grateful for The Lionel Phillips and Takahiro Chikashima, and Lance Castles scholarships, because it has meant I can live closer to the Law School and focus on my studies. With the fantastic facilities and services at Queen's College, the dining hall so I don't have to cook, and having cleaning services for my room, and the subsidised rent, my scholarship has meant the world to me."

Emilia is to be the MCR President in 2026.

A vibrant, challenging, rewarding year

Cassie Silberberg

3rd year Science



2025. This year has been vibrant, challenging, and rewarding. The arrival of our largest fresher cohort in recent years was an exciting addition. O-Week was the first real test of this, and I could not have been prouder of the way our leaders tackled the week. Their energy and enthusiasm throughout that week laid the foundations for a strong year.

Once the year was underway, momentum continued. Commencement Dinner was a highlight, celebrating the academic achievements of our JCR students, and 'Cocktails and Kicks' offered a creative way to strengthen fresher-senior connections. The Student Experience Survey provided valuable feedback, reinforcing what we are doing well and guiding areas where we can continue to improve. Staff taking time to meet one-on-one with first years was deeply appreciated, and we've already seen signs of stronger corridor communities forming as a result.

Our social calendar was as busy as ever. The Charity Ball at Yarra Botanica was an outstanding success, raising funds for the Good Shepherd charity, while also giving students a night to remember.

Jazz Night offered an amazing evening of musical talent, while Quadstock brought colour and energy to the Quad. The *Mamma Mia!* production was another high point, drawing in record ticket sales and showcasing the talents of dozens of students both on and off stage. Together, these events demonstrated the diversity and creativity of our community.

Sport also had a strong year. From the cricket and football teams through to soccer and rowing, participation has been wide and spirited. Hockey was a particularly notable success, with both teams taking out the top spot.

Academically, the tutorial program thrived, and students benefited from support initiatives during SWOTVAC and exams. GYLIO (Get Your Life In Order), reconciliation week

activities, and the Long Night Against Procrastination added energy and balance to the assessment period.

This year also marked the start of Dr Michael Stepniak's time as Master and Head of College. It was my pleasure to get to work alongside him. His commitment to the student experience is admirable and I feel the College is in safe hands under his stewardship.

As the year closes, I feel proud of the way the Student Club has not only maintained traditions but also adapted and grown. Thank you to the Council and staff for the support they have given me, and the General Committee. I am especially grateful for the opportunities that Queen's has afforded me over the last three years. I feel confident to flourish beyond its walls. This has been a truly special year for our community.

Shopping sustainably

This year, the Cameron Brown Community Innovation Fund (CBCIF) was awarded to Beth Ryan (2nd year Arts) to support her plans for the next chapter of the Queen's Op Shop or 'Quop Shop', previously run by Heather Gill.

"I wanted to transform it into a student-run initiative. The CBCIF award was used to remodel the new Quop Shop area and purchase essential storage equipment. The remaining funds enabled the donation or recycling of excess items through a sustainable removal company, a crucial step in minimising our textile waste."

Beth has sustainability foremost in mind.

"Revamping the Quop Shop means we can continue its provision of affordable clothing and costume options for residents, something we've seen is really valued by the Queen's community. The new space is already

encouraging increased student involvement, with the Quop Shop becoming the newest Student Club subcommittee. The Cam Brown fund has given us a special opportunity to permanently embed sustainability in College life, and I'm confident that the Quop Shop will thrive as a fully student-run subcommittee in future years."

Established as an active way to honour **Cam Brown (1999)** who passed away in 2016, aged 35, the CBCIF encourages Queen's College students to engage in innovative, community-based projects that represent Cam's personal passions, drive and integrity.



Cocktails, competitions and connection

By Heidi Rupp (3rd year Science) & Eliza Mulligan (2nd year Science), Co-Presidents, Willie Quick Society

Willie Quick kicked off 2025 in style with our annual Cocktails and Kicks event, the perfect night for undergraduate students to dress up and for new students to meet the returners. From there, the committee kept up the momentum with a busy first semester of fun and insightful events.

The **Sir Douglas Menzies Oratory Competition** gave Queeners the chance to show off their speaking skills and present on a topic provided to them by the committee. The standard was so high this year

that the judges couldn't pick just one winner and so we had a draw between Poppy Bell and Sarah Myatt (both 3rd year Arts).

Next up was the annual Queen's College Trivia Night. Once again, we invited back Wyverns Nathan Wright and Geoff Heard (both 2006) to host. This night is always a highlight and really brings out the competitive spirit in all of us.

No Willie Quick year would be complete without our Black-Tie Dinner. The *Harry Potter* theme this year

transformed Eakins into Hogwarts for a night, there were floating candles and High Table even entered on broomsticks. We were also privileged to welcome back Ellen Sandell, Greens MP (Wyvern 2003, Fellow), who spoke to the community during the evening.

Foreign Affairs followed, where students tackled international issues with sharp insights. Congratulations to all who participated, and especially to winner Olivia Gardener (1st year Science).

On the creative side, the **Eggleston Arts Competition** winner for 2025 was Ruben Fitton (2nd year Music). The Wyvern Society Awards, with the theme 'Time at Queen's', gave students a chance to capture the quirks and character of College life through their art. First prize went to Verity Duff (2nd year Design), second to Sophie Hassall (2nd year Design), and third to Zara Ford (2nd year Science).



L-R Dr Michael Stepniak (Master), Lauren Bellamy (tutor), Benji Light, Colby Grieves, Sarah Myatt, Amelie Wilson, Olivia Gardiner, George Fforde (tutor).

With grit and determination

By Grace Pardew and Eddie Wallis (both 3rd year Science), Sports Representatives

Queen's has had a great 2025 sporting year.

Women's cricket started with a bang, securing enough wins to get them through to the minor final, in which they declared a convincing victory over St Hilda's College, to claim 3rd place.

The **men's cricket** season was one for the ages, with epic highs and lows, the team managed to breeze through to the grand final. Despite the passion and skill of our boys, University College came out on top in the end and the team went home disappointed, not being able to finish off the hat trick of winning three years in a row.

Queen's had a great time at the **athletics** this year, placing 3rd in the male events and 6th in the female events, which brought us to an overall 6th. Charlie Cotter

(1st year Commerce) was a standout, placing first in the men's 100M A final after running an 11.00 seconds heat.

The **swimming** carnival was a lot of fun, with a record number of spectators, the morale of the team was not shaken despite only placing 6th overall. Notably, Charlie Mortimer-Short (2nd year Science) was able to defend his College record in the men's 50m freestyle with ease.

The 7am **cross country** the morning after Commencement Dinner challenged the College spirit, however, we had a great number of athletes show up with amazing energy and enthusiasm. Unfortunately, Queen's did not find the podium but it was still an amazing effort from those who competed.

This year we had the great leadership of last year's GC president and two-time **tennis** captain James O'Sullivan coaching the team. Unfortunately, James' talent was missed in the men's singles and we were swiftly knocked out by Newman in the quarter finals.





After four years of Queen's making the **women's hockey** finals, but never being able to bring home the silverware, the team finally conquered the grand final. In an extremely competitive and tough game under lights, the girls scored a single and definitive goal against Ormond, breaking their three-year-long-streak, claiming victory for Queen's. The College was abuzz and many celebrations followed.



The Queen's **men's hockey** team was heavily reliant on our first years to win back the hockey trophy. The freshers did not disappoint, making up seven of the starting 11. The fresh legs gave us all the energy we needed to get to another grand final against Trinity. However, it was the composure and experience of the second and third years which ultimately gave them an edge and made Queen's Grand Champions of Hockey in 2025, winning both men's and women's finals.





Women's soccer



The **women's soccer** team had a great season, so much so they made the grand final. Entering the pitch at Princes Park, it was evident that Queen's was the underdog, there were some doubts the girls could do it. The game was tied one-all until the last five minutes and St Hilda's had it in their goal square, tensions were rising, but an excellent save by goalkeeper Eliza Mulligan (2nd year Science) turned the game in our favour allowing the team to score a tie-breaking goal in the last minute of the match.

With **men's soccer** beginning a few weeks earlier than usual this year, for the first few matches the team found themselves playing in the dark before the sun had even risen. The team persevered and found themselves in yet another grand final against Trinity. With Queen's having beaten Trinity in their first game, expectations were high. However, the pressure got to the Queen's boys and they ended up losing in a penalty shoot-out.



Men's soccer

On a chilly morning in May the **Queen's rowing crews** put up an excellent fight, the men's 1st VIII won the B final in a nail-biting race, putting them in 3rd. Propelled by the boisterous cheering coming from the green, yellow and brown section of the Yarra, our women's 1st VIII were able to secure 4th place. The Magoo's rowed with great strength, determination and joy, achieving an admirable 4th place for the men and 5th place for the women.



The ever courageous and lively **table tennis team** took to the tables like a fish to water. They showed great enthusiasm and teamwork which saw them win some nail-biting matches against last year's winners, International House. Unfortunately, the team couldn't make it past the pool stages and had an early finish to the season.

The **badminton** season was cut short following a defeat to Mary's in our second game. However, beating Trinity in the first game was a huge success and a great moment for the team.

Despite their best efforts both the firsts and seconds **women's netball** teams did not make it to the finals.

The **men's netball** team enjoyed a 21st the night before their first game so they looked as shaky as ever. Although the team tried to implement the new 6'7" fresher

twins, the boys unfortunately could not bring it together and went home empty handed.

In **women's basketball**, the girls put up a great fight having the will and determination to place third overall, which is a great result considering our teams had to brace icy cold mornings on the outdoor courts of unimelb.

The **men's basketball** this season showed great team morale, winning a nail-biter 38-36 to last year's finalists St Mary's. However, UC proved they were the team to beat, defeating us in the semi-final convincingly and going on to win the season.

The **women's football** team was in excellent form this year. The rather large team full of talented girls ended up winning the minor final putting them in 3rd place overall.

The **men's football** team this season unfortunately couldn't keep the streak alive, losing their first game in more than three years. A first round loss to UC was not taken lightly, the team responded by demolishing St Hilda's by more than 80 points the following week. The boys battled it out against Trinity in the semi-final with multiple of our key players out due to injury. Although the team played extremely well, they lost to Trinity by less than a goal, extinguishing any thoughts of a potential four-peat.

The **women's volleyball** team had a great season, displaying some excellent skill, however, they sadly lost both their games and didn't make it to the grand final.

Unfortunately, the **men's volleyball** team could not make it to the final this year, losing to Ormond in a very competitive semi-final.

Mamma Mia!

The ultimate feel-good show



The Queen’s College Music and Drama Society (QCMADS) dazzled audiences with *Mamma Mia!* from 11–13 September in the Union Theatre. Involving a third of our students, the sunny and funny production, incorporated all the ABBA hits, laced them with love, laughter and explosive dance numbers, to tell the story.

First time Director, Annie Hutchings (1st year Science), was thrilled to bring the script to life.

“The whole process was wonderful, but working with the amazing cast, crew, and production team was certainly the most pleasing part. Everyone was so talented, kind, and supportive, and it allowed me to integrate myself into the Queen’s culture more than I ever had before.”

Annie found her role challenging but very rewarding.

“The biggest challenge was ensuring all aspects of the production knitted together cohesively, which required extensive communication between many

groups of people. This taught me so much, and I could not be more grateful for the challenges the show presented. The best part of it all are the friendships and memories we have made, and the way that shone through on the stage. Thank you to every one for coming to support our work.”

Music Director, Eilish Murphy (1st year Commerce) loved sharing the ABBA show-stoppers.

“Nothing beats feeling the brilliant ABBA instrumentals completely engulf you in sound, or hearing the cast nail their harmonies. The music worked well, hearing a cohesive band alongside all the amazing vocal harmonies on

stage was breathtaking. It was definitely a challenge being a first time MD, especially with the pace we had to move at, but it was a great experience for me. I learned so many valuable things that I will definitely carry with me in my life.”







Commencement

Holding on to traditions – A year at Queen's College

At Queen's College, traditions are not just remembered; they are lived. Each year, students, staff, and Wyverns alike gather for events that have long been at the heart of College life. From the formal dignity of Commencement Dinner to the joy of Rowing Day on the Yarra, these occasions provide continuity across generations. They are the touchstones that bind past and present, reminding us that while each cohort brings its own energy and flair, the essence of Queen's endures. This year was no exception, with our calendar of beloved traditions marking the rhythm of College life.

By Dr Catherine Sicurella, Dean, Angus Cameron, Director of Academics and Professional Skills, and Sam Miles, Director of Student Life.

Academic and intellectual traditions

The year began, as always, with Commencement Dinner, where new students are formally welcomed into the academic life of the College. This tradition sets the tone for the year and includes the awarding of Wyvern Medals for academic achievement, a practice that is repeated at the Collegians Dinner later in the year. Weekly Formal

Halls continued throughout the year, providing not only ritual and community but opportunities for intellectual nourishment, with memorable addresses from Wyverns, David Lawrence (1982) and Andrew Hudson (1996). Ellen Sandell (2003, Fellow, and MP) was our guest of honour at the Willie Quick Black-tie Dinner.

Sugden Institute orations are another highlight. The annual

Indigenous Oration was delivered by Kevin O'Brien, Principal Architect at BVN and a Kaurareg–Meriam descendant, whose work is internationally recognised for 'Designing with Country' – weaving together story, culture, and place. He spoke with passion about his collaborations with artists and the ways in which Indigenous perspectives continue to reshape Australia's built environment.



Joanna Murray-Smith
with students

The long-standing 'Dine with a Scholar' series brought eminent thinkers into close conversation with students, including Dr Marzia Faietti, former curator of the Uffizi and a leading global scholar of Renaissance drawings, and Joanna Murray-Smith AM, one of Australia's most celebrated playwrights, best known for her acclaimed work, *Julia*.

Queen's continued its Career Ready program through events such as the annual Careers Dinner in Semester 1 and the Science Industry Dinner in Semester 2, providing valued forums for students to engage with Wyverns and industry professionals. Small group student encounters with Wyverns such as Fiona Inglis (1979), Amy Haywood (2008), Deborah Johnson (1975, Fellow), and John Wiley (past parent), or with Fellows at dinners and drinks, offered personalised guidance and mentoring.

Other newer traditions included the Cam Brown Community Innovation Fund workshop on entrepreneurship at Melbourne Business School, encouraging students to explore projects at the intersection of business, sustainability, and leadership, and the International Women's Breakfast, celebrating the achievements of Renee Carr (Wyvern 2005) and Dr Anne Schempp (wife of Dr Michael Stepniak).



Science Industry Dinner



Career Ready Dinner

The annual publication *Aedificamus* again offered students a platform to showcase their writing, featuring the re-introduction of a student editorial board under Angus Cameron's leadership.

Complementing these special occasions are the College's enduring weekly tutorials, covering a vast array of subjects and providing tailored support, enrichment, and mentoring.

Cultural and creative traditions

Queen’s College has long celebrated the arts, and this year was no exception. The Musical, *Mamma Mia!*, showcased the extraordinary talents of our students, from performers to production crews, while Quadstock continued its annual tradition, filling the College Quad with music, laughter, and the energy of live student bands. The Jazz Soirée, a highlight of Semester 2, featured wonderful performances from students on the saxophone, drums, double bass, guitar, and piano, while the MADS Soirées offered further opportunities for students to explore creativity and experiment with performance.

Another musical highlight was a performance by the Seraphim Trio, joined by our Master and Head of College on viola, which delighted the wider College community with an evening of chamber music excellence. The Willie Quick Oratory Competitions continued to showcase students’ rhetorical skills, while the Willie Quick Art Competition encouraged students to share their creativity with the College. These events ensure that creativity remains central to College life, fostering both



Art in the Tower

personal growth and a connection to the College’s vibrant artistic heritage.

Life at Queen’s College is defined not only by learning and the arts but also by the shared experiences that bring students together as a community. The College Ball, one of the most anticipated social events of the year, offered a glamorous evening of music, dancing, and celebration. Parents Gathering provided another opportunity to welcome families, fostering connections between students, staff, and the wider College community.

Sporting traditions at Queen’s College continue to inspire pride, camaraderie, and friendly competition. Rowing Day once again brought the College community to the water, where students, staff,

and Wyverns cheered on crews in a showcase of athletic skill and teamwork. The event, steeped in history, embodies the spirit of perseverance and collective effort that has long been a hallmark of Queen’s life, along with the enduring fun of our watermelon helmets.

Enduring traditions

As the year draws to a close, it is clear that the enduring traditions of Queen’s College continue to shape the student experience in profound ways. From academic and intellectual pursuits to artistic expression, social celebrations, and sporting endeavours, each event offers a connection to the College’s rich history while welcoming the energy and creativity of a new generation.

These rituals, whether the formality of Commencement, Collegians, and Valedictory dinners, the inspiration of orations and ‘Dine with a Scholar’, the vibrancy of Quadstock and the musical, or the camaraderie of Rowing Day, Bentley Day and the College Ball, anchor students within a community that values learning, creativity, and belonging. By holding fast to these traditions, Queen’s College ensures that every year, every cohort, participates in a living heritage that bridges past and present, leaving a lasting imprint on all who have lived on its corridors.



Quadstock

There's a bear (and books) in there

Sam Lieberman

(Wyvern 2017), featured on page 42, donated the book *A Letter to Bridget* to the Featonby Library. It is written by his mother Ann McAllister, and tells the story of his family's journey. His dedication reads:



Dear Queen's,

You are holding a copy of the book my incredible mum, Ann McAllister, wrote about our life navigating the public health space, my childhood with disability, and the healing that comes after challenges you never expected, but how you persevere anyway.

This story isn't just about me and my family. Among many other things, it's about the power of community.

Communities just like the one you're standing in now. No person is an island, and we are only able to fly because of the people who support us – I have Queen's and my incredible family to thank for teaching me this.

Enjoy every moment.

To purchase a copy: <https://au.blurb.com/b/11960186-a-letter-to-bridget>

The Featonby Library is a great place for students to study and connect. Through its very own Instagram page 'quollegelibrary' and mascot on the move, 'Featonby' the bear, news is shared through the community about guests such as publishing guru Fiona Inglis (Wyvern 1979). With stunning new Indigenous artworks, and its popular book club, the library is Library Assistant, Jas Kurtz's (2nd year Arts), favourite space at Queen's.

"I wanted to make the library more community focussed so more people would come in. It's a great space because there are silent spaces and collaborative areas where you can share ideas. You can order in text books to save money, and it has a great fiction section. The library is definitely more a part of the College, now."

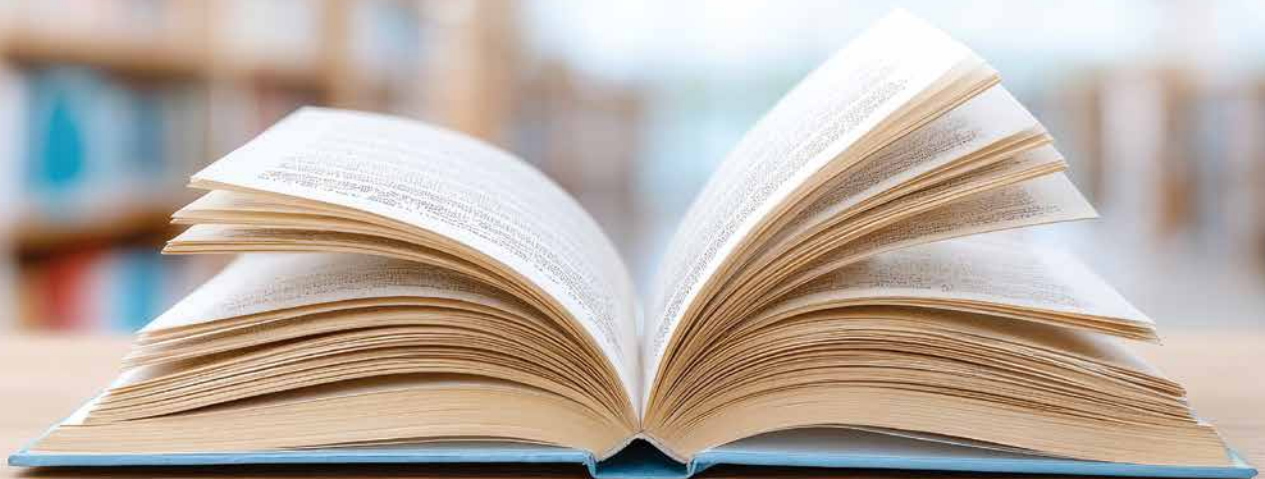
Jas has embraced her role as Library Assistant.

"It is a really good opportunity for students to gain an internship at Queen's. I want to go into publishing or library studies, so it's great to have the opportunity to get involved in it. We also have fulltime librarian, Jay Yurdakul, teaching us, and archivist, Jenny Bars stepping us through everything about the archive collection."

One of the most significant sections of the library are the shelves holding books written by Wyverns, including historian Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC (1948), actor and playwright, Alan Hopgood AM (1952), and author Victoria Heywood (1983).

"I saw that section on my tour of Queen's and it was one of the reasons I wanted to come here. It is very inspiring. It is important in lots of ways. When you are here you feel part of the community. I talk to my Wyvern friends and they say their time here was very formative, and they know they will feel joined to the community forever. Having the books with dedications to Queen's inside is so sweet, it shows the importance of books and knowledge."

If you are a published Wyvern we would love to include your book on our shelves. Please contact us on library@queens.unimelb.edu.au.



Meet our four new Fellows

Inducted on Wednesday 7 May, our new Fellows join other senior members of the College's academic community to provide advice and support about the development of the academic, cultural, and spiritual life of the College.



Associate Professor Neil Strathmore (Wyvern 1970)

has been a member of the Royal Melbourne Hospital Cardiology Department since 1991, and also works at Epworth Hospital. Neil is particularly interested in management of arrhythmias. He has wide experience in pacemaker and defibrillator implantation follow-up and removal, dealing with cardiac device infections in patients from Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

As an Associate Professor of the University of Melbourne, Neil is involved in teaching medical students through all years of the Doctor of Medicine program and has received many awards for his teaching.

Neil has recently retired as the Chairman of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand Committee on Lead Extraction and the International Board of Heart Rhythm Examiners (IBHRE). He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, the Heart Rhythm Society and the Melbourne Medical School Academy of Clinical Teachers.

Neil was a student and tutor at Queen's during a pivotal time in his life and will always be grateful to the College for providing a safe living environment, and wonderful friends, and for supporting his development to adulthood.

He was excited to be a part of an era of change at Queen's with the College becoming co-ed, changing rules on alcohol consumption, gowns and dinner dress, and defining its relationship with the Uniting Church.

Neil is honoured to become a Fellow and join the distinguished body, many of whom are old friends. He hopes to best contribute through his links to medical education and doctor training.



Ken Marshman (Wyvern 1974) laid the foundations for the Queen's College Trust Corporation (QCTC) and was a board member from 2008 to 2022.

Now retired, Ken serves as an advisor to the Board of South Haven Group, Chairman and Independent Director of the Board of Retail Employees Superannuation Trust, Chairman of the REST Investment Committee, and JANA Investment Advisers. His career has centred on finance and investments, something he certainly would not have expected when he was at Queen's.

With extensive experience in investments for superannuation funds, specialising in financial markets and corporate strategy, Ken was also the Chief Executive Officer (Grid Assets) and Director of Finance at the State Electricity Commission of Victoria.

For Ken, his years at Queen's College coincided with having to make big decisions about his future – what sort of career, what sort of relationships.

He particularly enjoyed the discussions and debates on the 'big questions' with his fellow Wyverns, especially through the College chapel community.

He thought that was an enormous privilege, describing it in two words – life changing.

Ken considers it a great honour and privilege to be a Fellow and hopes he can offer an ongoing contribution to the College and students through his 50-years-experience in the workforce, committed to the service of others. He looks forward to listening to the concerns and aspirations of the, 'brilliant students who are the Queen's women and men'. He will endeavour to open doors for them, as best as he can.



Professor Alicia Oshlack (Wyvern 1994) is Head of the Computational Biology Program, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne.

Alicia is recognised as a world leader with her expertise in bioinformatics not just in analysis but also in methods development. She is best known for her large body of work on transcriptional analysis and medical genomics.

Alicia plays an important role in enabling PeterMac researchers to make discoveries for better treatments, better care, and cures for cancer.

Alicia won the Australian Academy of Science Gani Medal for Human Genetics (2011) and the Georgina Sweet Award for Women in Quantitative Biomedical research (2016). She was also elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science in 2021.

Alicia is very grateful for the special friends she made at Queen's who are still some of the most important people in her life.

She is honoured to become a Fellow and be able to contribute to guiding the College towards bigger and better things for our students, and thinks it is wonderful to be part of an esteemed and diverse group of Fellows who she is excited to meet and learn from.

Alicia brings an academic perspective in her current field of medical research combined with a passion for basic science. She has also been involved in the Women in Science community for several decades, knows the importance of making progress to address gender bias in science, academia and other areas of our community, while also supporting minority groups.

Alicia was Wyvern of the Year in 2023 and is generous and collaborative: no doubt, key aspects to her success.



Dr Carly Schrever (Wyvern 1998) is a lawyer, psychologist, empirical researcher, and Director of Human Ethos. She has worked in and around the legal profession and the courts for 20 years, focusing specifically on judicial and lawyer wellbeing since 2015.

Since 2022, Carly has been a Principal Investigator on an Australia Research Council funded national research project on judicial wellbeing across Australia.

Findings are expected to be published in 2026. She is also an Associate Professor (Principal Research Fellow) in Law at the University of Western Australia.

When Carly was the third female President of the QCS&SC in 2000, she first learnt about the responsibilities and challenges of leadership. Queen's represents to Carly a place of growing up, where some of her deepest and most enduring friendships were made, and where some of her fondest memories were created.

Carly is very pleasantly surprised, and honoured to become a Fellow and feels energised to reconnect with the College and Wyverns through this new role. She is keen to get to know the current students – their priorities, hopes and aspirations – and what Queen's means to them. Carly believes in a time when there is so much global uncertainty, places of community and contemplation and non-vocational development are especially important.

Carly is interested in student wellbeing, and the roles of culture and leadership in the subjective experience of students – especially queer students and students with other intersectional identities. She hopes her training and work in psychology might have a positive role to play.

The ties that bind



Andrew Cronyn (left) and Dr Steven Middleton

When country-raised, sports-mad Andrew Cronyn, (Wyvern 1989), and Dr Steven Middleton, (Wyvern 1990), met in Queen's they were naturally drawn together. Basketball dominance, memorable nights out, and money-making ventures are all part of the friendship.

Steven

I've known Andrew for 35 years, which is a bit of a worry because you only get 30 for murder. I'm into my second life sentence with him, and he barracks for Collingwood, so that makes it even harder.

I heard a lot about him before I met him. Everyone was saying there's a rough and ready crew in second year and the boss is a bloke you need to stay away from called 'Crono'. They built him up quite a bit, so it was a bit of a letdown, in a good way, when we actually met. He was quite entrepreneurial, at one stage running a catering business out of his College room. He was also the first person I knew with a mobile phone, proudly clipped on his belt.

He had a couple of part time jobs and for a few of us who didn't have a lot of money he became a money lender. He'd lend you \$10 to go to the pub then write it up on his list, blue-tacked to his filing cabinet, and charge you interest. At one stage half the male population of the College owed him money. If you borrowed \$10 from Andrew you had enough for a few \$1 pots on a Monday at the Albion, and a souvlaki at Twins on the way home. He'd let

you pay it off in instalments or if you had \$2 left you could deduct that off your tab. It was a relief to see a line through your name. We always joke that he was a bit tight. If there was a dollar involved, he loved it. About 10 years ago he decided there were some guys he was never going to get the \$10 back from.

Andrew and I were part of a Queen's College dynasty when we won three basketball championships in a row. We beat Newman in '90 in triple overtime, then in '91 we beat Whitley and Andrew had a healthy rivalry with some guys from Whitley so we decided after the game to go over to their college to celebrate. A couple of us ended up in the local Carlton watch house, I won't name names but Andrew probably was involved in a bit of an incident, some would say he was a bit shaken up, but not Andrew.

We lived together after College in Cardigan Street and I got sucked into a couple of businesses he used to run, one called Idea Gear which involved printing on t-shirts, and the other, Universal Catering which catered for university events. We had a spare room in the house that doubled as Andrew's storeroom.

He'd say to the blokes working for him, 'I won't pay you in hours but you can drink while you're working and join the party afterwards'. In those days there was no such thing as RSA. They were good times, and if there was good fun to be had, Andrew was certainly right in the centre of it.

His passion for Collingwood is absolutely insane. He loves his stats, and is pretty good at them. It can be annoying when he tells you how many games Collingwood has won over the years. He can get a bit worked up at the footy if Collingwood isn't going so well. The other thing that's frustrating about him is he's been so heavily involved in the sports technology industry as a consultant, advisor and investor, that he has gone to the Olympics, World Cups, the NBA playoffs, and about 15 Super Bowls in a row. Everyone has been pretty jealous of the life he has been living. Six weeks in France for the Olympics last year was a tough pill to swallow.

He's certainly been there through some challenging times for me. He's very easy to talk to. I've turned to him over the years. Andrew and his wife Kim, have been the closest thing to a second family to my two daughters,

Skylar and Indiana, living in Sydney, he was always there for us through that time. Also, his friendship with my ex-wife Kirilly (Middleton, née Brown, Wyvern 1991) is a real testament to both of them. He's one of the calmest guys you've ever come across, especially under pressure, a real man to be relied upon in a crisis.

One of the challenges I'd like to think I helped in was when he was in a long-distance relationship with Kim. She was in the UK, he was in Australia and I know they felt that distance pretty sharply. I remember having some long conversations with him saying, 'Mate these things are sometimes meant to be, give it a go.' Thankfully, they got married 10 years ago but they had five years of backwards and forwards between Australia, the US and London. Now, they have a wonderful relationship, living their best life on Bondi Beach.

Andrew hasn't changed, he's always been really lovely, caring, generous, up for anything, a bit of fun, a laugh. He has a really large group of friends. We all feel privileged to be a small tile in the mosaic he has created in his life.

Andrew

Midda (Steven) and I have very similar backgrounds, we came from traditional middleclass country families and rural high schools.

He was a good athlete, in the first football team, was a better basketballer than me. I cared about it more and certainly had to work harder at it. After beating Whitley, there was a bit of good-natured animosity, and celebrations might have got slightly out of hand. We were bailed out by Steve and a couple of others, but that was one of the sweeter victories we had.

We are very different in a way. In my younger days I'd describe myself as being good with money, other's might say a bit tight. Hopefully the pockets aren't quite as hard to empty out these days. It has served me well in my business. Midda on the other

hand is a great acquirer of goods but not the best at discarding them. He owns a lot of random stuff, most of it I suspect is still at the bottom of a pile in his spare bedroom in Melbourne.

Our relationship became further cemented when we moved into a house across the road from The Clyde and the front bar became another living area because my catering business took up one of our lounge rooms. Midda was one of my better 'employees' in the catering business, which you wouldn't have guessed. He was very reliable, as he is in general. It was very convenient when we were living together, if I needed an extra barman he would willingly put his hand up. Midda was the one who would be there working until the end of the night. We had a lot of fun doing that.

We didn't cook a lot and one of the reasons was Midda's appalling dish washing standards. The other was that his signature dish was a bowl of chicken chips with salsa. I don't think he's improved over the years.

He is a very good storyteller, there's always a little bit of extra mustard and mayonnaise on top, that's part of the allure of the bloke, he's very entertaining. His stories about me seem to escalate each year, they never get old, he's the chief storyteller amongst our friends. Everyone does a combination of shaking heads while laughing simultaneously as the same stories come out time and time again.

As a Collingwood fan I'm probably not compatible with anyone. I don't really like going to the footy with anyone other than Collingwood fans, I don't think it's beneficial to my friendships. I'm a bit more obsessive than Midda who loves his Hawks, but is a little bit more rational about them.

Midda is an amazing contradiction. As an Associate Principal and English and history teacher, he is well read, a voracious consumer of all types of content and has a big

desire and passion to learn. He's seen every movie, read every book, watched every TV series, read every newspaper, knows about every country's politics. I'm too busy reading the footy news, but he's encouraged me to lift my game. When we first became friends, I wouldn't have known that, as I was more attracted, such as was the mindset in your early 20s, to the fun-loving guy.

He has completed at least two master's degrees and a PhD, which very rightly gives him the title of Doctor, which I find amazing and amusing. Amazing, that I just don't know where he finds the time to do that with a very demanding job and family but also amusing, because often Doctor Middleton and I will be wandering around Bondi Beach in our shorts and singlets and end up at a bar for beers. I don't know how he does it because he's also one of the laziest people I've ever met.

He's certainly been through more difficult times and challenges than me, with his father's death 20 years ago and then separating from Kirilly 10 years ago. There's no doubt that both of those have weighed heavily on him but he has just ploughed ahead, he's one of the most stoic characters you'll ever come across. I'm most proud of him as a friend for the father he has become to his two wonderful daughters. Also, the friendship he has been able to recreate with Kirilly is a real testament to them both.

I haven't needed to lean on anyone too much but certainly he'd be one of the first guys that I would if and when that happens. Once you're a friend of his you're a friend forever and he treats you that way.

I can still see that person from back then, his reliability, loyalty and generosity has always been there. The attributes of the individual haven't changed, fun loving and always good for a laugh, doesn't take himself too seriously are some of the things I've come to appreciate more about him through the years.



4 THE ALLEN FAMILY GENERATIONS

Allen family group above: Georgie, Luca, Geoff, Gabriel and Zander

Geoff Allen AM (Wyvern 1963)

It started with my father, Rev Donald Allen (Wyvern 1928) who came in as a theolog. I was raised in a family with lots of lovely stories about Queen's. He loved to wear a Queen's blazer in formal situations, even in his fifties and sixties. That showed his fondness for, and the great memories he had, of the old place. My father was very



Rev Donald Allen

keen for me to go to Queen's, and was pleased when his grandchildren, Georgie (Wyvern 1988) and Jake (Wyvern 1990) went too.

I also came in as a theolog in my early twenties. I left the church after two years, completing honours in arts, majoring in history, instead. I did a traineeship with the Commonwealth Public Service, while completing a Master of Business Administration degree at University of Melbourne, in the very early days of the MBA. Then became the principal private secretary and subsequently chief of staff for Sir Billy Snedden when he was Minister for Labour under Gorton, and then Treasurer in Snedden's first year as Leader of the Opposition, and in the McMahon government. I became very conscious of the relationship between business and the government at that time.

My whole career has been at the interface between business, politics and government. Business can be very successful at production, marketing, finance, general management but they fail if they haven't really understood what's going on in the social and political environment.

I started teaching business-government relations, which had never been taught in Australia before. That led to a role as senior research fellow at the Melbourne Business School, and then as deputy chairman of MBS for 10 years.

I was recruited to run the Australian Industries Development Association, from which position, in 1983, I co-founded and was architect, and foundation CEO of the Business Council of Australia. Then I went out on my own with the Allen Consulting Group, bringing together the two separate silos of the business community and government. In 1990, we founded the Australian Centre for Corporate Public Affairs, of which I am still Chair.

I was very keen for Georgie and Jake to come to Queen's, and they were very keen. I suppose they'd heard my stories as well as their grandfather's. I am very committed to the notion of an immersive university experience. I guess we pretended we were at Oxford and Cambridge when I was there with the gowns and the port after dinner but at least it was a collegiate feeling. I have had a long association and seen plenty of changes, going co-ed was a very positive thing.

It doesn't have to be Queen's, but Queen's is good. I like it because it's not a 'pooh-bah' College, it's down to earth with a nice mix of great country and international students.

Queen's is a wholesome, fun place, it's good for the kids. Everyone in my family, all four generations, have had a thoroughly good time in College and enjoyed it very much.

Geoff's daughter, Georgie Raik-Allen (Wyvern 1988)

It is amazing we have had four generations, nearly a century of association. It's a long tradition now, and our family is very conscious that Queen's is part of our story.

Dad was rapt when I got into Queen's, very excited. It felt like he was able to continue to be part of the community, through my brother and me. It's so special. Of course, he

is just delighted that the grandkids are there now, and loving it. It helps connect the cousins. He is always wanting to hear their stories, it is fabulous.

We had such a rich life at Queen's and that's something Gabe is fortunate to be experiencing. I enjoyed living in the same space as others, and the calmness that comes from seeing the same people every day. I also really liked that you could continue to be competitive in sport in a more casual way. I think it's a time in your life when you are finding your own tribe so the people you meet then are very influential.

Dad really believes in a liberal arts education, and how important it is in training young minds in critical thinking and analysis. After my arts degree, I completed a masters in communication at Stanford University. Then joined a magazine *Red Herring* in San Francisco, became the Silicon Valley correspondent for Fairfax newspapers, before returning to Australia to work in corporate communications. I now have my own business, Real Publishing, publishing autobiographies, as well as dad's book, *Business, Government & Society: Managing Corporate Public Affairs*.

I was at Queen's for two years, then Jake came to study commerce-arts the year I left, but we knew a lot of the same people. Sadly, he died of cancer, 10 years ago, at 43. He would have loved that his kids have gone to Queen's, had experiences he was familiar with, and continued those traditions. It is a lovely link back to him.



Jake Allen

Now that the next generation are at Queen's, I'm valuing it more. It's part of our larger family's story, not just an individual story.

THE ALLEN FAMILY **Four generations**



Jake's son, Zander Allen (Wyvern 2022) 4th year Science

My grandfather was very happy when I

got in. I was the first grandchild to go to Queen's and he told me what rooms he was in, some stories about 'back in his day', and I saw him at Queen's functions.

I have a lot of close friends from Queen's, more than uni. One of my closer friends was on exchange at Queen's and has just gone back to Edinburgh so it's cool to have friends from all over the world. Socially, it's definitely very big.

I encouraged Luca to come, and she is enjoying it. It was good having her there when I was there, as we are the only siblings in our family. I was an O-Week leader in Luca's year, so she got a little bit of a harder time. A lot of people were a bit wary about overlapping with siblings but we get along, so it was fine. It's also good she has her own space now.

My dad went to Queen's. I feel that link. It's cool that I got to go to Queen's, the same as him. I heard a lot from my auntie about College.

I didn't hear as much about his experience at Queen's because he passed away, but I do feel that connection. It has exceeded all my expectations. It's a unique environment and you don't really appreciate it until it's gone.



Jake's daughter, Luca Allen 2nd year Commerce

Hearing Zander talk, Queen's sounded like a really amazing

place to be. I knew my grandfather had been here too and it makes a difference to me that there is that depth of family history. There is a link to dad. It is nice to feel like I can connect with him in this way, to be in the same place as him.

I am getting so much out of Queen's. The biggest thing is friends. It's impossible not to make new friends when you live together.

Then there are all the opportunities. I played 'Sophie', one of the main roles in the musical, *Mamma Mia!*, which was really fun. Everyone came to watch, including grandpa.

There's definitely a benefit being here, study-wise. We have 'Qutes', (Queen's tutes), for most subjects, every single week. External tutors, often Wyverns, come in and because they are quite small, you get a lot of attention and can ask specific questions.

We also have Career Ready formal dinner events, with a whole bunch of Wyverns who have built successful careers in different industries. Students are able to talk to them about their career paths which is insane. You wouldn't normally be able to do this but because of the connections Queen's has, they arrange that for us, it's really amazing.



Georgie's son, Gabriel Raik- Allen 1st year Engineering

Throughout my life Queen's has always

been talked about very fondly between my mum and her friends, who all met here. She would talk about it with her dad, too, the happy memories. They all loved it, made lifelong friends here.

I spoke to my cousins, Zander and Luca, who had been here, so when I was offered a place at Queen's, there was a lot of excitement. My grandfather loves that we are here, he really wanted us to come because he had such a great time. It was a life-changing experience for him and he wanted us to have that as well.

Coming to Queen's has really encouraged me to go to my lectures, people are always studying around here which has been really beneficial for my learning. There's so much support.

I love the traditions of Queen's, the culture here is really cool. Being part of that, makes it feel a lot like a family, and it's pretty funny when mum asks, 'Have you banged spoons yet?' It's a lot of fun.

During O-Week we had to sign a book, and I was thinking, 'My great-grandfather, grandfather, mum, uncle, and cousins' names are in this book.' That was surreal, being part of that legacy.

Geoff and his family have enjoyed the parallel participation in the College – inspired by Donald – of Geoff's cousin Bruce Allen (1966), Bruce's brother Dr Roger Allen (1971), Bruce's daughter, Kate Sacks (1991) and grandchildren, Ned Sacks (2020) and Grace Follows (2023), Queeners all.



Chido can 'break a leg,' and mend one too

Dr Chido Mwat

(Wyvern 2016)

It's not every day a GP in Echuca, Victoria is recognised internationally for their work in the film industry.

Rather than there being a disconnect between her two jobs, Dr Chido Mwat (Wyvern 2016) finds her skills in general practice in country Victoria enhance her ability to relate to her worldwide audience. Pivoting between providing healthcare in a regional area to creating internationally acclaimed short films is the perfect life balance for Chido.

"My day job connects with what I do because a lot of it is talking to people, and much of being a producer is people management, relationship building, and networking. I know how to talk with people, build rapport, and get a message across."

Nominated, in 2024, for Best Director, and Best Sketch Comedy at LA Webfest, Best Micro Series at Rio Webfest, and Outstanding Sketch Comedy at the New Jersey Webfest, Chido is making her mark on the international film scene.

"I was happy they acknowledged me with the nominations. I have found a medium where I think I can excel because it fits my lifestyle, fills my creative bucket, and it's very exciting. General practice is also good because once you finish training it allows for flexibility, you can choose what interests you. I am a person who gets bored easily, that's why I'm doing so much."



"I was surprised by how much there was on offer at College, I was expecting the proximity to uni, but I wasn't expecting all the clubs and the MCR. It was definitely helpful, especially in first and second year as we had a lot of extra support through the tutoring programme."

Chido came to Queen's, wanting to live on campus while studying medicine at the University of Melbourne.

"I was able to receive guidance with my study because it was quite a heavy load. I am from Zimbabwe which is a more collectivist culture where the expectation is that you study law, or engineering, or medicine and give back to the community. I have been out for five years and I do a lot of preventative campaigns on health awareness. When I compare life at home in Harare, and life in country Australia, there is a greater sense of community here, and I really like that."

Chido began pursuing her passion for stand-up comedy in high school, this grew into film making, and now animation has piqued her interest. Again, her medical pursuits have been useful.

"I've learned as a GP, you can't possibly know everything, sometimes it's more important to learn how to know something than knowing the thing straight off the bat. Learning animation is like that, I start from a point where I can look things up and then I start understanding so I can do things. You have to learn how to ask questions to achieve something."

Chido's storytelling is aimed at her 18-35-year-old audience.

"I've shifted to sharing authentic experiences, delving into people's lives and getting that true connection. It's for people who feel a bit unseen, quirky, because I've always felt a bit quirky. It's important to give people the experience of being in a different world. There's that sense when you watch animation that you feel different afterwards."

Enjoy Chido's work on her website: <https://www.chidomwat.com/>

From goats to groupies

When Nisha Powell (Wyvern 1994) and Mark Ferguson (Wyvern 1995) applied for a spot at Queen's in the mid-90s their lives were poles apart, but they shared the same reason for choosing Queen's. The goat.

"I fell in love with Queen's, more specifically, with the goat, Bentley Still VII," says Nisha. "I thought it was brilliant that there was a College with a goat. Mark has a very different background from me, I am half Indian, half Australian but didn't grow up in either country. I was born and went to primary school in PNG, then high school in the Philippines. My dad, who is Australian, was very keen for me to go to an Australian university so I chose Melbourne and studied a Bachelor of Science, majoring in zoology."

"It was definitely the goat that got me over the line," says Mark. "We had goats at home and I was keen on breeding livestock. I grew up in Hopetoun, in the Mallee, and came into Queen's a year after Nish to study ag science. I was a country lad, had never been away from home."

"As it was my first time in the big smoke it was great to have the College community and feel like you had never left your country town."

For Nisha and Mark, Queen's was also the backdrop to the start of something big.

"Nisha was in North and I was in Kernick, we got to know each other at a few turns, then made it official on Valedictory Day. The rest is history."

After almost 30 years together, the pair is making history in many ways. They have three children, Nisha has a Master of Environmental Science, in conservation biology, and Mark, a PhD in genetics.



They have two thriving businesses, and a podcast called 'Head Shepherd', engaging listeners all over the world. Their focus has long since moved from goats to sheep.

"Our careers have taken us to Hamilton, Portland, Port Fairy, Perth and now Christchurch, New Zealand where we launched two start-ups in 2017, neXtgen Agri, and Genesmith. Nish runs the business side of both, and I consult. The businesses are designed to empower livestock farmers. The former offering professional advice to breed better, more profitable livestock, and the latter, streamlining pedigree matching and performance tracking, through a combination of in-paddock cameras and AI."

They agree starting a business together can be risky, particularly as it has meant Nisha has moved away from her interest in conservation.

"I had to make a decision about what my role would be, whether I would work with the company or go back into my passion, conservation. I do miss that but when you are starting your own business it has a completely different meaning, you are totally invested and you just do whatever needs to be done. We complement each other, we didn't know that prior to launching it so it could have been a disaster. There are pros and cons, I love the flexibility, particularly with having children. The downside of working together is it's very hard to switch off, you are constantly talking about work, or children, they are the hot topics of conversation, but it's worked really well for us."

For Mark, the start-ups were both a leap of faith and a natural progression.

"We knew there weren't many others who could do what we did, but it definitely was risky as to whether the clients would pay for our services. I went to Silicon Valley and listened to a lot of inspirational speakers, came home, quit my job, and we started the first company. We had no idea how it would roll, but it's been amazingly cool being in business together. Having grown up on a family farm, building this together is very similar. Our skills are really aligned through their differences."

Nisha knew most businesses fail in the first three years, and with half their clients in New Zealand and half in Australia, when COVID-19 hit, it was time for a re-think.

"Within the first 12 months we knew the business had a place. We had gone well for that first period, but then had to change how we delivered our services. In agriculture



Mark Ferguson and Nisha Powell at Formal Dinner 1996

you are impacted by so many things that are outside of your control, such as weather and prices. I hesitate to say that we have made it, you are always worried about what's coming around the corner."

During the pandemic, Mark found inspiration while out running one day, listening to a podcast.

"I was in panic mode wondering what we were going to do when the planes stopped flying, then thought, 'Maybe I should start a podcast?'. I recorded a couple of episodes, had a few people listen to it, then it gained a bit of momentum. We are now up to 250 episodes. It goes out every week to 3000 listeners, and we have had more than half a million listeners all up, which is cool when you think about that many people standing in a room."

"It's been the single best thing we have done for our business. Its reach is insane, every client who rings up says they have been listening. Everyone has their groupies and mine are sheep breeders all over the world."

<https://www.nextgenagri.com/head-shepherd-podcast>

The power of community

Sam Lieberman

(Wyvern 2017)

You would be forgiven for not knowing what CFTD stands for, or how it affects a person diagnosed with it. When Sam Lieberman (Wyvern 2017) arrived in the world, the medical fraternity caring for this fragile baby was baffled by the rare genetic disease. Sam's life hung in the balance for months until he was diagnosed with Congenital Fibre Type Disproportion, a lifelong condition that affects muscle strength and movement.

"When I was three weeks old, they wanted to turn off my life support. 'He's not moving, not breathing, he's completely dead for all intents, and purposes'. But mum would not sign the papers. She wanted answers before signing anything.

Then, on a solo night watching me in intensive care at the Royal Children's, she saw my leg move. The doctors didn't believe her but she stood firm. It's something I have learnt from her, how important it is to stand up for yourself, when you know something is right. When you have seen your paralytic son move, that's a big moment, something that's rather important to not get wrong."

Surrounded by love and positivity, Sam was eight before he clocked that his life might be different from others.

"As a kid, I existed in a kind of fantasy world instead of absorbing the trauma. While that was a good thing for a young child, sooner or later reality will hit you. For me; I was playing down-ball when I realised

the kids were making fun of my face. Kids can be cruel, but I hadn't really noticed it until then. It also became obvious that I couldn't hit the ball. My reflexes are slower, my fast-twitch fibres are weaker, my voluntary muscles don't work very well in my face, arms, legs, neck, shoulders. My involuntary, such as heart and kidneys, are kind of ok. I've grown stronger through exercise and time. I don't know what the future holds, what will happen to my body as I age; we will find out. I guess that happens to us all."

CFTD comes with emotional challenges too.

"Every now and then it gets to you. With chronic illnesses like mine, you need to do therapy, work on your self-worth. You need to do it for you, rather than other people. Luckily, with the help of my family and an incredible support network, I worked that out really early. You learn to focus on all the things you are good at – and strive to be better at them. Learn to let go of the things that are too much effort, like driving a car."

In first year at RMIT, studying criminology and psychology, Sam had major cranio-facial surgery, felt burnt out and was questioning the point of further study when his cousin Monica George (Wyvern 2002) suggested he apply for a place at Queen's.

"I genuinely credit Queen's for keeping me at uni. I loved every second of it. I spent much of my time building friendships, most of my best mates are Queeners. It's amazing how close you get to people you see every day. I love music and have played guitar since I was 10, it's a huge part of my life. In Kernick I

got to share this love with other people. We formed a band called the 'K-Baes', performing at Quadstock 2019. I had never considered I could perform publicly, that people would see the thing I was doing, not the disability, and that I could make other people happy through music. That was a big highlight, something I've enjoyed ever since."

Sam studied a Master of Public Policy then joined Austin Health as a disability liaison officer, using his years as a regular hospital patient, to inform his role. Now with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) in the innovation space, his lived experiences are invaluable. Not surprisingly, he is a strong advocate for inclusivity.

"I would like to see disability represented in institutions more. Queen's is a good example of an institution just getting on and doing it. I am deeply passionate about that. When I was in College, I was the only one with an obvious disability. There's always room to give people the opportunity to grow, and it is the responsibility of institutions like Queen's to ensure that happens."

As a member of the Wyvern Committee, Sam continues to focus on the power of community.

"I know it's a cliché, but you do feel better when you help other people. I really believe that what makes us human, restores our faith in human kindness, is community. That's what mum and I had built around us. I get emotional when I think about that. We are all in this together. It's amazing."



Entrepreneurial Emily

Emily Hamilton

(Wyvern 1996)

Emily Hamilton (Wyvern 1996) fits the title ‘entrepreneur’ perfectly. Having launched her business Coco & Eve, in 2018, the company last year sold a majority stake after year-on-year growth of 35%.

Financially backed by Emily and her husband Alexander Ostrowski, she took a calculated risk to launch Coco & Eve, a vegan and cruelty-free business selling hair, and body care products. The business grew, selling products globally in major retailers including Sephora, Ulta Beauty, Adore Beauty, Harrods and Myer, with five warehouses around the world, shipping to 70 countries, through 40 retailers, and 15 Amazon markets.

“The most enjoyable and rewarding aspect is creating something yourself and seeing it have success. Selling the business is the biggest achievement of my career, that pales everything else. We did it. I’m 46 now, it took a long time, it wasn’t an easy path, but it was a great moment.”

After studying a Bachelor of Commerce and Arts, Emily completed an internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and confirmed that was not to be her path. Unsure of what she wanted to do, Emily headed to London, looking for work, adventure and love.

“I met my husband, who is German, in 2001, and we have been together ever since. I found love and adventure in Europe. I started working in the finance team of a marketing and events company, ‘Exposure’, doing the boring work at an exciting company.”

Emily then moved to Switzerland, learned German, completed a Master of Media and Communications at the University of Amsterdam, and eventually

joined a start-up in Berlin, backed by entrepreneurs, the Samwer brothers.

“It was the first time I had worked in a start-up and I loved it. The chaos, energy, opportunity. A lot of young people on small pay with big responsibilities. I loved the atmosphere. We moved to Singapore and I started a subsidiary based in Asia-Pacific with Terecom which we then sold back to them and made a bit of money. That was really the start of it, having some money in my pocket.”

Emily used the start-up funds to launch several businesses including a distribution company importing Korean products to Singapore, and an ice cream business in Singapore.

“Everybody has a different journey and mine was to spend roughly seven years of my career finding what I love, what I am good at, and what opportunities there were in the market. There’s a temptation now to start up your own business, and that’s all very well, but you can learn from working at a start-up, for someone who is 10-20 years older than you. Learning from different businesses and industries is important.”

“For business students, entrepreneurship is definitely worth a go. It’s not for everybody, it might be too lonely, too risky, there are challenges for sure. You need to have realistic optimism, know what’s possible. We heard, ‘no’, 300 times. That was the biggest learning for me, that people can say no and it’s fine. I don’t know if I could have done this when I



was younger because you take it personally. Having experience behind me, I knew, there was a ‘yes’ out there, we just had to find it. We tried a lot of different things. Coco & Eve was business number eight. I look back and think how naive I was, you need a lot of self-belief. There have been many moments that have been really scary and on reflection I think ‘My God, that could have gone the other way.’

Emily knows how to hold her nerve.

Being an entrepreneur is in her DNA, Emily’s parents David and Heather Hamilton began investing in her hometown, Geelong, in the 1990s. Now happily settled back in Geelong with children of her own, Emily has joined the family business Hamilton Group, run by brother Cameron (Wyvern 1999). They are jumping into a joint project together.

“I want to challenge myself with a development project down the river end of Pakington Street, Newtown. We have some big ideas. Working on something for 2-3 years and then bringing it out to the market is an exciting prospect. I spent longer overseas than I wanted to, I just want my children to have the experience I grew up with, the good life in Australia. I want to do something new, and be a hands-on mum, making lunch boxes.”

Engineering, education & exploration

When you hear the name Hoadley your sweet tooth might start to crave a Violet Crumble, Polly Waffle, or even a Bertie Beetle.

Such was the success of Jack Hoadley's (Wyvern 1953) grandparents' business, Hoadley's Chocolates Ltd, the name's connection to confectionary remains. What might not be so familiar is Cape Hoadley in Antarctica, named after Jack's father Charles 'Arch' Hoadley CBE (Wyvern 1905), who did not follow his brothers into the family business. His craving instead was for exploration and adventure which led him to join Sir Douglas Mawson on his Australasian Antarctic Expedition from 1911-1914.

This branch of the Hoadley family has engineering in their genes. Arch studied mining, Jack surveying, his brother Dr Peter Hoadley (Wyvern 1954), a doctorate in civil, and Jack's son, Dr David Hoadley (Wyvern 1977) a doctorate in electrical. David now works for Raygen, an innovative solar



Charles 'Arch' Hoadley (above and top)



electricity company, as a consulting systems engineer. Peter's granddaughter, Jessica Niproski (nee Hoadley) (Wyvern 2007) broke with tradition to study arts, now freelancing as a book editor with Jessica Hoadley Editorial Services, and married to David Niproski (Wyvern 2005) after meeting in Queen's, who is also an engineer.

Arch joined Mawson as the expedition's geologist. After studying engineering, he continued on to a Bachelor of Science, focussing on geology and, conducted research for his Master of Science while exploring. His thesis was titled, 'Microscopic and Chemical Analyses of Rocks obtained during the recent Australasian Antarctic Expedition'. The expedition was tough going, with the team regularly sledging, and camping in tents through blizzards. At one stage Arch suffered from snow blindness, the treatment of the day called for cocaine to be injected into his eyes. For his work with the expedition team, Arch was awarded the King's Polar Medal in 1915. Arch was also involved in building Mawson's hut, which still stands, at Cape Dennison, on Commonwealth Bay.

Jack travelled to the Antarctic some 80 years later, and there found inspiration to tell his father's story. His book, *Antarctica to Footscray*, Arch

Hoadley, A man of inspiration and courage, was published in 2010.

"We were very lucky on the day we were scheduled to go into Commonwealth Bay, they managed to get us ashore, then the wind started to develop, and they called us back to the boat, but I got to put my hands on the timber of Mawson's hut, that my father had helped construct in 1912. We couldn't get in because it was full of ice, but that was such a special moment. I discovered something of what my father must have seen. I was delighted to have those memories, then thought I'd better put something together about it."

As Arch died at 60, when Jack was just 13, connections to his father are small in number but large in significance; Queen's holding a particularly important link.

"It very much evokes feelings for me, having followed in his footsteps. I discovered we did the same thing, started engineering then came into Queen's in second year, and finished our courses while living at college. He clearly had a very strong relationship with Sugden, the Master who introduced the students to the

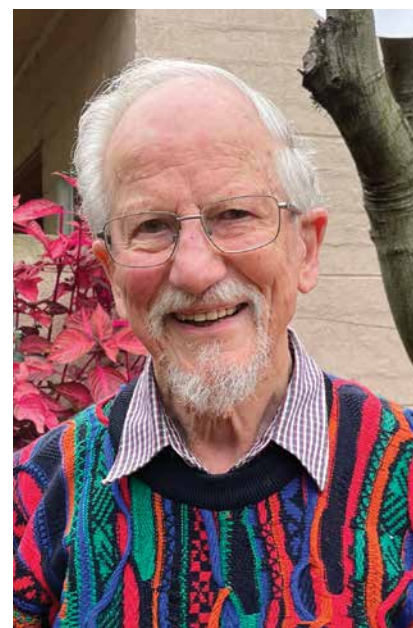
pleasures of English literature and drama, as well as liberal humanist philosophy with its respect for the individual, and its compassionate concern for the wellbeing of others.”

This approach held Arch in good stead when he was asked to be foundation principal for Footscray Technical School (FTS) in 1916, where he remained until his death in 1947.

“He had a vision of developing the whole person, so included art, crafts, music and sport not just vocational education. He articulated and fought for a broad liberal-humanist philosophy for technical education. He was also progressive about women needing an education, beyond cooking and needlework, to be good citizens. He invested a lot of energy in his first decade at FTS persuading parents to keep their sons at school beyond Merit Certificate. In his second decade he turned his attention to persuading students to study beyond Intermediate Certificate. He oversaw the conversion of the FTS into a hospital during the

Spanish influenza epidemic in 1919, becoming honorary superintendent of Footscray Emergency Influenza Hospital, and isolating himself from family and friends in order to do so.”

Arch’s role in the advancement of Footscray was substantial, and duly recognised. He was instrumental in the establishment of the City of Community Cultural Centre, Footscray and District Tree Planters Association, and helped establish Footscray Park. For initiating the first Rotary Club of Footscray the organisation erected a memorial to Arch inscribed, ‘He lived to serve’ on the Footscray Park Campus of Victoria University at the Ballarat Road-Hoadley Court corner. He was persuaded to become Scoutmaster of the First Footscray Scout Group, then went on to become the Chief Commissioner of the Scout Association of Victoria. For his 25 years of service to the scouting movement, the Hoadley Memorial Hall at Gilwell Park, Gembrook, was built, and remains today.



Jack Hoadley

Arch’s focus on the importance of education was passed on to his sons who made their own significant contributions, Jack as Chief Planning Officer with RMIT and Peter as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Melbourne.

Jack reflects fondly on his time at Queen’s.

“I look back on my years in Queen’s as transformative. They opened my mind to much more than engineering. I was introduced to wide ranging academic, intellectual discussions.”

“I also had the opportunity to participate in the annual theatre production and the offerings of the Union Theatre. I began to appreciate the qualities and variations in a broader range of young men, and their interests.”

Jack’s friendships have stood the test of time. He enjoys meeting with fellow Wyverns, Dr Norm Fary (1952), Rev Bruce Barber (1955), Phillip Knight (1958), The Rev Professor Brian Howe (1957), and Dr Peter Renkin (1958), for lunch each month.



Hoadley family in scout uniforms – Arch, Jack and Peter



Centre back row. Sophie and Kurt with students

Giving hope in hard times

Inspired by fellow Wyverns, Sophie King (Wyvern 2015) and Kurt Stephens (Wyvern 2021) taught at Thoo Mweh Khee school on the Thai-Myanmar border. The school is a migrant learning centre providing education and a safe community for children and young people who have been displaced by the conflict and instability in Myanmar.

"Kurt and I travelled there with two goals in mind: to learn as much as we could about Karen culture, the impacts of ongoing civil war, and life in a migrant community, and to explore how Queen's might grow its connection with Thoo Mweh Khee. At the same time, hoping to contribute in any way we could to the school and its community."

Leading the way are Fleur Maidment (Wyvern 1987) who founded Safe Water for Every Child – Myanmar, and Evangelia Wichmann (Wyvern 2020), who set up a First Aid and Health Hub at the school. Kurt was inspired to continue their work.

"Our role was really about continuing the foundations laid by Fleur and Evangelia, while also considering how a long-term exchange program with Queen's could benefit Thoo Mweh Khee. We stepped into classrooms to contribute to lessons drawn from our own studies, assist with English, and work alongside teachers to deliver the social science curriculum. We were lucky to do several tours up and down the border to see some of the incredible work Fleur has done with Safe Water Myanmar."

Sophie found the experience both challenging and inspiring.

"I was not prepared for the sounds of planes flying overhead and bombs in the distance, or for the stories of students who had been forced to become soldiers, or who feared they might have to fight once school ended. Nor did I anticipate the quiet, persistent fear that lives in all the students, a fear for their country, their families, and their own uncertain futures. A fear I have never had to know myself. At the same time, I was

not prepared for the abundance of beauty within Thoo Mweh Khee school. The mountains, skies, and farmlands surrounding the school are magnificent but the beauty also existed in classrooms, the dormitories and the families' homes. From the very beginning Kurt and I were warmly welcomed inside their homes. In the end, the reality was both heavier and more hopeful than we had anticipated."

If you have an hour to spare each week and would like to tutor a student at Thoo Mweh Khee via FaceTime, please contact Sophie King at sophieekings@gmail.com.

More information, including ways to support the school financially, can be found on their website: www.thoomwehkheeschool.org mwehkheeschool.org

Wyvern events

Geelong



Prof David Runia AM Past Master (1969), Andrew Hobbs (1983)



Rod Peel (1985) Jennifer Jenkins, Sue Calvert, David Lawrence (all 1982)



Emily Hamilton (1996), Emma Fitzclarence Lake (1996), Sally Hutchings (current parent), Katie Mackenzie (1996)

Young Wyverns



Caitlin McIlveen (2023), Zali Cohen (2020), Grace Lewis (2023), Maddy Mulligan (2022)



Fergus Scott, Georgia Grey, Harriet Smyth, Rachel Jilek (all 2020)



Matt Bruer (2020), Oskar Wesley (2021), Jessica Attenborough (2019), Leo Robinson (2020)

Sydney



Jo Christie, Peter Whitehead (1975), Louise Nelson



Heather Carr (1973) Cassie Silberberg (current GC President)



Campbell Bairstow Acting Dean, Prof Merlyn Crossley AM (1982), Fiona Inglis (1979)



Rod Lewis (1978), Rod Sims AO (1969)

Perth



Tim Maclean (past parent), Rob Fitzpatrick (1964), Libby Fitzpatrick, Rob Murdoch (1978)



Scott Robinson (1988, current parent), Justin Eve (1991)



Matthew Taylor (1991), Dean Dell'Oro (1992), Ben Killerby (1983)

Singapore



Rohit Sarkar, Manvi Sarkar (current parents), Frank Opray (1964) Bequest Manager, Lachlan Hay (2003)



Sharon Jacotine (current parent), Dr Michael Stepniak Master, Nupur Mathur (current parent), Nicola Sutton (2003)

Kuala Lumpur



Bert Tan (1991), Naufal Shukri, Azzedine Tarmizi (2010), Aiman Tarmizi, Dato Mustapa Mohamed (1970), Datin Kharmazan Ahmed Meah, Nicole Crook, Dr Michael Stepniak Master, Lee Yun Han, Wong Shung Yen



Bert Tan (1991), Dr Anne Schempp



Friendship and fun

The late 80s–early 90s reunion was a fantastic celebration of friendships three decades in the making. Organised by Andrew Cronyn (Wyvern 1989) and Nicole Crook, Executive Director of Advancement, Eakins Hall was bursting with Wyverns keen to catch up and reminisce. Andrew was thrilled with the event.

“The response was amazing. I think we initially targeted about 100 people, and it went viral, at least within the small universe of Wyverns of this vintage. We ended up with as many people as Eakins could hold, 230. When you are in College it’s so easy to have a massive number of friends because of the proximity to everyone, but post College it’s impossible to keep up with them all so it was great to chat to all those people again and try to cram in 30 years of stories. I wanted to make it just like the formal dinners we all had 35 years ago. They came from everywhere, Perth, Malaysia, even Nashville.”

Andrew shared some data about those attending.

“We had 23 Wyvern to Wyvern marriages and from that came some of the 33 people who became parents of future Wyverns – and counting, six past student presidents, 11 if you count those who believe they had the election stolen from them, five people called ‘A Webb’, three gentlemen who are still waiting for their invitation back for a third year at Queen’s and are here to seek a pardon from the Master, and one wonderful community. What was no surprise to see was so many

enduring friendships. I think that is the essence of Queen’s.”

With Sarah Walker (Wyvern 1989) as MC, the rowdy crowd bid on auction items contributing thousands of dollars towards supporting future students through scholarships. To encourage them, the guests heard from Paris Nagorcka (2nd year Arts), Gus & Family Regional Scholarship recipient – supported by Andrew Cronyn, and Taj King (1st year Science), Outer Metro Scholarship recipient, supported by Fleur Maidment (Wyvern 1987) and Daniel Moorfield (Wyvern 1989).

“The evening was also about helping some deserving young person out there develop friends for life like those we were sitting next to, across from, and all through Eakins Hall – a young person who otherwise wouldn’t get that same chance we did.”



Andrew Cronyn (1989), Fleur Maidment (1987), Daniel Moorfield (1989)

If you would like to organise a reunion at Queen’s College, please contact us at wvverns@queens.unimelb.edu.au

To show your support please visit <https://qns.cl/giving>



Brett Hatfield (1992), Mick Brown (1991), Clare Hobby (1989), Craig Ferguson (1988)



Sarah Walker (1989) MC, Tim Anderson (1988)



Miranda Myles (1991),
Julia Scarff (1989)



Os Smyth (1989), Vicki
Edmonds (née Price) (1988)



Joanna Mott, Paul
Mitchell (both 1988)



Five people called 'A Webb'

Dr Angela Webb (now Sankey) (1991), Alex Webb (1988), Dr Annette Webb (née Ekanayake) (1988), Dr Angus Webb (1990), Anna Webb (nee Jones) (1991)



Chris Medlin, Sally Fisher (1991), Samantha Cross (née Protic) (1990)



Tim Jessen (1993), Kate Taylor (1993), Matt Taylor (1991)



Rachel Thomson (1988),
Sadie Lilley (née Klau) (1988)



Karen Edwards (née Boag) (1987), Kylie Ashenbrenner (1987), Andrea Nixon (1988)



Tory Young (née Woodhouse) (1993), Sarah Graham (née Odgers) (1993), Carly Kluge (née Struthers) (1993), Rachael Taylor (née Swinton) (1994), Fiona Lawson (1993), Tanya Simmonds (née Steele) (1993), Nigel Simmonds (1993), Brett Livingston (1994)

Wyvern of the Year 2025

Fleur Maidment

(Wyvern 1987)

Fleur Maidment is making possible something most of us take for granted, access to clean drinking water. Since founding Safe Water for Every Child – Myanmar, her team has supplied safe drinking water to nearly 80,000 people. Unfortunately, her work is far from over.

“There is plenty of urgent work for us to do as the violent civil war in Myanmar continues unabated, with no indication of a resolution anytime soon. The local team works closely with community leaders and people who are fleeing from airstrikes or junta incursions. They monitor their needs and supply water, food, and shelter, as they escape the conflict, hiding in bunkers and the jungle. Like most conflicts, women and children are disproportionately impacted, so their health and well-being are our primary focus.”

When living in Singapore in 2016, Fleur, with her background in environmental science, and having worked in emergency management, took an interest in the challenges facing Myanmar. She quickly realised access to clean water was a high priority.

“Helping villagers and displaced people care for their water catchments saves lives. It prevents many of the diseases, such as diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid from spreading.”

“We have established a team of local staff and trained them to test water, install water filters and educate their communities about water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). What started as a small program escalated due to the military coup in February 2021

and we quickly mobilised our staff to give humanitarian assistance to the thousands of people fleeing.”

An offshoot of the organisation was establishing an English tutoring program during COVID-19. Queen’s jumped on board, matching Queen’s students with those on the Thai-Myanmar border so they could continue their English practice while they could not attend school.

“One of the tutors who volunteered was former GC president, Evangelia Wichmann (2021). We travelled together to meet her tutoring student in Thailand, and she stayed on to teach at Thoo Mweh Khee Migrant Learning Centre and work with the Safe Water for Every Child team. In a few short months, she saw a critical need and set up a First Aid and Health Hub for the school, with its 3,100 students and the surrounding community of largely displaced people.

Education is the linchpin for Fleur.

“Crucially, we are seeing our local team members complete their master’s degrees through Australian and Thai universities. This isn’t just about qualifications; it is about empowering local people to merge science with their essential local and cultural knowledge. Our strategic focus is on building a sustainable, locally-led future. We are pioneering a community-led humanitarian response with the resources and

knowledge of international partners. Ultimately, we hope this model is one small way we can advance a more stable and peaceful future in the region.”

Fleur thanks Queen’s for helping her to help others.

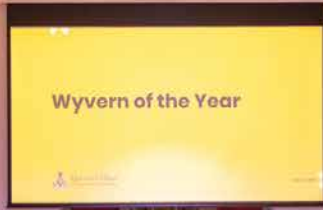
“The focus should not be on me, but rather an acknowledgement that Queen’s has fostered a giving culture. Wyverns everywhere have a strong moral compass to give back, use their knowledge and skills to assist others, and show grit and determination to excel in challenging situations. Through my work with the people of Myanmar, I have been able to connect and tap into the knowledge and networks of other Wyverns, working both in Australia and overseas. Wyverns are generous in their time, enthusiasm, and innovative ideas on how to solve some of the world’s most difficult problems, and I am grateful for that.”

Fleur, with husband Daniel Moorfield (1989) sponsor the Outer Metropolitan Scholarship.

Link to Safe Water for Every Child: https://linktr.ee/SafeWater_Myanmar

Queen’s thanks Fleur for her work towards community-led humanitarianism in Myanmar. We are proud to have Fleur Maidment as the 2025 Wyvern of the Year. Congratulations from the Queen’s community.





31 October 2025

Wyvern Drinks



Charlotte Scaunich, Matthew O'Sullivan, Ivan Kwok (all 2019), Sam Lieberman (2017)



Isabella Stanley, Rowena McKindlay, Niamh O'Reilly, James Gledhill (all 2016)



Dr Deb Williams, Joanne Bennett, Prof Alicia Oshlack, Sangita (Kirsten) Waters (née McCraw), Monica Hiew, Sally Morris, Dr Katti Williams (all 1994)



Daniel Moorfield (1989), with George Willox (1975) accepting the Wyvern of the Year award for Fleur Maidment (1987)



Ella Grainger (2019), Stephen Diamond College Chef, Emma McCulloch (2019)



Warwick Brewer (1996), Adrian Mills (1998), Ian Munro (1998), Tom McMillan (1997)



Back row. Helen Soutter, Douglas Gardiner (1968), Jenny Hodges, Rob Blachford (1969), Dr John Prowse (1969), Philip Castles (1968), Antoinette Akkerman, Peter Andriske (1969). Front row. Catherine Andriske, Past Master Prof David Runia (1969), Conni Runia.



Tim Clark (1983), Martin Kudnig (1982), Sue Calvert (1982), Lucinda Schmidt (1983)



Prof Malcolm Sim (1974), Sarah Ingram, Jane Sim (née Miine) (1974)



Dr Kate Smith (2005), Bramley Turner-Jones (2006)



Sam Brockley (1995), Dr Andrew Weickhardt (1996), Bianca Weickhardt, Adam Robinson (1997), Dan Ziffer (1996), Prof Steve Coster (1997)



Pan Hsu (2022), Daniel Moorfiled (1989)



Ken Gardner (1974), Dr Mark Pierce (1974), Jenny Gardner (née Clarke) (1976), Dr Richard Ingram (1973)

With more than 6,500 alumni in 42 countries, the Wyvern community is a vibrant, global network. But it's more than numbers and locations – it's a shared Queen's experience and a deep, ongoing commitment to those who come next. Wyverns continue to represent not only connection, but a lasting culture of mentorship, generosity, and pride.

By Nicole Crook, Executive Director of Advancement



Sayf Ismail (2007), Nicole Crook, Executive Director of Advancement and Dr Michael Stepniak, Master, in Kuala Lumpur

Building lasting connections

This past year has shown just how meaningful that support can be. Through the CareerReady Program, our alumni supported students and graduates with internships, career opportunities, and mentoring; building the skills, confidence, and connections they need to thrive beyond Queen's. A highlight was our annual CareerReady Formal Hall, where alumni from a range of industries met with students over dinner at Eakins to share insights and experiences.

This spirit of giving also continues through Annual Giving, membership of the Sugden 'Bequest' Society, and contributions to the Scholarship Program. Each gift strengthens our mission of access and equity, ensuring that talented students from all backgrounds can thrive at Queen's.

A true highlight of the year was the late '80s and early '90s reunion, where more than 230 Wyverns from the year groups of 1987 to 1994 came together to reconnect,

celebrate, and give back. The event was filled with laughter, shared memories, and genuine community spirit. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Andrew Cronyn (1989), Fleur Maidment (1987), auctioneers Daniel Moorfield (1989) and Tim Anderson (1988), and our outstanding MC Sarah Walker (1989), more than \$80,000 was raised for scholarships – a powerful reflection of the generosity at the heart of this community.

In June and July, Dr. Michael Stepniak and I had the pleasure of visiting Perth, Singapore, and Kuala Lumpur, to connect with Wyverns, parents, and friends across these regions. Our time in Kuala Lumpur was particularly meaningful, as it marked our return to Malaysia after several years. Reconnecting with the Malaysian community – one that shares a rich and longstanding relationship with Queen's dating back to the 1940s – was truly special.

Another project especially close to my heart this year was the

commissioning of a historical portrait of Dr Mary Clementina de Garis, made possible by generous alumni, in partnership with the Wyvern Society and the Queen's College Sports and Social Club. Dr de Garis' story is an essential part of Queen's history, and her portrait ensures that her legacy is honoured in a lasting and visible way.

What continues to inspire me is the depth of engagement from our Wyverns – whether it's a bequest, a monthly donation, showing up to an event, or simply taking the time to offer guidance to a current resident or young Wyvern. Every act of support builds a stronger, more inclusive Queen's.

Thank you to all who continue to give so generously of your time, your resources, and your wisdom.

<https://qns.cl/giving>

Transforming lives through student scholarships

Paris Nagorcka (2nd year Arts):

“For the past two years I have been the proud recipient of the Gus and Family Rural and Regional Scholarship supported by Andrew Cronyn (Wyvern 1989) and his family.

I grew up in South West Victoria in Warrnambool, and went to Warrnambool College.

I am first in my family to attend university. With Andrew’s help over the past two years, I’ve been able to attend Queen’s. College life has been a transformative experience for me, the friendships I have made, the lessons I have learnt and the opportunities I have been given have been nothing short of life-changing.

I have grown as a person by pushing myself out of my comfort zone, and learning what it means to be a Queener. In my time at Queen’s, I have enjoyed being on a winning basketball team, a member of multiple sub-committees, attending Queen’s academic tutorials, and this year taking on the leadership role of a student support officer.

What I have loved most about Queen’s is the camaraderie amongst my peers, our culture as a student club, and the friends I have made who have very quickly become my second family. Some of the best moments have been sitting on my corridor, bonding with those around me, or laughing until my stomach hurts at an Eakins table.

The effect a scholarship can have on a person’s life is immense.



Andrew Cronyn and Paris Nagorcka

For some Queeners a scholarship means you don’t have to work a fulltime job while studying. For others it means you don’t have to travel multiple hours every day on public transport to attend classes. Put simply, a Queen’s scholarship means that a young person can attend College and university.

Scholarships can change lives and they are an integral part in ensuring we continue to diversify our student body and ensure there is equity for every Queener.

Queen’s has been a moment in my life I will never take for granted. Every day I walk past the Castle and I’m still in awe that I get to be a resident here. I love this place and the community that comes with it. Being able to return a second year has allowed me to create memories I will cherish forever. I am so grateful to the Gus and Family Rural and Regional Scholarship and the doors it has opened for me. If you are considering funding a scholarship, please do. The impact it can have is tremendous.”

Andrew Cronyn:

“Paris represents everything that is good about Queen’s. Such a wonderful young lady, so impressive. I am embarrassed to think how massively immature I was at the same age in comparison.

What is equally wonderful is how Queen’s creates such a great environment for both the mature and immature young adults who both have lots of potential. I think it’s very important to make sure all those people get that opportunity, no matter what their financial circumstances might be.

My parents sacrificed a huge amount to enable me to attend. I was very lucky, but some others aren’t as lucky. No matter how desperate their family might want to help, it is still beyond them – especially in today’s world – so they deserve assistance from beyond.”

“In an ideal world, I don’t think wealth should ever be a determining factor in whether someone attends Queen’s.”

Vale

The College has been saddened to receive news of the passing of a number of Wyverns.

Rev Charles Biggs
Arts/Theology (1955)

Dr Margaret Biggs
Medicine/Surgery (1952)

Jack Chisholm
Arts/Education (1998)

George Hastings
Architecture (1948)

Dr Roly Hunt
Medicine (1967)

John Loveridge
Commerce (1946)

Roger MacCallum
Architecture (1964)

Dr Ian Manning
Commerce (1981)

**Emeritus Professor
Trefor Morgan**
Queen's College Council

Dr Chris Scown
Medicine (1970)

Magid Shaik
Mechanical Engineering
(1947)

Rev Roger Swain
Theology (1959)

Dr Rosalind Terry
Medicine (1958)

Stewart Thwaites
Commerce (1968)

Sue Trickey
Science/Education (1979)

Rev David Volk
Theology (1964)

Lorelle Warren
Commerce (1980)

Prof Ian Weeks
Arts/Theology (1962)

Dr Ian Manning (Wyvern 1981)

13 November 1941 – 28 November 2024

After graduating with honours in commerce from the University of Melbourne (Trinity College) in the early 1960s, Ian did not follow any of the usual paths into finance, business or government. Instead, Ian boarded a boat. A passage to India no less. There to spend four years teaching at Madras Christian College, Chennai.

Re-acclimatizing to the chilly climes of Canberra as Australia entered the tumultuous '70s, Ian kept warm at ANU completing a doctorate in urban geography.

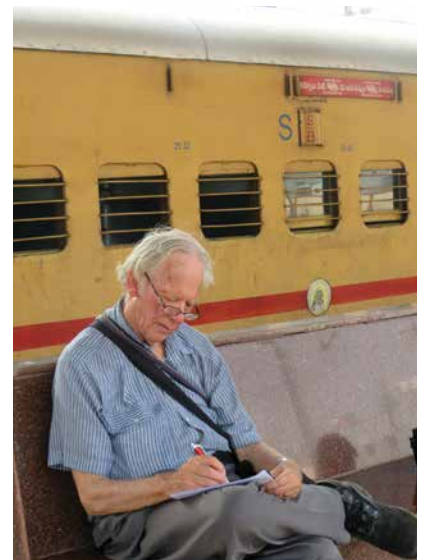
The early 70s saw the launch of the Henderson Poverty Inquiry, leading to the introduction of the first ever national Poverty Line exactly 50 years ago in 1975. Ian was an early recruit to the Poverty Inquiry team, and the early 70s saw some of his most notable contributions to scholarship on topics such as Guaranteed Minimum Income and the relationship between urban geography and economic inequality.

By 1990, Ian was the most senior member of SCR at Queen's. I joined the SCR that year (as its newest and most junior member) while

completing a law-arts degree, and the name Manning was a prominent feature on my reading list for Social Security Law. Lo and behold, the name turned up to college breakfast one morning, announcing it had just returned from two months travelling on trains in Taiwan.

I married him. 18 months later, on 29 June 1991 (Christchurch Brunswick), with wedding reception victuals and venue provided by Eakins Dining Hall. A couple of years of married life spent flitting across the Quad between separate rooms at opposite ends of the college, but we were eventually found married quarters in Kernick, where we lived for the next ten years before moving to independent living in Brunswick.

Narrowly escaping a successful academic career, Ian left the university in 1984 to establish, with colleague Peter Brain, the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research, originally in Clifton Hill. During his four-decade long consultancy career, Ian worked on projects as diverse as a new economic plan for post-apartheid South Africa (1994–95), Indigenous



Land Council negotiations with Big Mining, policing in South Australia, and State of the Regions reporting for the Australian Local Government Association. But he never lost touch with his first great love – urban and rural transport networks – train, tram or bus diesel or steam – Ian had the ticket. His final journey occurred on 28 November 2024, and his spirit travels with me still.

Dr Alice de Jonge (Wyvern 1990)
Senior Lecturer
Director, Asia Pacific Regulation
Research Group (APRRG),
Monash Business School

Dr Rosalind Terry

(Wyverna 1958)

1 July 1940 – 31 January 2025

Dr Rosalind Terry gained a Commonwealth Scholarship to attend the University of Melbourne working in the Microbiology Department at the university while also completing a Master of Science majoring in Microbiology, and joining the Queen's community.

From 1969 to 1973, she studied medicine at the University of Melbourne, attending classes during the day, and supporting herself working in the laboratories at the Royal Melbourne Hospital until midnight.

In a bold move after two years at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Ros set her sights on a ground-breaking path in surgery. She confronted a stark reality though: Melbourne's hospitals did not allow women to enter surgical training. Undeterred, Ros charted a new course to St Vincent's in Sydney, etching her name in history as Sydney's first female surgical registrar.

St Vincent's second year of surgical training included a six-month placement in Papua New Guinea. Although it was controversial to send a woman, Ros was keen to gain this experience and be treated like all other surgical registrars. The move to Papua New Guinea proved to be life-changing for Ros as she met her future husband, and her six-month stay extended to 10 years.

Remote medical and surgical practice in Lae was diverse. Ros became proficient in the local version of Pidgin English and was thus able to talk more easily with patients. The setting required a wide breadth of medical practice, so Ros had to be prepared for all possibilities including life threatening

emergencies with limited or no back-up. This was a place where surgeons juggled multiple roles, often topping up anaesthetic for their patients during long unpredictable trauma cases; and where nurses would manually 'bag' patients throughout procedures, when there was no power.

Ros introduced the bikini line cut during caesareans. Pelvic disproportion was a significant issue in the local population due to the improving nutritional status of the mothers and subsequent larger babies. At that time, the male obstetricians and gynaecologists performed midline cuts but nurses working at the hospital saw the benefits of Ros's approach and requested Ros when they needed caesareans.

Ros also treated widespread injuries from coconut tree accidents, trauma from road accidents on the narrow winding roads in the mountains around Lae, and farming and boating accidents.

Her role extended beyond human medicine. When an unknown disease impacted the local crocodile farm killing multiple crocodiles, Ros conducted an autopsy and took multiple specimens from a dead crocodile. These specimens were then sent to Australia for analysis so the disease could be diagnosed, and the remaining crocodiles treated. After a decade in Lae, Ros took the post of Chief Medical Officer on Norfolk Island for two years.

In 1990, Ros had a pivotal role in the establishment of the Emergency Department at Werribee Mercy Hospital, then secured a permanent role at the Alfred Hospital, where she became its first female senior Emergency Department physician.

At The Alfred, Ros contributed not only through her skills in trauma



management, general medicine, and surgery but also through the warmth of her camaraderie and her dedication to teaching.

In her retirement, Ros' influence in the medical community continued. She generously devoted time to volunteering with the AMA Victoria Peer Visitor Program visiting isolated elderly doctors. Ros was a member of both the AMA Victoria Board and the Board of the Victorian Medical Benevolent Association. She also had active involvement in groups such as the AMA Victoria Women in Medicine Committee and the Victorian Medical Women's Society, which underscore her commitment to elevating and supporting women in the medical field. Ros however noted that women are still under-represented in leadership roles and certain specialties.

Thank you, Ros for your extraordinary achievements and your incredible contribution to healthcare and society. Your journey is not just a personal triumph but a legacy that has paved the way for other women to follow in the medical profession.

Kay Dunkley, with thanks to the Australian Medical Association Victoria

Queen's College Sugden Society



*Dr Michael Lee (1982)
at the University of
Melbourne Herbarium*



Hamish Scott son of past Master Dr George Scott, his daughter Hannah, and Don Lawson (1965) at the Herbarium

The Sugden Society is a group within the Queen's community who have remembered the College in their will.

Presently, there are some 160 living members, including Wyverns, parents, staff members, and other friends of the College. Potential gifts, large and small, all valued equally, display a passion for giving back to the College out of gratitude or a willingness to assist by way of scholarship support. The Society regularly holds events specifically for its members and these are generally in locations or under circumstances off-limits to the general public.

Events during 2025 have included:

- A guided tour of the University of Melbourne Herbarium where former Queen's College Master Dr George Scott was a respected researcher, followed by lunch at Queen's in Eakins Hall Foyer.
- The ANZAC Oration at Queen's on the history of the architectural development of the Shrine of Remembrance by Dr Katti Williams (1994), and on a selection of Wyverns who gave their lives in WWI by military historian Philip Powell.
- A guided tour of the University of Melbourne Potter Museum on its re-opening after extensive renovations, followed by lunch at Queen's in Eakins Hall Foyer.
- Attendance at the Queen's College Music and Drama Society (QCMADS) outrageously successful production of the smash hit *Mamma Mia!*, preceded by cocktails at Queen's.

Additionally, the Society hosted an on-line seminar on the need for a will and contingencies when a person dies intestate. This was facilitated by solicitor Lachlan Valance (2004), a partner with Hicks Oakley Chessell Williams.

The activities of the Sugden Society are supported by its Patron, Dr Jack Ayerbe (1965), who chairs an advisory committee comprising: Nicole Crook (Executive Director, Advancement), Belinda Hutchinson (2002), Neil Mathison (1975), Frank Opray (1965), Professor David Runia AM (1969), Gonni Runia, David Scoullar (1991), Dr Michael Stepniak (Master), Lachlan Valance (2004) and Nicole Webster (2002).

Any of these could be approached regarding information on the activities of the Sugden Society.



SUGDEN SOCIETY Queen's College

To discuss a bequest or to obtain a copy of the bequest brochure for full details, please contact:

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frank.opray@queens.unimelb.edu.au
0407 316 865

Nicole Crook, Executive Director
Advancement,
nicole.crook@queens.unimelb.edu.au
0417 368 605

Alternatively, please refer to the bequest page on the Queen's website at:

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