

# the lion & Lang Syne

Summer 2025 | Vol 36 | Issue 02



The Scots College  
Sydney Australia



Developing Fine Young Men

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**Cover:** Adventure Academy 2025 boys gather on Bald Hill on the 'Bogo' property near Yass. Students stay in the shearers' quarters at the beginning of a farm experience working on local Scots families' farms.

**Inside Front Cover:** One of Tallin Bennie's (Year 12) Visual Arts major works, *Dyad of Excess (Eidōlolatria – Hydra of Consumerism)*, is a diptych of ceramic vessels. Constructed using traditional coil-building methods, the pieces are decorated with black underglaze through sgraffito. This approach echoes the aesthetic of Grecian urns while parodying their heroic narratives.

**Back Cover:** Ethan Yu (Year 10) from the College's 1sts Volleyball team playing against Newington College in June. The team went on to win the 2025 AAGPS Premiership in an undefeated season.

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# From the Chairman



In 1968, during the Apollo 8 mission, the astronaut Bill Anders took a photo of earth from a very different perspective.

Anders was in the manned spacecraft, Apollo 8, orbiting the dark side of the moon. He and the crew were amazed at the sight of the earth just emerging into view as they rounded the moon, so they snapped a series of photos.

The most well-known of these photographs is called *Earthrise* and has been described as “the most influential environmental photograph ever taken”. It is a rare privilege to see the earth from that distance. People who do see the earth in its wider, cosmic perspective say it changed them in some way or another.

When we see the universe in its grand perspective, we realise how small we human beings are. We can feel insignificant and helpless, wondering if our lives and struggles really matter at all.

Finding ‘our place’ in the world is a big deal. Finding our place in the universe could feel even bigger but it’s not as strange or difficult as it may first appear. Philosophers, poets, theologians, academics and teachers through the ages have asked the same questions: Who are we? Why are we here? What’s the meaning of life? What is the place of humans in the universe?

“ We were placed in a country, on a planet, in a universe where we can demonstrate God-inspired creativity, brilliance, imagination, physicality, care for one other and live with purpose, every day of our lives.

Psalm 8 written by King David has an encouraging perspective on these questions:

“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than angels and crowned them with glory and honor.”

He recognises God’s immense glory reflected in creation; that God has made humans in His image to reflect His glory in a way that no other aspect of creation can. This makes humans significant and with a dignity given to them by God himself, irrespective of their skills, wealth, age, gender or social standing. Think about that for a moment: the very things that we think give us value do not. We are valuable because God determined us to be.

We were placed in a country, on a planet, in a universe where we can demonstrate God-inspired creativity, brilliance, imagination, physicality, care for one other and live with purpose, every day of our lives. We are blessed that our College has inherited this God-centred vision, helping our students discover their place in the universe.

As you read the pages of this edition of *The Lion & Lang Syne*, I hope that you will see that across our many campuses are students, staff and families who are all made in the image of God.

**Reverend Glen Pather**

Chairman of the College Council

# From the Principal



The journey from being a Scots boy to a fine young man is not always straightforward or easy. There are developmental growth and learning phases that need to be defined, understood and well-resourced.

What a wonderful blessing that we are all so different! A cookie-cutter approach to educational provision will not serve to personalise and meet the different needs of boys.

In the early years of schooling, when curiosity is at the forefront, little boys become active and curious explorers and their learning develops through a focus on wonder and mastery. When they begin their journey in the Middle School, where belonging and adventure are nurtured, early adolescent boys build autonomy and relational skills necessary for the next phase. Our hope is that boys will graduate Year 12 as young men of courage and conviction with intellectual, emotional and spiritual insight and resilience – young men of character.

Every year, this extraordinary developmental experience is coordinated, guided and encouraged on our unique campuses and by their staff teams. A yearbook encapsulates those very moments: sporting achievements, excursions, celebrations, creative expression, friendship and community service. Boys learn because they are inspired and challenged.

“

Boys learn ... every time an idea is mentioned, a project suggested, new approaches explored and imagination ignited ...

Every time an idea is mentioned, a project suggested, new approaches explored and imagination ignited, we want the boys to be excited and passionate about their learning and growth.

It is well known in Australia, and throughout the world, that Scots is one of the few schools that devotes time and resources into researching the growth, development and education of boys. We collaborate with leading universities and boys' schools across the globe so that we can better equip our staff and focus our programs for boys. We research all aspects of a boy's educational journey, so that he can truly flourish in mind, body and spirit. Scots is proudly established on Christian values that anchor our educational philosophy, providing the moral compass and guiding purpose for all that we do.

The decades may come and go, social pressures may surprise us, personal requirements may change but what it means to be truly human never changes. Our holistic approach at The Scots College integrates faith, leadership and a future-focused vision and service. As a vision, it informs our strategic priorities, whether it is on the sporting field, in the classroom, on a camp, an overseas trip or in a staff leadership meeting.

Real connection with students and their families retains and builds a deeper sense of community – one that nurtures every student. Meaningful partnerships with business and industry leaders, community groups and boys, co-educational and girls' schools encourage boys to contribute and assist others in situations that require respect and mutual growth.

We hope to equip every boy with the personalised support, guidance and mentorship that will enable him to navigate his future life path and career with purpose and agility; encouraging informed, relevant decision-making and self-assuredness as they step into their adult lives.

We want to empower every young man to move forward from their time at the College ready to excel in fields where their gifts and abilities can enable them to flourish and be used in the service of others. Solving problems, working in teams and insisting on high standards in all that ones does will define Scots boys in the broader community. This is all based on our desire to provide every Scots boy with the finest preparation for life.

Scots to the fore!

**Dr Ian PM Lambert**  
Principal

# Academic Journey



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Year 9 Adventure Academy boys, Charles Volz, Edward Palfreyman, Orlando Brown and Jasper Towzell embark on their tall ship journey from Callala Bay in 2024, now Adventure Academy celebrates five years of the program. Our feature starts on page 8 ...



Tom Wilson  
Chair, Clark Fellowship Panel  
Professor of Economics  
University of Melbourne

Emma Buttress  
Chair, Clark Fellowship Panel  
Professor of Psychology  
University of Melbourne

Jeffrey Tait  
Chair, Clark Fellowship Panel  
Professor of Economics  
University of Melbourne



# The Identity Game

The Clark Lecture has become a signature event of our embedded research centre, The Caledonian Institute, The Scots College's home for scholarship, culture and public thought.

Each year, it brings together students, staff and the wider community to hear from a leading figure whose work bridges intellect, faith and public life. Established in honour of Old Boy Professor Graeme Clark ('51), the lecture reflects his legacy of rigorous academic inquiry and lived Christian faith. Since its inception in 2014, the Clark Lecture has drawn scholars and practitioners from fields as diverse as nuclear physics, constitutional law, philosophy and mathematics. Each Fellow is invited to spend time with the Scots community and to address the great questions that shape human flourishing. Indeed, last year's Fellow, Director of The Harvard Human Flourishing Program, Professor Tyler VanderWeele, epitomised this intent, leading to an enduring relationship between the College and Harvard University.

This year, The Caledonian Institute welcomed Director of Cambridge United Football Club and General Director of Christians in Sport, Dr Graham Daniels, who delivered the 2025 Clark Lecture at the Sydney Cricket Ground. His subject was sport, but his reach extended far beyond exploring identity, meaning and the fragile weight of performance in modern life.

Dr Daniels is well placed to speak on these themes. A former professional footballer, manager, academic and public speaker,

he combines the inside knowledge of an elite competitor with the perspective of a theologian and cultural critic. His lecture: *The Identity Game: Coaching, Competing and the Search for Meaning*, challenged an audience of students, staff and guests to see beyond the scoreboard.

He began with a familiar scene: the school sports day. “There are always three types of children,” he observed with a smile, “those who play by the rules, those who hurl themselves in with reckless abandon, and the ones who find a way to cheat.” Laughter rippled through the crowd, yet the point was serious. What begins as play, he argued, soon shifts into pressure. By adolescence, many young people find their worth measured by performance and at the professional level, the burden is crushing. “A win doesn’t feel as good as a loss feels bad,” Dr Daniels quoted tennis legend Andre Agassi. Performance-based identity, Dr Daniels argued, is never secure. “It’s fragile because outcomes are uncertain, temporary, and always under threat.”

His seminal doctoral research among English Premier League footballers provided sobering confirmation. The dressing room, he explained, functions as an “institution” in sociologist Erving Goffman’s sense: a place with rigid behavioural codes



To view The Scots College 2025 Clark Lecture, *The Identity Game: Coaching, Competing and the Search for Meaning*, please scan this QR code.



The panel discussion featuring Sydney-based Specialist Sport and Exercise Medicine Physician, Dr John Best, two-time Olympic swimmer, Ms Elka Whalan, Australian Volleyball Player, Ms Jenny Tait and The Scots College's Director of Athletics and Cross Country and former UK athlete, Mr Andrew Matthews, brought a rich blend of honesty, humour and hard-won wisdom to the evening.

that suppress individuality. “Macho identity is a survival strategy,” Dr Daniels said. “Education, vulnerability, even family commitments are often sacrificed. Integrity (that is, living one life on and another off the field) is hard to maintain.”

But not impossible. In his interviews, Dr Daniels encountered athletes whose Christian faith reshaped their perspective. One veteran told him: “Football wasn’t so important. I could play better. There was no pressure. My faith gave me a new perspective. God has given me a talent, I’m going to give it back to Him and do my best. If it doesn’t happen, it’s not the end of the world.” Another recalled the peace he felt even as injury threatened his career: “That peace I’d been looking for was always temporary [until I knew it in God].”

Here the lecture moved from sociology to theology. Drawing on Thomas Cranmer and the Reformation, Daniels argued that self-worth cannot be achieved – it must be received. “Achievement is a good thing,” he said, “but when achievement becomes the God thing, it destroys.” He warned that when identity is staked on success, failure becomes intolerable and even victory leaves a void. The problem isn’t ambition itself, Dr Daniels argued, but the weight we ask it to carry. Sport, like all achievement, makes a wonderful servant but a terrible master. Every person, Martin Luther wrote, has a vocation, a lane to run in, and that is no mistake, but a gift. Whether in sport, scholarship, or family life, talents are entrusted by God not to prove our value, but to serve others.

The panel discussion with Dr John Best, Ms Elka Whalen, Ms Jenny Tait and Mr Andrew Matthews brought a rich blend of honesty, humour and hard-won wisdom to the evening. Each shared the challenges of living out their faith in high-performance sporting environments where isolation, pressure and cultural expectations often stand in sharp contrast to Christian conviction.

For Scots, Dr Daniels left a pointed challenge: ambition in sport, music, academics or the arts is not the problem, it is aiming too low. “You’ve got to dream bigger than that,” he urged. True ambition is not only about winning medals or topping leaderboards, but about pursuing a purposeful life: one shaped by hope, service and character. He acknowledged, with a nod to Principal, Dr Ian PM Lambert, that “we play to win and rightly so.” Yet at Scots, the deeper conviction is clear: “the centrality of the Christian faith,” said Dr Daniels, “and that drive to make good men of good character, underpin athletic competence, always and they’re not mutually exclusive”. It was a fitting reminder that the College’s highest ambitions are not only about achievement, but the work of deep formation.

#### **Dr Rob Loe**

Deputy Principal – Academics

# Student Researchers

## ACADEMIC JOURNEY

Student scholarship at The Scots College is evident not only in our formal examinations and academic competition results, but also in pursuits that go far beyond test performance.

Our Brave Hearts Bold Minds educational philosophy includes The Quest for Excellence, where curiosity is a key character quality in the pursuit of excellence. Scots students have a number of opportunities to exercise their intellectual curiosity through research and writing.

Senior students in The Ashburner Society commit to researching and writing an article for the annual journal, *The Scotian*, on a topic they are thinking through. The 2024 edition featured articles on diverse topics including: The Golden House of Nero, overuse of antibiotics, anxious and avoidant relationships, communication with alien life and the untold truth about aviation. *The Scotian* journal is shared with students and staff within Scots and with other schools that we interact with in Sydney and around the world.

While a Year 9 student at Glengarry, Peter Sklavos (Year 12) was intrigued by the effect that disconnection from social media might have on the boys' mental health. He was inspired to begin his own research project on this topic, on top of his regular academic load. Peter has completed the data collection phase of

the research study and hopes to publish the finished study in a peer-reviewed academic journal.

Scots boys also research and write for external competitions. When he was in Year 10, Peter submitted an essay to the *Berkeley Economic Review* Spring 2023 High School Essay Contest titled: 'What are the Benefits and Drawbacks of a Cashless Society, and What Potential Impact Could It Have on Individuals and the Economy as a Whole?' The essay was awarded the runner-up position and was published in the *Berkeley Economic Review*.

This year William Chen (Year 10) and Ryan Bennett (Year 10) submitted an essay for the John Locke Institute Global Essay Competition. They have both been shortlisted for an essay prize and are travelling to the United Kingdom for an academic conference in the October holidays for the finalist announcement. William's essay, 'Use every man after his desert, and who should "scape whipping"?' Should the law treat offenders better than they deserve?' and Ryan's essay is titled 'Should Oxford lower its admissions standards for the sons and daughters of generous benefactors?'.

Student research has also been championed this year with the inauguration of the Scholar's Guild, a co-educational program for Year 10 students to undertake a one-semester research project. Eleven Scots boys are participating in the Scholar's Guild program in 2025, with a similar number

of Kambala students. In teams of four, the students decide on a research topic and how they will go about collecting and analysing data. Most of the work is done in a series of after-school 'sprint' sessions, where students receive training in research skills and have time to work on their project. Some of the topics include: Can AI fully gain human consciousness? Donald Trump or Elon Musk – who is more powerful? and How social media has mentally affected youth? Each research team will conduct a literature review, interview an expert in their field and survey students if appropriate. The program culminates at the end of the school year with a presentation of findings to students, parents and school leaders and publication of research reports.

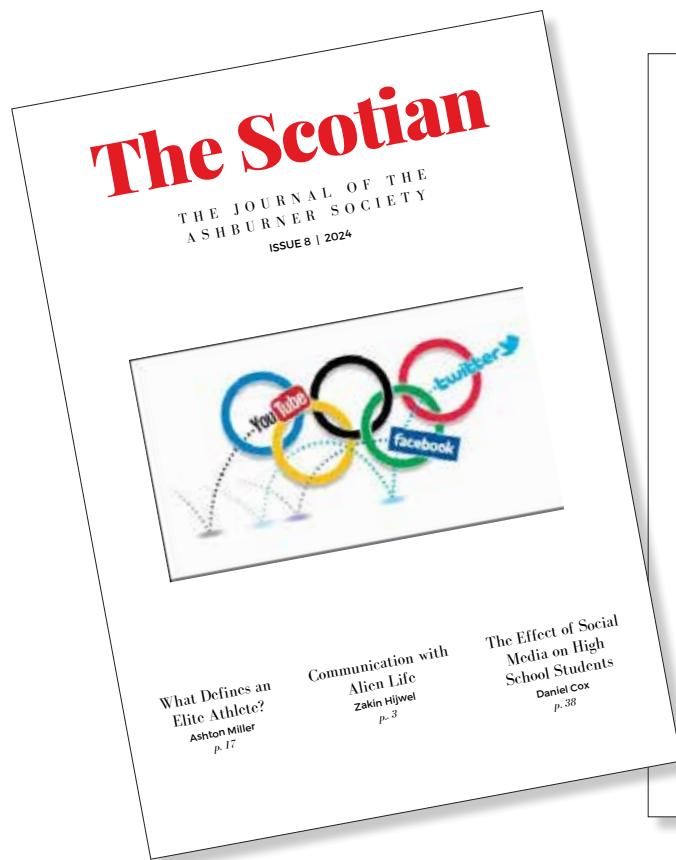
Scots offers Senior students a range of opportunities to develop and exercise scholarship outside of their regular academic program through academic competitions, The Ashburner Society and the Scholar's Guild.

### Dr Jeff Mann

Coordinator of Student Experience and The Ashburner Society

“

Scots students have a number of opportunities to exercise their intellectual curiosity through research and writing.



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## The Ashburner Society

Senior students in The Ashburner Society commit to researching and writing an article for the annual journal, *The Scotian*. The 2025 edition of *The Scotian* will be published and distributed in early 2026.

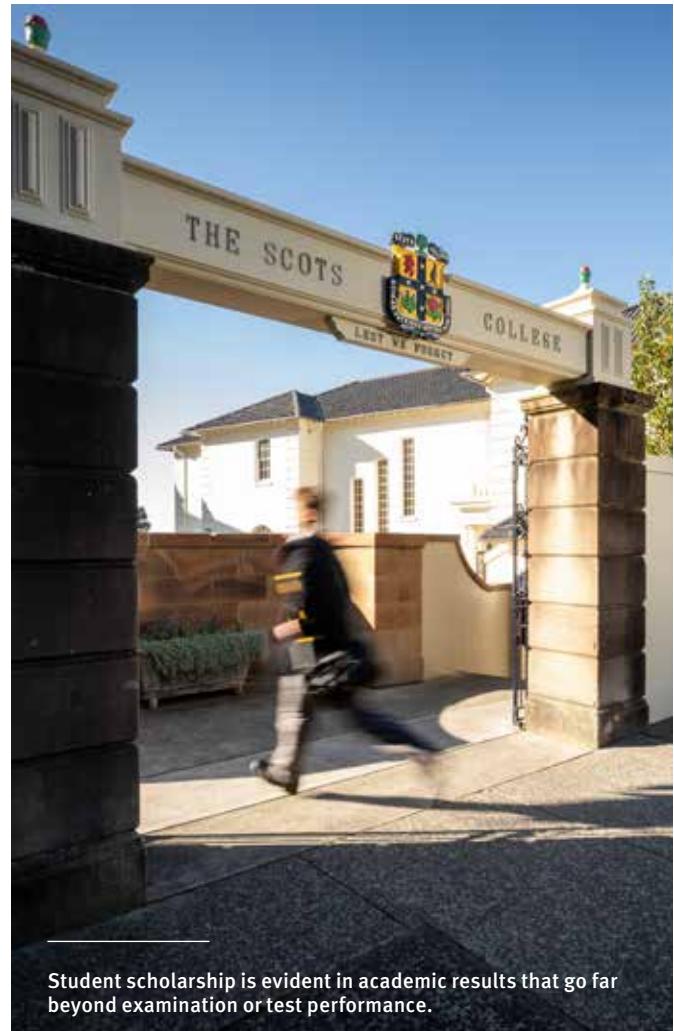
## What is The Ashburner Society?

The Ashburner Society is the student academic honour society of The Scots College. The Society gathers Senior School scholars who are intellectually curious and interested in ideas and developing 'good thinking'. The Ashburner Society is cross-curricular in its interests and non-utilitarian in its thinking. It values both pure knowledge and applied knowledge.

Mr Richard Ashburner attended Scots from 1918 until he graduated in 1923, then went on to become the College's first Rhodes Scholar. He continued his association with the College fundraising and supporting Scots' cultural, educational and sporting events.

Students are identified by staff and current Ashburner scholars and invited to apply for membership in the Society. They participate in termly meetings, researching and presenting at least one meeting and writing for the annual journal, *The Scotian*. Scholars have opportunities to hear lectures by academic experts.

For more information about The Ashburner Society, please contact [j.mann@scots.college](mailto:j.mann@scots.college)





# Meet the Mountain on its Terms

Adventure Academy is an extension of the Glengarry program, offered to just 20 students following an application and interview process. Those selected spend approximately 20 days at Glengarry, 20 days at Bannockburn and 24 days on expeditions.

Now in its fifth year, the Adventure Academy begins with a trip to the snow. The experience focuses on developing a new set of cross-country skiing skills. The boys are presented with an experience designed to push them out of their comfort zone and to work through a unique set of challenges together.

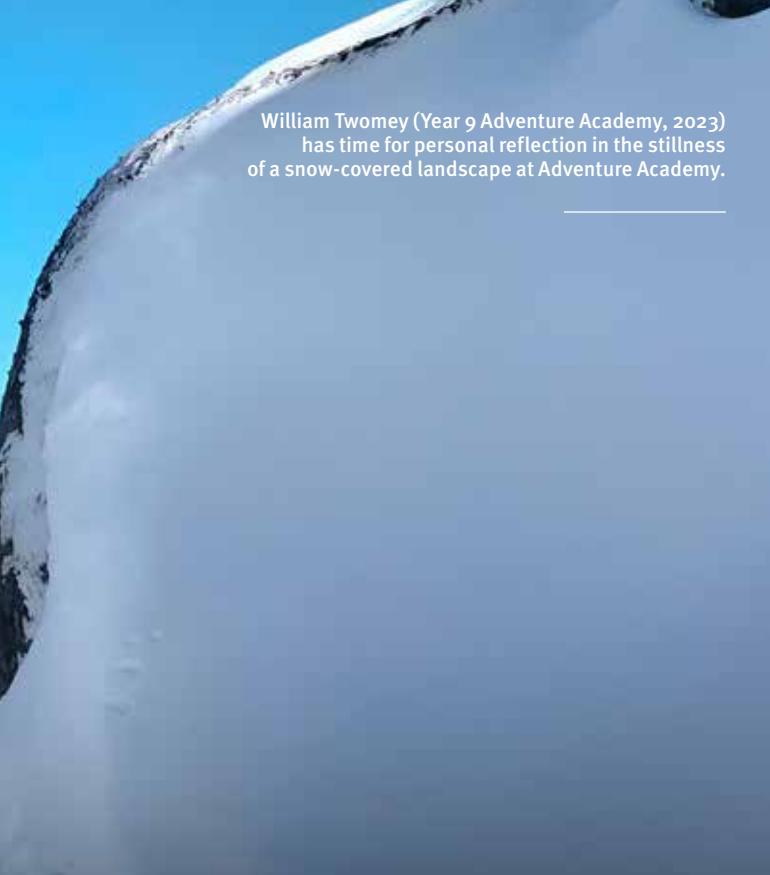
The first day sees the group snowshoeing – often around the back of the Smiggins Hole resort. The snowshoes are a new mode of transport for most of the boys. The muffled silence of the snow and the majesty of the mountains leave a lasting impression. It doesn't take too long for the mandatory snowball fight to ignite and the staff steer clear and let the boys get this out of their system. Day one also focuses on dressing appropriately for the conditions as we begin training the students in alpine environment navigation. Students outfitted with cross-country skiing equipment, ready for a two-night stay in the Kosciuszko National Park.

Day two is a training day at Perisher, across the road from the main resort. Cross-country skis are designed so that you can move around uphill and flat areas as well as enjoying the downhill slopes. Rather than rushing down the mountain, the skier can traverse the landscape and move into fresh, untouched areas. Most students are new to this form of skiing,

so the training day is essential. The experienced skiers often help the boys who need guidance.

Following the training period, our final night in the cosiness of the cabins is filled with anticipation and nerves as we get out the maps and talk about the two nights that will be spent camping in the mountains. Food is issued and we learn about sleeping, camping and even toileting in the snow – this involves carrying out all waste in a PVC pipe. The boys have plenty of questions and we look closely at the weather conditions, deciding on the best route. We discuss the concept of 'meeting the mountain on its terms' which is a great concept that encourages them to think about approaches to life and assessing risk.

Our group has taken different routes for the three-day, two-night snow expedition, depending on 'the terms of the mountains'. The first day involves donning the hike packs, turning our backs on the resort to cross-country ski to our campsite which is often between five and eight kilometres away. The first kilometres can be tricky, as the students come to terms skiing with a cumbersome backpack. The boys also find out, after a few falls, that righting oneself after a slight misadventure is not easy and often requires the assistance of a classmate.



William Twomey (Year 9 Adventure Academy, 2023) has time for personal reflection in the stillness of a snow-covered landscape at Adventure Academy.



Year 9 Adventure Academy boys, Harrison Clonaris, Sam Andersen and James Halley on the 2025 snow expedition.

Students navigate the group to a suitable campsite that is often in the lee of a mountain and away from the wind. Along the way, the instructors share knowledge on travelling efficiently, crossing creeks, the different types of snow, avalanche risks and general mountain knowledge.

The students really enjoy setting up camp and, with the aid of several snow shovels, build wind shelters around tents and a kitchen area – complete with snow table and chairs for our group meetings and meals. As the sun goes down, the temperature plummets and we learn about cooking in the snow and the importance of eating a hot meal. Once again, the boys have to work together to make their meals a success but on the majority of occasions boys go to bed very early with a full belly and a water bottle full of hot water to help keep them warm.

It normally takes a bit of effort to prise the students out of bed in the morning. Sleepy faces look out from the tent door and often describe the coldest night of their life. After a hearty breakfast we leave our site and spend the day exploring the mountains. The beauty of this middle day is that we rarely see other people and we get the chance to ski on untouched snow in the stunning Australian Alps. This day is often full of exploration, improving our cross-country ski technique and telemark turns and sessioning some slopes or bowls that we find in the area. The students' energy levels often outlast the staff and we direct the group back to camp in the late afternoon. One of the afternoon sessions is about appreciating the environment. The students are given a solo site where they can write, draw or just reflect

on the unique environment they are privileged to be immersed in. Dinner on our second night is usually an improvement on the first night and more time is taken getting the little things right to create a sumptuous meal. After a debrief with the group and an explanation of the last day's itinerary, the boys are quick to get into bed and the warmth of their sleeping bags.

Our final day in the snow goes quickly as we break camp and again get packs on for the journey back to the bus. One of the major decisions of this day is not who will be navigating, rather, who will get the task of carrying the 'poop tubes'. By day three on cross-country skis, most boys are moving well and we can halve our travel time getting back to the bus when compared to the first day.

Although enjoying the solitude and peace of the back country, most of the group are happy to return to civilisation, especially the thought of a warm shower at the Action Learning Initiatives base at Jindabyne. The group say goodbye to our hosts and begin the long journey back to Glengarry to begin week two of the Adventure Academy. Domino's pizza has become the traditional dinner on the way home, with all boys making short work of their allotted pizza. The stories shared of individual and group experiences eventually peter out to silence and the staff have a feeling of accomplishment seeing all the closed eyes in the rear-vision mirror.

**Mr David Johnson**  
Director of Adventure Academy

# Moving at the Speed of Light

## ACADEMIC JOURNEY

Visual Arts students, specialising in film and photography, have been working hard behind the camera.

Visual Arts student Edward Green (Year 11), far right, received first place in the 2025 Woollahra Municipal Council Youth Photographic Award and Short Film Prize for his Task 1 work titled *Hark Back*. More than 30 Scots boys from both the Middle School and Senior School had their work displayed in the exhibition, which featured 27 photographs and four films. The exhibition ran from 27 August until 14 September.

**Mr Alex Anastas**  
Head of Art and Design (10-12)



In the Year 10 Photographic Digital Media class Film Noir workshop, students learnt how to set up lighting in a studio and manage camera settings to create a dark underground mood. They studied 'mise-en-scène', a French term that means 'putting on stage', referring to everything we see in the frame, how it is arranged and how it helps tell the story.

To evoke the Film Noir atmosphere, students created props such as fake cigarettes, collared coats, hats and gangster-themed scenes. They experimented with lookup tables (LUTs) and coloured lighting to enhance the prohibition-era aesthetic. Brick walls, industrial-looking environments and one-point lighting was also used to reinforce the stylised setting.



In post-production, students edited their photos with a focus on refining the lighting to reveal the character's expression. Each student took turns portraying a gangster. Luke McLaughlin (Year 10) demonstrates

the technique beautifully in his photo *Better Listen* shown above.

**Ms Sueann Plenkovic**  
Visual Arts Teacher

# Creativity



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Young musician and cellist Richard Bao (Year 8) shares his time between The Scots College Orchestra, the Chamber Strings Ensemble and the Choral Ensembles.

# News from Scots Rose Bay

CREATIVITY

## Welcome Home

At The Scots College, the journey from early learning to young adulthood is filled with milestones, memories and meaningful connections.

One of the most heartwarming traditions we celebrate at the Early Years Centre (Scots Rose Bay) is welcoming the Year 9 boys home from their time at the Glengarry campus.

As they step off the ferry at the Rose Bay Wharf, they are greeted with excitement and pride by our three and four-year-old Cubs and Lions – a symbolic moment that reflects the full circle of the Scots journey.

This tradition has continued since Scots Rose Bay first opened and each year it reminds us of the deep bonds formed across different ages. This year was particularly special, as one of our youngest boys proudly welcomed home his older cousin. It was a touching reminder that at Scots, a boy's journey is not only lifelong but shared. From little hands waving to proud reunions – the Scots spirit grows from the very beginning.



Glengarry boy Joshua Moopanar (Year 9) is welcomed home by his young cousin, Beau Wilkinson (Cub) in July.



Cubs and Lions welcome the Glengarry Intake 1 boys with their delightful posters.

# Nala the Wellbeing Dog

Scots Rose Bay has had a fantastic year, thanks to the continued presence of Nala, The Scots College Wellbeing Dog.

Nala has been a valued member of the College community since 2022 and this year we celebrate her achievement in once again passing her Therapy Dog and Handler Team Certification. This recognition reflects her calm, nurturing nature and her unique ability to support the wellbeing of those around her – at Scots Rose Bay and the wider College.

Nala's positive presence has been felt deeply within our Scots Rose Bay environment. From morning greetings to restful story times, she brings joy, comfort and a sense of calm to students, staff and families alike. The Cubs and Lions adore spending time with her – from quiet pats to playful interactions – helping regulate emotions and build meaningful connections. She supports emotional development, enhances social skills and fosters empathy, compassion and responsibility.

Animals in early learning environments provide a unique kind of support and research highlights the many benefits of a wellbeing dog in education – including increased motivation and emotional understanding. Nala's gentle guidance and reliable presence add to the warm atmosphere of Scots Rose Bay, helping every boy feel at home.

We are incredibly proud of Nala and grateful to Nala's handler and Scots Rose Bay educator, Ms Lucy Jennison, for her dedication and care. Together, they continue to enrich our learning environment and embody the values of Scots. Nala is truly a much-loved and invaluable member of The Scots College community.

## Ms Elise Pink

Director – Rose Bay Early Years Centre

1. Teddy Osborne (Lion) spends time with Nala in the playground.
2. Hugo Mews (Lion) pats Nala, while Tristian Goh (Lion) reads *The Gruffalo* and William Shen (Cub) enjoys looking at *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Explores Australia* with Romeo Cuda (Lion).
3. William Nicholas (Lion) holds Nala's Therapy Dog and Handler Team Certificate, standing beside the Lions' Lead Teacher and Nala's handler, Ms Lucy Jennison, with Spencer Zhong (Cub), Maclay Johnson (Lion) and Jordan Barta (Cub) sharing the moment.





# Happy Highlights

Special moments and memories abound from The Scots College's Preparatory Schools!

## Finding Nemo for KIDS

Brighton Preparatory School's second whole-campus musical featured students from Kindergarten to Year 6 performing Disney's *Finding Nemo KIDS*, a 30-minute musical adaptation of the movie *Finding Nemo*, with new music written just for the show. Many of the set design elements were created by the talented boys in Brighton Prep's two Art Academy groups, which run during lunchtime within school hours. Using wooden stands, foam sheets, acrylic paint and a lot of innovation and commitment, the ocean and aquarium tank came to life through these custom-made set pieces. (Photo 1)

## NSW Representative Honours

Elliot Webster (Year 6) represented Scots at the Independent Primary School Heads of Australia Championships, winning the Combined Independent Schools (CIS) Championships. As a result, Elliot was also selected in the New South Wales team for the School Sport Australia National Cross Country Championships, to be held on the Gold Coast. His consistency, work ethic and competitive spirit have placed him among the top junior distance runners in NSW. (Photo 2)

Harry Bould (Year 6) represented Scots at the CIS Basketball Trials. His stand-out performance in a highly competitive team, who narrowly missed out in the final – earned him selection in the NSW Primary Schools Sports Association State Basketball Team. As the starting centre position, Harry has relished the opportunity to train and compete with the state's top young players. (Photo 3)



## Shoesday Tuesday

A new initiative, Shoesday Tuesday, raised funds for children attending the SEWAH Schools in India. Students participated by donning their most creative and distinctive shoes to support this cause. Each boy was encouraged to raise \$8, equivalent to the cost of a pair of school shoes in India, to help provide durable footwear for students in need. In preparation for Shoesday Tuesday, auditions for Scots Got Talent were held, showcasing the remarkable talents present within the Junior Prep campus. This event provided an opportunity for students to enjoy themselves, shine and support a meaningful cause that facilitates education for the children at SEWAH. (Photo 4)



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## Diving into Technology

From Kindergarten through to Year 6, boys explore digital technologies through ScopeIT Education sessions that spark creativity and curiosity. From foundational coding skills to creative 3D design projects, students develop their problem-solving abilities, logical thinking and spatial reasoning. Technology quickly becomes a tool for innovation. (Photo 6)



## Thinking about NAPLAN

The combined 2025 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results for across both the Bellevue Hill and Dolls Point campuses are a testament to the rigorous learning experiences afforded to all boys. We are thrilled to see 97.5 percent of our Year 3 cohort achieving in the Strong and Exceeding bands for Writing, while 91 percent reached the highest levels in Reading. Similarly, our Year 5 students continued to achieve excellence with 98.5 percent performing in the top two bands for Numeracy and 93 percent for Writing.

### Ms Lisa Sharpe

Head of Curriculum – Preparatory Schools

## Stepping into an Adventure

The boys attended their very first overnight excursion in March – the Year 2 Camp at Galston. They stepped outside their comfort zones, enjoying new activities, such as rock climbing, bushwalking, bike riding and a low ropes course. There were plenty of opportunities to improve their physical and problem-solving skills. What an adventure! (Photo 7)

The Year 10 Photographic Digital Media elective class conducted a case study on French photographer JR, whose work features extreme close-up photos of minority groups within different communities. These images are often printed on a large scale and displayed on buildings.



# The 'Who Are We? Project'

## CREATIVITY

The 'Who Are We? Project' aims to showcase the broad range of people who make up the community at The Scots College.

Over two days in August, students captured both zany and regular close-up portraits. They then edited the photos to maintain consistent scale, proportions and backgrounds; from a distance, we are one but up close, we are individuals with different stories.

The project gave students an opportunity to develop their interpersonal skills through interactions with adults,

alongside on-the-job skills in adjusting camera settings such as the ISO rating and f-stop under varying lighting conditions. Most importantly, this project was foundational in improving every student's artistic literacy through embodying the real-life experience of being an artist. Students reflected on and wrote critically about this very specific, and highly personal, learning revelation.

**Ms Sueann Plenkovich**  
Visual Arts Teacher

# Community



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Mr Bryan Zhang and his Year 3 sons, Howard and Raymond ready to start the second day of their Bannockburn Under the Stars weekend. Read the highlights on page 18.

# Back at Bannockburn

## Under the Stars

The weather was perfect for the 24 fathers and 25 sons, from Years 3 and 4, who visited Bannockburn for a rustic weekend filled with discovery and adventure in May.

Located on 750 acres of beautiful landscape near Jervis Bay, it was the perfect introduction to life on the land. There were plenty of hands-on activities for parents, carers and their sons to enjoy during this fundraising weekend: bushwalks through the sanctuary, brushing a big steer called Hamish, cattle weighing and drafting calves in the garden, the boys planted vegetables and played with worms.

At the end of the day, families gathered around the camp fire to cook marshmallows on the camp fire, sleep in cosy tents and wake up feeling refreshed, surrounded by wallabies and birdlife.





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1. Rise and shine! A misty sunrise at the Bannockburn Under the Stars weekend in May.
2. A camp fire inspires deliciously social activity for fathers, carers and sons at Bannockburn Under the Stars.
3. Associate Professor Dr Tom Newsome, Jerrinja Tribal Leader, Mr Ron Carberry, Director of Rewilding Australia, Mr Rob Brewster ('96), and Bannockburn Property Manager, Mr Duncan McMaster, celebrate the release of the quolls in Bannockburn's Rewilding Sanctuary.



# Healing Country

Bannockburn's Rewilding Sanctuary is now complete and home to 15 eastern quolls and 18 parma wallabies.

The first quolls arrived in March, with additional numbers introduced since. There have been two introductions of parma wallabies and to date, all endangered marsupial populations are thriving.

After eight years of planning, extensive fencing construction and collaborations established with The University of Newcastle and The University of Sydney, Rewilding Australia, Aussie Ark and Sydney Zoo. It is very pleasing to finally see the animals happily settled.

Why did the College embark on such an extensive restorative initiative? Rewilding native endangered animals is a noble cause, one that acknowledges value in all of God's living things and the essential role they play in the ecosystem. Native quolls and parma wallabies are ecosystem bioengineers; their feeding behaviour turns the soil, incorporates carbon, exposes light to the surface, increases water and air infiltration, breaks down decaying leaf litter and stimulates plant germination. Their activity improves the soil health, promotes plant growth, and by reducing leaf litter, lowers the incidence and intensity of bushfires. Through rewilding these native animals, we are actively regenerating the ecosystems at Bannockburn and with the support of the local traditional Jerrinja Elders, helping to 'heal country'.

**Mrs Kym McMaster**

Coordinator of Experiential Education – Bannockburn



# Scotland by Invitation

At present, over 504 boys are involved in the Pipes and Drums program across The Scots College. The program is taught at the Bellevue Hill, Dolls Point and Glengarry campuses. In August, 51 members of the A and B Bands travelled to Scotland to compete in the European and World Pipe Band Championships.

On 9 August, both bands competed in the European Pipe Band Championships in Perth. The A Band secured eighth place, while B Band placed fifth, earning a spot among the prize winners.

On 15 August, both bands participated in the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow. The A band continued to be in the prize list at the 'Worlds' with a sixth place finish and the B Band proudly took an outstanding third place. This marked the first time the B Band had been placed in the World Pipe Band Championships.

On 12 August, the band performed in Ballater for His Majesty King Charles III as part of the ceremonial presentation of Philip Farquharson, 17th of Invercauld and the presentation of new colours to the Clan Chief. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the boys, who performed to an excellent standard. Before departing for the tour, the band held a tune composition competition, which was won by Jaxon Styles (Year 11). The winning tune was presented to King Charles III by Principal Dr Ian PM Lambert. Students Henry Dickson (Year 11),

Jaxon Styles (Year 11), Hamish Wiseman (Year 11), Lachlan Millar (Year 11) and Bandmaster, Mr Paul Hughes were all introduced to The King.

After the performance in Ballater, the band performed for Mr Alexander Philip Manson, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Aberdeenshire, Dr Lambert and Mrs Alison Lambert and an audience of 140 parents, grandparents and supporters on the grounds of Balmoral. The band performed for 20 minutes, playing a range of traditional and modern tunes on the main lawn of the iconic Balmoral Castle. The King's Piper, Paul Burns, was among those who enjoyed the performance. To conclude an incredible day, Lord-Lieutenant Manson joined the Dr Lambert and Mrs Lambert, along with the Scots contingent, for an afternoon tea in the Queen's room.

**Mr Paul Hughes**  
Bandmaster



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**The Scots College Salute to King Charles III**  
Composed by Jaxon Styles, Year 11



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CUO of Pipes Jackson Styles' (Year 11) composition, *The Scots College Salute to King Charles III*, performed for His Majesty King Charles III as part of the ceremonial presentation of Philip Farquharson, 17th of Invercauld and the presentation of new colours to the Clan Chief on 12 August.

1. A Band and B Band perform at Balmoral Castle, Ballater, Scotland.
2. Mr Alexander Philip Manson, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Aberdeenshire and Senior Drum Major, Hamish Wiseman (Year 11) asking permission for the band to depart the grounds of Balmoral Castle after the performance.
3. Lord-Lieutenant and King Charles III are presented with *The Scots College Salute to King Charles III* by Principal, Dr Ian PM Lambert and Jackson Styles (Year 11).
4. A Band and B Band, marching from the woodlands of Balmoral Castle onto the lawns to perform for His Majesty King Charles III.
5. Now hanging in Buckingham Palace: *The Scots College Salute to King Charles III* composition for pipes by Jackson Styles (Year 11), *The Scots College Salute Message to His Majesty King Charles III* and *The Scots College Salute to King Charles III* accompanying drum part, composed by Head of Drums, Mr Chris Johnson.

# From the Field

## COMMUNITY

### Kicking Goals!

Football at Scots continued to grow in 2025, with increased student participation across all year levels and a clear sense of direction within the program.

From Year 7 through to Opens, the season was marked by consistent training, competitive fixtures and a strong commitment from both players and coaches.

The highlight of the season had to be the 1st XI Football team winning the Athletic Association of the Great Public Schools (AAGPS) 'Plate' competition, beating Sydney Grammar School in the final, in what was a penalty shootout 'for the ages'. It was also fantastic to see so many Junior players learning from Senior boys at training sessions, helping to reinforce the shared standards and expectations that are building across the program.

The standard of play continues to rise as more boys engage with the sport through our outstanding school pathway and coaching set-up. Year 12 boys, Lawrence Hur and Callum Monch were



The 1st XI Football team celebrates a goal at the AAGPS 'Plate' cup Round 2 Away match against Newington College in May.

selected for the AAGPS 1st XI Football team, an achievement that highlights the opportunities now available for talented and committed players.

Throughout the season, staff, coaches and families have encouraged the boys to improve, support each other and represent the College with pride.

#### Mr Angus Robson

Master in Charge of Football

### Rifle Shooting Stays Strong

The Sargard Teams Match was held during the historic and prestigious New South Wales Rifle Association (NSWRA) 149th Annual Open Championships/Kings Prize 2025 at Anzac Rifle Range.



James Frappell (Year 11) providing wind coaching to Mr Alexander Hoffmann at the 600-metre mark, by giving updates on wind and surrounding conditions.

It saw an impressive performance from the team comprising of James Frappell (Year 11), Henry Dickson (Year 11), NSWRA Competitions Director and Australian Rifle Team member, Mr David Brown and myself. Lying prone with a fullbore target rifle, aiming 600 metres at a bullseye no larger than a diary, the team displayed precision, consistency and strong teamwork.

Mr Brown praised the squad's focus and growth, while James Frappell described it as "a highlight of the season and great preparation for the All Schools and AAGPS competitions."

#### Mr Alexander Hoffmann ('15)

Australian Rifle Team Member, Design Teacher

# Camaraderie



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Glengarry's Year 9 Intake 1 boys, Ethan Cai, Tom Beamont, Remy Scott and Finn Palfreyman. Tom, Remy and Finn continued their outdoor learning quests after being selected for the College's Year 9 Adventure Academy program.



# The Quest for Excellence

The Scots College has enjoyed more sporting success in the past 20 years than in the previous 110 years in the Athletic Association of the Great Public Schools (AAGPS).

The improvement in sporting results coincides with Dr PM Ian Lambert's arrival and his commitment to The Quest for Excellence across all areas of the College.

Dr Lambert has encouraged our coaches and their teams to compete with brave hearts and dream with bold minds. Since Dr Lambert became Principal in 2007, The Scots College has won a total of 85 AAGPS Premierships across both Summer and Winter Sports.

What follows is a list of Scots' AAGPS Sports Premierships – marking a golden era for sport at Scots. As we continue to inspire boys in The Quest for Excellence, we aim to set our own sights higher every day.

“

He has encouraged our coaches and their teams to compete with brave hearts and dream with bold minds.

## The 2025 Summer Sport and Winter Sport Wins

Senior Cross Country – AAGPS Premiership  
 1st XI Football – AAGPS 'Plate' Cup  
 Snowsports – 2025 Sydney Regional Interschools Championships  
 1sts and 2nds Tennis – AAGPS Premierships  
 1sts Volleyball – AAGPS Premiership

## AAGPS Summer Sports Achievements

Scots has won 43 AAGPS Premierships since 2007

Basketball	8 AAGPS Premierships
Cricket	4 AAGPS Premierships
Rowing	5 Head of the River wins
Swimming	5 AAGPS Premierships
Tennis	7 AAGPS Premierships
Water Polo	14 Premierships

## AAGPS Winter Sports Achievements

Scots has won 42 AAGPS Premierships since 2007

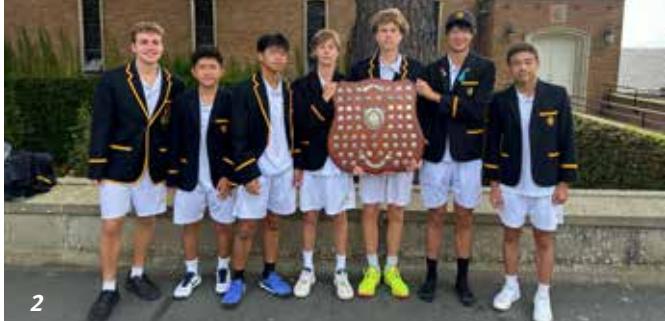
Athletics	4 AAGPS Premierships
Cross Country	18 AAGPS Premierships
Football	2 AAGPS Premierships
Rifle Shooting	4 AAGPS Premierships
Rugby	11 AAGPS Premierships
Volleyball	3 AAGPS Premierships

### Mr Brian Smith

Director of Coaching Performance



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1. The Scots 1st XI Football team, celebrating their AAGPS 'Plate' cup final victory.
2. The College's 2025 1sts Tennis team – AAGPS champions!
3. More AAGPS Tennis champions – Scots 2nds Tennis team!
4. The College's 1sts Volleyball team – the undefeated 2025 AAGPS champions.
5. The College's Snowsports team wins the 2025 Mogul Ski World Australian Interschools Championships at Mount Buller, Victoria in September – marking Scots' 15th consecutive victory!

## Perspectives on the 2025 Premierships

“We have secured victory by a huge margin, an achievement that reflects not just talent, but the consistency, discipline and unity we have built as a team. We have set the standard across every division, with podium finishes, personal bests and countless acts of support on and off the course.”

*Director of Athletics and Cross Country,  
Mr Andrew Matthews*

“Cross Country Opens achieved a back-to-back Premiership. I would like to highlight the deep culture that has developed over several years to foster a deep culture that fosters teamwork and excellence.”

*AAGPS Cross Country Convenor, Mr Jeremy Longworth*

“2025 will live long in the memory of everyone involved with Scots Football, culminating in the ‘Plate’ cup final victory against Sydney Grammar School, a match that was decided in an epic penalty shootout. Scots held their nerve to claim victory in dramatic fashion. The celebrations that followed reflected the players’ effort and pride in the achievement. 2025 was a joy to be a part of and the success would not have been possible without the unwavering support from all the players, parents and supporters.”

*Master in Charge of Football, Mr Angus Robson*

“Each year, Snowsports strives to improve from the year before in a never-ending pursuit of excellence. The boys train tirelessly throughout the year both in Australia and overseas to master their disciplines and to perform and execute at the highest level of competition. These championships are not taken for granted and the 2025 Australian Interschools Snowsport Championships will certainly be cherished by all those who contributed towards the success of the program!”

*Director of Snowsports, Mr Hugh Adams*

“The double AAGPS Premiership of 2024/25 was a great achievement for the Scots Tennis program. But the pride of the feat mostly came from the way they carried themselves on court. It was fierce determination combined with exemplary sportsmanship.”

*Director of Tennis, Mr Michael Tebbutt*

“The Volleyball AAGPS victory was the result of five years of continuous growth: first we overcame our limits, then we became an undefeated team. Passion, resilience, hard work, humility and sacrifice were the pillars of our success.”

*Director of Volleyball, Mr Max Gubbiotti*



# Volleyball's Golden

The Scots College's 1sts Volleyball team won the 2025 Athletic Association of the Great Public Schools (AAGPS) 1sts Volleyball Premiership with an undefeated season!

The team also won the 'AAGPS Pre-Season Gala Day' and remained undefeated throughout the AAGPS Winter season, dropping only one set. Volleyball Captain, Lucas Fletcher (Year 12) sealed the victory with an ace on the final point. In his post-match speech, he credited the team's success to the amazing coaches at the College.

## Shining on the National Stage

Ethan Yu (Year 10) was selected to represent the Under 17 National Development team at the Australian Junior Volleyball Championships in July. His selection placed him among the nation's most promising young volleyballers and set the stage for an exciting clash with several of his Scots peers – who were competing against him but playing on other teams! Some of his Scots friends had also earned spots on the NSW Under 19 representative team.

In the Under 19 NSW team, Scots Volleyball Captain and NSW Volleyball Culture Captain, Lucas Fletcher (Year 12) took to the court alongside fellow Scots students Angus Watson (Year 12) and Under 19 NSW Vice-Captain, Sebastian Morandi Galindo (Year 11).

Adding to Scots' presence at the championships, recent graduates Killian Donovan ('23) and Kevin Yu ('23) from the Class of 2023 will feature in the Under 23 NSW side. Killian returns to Australian courts after completing his first full season playing collegiate volleyball for the Gryphons at the University of Guelph in Canada.



Jett Saalmann (Year 11) representing the College's 1sts Volleyball team in their match against Sydney Grammar School in May, contributing to what would ultimately become an undefeated season and an AAGPS Premiership win.

Reflecting on the significance of the event, Lucas shared: "I am looking forward to the challenge of facing the best players from across Australia. The Scots players are in good form due to the amazing program we have."

The strong Scots representation across multiple age groups highlights the depth of talent within the College's Volleyball program and reflects the dedication of students, coaches and alumni alike.

## Scots Dominate AAGPS Volleyball

The Scots College continues to affirm its reputation as a powerhouse in school Volleyball, with more than half of the AAGPS Volleyball team that recently triumphed over Combined Independent Schools (CAS) comprised of Scots athletes.

Leading the charge was Scots Volleyball and AAGPS team Captain, Lucas Fletcher (Year 12). He was joined by fellow Year 12 students Rohan Kumar, Angus Watson and debutant Scott Emerson. The depth of talent was further highlighted by the selection of Year 11 students Jett Sallman and Sebastian Morandi Galindo, as well as Year 10 libero, Ethan Yu.

Coaching this formidable side was the College's 2nds Coach, Mr Daniele Di Stefano – former coach for Italy at the recent Paris Olympics. Coach Di Stefano expressed his pride in the team's performance and composition: "It was a privilege to coach such an amazing group of young men. The team was made up of the best volleyballers from the AAGPS. To have more than half the team coming from the current undefeated 1sts Volleyball team is a testament to the strength of the 2025 program."

The victory over CAS reflects the collective strength and culture fostered within the Scots Volleyball program. The College community looks forward to seeing these athletes continue to excel on state and national stages.

## Young Athletes Discover Volleyball

This year marks an exciting new chapter for The Scots College with the introduction of Volleyball as a Sport option for students in the Preparatory School. From Year 3 to Year 6, Scots' youngest athletes are now learning and embracing the skills and spirit of Volleyball, laying the groundwork for a strong future in the sport.

The program is led by Scots Old Boy and Australian Volleyball representative, Jackson Cousins ('23). Jackson's journey with Volleyball began in Year 10 at Scots, inspired by a speech from Principal, Dr Ian PM Lambert, who urged every boy to find his own path and strive for individual excellence. Starting at Scots as a Kindergarten student, Jackson has come full circle, now coaching the next generation of volleyballers where his own journey began.

Jackson's passion has ignited a spark in the Preparatory School students. Under his guidance, they are learning technical skills and discovering a love for the sport and the pathways it can offer, both at Scots and beyond.

The enthusiasm has extended beyond the court, with many Prep School students eagerly supporting and watching the Scots Senior boys' matches, building a strong sense of community and inspiration.

"Volleyball is a sport that teaches teamwork, resilience and joy," Jackson shared. "It is wonderful to see the boys so engaged and excited. I hope they find their own passion in it, just like I did."

## Year 7 Victory

The Year 7 Volleyball team from The Scots College were victorious at the 2025 Volleyball NSW Schools Cup. They delivered an outstanding performance, defeating Year 7 teams from schools across Sydney in the modified format competition. Every player contributed to the result, showcasing teamwork, skill and great sportsmanship.

**Mr Max Gubbiotti**  
Director of Volleyball

# Get to Know Ben Cotroneo

## CAMARADERIE

Captain of Swimming, Ben Cotroneo (Year 12), spoke to Director of Aquatics, Ms Yvette Higgins, to share insights into his life at home, school and in the pool.

### Have you always enjoyed swimming?

I have been swimming ever since I was eight months old and it has stuck with me ever since. I have been swimming at the same club, Kincoppal Rose Bay Aquatics all my life. I enjoy it and it is a very rewarding sport. It is great to see the results of all the hard work and training over the years. My dad, [Enzo Cotroneo '88], was in The Scots College Swimming team.

### When did you start swimming competitively?

I started in Year 6 at Scots when I first made the swimming team. It was a major goal for me, which I worked hard to achieve. That ignited my passion for the Sport which later evolved into competing at AAGPS [Athletic Association of the Great Public Schools] in Year 7 as well as NSW competitions. In Year 10, my swimming career really began to take off – I made the finals at Nationals and won State.

### When you were Under 13, did you win medals at metro or state?

I did not win many medals at metro or state. I remember in Year 6 we placed third at NSW CIS [NSW Combined Independent Schools] in the 4x50m relay. I really started to perform well after Glengarry when I was 16.

### What is your training like?

I do eight sessions a week with two gym sessions. We do a lot of aerobic work and focus on stroke rate to increase the efficiency of my first 50m in the 100m race, so I can have a strong finish.

### Are you surprised by some of the times you have been getting lately?

I would not say I am surprised, because I usually hit a personal best once or twice a year and I have trained hard for those moments. It is more a sense of satisfaction that the work is paying off.

### What aspect of your technique are you working on?

I am currently focusing on lengthening my stroke to decrease my stroke rate and improve efficiency (fewer strokes over a given distance). My biggest weaknesses are my skills,



Ben Cotroneo (Year 12) now ranks number six in the world for the 100m freestyle, after competing at the World Aquatics Junior Championships 2025 in Oțopeni, Romania.

including dive, underwater work and turns. We are aiming to improve those to get faster.

### Who inspires you?

Léon Marchand [French swimmer] inspires me because he shows that with the right mindset and dedication, you can push the limits of what is possible.

### What are your plans for the future?

I want to study in the United States and compete in Division 1 at the National Collegiate Athletic Association. I also want to continue to make Australian teams, including the Commonwealth Games in 2026 and the Olympics in 2028.

### What do you eat for breakfast?

Ten Weet-Bix with honey.



# The Call of the Sea

The 2025 Sailing season was a landmark year for The Scots College Sailing program, with boys achieving success on both domestic and international stages. From our emerging Junior Preparatory School Optimist sailors to our Senior podium performers, the depth and strength of the program continue to grow.

At the international level, five Senior boys represented Scots and Australia at the 2025 29er European Championships, held on the iconic Lake Garda in Italy. Competing against over 500 of the world's best youth sailors, our crews displayed exceptional boat speed and composure in a range of challenging conditions. The consistent performance of Max Nearn (Year 11) and Zann Scrimgeour (Year 11) throughout the qualifying rounds earned them a spot in the Bronze Fleet finals, where they went on to claim first and third overall – an outstanding result and a proud moment for the College on the world stage.

On home waters, the College 1sts and 2nds teams delivered strong performances throughout the New South Wales Secondary Schools Teams Racing season, ultimately earning a spot at the 2025 Australian Secondary Schools Team Racing Championships in South Australia. Over four days of intense racing, the boys executed sharp tactical teamwork, quick decision-making and outstanding boat handling. Their performance was rewarded with a third place National finish, confirming Scots' place among Australia's top school teams.

Equally impressive was the energy and talent shown by our Junior Preparatory School sailors in the Optimist class.

With boys from Years 3 to 6 training weekly out of Woollahra Sailing Club and Georges River Sailing Club, the Junior program continues to thrive as a crucial part of Scots Sailing's long-term development pathway. Several boys represented the College in Green and Open Fleet regattas throughout the year, gaining valuable race experience and building the foundations for future success in Skiffs and Teams Racing. Their enthusiasm, coachability and sportsmanship were highlights of the season and reflected the culture of excellence growing within the program.

The achievements of 2025 reflect the dedication of our sailors, the guidance of our coaching staff and the support of our parent/carer community. From first-tack learners to international racers, every boy played a role in a season to remember.

As we look ahead to 2026, the Scots Sailing program is stronger than ever, preparing boys for the challenges of competition and life, with courage, camaraderie and confidence on the water.

**Mr Beau Junk**  
Director of Sailing

# For Luca, For Scots

## THE SCOTS COLLEGE FOUNDATION UPDATE

On Thursday 28 August, The Scots College community once again came together in an extraordinary display of generosity and spirit for our Giving Day 2025 appeal. Thanks to the support of Old Boys, parents, staff, students and friends of the College, we are delighted to share that over \$540,000 was raised to support scholarships and bursaries at Scots.

### A Scholarship That Will Change Lives

This year's Giving Day held special significance, as funds will establish the Luca Bennett Memorial Scholarship in memory of Luca – a remarkable Year 9 student whose life was tragically cut short in December 2024. The scholarship will honour Luca's joyful, generous spirit and ensure that future Scots boys can access the opportunities he so deeply cherished.

We would like to give a special and heartfelt thank you to Luca's parents, Mr Jason Bennett and Mrs Michelle Vincenzini, for their involvement in the planning and their invaluable help with our communications. Their courage and strength throughout this process have been nothing short of inspiring and it has deeply moved all those who have been part of this journey.

We are humbled by the breadth of support shown on Giving Day. More than 685 donors rallied together – an increase of 42 percent on last year – giving an average of \$246 each. Their generosity was supercharged by 20 matching donors and six corporate partners, while our 19 Giving Day Ambassadors went above and beyond to spread the word and inspire others to give. The Year 10 families led the charge, exceeding their target by four times, with six other year groups also smashing their \$5,000 goals. These outstanding results are a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when the Scots community comes together around a shared purpose.

Looking ahead, we continue on our way to achieving our goal of creating ten scholarships in perpetuity by 2030 – providing life-changing opportunities for boys and families who, without support, would not have the chance to attend Scots.

The Giving Day 2025 has not only exceeded our fundraising goals but has also strengthened the bonds within our community. Together, we have honoured Luca's legacy, supporting future generations of Scots boys and demonstrated the true spirit of giving.

**Mr James Dickson**

The Scots College Foundation President

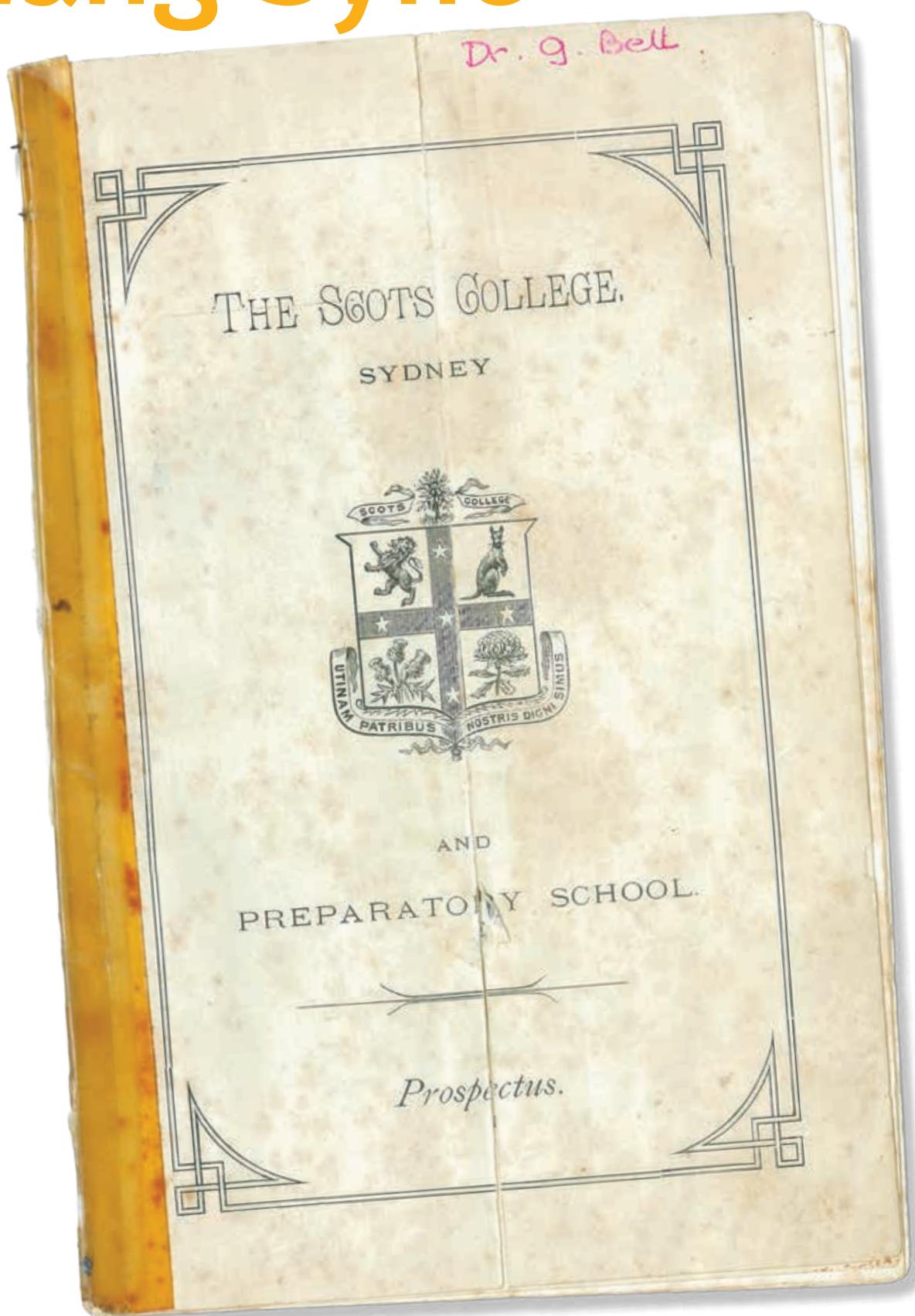


Mr Jason Bennett and Mrs Michelle Vincenzini with their son, Luca Bennett (Year 9, Intake 2), after he had completed The Long Journey Home from Glengarry in 2024.

“

The scholarship will honour Luca's joyful, generous spirit and ensure that future Scots boys can access the opportunities he so deeply cherished.

# Lang Syne



The Scots College, Sydney and Preparatory School Prospectus (c1900) outlines the educational offerings at Aspinall House, five years after its acquisition and establishment as the Bellevue Hill campus. View this document at [heritage.tsc.nsw.edu.au](http://heritage.tsc.nsw.edu.au). Source: College Collection

# From the Old Boys' Union President



As we glide through 2025, it is time to reflect on the activities, gatherings and programs we have conducted throughout the year.

Starting with our Old Boys' Union Annual Lunch at the Ivy Ballroom, Sydney, where nearly 200 attendees listened to the tall tales of cricketing great Mr Jeff Thomson. He entertained the crowd with his hilarious stories that will be remembered for years to come.

We also held the annual OBU Golf Day at St Michael's Golf Course. Once again, we had a great turnout of excellent golfers, ready to face the challenges the course presents.

For the first time in many years, we came together for November's Rowing regatta. It was great fun seeing the Old Boys' crew compete against the College's 1st VIII.

In December, we hosted the annual Vintage Lunch and again the crowd was not disappointed as many tales were told. This event is growing stronger and stronger every year.

“

It was great fun seeing the Old Boys' crew compete against the College's 1st VIII.

Most recently, we celebrated our legendary Christmas party at The Royal Oak Hotel in Double Bay. Now a firm favourite on the calendar, this event saw over 100 Old Boys close their books for the year and come together to celebrate the festive season.

I will continue to work with the OBU Committee to ensure our reunions and events program continues to provide an inspiring range of opportunities. My aim, as always, is to create a calendar that reconnects Old Boys with their mates and the College – one that is affordable, accessible and inclusive.

I am excited for 2026 and look forward to seeing many of you as we continue to grow our events.

**Mathew Collett ('86)**  
Old Boys' Union President



# 1 From the Socials

## Music for the King

The Old Boys Pipes and Drums went from strength to strength, performing at Government House, for the King's Birthday celebrations in June. Credit: Salty Dingo (Photo 1)

## 2 A Medal for Billy Smith ('14)

Billy Smith ('14) of the Sydney Roosters won the club's community service award, recognising individuals who make a meaningful impact through their work in the wider community. Billy was honoured for his involvement with Rio's Legacy, a charity dedicated to supporting children with life-limiting conditions and their families. Rio's Legacy is led by former Scots teacher, Director of Tennis and Royle Housemaster, Mr Ryan Fowler, pictured with his wife, two children and Billy. (Photo 2)



## 3 Surfing the Scots Way

Adventure Academy Year 9 boys Hugh Murray, Remy Scott and Tom Beaumont enjoyed an unforgettable morning at Culburra Beach learning to surf with Old Boy, Peter Hill ('73). For the past four years, Peter has generously led surf sessions for our students, combining expert instruction in the water with reflections on his own days as a Scots boy. On this occasion, he even brought along his Scots blazer, adding a touch of tradition to the experience. His enthusiasm, dedication and storytelling continue to make these sessions a highlight for the boys. (Photo 3)





# The Basel Tour: Old Boys Carry Tradition Forward

Our Old Boys' Union Pipes and Drums proudly continues a legacy of bringing generations together through a shared love of music and tradition. Most recently, the chance to be part of one of the most sought-after bands on the global tattoo circuit has seen our numbers swell.

The 2023 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the Old Boys' Pipes and Drums. With The Scots College's Pipes and Drums at our side, and some of our newest bandsmen straight out of school, it was clear the next generation carries the same pride and passion as those who came before.

We carried that spirit into the Virginia International Tattoo, and again to the Basel Tattoo in July. Providing two files, including twelve recent graduates, the Old Boys proudly comprised a quarter of the Basel Tattoo Massed Pipes and Drums. Young and old, once again, united in carrying the College name across one of the world's great stages.

What makes the OBU Pipes and Drums so special is not just our scale, but our diverse ages. Members from the 1970s shoulder-to-shoulder with those joining our ranks from the 2020s. For younger Old Boys, the band offers the opportunity

to keep their passion alive as they transition into adulthood. For the wider College community, the influx of bandsmen of all ages is proof that the Old Boys' Pipes and Drums has a bright future.

As we evolve, the band remains open to all – regardless of age or how long it has been since you picked up an instrument. Unlike other bands, we are not bound by geography or competition, but by the pride we have in representing the College, both locally and on the world stage.

The invitation remains: whether you marched out of Bellevue Hill last year or fifty years ago, there will always be a place for you on parade.

## Graham Robinson ('97)

Pipe Major, The Scots College Old Boys' Pipes and Drums  
[graham.robinson@tscobpd.org](mailto:graham.robinson@tscobpd.org)



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# 1 Fine Young Jackaroos

Two family-owned farm properties have close working relationships with the College and its students. Coordinator of Experiential Education – Bannockburn, Mrs Kym McMaster tells the story.

In 2022, we organised a trip to the Shannon's property 'Marilba' to allow the boys to experience a shearing event in action. Old Boy and father of Jack (Year 10 and 2024 Adventure Academy participant), Andrew Shannon ('98), asked his extensive team to shadow and support the boys, allowing them to have a go at every task. This merino sheep enterprise runs about a 10,000 head of cattle.

Each year the boys support lamb marking and ewe crutching and drenching. They work the same hours as the shed hands, rotating every two hours to different stations. The boys stay at the shearers quarters at the Shannon's property. For four days they work, sleep, eat and shower, just like the shearers and shed hands have been doing for decades.

There are highlights. Mrs Georgina Shannon bakes muffins and slices for the boys. Andrew gives the boys Marilba merchandise and has implemented a Shearer's Choice Award for the boy who excels himself in the shed – in 2025 it was won by Johnny Malouf (Year 9, Adventure Academy).

Each year Adventure Academy boys spend a day at Old Boy and father of Hugh (Year 11), Matt Merriman's ('97) property doing cattle work. The Merrimans have a long and distinguished history at Scots and in the Murrumbateman area. The boys work in teams of five at Bannockburn and Yass. Each team is accompanied by a staff member and they rotate around the



1. Adventure Academy boys gather at the Shannon family's property in 2025, specialising in Merino sheep farming.
2. At the Merriman's property, the Adventure Academy boys from 2025 learn how to sort, tag – even castrate and vaccinate – calves.

activities across the four-day visit. Safety is very important and every activity is monitored closely. Farm work is hard, fast-paced, dirty, confronting and lots of fun – especially if you're only doing it for two hours at a time! The boys learn from men and women who are doing it for a living.

It is an experience that the boys take seriously. Many start reconsidering their eating choices, thinking the calves and lambs are 'too cute' to eat. They begin to have a better appreciation of life on the land, the cost of agriculture – both real and environmentally – and the joy of working outside in such historically significant industries.

They are proud of being Australian and grateful to have connected with such iconic experiences and people.

# From Boardrooms to Monasteries

## PROFILE

Charles Kiefel AM ('73) has built a distinguished career as a global business leader while remaining deeply committed to philanthropy and service.

Over the years, he has supported a wide range of causes – from health services such as The Alfred hospital in Victoria to the arts through the Peninsula Summer Music Festival.

In November 2024, Charles and his Principals Funds Management team travelled to Dharamshala, India, where they had the rare honour of meeting His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Gyuto Monastery. The visit followed Charles' generous \$100,000 donation to the monastery – the full amount the organisation had hoped to raise through its campaign. These funds are being used to preserve and translate sacred Buddhist texts, many of which were rescued following the desecration of monasteries during China's invasion of Tibet and the Cultural Revolution.

In recognition of this support, Charles was named Patron of the Gyuto Monastery Library, established by the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso. Reflecting on the experience, Charles expressed gratitude to His Holiness for "encouraging peace throughout the world" and shared his appreciation for the Buddhist values of "selflessness, forgiveness, kindness and generosity".

Today, Charles continues to lead international enterprises, participate in diplomatic forums and support a variety of foundations. He served three years as a Board Member of the Australian Government's Clean Energy Regulator and ten years as Board Chairman of The Military Superannuation Board and Benefits Board of Trustees, reflecting his dedication to public service and sustainable initiatives. His vision and generosity remain hallmarks of his character. Even when he graduated from the College in 1973, former College Principal, Mr Guthrie EM Wilson, described Charles as "hardworking and able, he will do well as a citizen and in the career of his choice."

His generosity has now come full circle to Bellevue Hill, with Charles pledging \$1 million to the College and establishing a means-tested scholarship in his family's name, with \$175,000 already funded. From boardrooms to monasteries, he continues to leave a lasting mark on business, the College and the wider world.



1. Charles Kiefel AM ('73) is presented with welcoming khatas by Gyuto Monastery Manager, Venerable Ngawang Zodroe and Gyuto Monastery Library Director, Venerable Lobsang Ludup.
2. Charles, at his childhood home in Tamworth, New South Wales, in the 1970s.

# A Media Maestro

## PROFILE

For Old Boy Jock Swan ('14), life after The Scots College has been about turning passion into profession.

From Inverell in northwest New South Wales, Jock and his brothers, Barney ('14) and Sam ('16), carry on a proud family tradition as fourth-generation Scots boys, following their father Ben ('84) and grandfather Bill ('56).

A member of Royle House, one of Jock's school highlights was leading the Pipes and Drums as Drum Major during the Anzac Day March.

"Yelling the command to fire up the band as we turned onto a packed Elizabeth Street, with fighter jets roaring overhead, was just amazing," he recalls.

Jock also led the Pipes and Drums during one of their first trips back to The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2012. "Travelling with the band back to Scotland – it was pretty special. We were just teenagers marching in front of thousands next to professional army bands. Just crazy," he said.

Despite these achievements, Jock left Scots in 2014 with little certainty about his career path. During the 2015 Rugby World Cup, Fox Sports reached out after seeing some highlights he had produced. Suddenly, he was in Sydney, working early shifts in a broadcast studio handling international Rugby footage. "It was a crash course – one day I was experimenting with videos, the next I was in a professional studio," Jock said.

Freelancing followed, with Jock investing heavily in equipment, teaching himself new skills and building contacts. By 2017, what began as odd jobs had grown into his own production company, The Media Joint.

It was Jock's hands-on experience – and remarkably, his memory of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo's production, lighting, sound, and theatrics as a schoolboy – that helped him secure the lead production role for the Scots Tattoo earlier this year.

With over 500 performers, 40 truckloads of equipment and a 2,600-seat grandstand, it was an operation of extraordinary scale. Importantly, he also brought in nearly ten Scots students to work alongside industry professionals, handling \$1.8 million worth of camera gear and witnessing firsthand how a major live production comes together.

What began as a schoolboy's awe at the Edinburgh Tattoo has come full circle, with Jock now creating that same sense of wonder for audiences and students alike – showing how early inspiration, nurtured with dedication, can guide a fulfilling and impactful career.



1. Jock Swan ('13) provides direction to Cadet Senior Under Officer, Archie Rudd ('25) and the Massed Pipes and Drums during the final rehearsal for the John Cunningham Student Centre Opening Ceremony and Scots Tattoo in April 2025.
2. A staff member from The Media Joint commands the production desk that controlled the 220 lighting fixtures, some of which had to get clearance from Sydney Airport to be used.

# The Farquharson Scholarship

## PROFILE

He never wore the Scots uniform, never walked the College grounds as a boy and yet Mr Rowland Farquharson has shaped more Scots lives than almost anyone in the College's history. What he lost in childhood, he returned a hundredfold in legacy.

The RM Farquharson Trust stands today as the largest contributor to scholarships and bursaries in the College's history, a living legacy born of one man's unfulfilled dream.

Mr Farquharson was never a Scots boy. At just twelve years of age, he lost his father. Overnight, childhood gave way to responsibility as he entered the workforce to support his family. The promise of a Scots education, once within reach, slipped away.

That loss, however, became the foundation of a remarkable act of generosity. Throughout his life Mr Farquharson carried the sense that he had missed an opportunity, and he resolved that others should not suffer the same fate. Upon his passing on 8 March 1993, he left a bequest that established the RM Farquharson Trust, dedicated to ensuring that financial hardship would never stand between a boy and a Scots education.

His gift carried two stipulations. Preference was to be given to boys of Scottish descent, reflecting his own heritage. More importantly, the Trustees were directed to ensure that financial need remained the primary determinant in awarding support.

The Trust began with an extraordinary \$4 million bequest in the early 1990s. Careful stewardship and investment have since grown this to approximately \$20 million today – a testament to the enduring strength of one man's vision. In its first year, six students were supported. By 2004, that number had grown to 44. Since then, the figure has varied, depending on investment performance and on how the College Council chooses to distribute funds.

In some years, the College Council may choose to award ten full scholarships; in others, 20 half scholarships. Support may extend to tuition, boarding or both. This flexibility ensures that the resources of the Trust are directed where they can have the greatest impact.

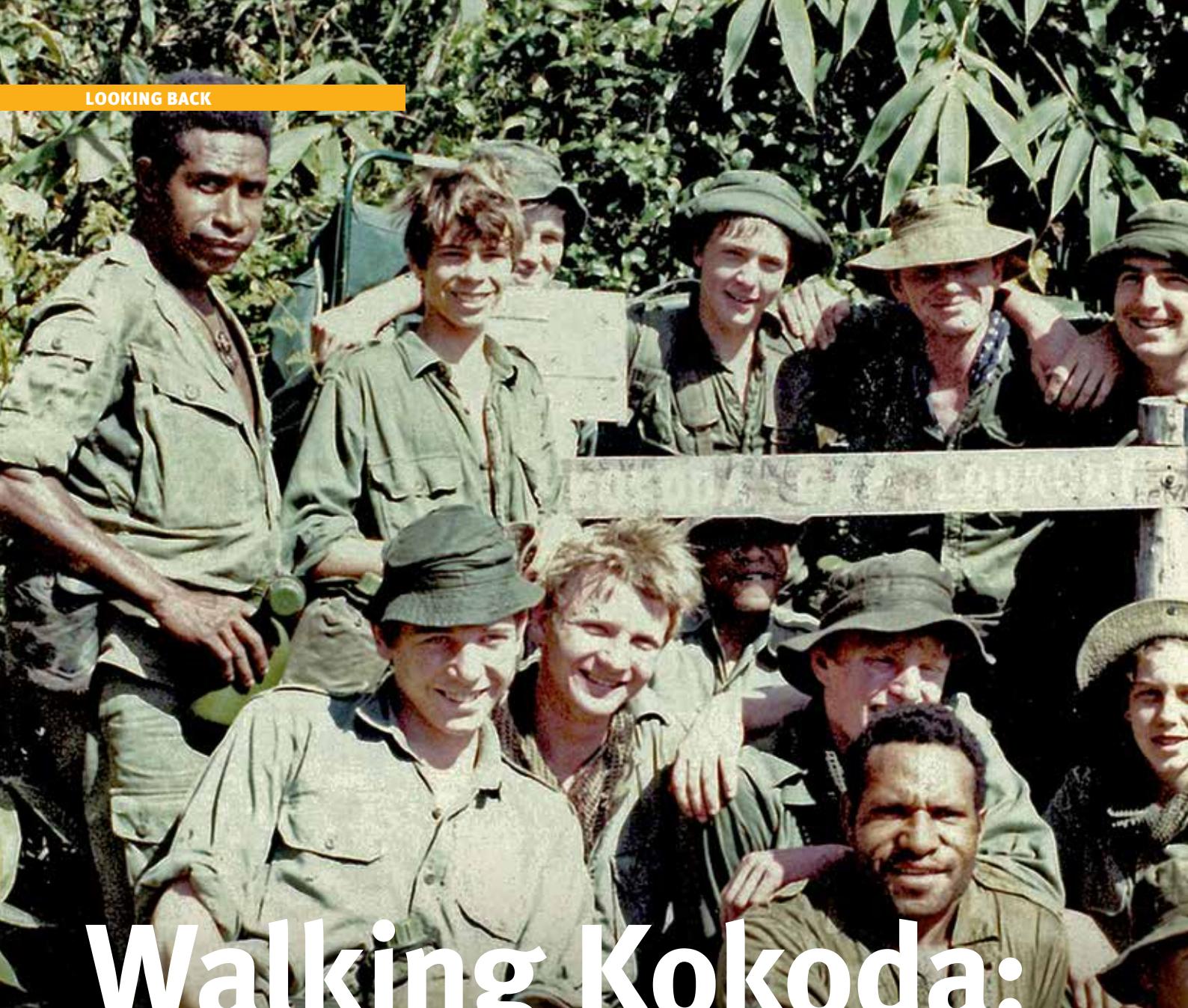
Three decades on, the RM Farquharson Trust continues to open doors that Mr Farquharson himself never had the chance to walk through. His generosity has changed the lives of hundreds of boys and, by extension, strengthened the fabric of the College community. From loss came vision. From vision, generosity. And from generosity, opportunity – an enduring legacy that will shape Scots for generations to come.



An oil portrait of Mr Rowland Farquharson. His Trust continues to open doors for Scots boys that he never had the chance to walk through.

The Farquharson portrait was inherited by The Scots College as part of Farquharson's estate. It was unveiled in the Stevenson Library in 1993 and currently hangs in the Aspinall House hallway.

It is painted by Australian artist, Mr Peter Bowers Elliott.



# Walking Kokoda: A Scots Tradition

Alongside Gallipoli and Battle of the Somme, the Kokoda Track stands as a defining milestone in Australia's wartime history. In 1942, soldiers fought through the thick jungle to defend Port Moresby, a feat that defended Australia from Imperial Japan, which still draws Australians to the track to honour their sacrifice.

For 40 years, from 1969 to 2009, The Scots College Cadet Unit undertook the trek nearly every decade, forging one of the College's most enduring traditions. Each crossing presents its own challenges and triumphs, connecting generations of boys to the courage and commitment of those who fought along the track.

The first attempt in 1969 was both daring and formative. Twenty-nine Cadets and two Masters set out from Sydney to Port Moresby, spurred on by Major JH Moore, an ancient history master and military historian who had long urged Scots to take up the Kokoda challenge.

The expedition was nearly abandoned on its second day when Major Moore badly sprained his ankle, forcing the group to return to Kokoda village. With support from the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, however, they were flown ahead to Kagi village on a small Pilatus PC-6 Porter aircraft to continue the trek. After eight gruelling days battling heat,



The 1982 Cadet group at the 'Kokoda Gap Lookout', atop Mount Bellamy, a little over 2,000m above sea level and the highest point along the track. After four days of almost all uphill hiking, the boys are smiling because its mostly downhill from here.

The group includes Rob Tuck ('83), back row, second from right, Colonel Paul Cooper, back row, third from right, and Andrew Purchas OAM ('83), second row, behind the local guide.

around, you wouldn't find the track," he remembers.

Rob Tuck ('83) recalls the experience vividly. "The undergrowth on either side of the trail was so dense you couldn't see a metre into the jungle. We all felt very privileged to walk the same track as our soldiers all those years ago who gave their lives to defend our country and freedom." Thanks to very good weather and a guide from the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, that crossing in 1982 was a record-fast crossing at the time, in just under five days.

Over the next 25 years, Paul led The Scots College Cadet Unit on nine more Kokoda Track crossings.

In the early years, Paul remembers flying onto tiny air strips in the jungle in an old Douglas DC-3, twin propeller aircraft, often seen in *Indiana Jones* movies. Back then the boys would pitch bivouacs (a temporary camp without cover) between trees along the trail, and take turns carrying the 40kg pack containing their only communication device, a AN/PRC-77 Portable Transceiver. These journeys were unrelenting and unpredictable, providing a glimpse into the conditions endured by World War II soldiers, as evidenced by the numerous relics, such as Japanese helmets, medical supplies, live rounds and grenades found along the way.

Over time, Paul saw Kokoda evolve. The establishment of the Kokoda Track Authority brought structure and regulation to trekking. Today, trekkers benefit from mandatory guides and porters, maximum 10kg pack weights and dedicated campgrounds for up to 40 tents.

Although later crossings became safer and more accessible, the boys' connection to the courage and

sacrifices of our soldiers in the Pacific remained undiminished.

The final generation of Scots trekkers set out in 2009, soon facing one of the most challenging expeditions in the College's history. Illness struck early, forcing several boys and staff to return under the care of porters, with some evacuated by helicopter. One Cadet was carried at night to a creek to cool a dangerous fever. Despite these setbacks, the group pressed on through Isurava, Iora Creek, and Mount Bellamy, before the expedition was brought to an early end at Efogi when additional staff fell ill.

After recovering, the group finally made their way to the Port Morseby (Bomana) War Cemetery, where bagpipes sounded among the 3,500 headstones as the boys stood in silence.

While only a small number of boys from Bellevue Hill have ever completed the Kokoda Track, the memory of Old Boys who fell in Papua New Guinea is felt every day as Scots boys pass through Mullens Gate on Victoria Road and into the Quadrangle. Flight Lieutenant Philip Mullens ('33) is honoured there, and at the Port Morseby (Bomana) War Cemetery, for making the ultimate sacrifice.

**Written by The Scots College Alumni Office with assistance from former College staff member and College Cadets Unit Colonel, Mr Paul Cooper.**

humidity, river crossings, and steep jungle ridges, they reached their goal, establishing Kokoda as a living tradition in Scots Cadet life.

Just over a decade later, in 1982, stalwart College Colonel, Mr Paul Cooper was invited by then Commanding Officer of the College's Cadet Unit, Colonel Chris Hogg, to lead an expedition. Paul recalls the trail being barely maintained, with dense jungle closing in on both sides, much like the conditions the Anzacs would have faced. "If you wandered too far to go to the toilet and didn't turn



# The Annual Lunch

The Old Boys' Union returned to the Ivy Ballroom in September for their Annual Lunch, following a short hiatus. Over 180 Old Boys attended, representing graduating years from 1960 through to 2024.

The afternoon was steered by our Master of Ceremonies, former professional basketballer and accomplished performer, PJ Lane ('02). With his trademark charm and charisma, PJ kept the program moving seamlessly and the Old Boys were entertained from start to finish.

Guests were then treated to a rare behind the scenes look at the world of cricket, courtesy of legendary Australian fast bowler, Jeff Thomson. Sharing colourful stories from his playing days, Jeff captivated the audience in conversation with Ben English ('86), now editor of *The Daily Telegraph*. Ben's thoughtful preparation and engaging interview style elevated the experience, ensuring the session was both insightful and entertaining.

The Old Boys' Union extends its gratitude to both Ben and PJ for generously giving their time and helping to make the event such a success.

To round out the afternoon, the Alumni Challenge Shield was presented to the year group with the strongest turnout. This year's honours went to the Class of 1986, thanks to the efforts of their table captain and Old Boys' Union President, Mat Collett ('86) in rallying his classmates. Their achievement will now be permanently recognised with an engraving on the shield.

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... Jeff captivated the audience in conversation with Ben English ('86), now editor of *The Daily Telegraph*.



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1. Ben English ('86) interviews legendary fast bowler and the Annual Lunch guest speaker, Jeff Thomson, also commonly known as 'Thommo'.
2. Old Boys from the Class of 2019 Loic Cameron ('19) and Thomas Bedingfield ('19).
3. Stephen Kuhl ('60), Bryan Weir ('71), Steve Gordon ('71) and Phillip Clark ('74) at the Annual Lunch.
4. Ben Caporale ('07), Marc Lucas ('99), Simon Dahdah ('99) and Simon Alford ('02) enjoy plenty of camaraderie while at the Annual Lunch.
5. Hugh Ricardo ('21), Milo Atkinson ('21) and Darcy Atkinson ('20) enjoy lunch and time together in September.
6. The Class of 2020 had the second highest number of attendees, after the Alumni Challenge Shield Winners, the Class of 1986.
7. Nick Smith ('93), Frazer Ross ('93), Dan Pitt ('93), Brent Hill ('93) and Mark Soulos ('91) catch up at the Annual Lunch.



# Reunions

## RECONNECTING

From milestone anniversaries to casual catch-ups, Scots Old Boys gathered throughout the year to celebrate friendships, reflect on their time at the College and share stories of life since graduation. Whether ten, twenty-five or thirty-five years on, each reunion highlighted the strength of connection that remains within the Scots community.



### Class of 1975

David Chee Quee, James Aroney, Stephen Hipsley and Hubert Delgorgue from the Class of 1975 at their 50th reunion dinner, held at the Royal Motor Yacht Club in Point Piper.



### Class of 1995

Whilst the Class of 1995 won't go down as Scots finest academics or sportsmen, we've always made up for it with a year of great characters, legendary bonding and outstanding hit-outs! This 30-year reunion was no exception! The group's stamina was inspiring – two days, two nights and four cracking events, all following our now traditional schedule.



### Class of 1990

The Class of 1990 celebrated their 35-year reunion at the Lang Walker Business Centre in July. There was an overwhelming attendance of over 70 Old Boys from the year at both the afternoon and evening gatherings. Attendees came from far and wide – many from overseas.

#### James Scott ('90)

After being piped into the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club for a Friday long lunch, we moved down memory lane to the Sheaf [The Golden Sheaf] to truly get festivities underway. Saturday saw us watch the 1st XV Rugby take on The King's School and swap exaggerated stories of our own Rugby brilliance.

The stories grew taller at our post-match drinks at The Oak [The Royal Oak Hotel], Double Bay. Spirits soared as we entered the 'I love you man' phase known for its 'hugs, high-fives and man-love'! Great times!

#### Kent Anderson ('95)



## Class of 2000

Our 25-year reunion brought together classmates for an afternoon of Rugby at the College followed by drinks at The Lord Dudley Hotel in Woollahra. It was great to catch up with old friends, swap stories, and see familiar faces after all these years. A wonderful turnout with many travelling from far and wide to join us which made it even more special. It was great to get everyone together on the balcony for a group photo of the Class of 2000. Bring on 2030 for our 30-year!

**Adam Gelbart ('00)**



## Class of 2005

The Class of 2005 enjoyed a fantastic reunion, gathering to watch the Scots 1st XV Rugby team take on the eventual AAGPS premiers, Saint Ignatius' College Riverview. Over 50 Old Boys attended the event and it the class's first get-together in more than ten years. A special thanks to Simon Scarf and Tom Quigley for their efforts in bringing everyone together.



## Class of 2010

The Class of 2010 had a cracking reunion – their first since 2015 – after years of pandemic delays. The celebrations continued at Easts Ladies' Day, where a few classmates took the field, including Stephen Mayman, who marked his 100th game for the club.

**Alex Duchar ('10).**

## Class of 2015

The Class of 2015's ten-year reunion was a vibrant celebration that brought our year group back together, proving the bonds we forged at Scots remain unbreakable.

The day began with a tour of the new John Cunningham Student Centre and Lang Walker Business Centre before gathering to watch Scots defeat Shore in a thrilling Rugby match, sealed by a last-minute penalty goal. Afterwards, we continued at The Golden Sheaf, where laughter, stories and record-breaking attendance defined the night.

It was the perfect blend of nostalgia, pride and connection, set against the backdrop of a school that continues to thrive.

**Ben Cobcroft ('15)**

# Julian 'Julzy' Fagan ('09)

## VALE

Julian 'Julz' 'Julzy' Fagan ('09), it's hard to put into words the impact he had and continues to have on our lives.

Julzy's days at Scots began a little mischievously – always the clown of the group, with practical jokes often taking priority over studies in the early years. But never over sport. One of the most athletically gifted people, any sport he chose, he was competitively good. Some of the fiercest Rugby players told us no-one hit harder than Julz. International cricket sixes players shared stories of his arm – unnaturally quick, with a two-step run-up, rocketing them in at 120 kilometres per hour.

While sport came naturally, committing to studies took longer. Teachers like Mr Brett Cranfield, Mr Tim Kelleher, Mr Daniel Markham and Ms Angela Murphy were legends in encouraging him, helping him grow into a true all-rounder, achieving an ATAR [Australian Tertiary Admission Rank] of 96.

Beyond academics, they helped him grow into someone who built a loving, loyal relationship with his fiancée, Brigitte. Someone entrepreneurial, launching a business with his twin and soulmate, Ian, dedicated to creating safer workplaces. And someone who stood by his family and friends.

As the youngest of four brothers, including Ian (just a few minutes older), Julz was the one we turned to for support. His calm manner and thoughtful words always left us feeling optimistic, no matter the challenge. And, of course, he always slipped in a joke.

Julzy's brothers, Ian ('09), Stuart ('04), Jono ('02) and parents thank the Scots community for shaping Julz into such a character and individual. We'll say to Scots what he would always say to Mum, with affection and humour: "You did an amazing job raising good boys – two out of four is a great effort!"

We love you so much, Julz. We'll carry with us the words of advice you read and shared each day. One he always liked to remind us of and one we leave you with: "If you're struggling to get going, focus on putting your shoes on first – trust me, it works!"

Julz passed away on 19 February 2025 after a cardiac event whilst swimming.

**Written by Stuart Fagan ('04) and Ian Fagan ('09), brothers.**



1. Julian Fagan ('09) enjoying lunch with his family, joking that he looks like the American Actor, Paul Walker, in this shot.
2. Julian with his twin brother, Ian ('09), photographed together for their business, Skodel.

# Chris 'Borpa' Newton ('01)

## VALE

It is with great sadness that we remember the passing of Chris 'Borpa' Newton ('01) – son of Mr Peter Newton and Mrs Christel Newton and beloved brother to Georgia.

Chris was a much-loved Scots Old Boy, classmate, teammate and lifelong friend to so many.

A proud graduate of the Class of 2001, Scots was more than a school to Chris – it was a cornerstone of the man he became.

His journey began in preschool in 1988, where his warmth, humour and boundless charisma quickly made him a central figure in the school community.

His nickname, 'Borpa', coined on the school grounds more than 30 years ago became a symbol of the larger-than-life character who lit up every room he entered.

Sport was at the heart of Chris's school years. From the Under 9As Rugby team to captaining the 16As, he embodied teamwork, passion and resilience.

Yet Rowing was his greatest love. As the fifth seat of the 1st VIII Rowing crew in Year 12, he was the 'engine room' – dedicated, driven and a natural leader at the Scots Boatshed. He recruited others, lifted those around him and did everything possible to drive success for all crews.

He was a proud member of the Pipes and Drums and a vibrant presence in the Boarding community, boarding at Kirkland House during his Senior years.

More than his achievements, Chris is remembered for his fierce loyalty, big heart and booming laugh. He had an extraordinary ability to build relationships and make everyone feel valued.

Chris carried these same qualities into his career, making his mark in the financial markets.

Beginning at Macquarie Bank in Sydney, he progressed swiftly, thanks to his grit, determination and sharp market insight.

His career flourished in Japan, where he became one of Asia's leading sales and block traders, before being headhunted by J.P. Morgan and later Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong.

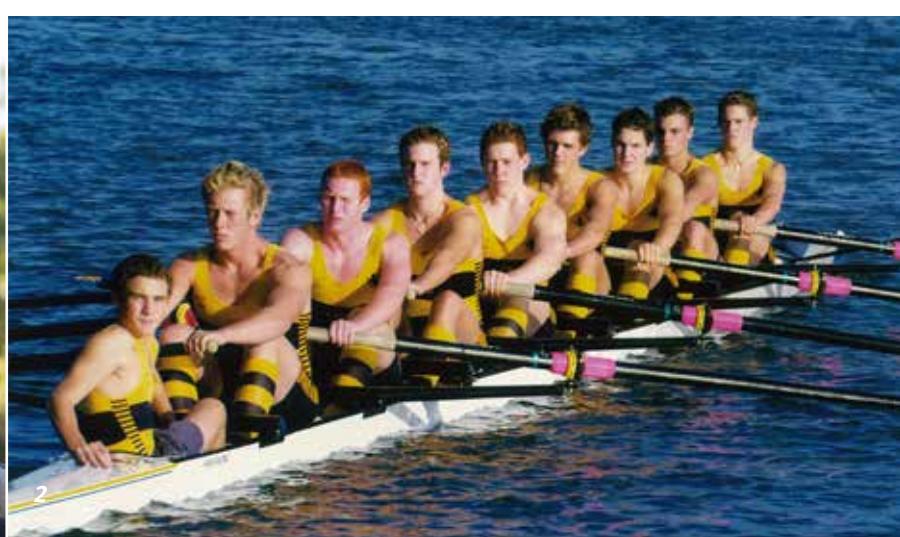
Chris was deeply respected and built a remarkable career and reputation across the Asia-Pacific region.

Borpa will be remembered always – a legend of Scots, not just a great character, but a man of great character.

**Written by the Newton family,  
Liam O'Connor ('01) and  
Adam Muston ('01).**



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1. Chris Newton ('01), with his trademark smile at recent wedding in Sydney.
2. Chris in the 'engine room' of the 1st VIII Rowing crew in 2001, seated fifth from the back.

# John Zilic ('86)

VALE

John Zilic ('86) passed away in London on 2 June 2025, after a year battling cancer of the appendix.

Unfortunately, like many abdominal cancers, by the time it was properly identified he was already at Stage 4. Though he fought hard through strong chemotherapy and operations, it was always an unfair fight.

Starting at The Preparatory School in 1974, he stayed at Scots until Year 12. Always tall for his age, John was a gifted athlete and popular student, representing Scots in Athletics, Cricket, and Rugby. In Year 12 he co-coached the 16Fs Rugby to mid-table glory with his good friend Chris Seiser ('86). John was an only child, so his friends were very important to him, and there wasn't anyone in his year that didn't like his quick wit and warm smile.

John studied commerce at the University of Newcastle before beginning a 35-year career in finance with Westpac, joining in 1989 as a settlements officer. He rose to senior dealer on the foreign exchange trade desks and, in 2009, relocated to the bank's London office as Senior Product Consultant for its European currency trading business.

Music was his true passion. Although not a musician, he was an avid fan and collector – few in the world will have been to as many live gigs as John. While John loved all kinds of music, he always favoured the heavier side of things. After his move to London John fully immersed himself in the underground heavy metal scene and became well connected and respected in the industry. He wrote regular articles and reviews for music magazines and specialist heavy metal sites and could turn any conversation into a discussion about Jimi Hendrix, Black Sabbath or AC/DC.

“

... John was a gifted athlete and popular student, representing Scots in Athletics, Cricket, and Rugby.

John was also a die-hard Sydney Roosters fan. In the 80s and 90s he would try to get to most of the games, even though they weren't always the most successful years. Once in London he had to adjust to watching online, though he still wouldn't miss a match. Even while undergoing a chemo session, he'd have the iPad on his lap and be wearing his Roosters jumper. That jumper was draped over his coffin for the funeral.

John is survived by his son Jay (from his first marriage) and the love of his life, Jo – who he met in London and married in 2022. Sadly, he is also survived by his father who lives alone on the Gold Coast. John and his Dad were extremely close and would talk every day (even though his Dad was a Souths fan).

‘Zed’ will be sorely missed.

**Written by the Zilic family.**



John Zilic ('86) draped in his beloved tri colours.

# Graeme Galloway ('71)

## VALE

Graeme Galloway ('71) passed away suddenly in June 2025 in Thургона near Albury aged 71.

Those who knew Graeme will remember him for the dedication and passion he brought to all that he attempted.

Graeme's time at Scots shaped him. Many will remember him for his debating prowess as well as his role of Warrant Officer as a Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant in the Cadets in the early 70s.

After completing a BA (Hons 1) and PhD in Psychology at The University of Sydney, he dedicated his life to academia.

Graeme never married, instead focussing his life on his research and teaching, which included 24 years of lecturing and mentoring at La Trobe University in Victoria.

Graeme touched many lives during his lifetime and will be sadly missed.

**Written by Ian Galloway ('74), brother.**



1. Graeme Galloway ('71) during his younger years at Scots.
2. The Second Debating Team in 1971: David Bard ('70), Graeme Galloway ('71), Grant Agnew ('71); MIC Public Speaking and Debating, Mr Richard Blackett Esq., Bruce Greig ('71) and John Hipsley ('71).



# Bruce Anthony Kellaway ('56)

## VALE

Bruce Anthony Kellaway ('56) was a fine man and a true gentleman – selfless, humble and devoted to his family.

Bruce let his actions do the talking, always providing a steady hand and grounded direction. As one relative said, “today we lost one of the good guys.”

Born on 23 March 1937, Bruce was the second of three sons to Nelson and Marie ‘Betty’ Kellaway. Raised on Kulgoa Road, Bellevue Hill, he began at The Scots College in Kindergarten and graduated in 1956. Known for his sporting leadership, he played five years in the 1st XI Cricket team, captained James Bee House and, in his final year, was Head Prefect, Senior Cadet Under Officer and the College’s Opens Javelin Champion.

After school he jackerooed in Armidale and Uralla, continuing to play representative cricket. It was in Uralla that he met his future wife, Helen, whom he married in 1962. That year he purchased ‘Tallow Wood’, his first property, before later moving to ‘Junglebung’ near Carcoar, raising Hereford cattle and his four children – Elizabeth, Sally, James and John. Life on the land was demanding but rewarding, filled with simple family pleasures and treasured memories.

In 1972, Bruce and Helen moved to Sydney to prioritise their children’s education. They settled in Turramurra and later Clareville and Killara, where Bruce shared his love of fishing, sailing and home improvement projects. He valued hard work, whether on the farm, in the family business or in the garden, and worked full-time until the age of 84.

The sudden loss of Helen in 2001 was his greatest sorrow. Though stoic, his

love for her remained steadfast. His last words, spoken while looking at her picture, were, “Hello Mother, I love you.”

Bruce passed away peacefully on 1 May 2025. He is remembered as a man of quiet strength, unwavering

devotion and deep love for his family. His passing is bittersweet – a loss to all who knew him, but a reunion with his beloved Helen.

**Written by James Kellaway, son.**



1. Bruce Kellaway ('58) with four of his grandchildren in 2006.

2. Bruce in the AAGPS Premiership-winning 1st XI Cricket side of 1953 (back row, third from the left).

# David 'Finno' Norman Finlayson ('52)

## VALE

Known affectionately as 'Da' by his family and 'Finno' by his mates, David Norman Finlayson ('52) was the eldest of three brothers, all of whom attended The Scots College.

Born in Wollongong, David became a Boarder at Kirkland House from 1948 to 1952. He fully embraced College life, particularly its sporting opportunities. A talented athlete, David earned an Athletic Association of the Great Public Schools (AAGPS) Championship badge as a proud member of The Scots College Senior Athletics team. He was a champion sprinter in the 100 and 200 yards and a dynamic winger in the school's 1st XV Rugby team.

Following school, David chose not to pursue an academic path. Instead, he headed to the bush, jackarooining before eventually purchasing a farm in Narromine, central New South Wales. It was there that he truly found his calling as a 'sheep man'.

David never forgot his rugby days at Scots and in the 1980s, David played a key role in founding the Narromine Gorillas Rugby Club an enduring legacy that continues to this day.

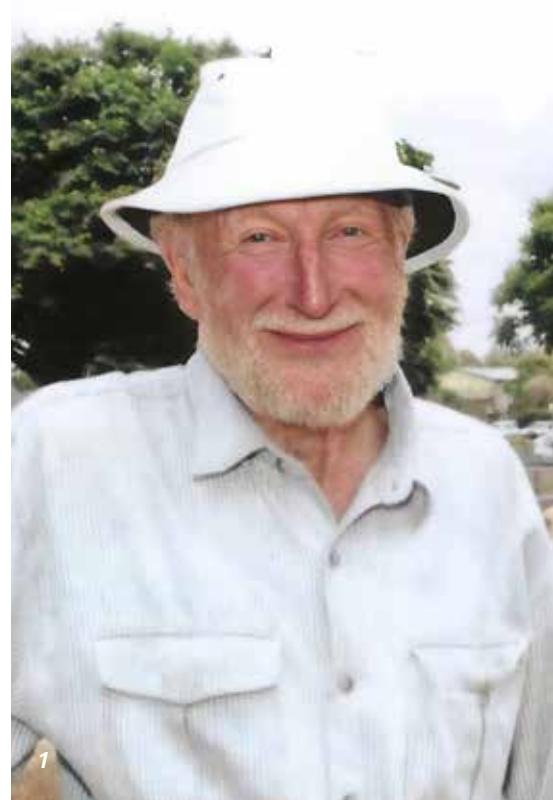
David also remained deeply connected to the Scots community. He was a proud supporter of the The Scots College's Western Districts Old Boys' reunions, graciously hosting many gatherings on his property. These events were often attended by esteemed guests including Headmaster Mr Graham Renney and his wife, Mr Ken Hawthorne and his wife and many others.

Though he came from the city, David was a countryman at heart. He became a well-loved and active member of the Narromine and greater western NSW community – always ready for a yarn, a helping hand or a celebration.

David passed away on 19 June 2025. He is survived by his beloved wife Peg, children Sue, Kerrie, and Michael ('82), along with eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his daughter Jane who passed away in 2010.

He was a man of strong principles, he worked hard and played hard. A man of the land, of sport, and of strong spirit, David leaves behind a legacy of friendship, community and unwavering dedication.

**Written by the Finlayson family.**



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1. David Finlayson ('52) in the sheepyards of his Narromine property in 2007.
2. David about to break the tape in the 200 yards race at the AAGPS Athletics Carnival in front of a packed Members' Stand and Ladies Members' Stand at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1952.

# John Brigstock ('48)

VALE

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of John Brigstock ('48), aged 94, late of Toukley and formerly of Harbord [known as Freshwater since 2008], Tamworth and Casino.

John passed away peacefully on 7 August 2025, leaving behind a legacy of dedication, friendship and family love.

Born in Moss Vale, John grew up during wartime, displaying drive and community spirit from an early age. In 1944, at the age of 13, he volunteered as a member of the Volunteer Air Observers Corps. He went on to become a respected and innovative surveyor, starting in 1949 and registered in 1957, with a career at the Department of Main Roads spanning decades. His work helped shape New South Wales' road network from the far north to the far south, and his name even found its way onto the map with Brigstock Brook, located on the New England Highway, Uralla.

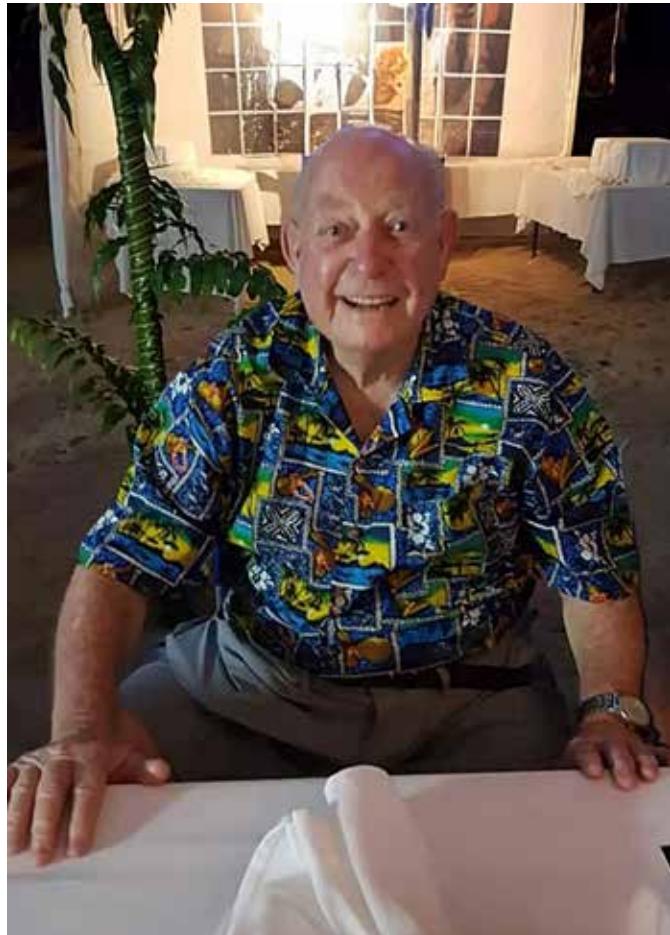
Away from work, John was an avid golfer and a cornerstone of the Toukley Golf Club. His commitment and leadership as President for five years and his recognition as a Life Member, reflected both his passion for the sport and his deep community spirit.

Beloved husband of the late Norma, John was a devoted father to Colin, Prue and Tony; cherished grandfather to Greg, Alycia, Sophia, Ethan and Georgia; and proud great-grandfather to Travis, Mackenzie, Charlotte and Isabel.

John will be remembered for his sharp wit, tireless work ethic and warm generosity. His love for family, the game of golf and the many friends he made along the way will remain an enduring part of the lives he touched.

He will be greatly missed and forever treasured.

**Written by the Brigstock and Brown families.**



John Brigstock ('48) in his old age, on holiday, always with a smile.

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... John grew up during wartime, displaying drive and community spirit from an early age.



# Commitment, Courage and Love

## VALE

The Scots College has long nurtured a tradition of athletic and swimming excellence, with William 'Bill' Kendall ('35) standing out as a remarkable example.

Bill represented Australia in the 100-metre freestyle at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, reaching the semifinals against a world-class field. His determination was legendary – he was prepared to fund his own trip if not selected for the team.

After the Olympics, Bill attended Harvard University, where he became a stand-out member of the Crimson swim team. He captured the national intercollegiate swimming titles in the 220 and 440-yard events, cementing his reputation as a world-class swimmer.

In 1938, Bill joined the Royal Australian Air Force, serving his country during World War II before returning home to Sydney. True to his passion, he remained a dedicated swimmer throughout his life, often spotted doing daily laps at Neilson Park in Vaucluse.

The Scots College's Swimming team in 1933, Benjamin Eve, John Magney, J Williams and William Kendall.  
Source: The College Collection. The photo was donated to the College by Bill Munday ('58), son of John Magney.

Bill's story reflects not only individual achievement but also the enduring Scots spirit – where commitment, courage and a love of sport shape lives long after school days end.

**The Scots College Office of Heritage and Tradition**

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Bill represented Australia in the 100-metre freestyle at the 1936 Berlin Olympics ...

# Scots: The finest preparation for life



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