

The Wesleyite

The Wesley College Old Boys Association of Australia (Melbourne)

COMMITTEE 2021 - 2022

President: Granville Norton

Vice President: Rushan Hewawasam

Secretary: Azmaan Seyad

Treasurer: Anup Wadugodapitiya

Editor: Ubeid Hamit

Committee:

Adrian Michael
Cornell Jansen
Ridhwan Adjumaun
Neomal Wimalsuriya

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It's a time of change

Welcome to the Wesley College OBUA newsletter
The Wesleyite.

The Committee of 2021-22 has endeavoured to bring to you all our usual Wesley OBUA gatherings. However our every effort has been stymied due to lockdown restrictions imposed on us Melbournians, brought on by the global pandemic COVID-19.

In light of the above we have redoubled our intentions to bring back our fellowship and gatherings once all restrictions are lifted and we can once again gather in safety.

In the meantime our renewed Website, the Wesley OBUA Facebook page and also our WhatsApp channel are alive and well! We encourage our old boys to engage with each other and the committee digitally until we meet again.

In the pages below you will find a message from the president, Granville, and a short introduction to your current committee. This is also an invitation to our old boys to send through any of your contribution to include in our future Newsletters and publications to the Website or Social Media page.

President's Message



Blessed Wesleyites,

The committee and I entered 2021 with much optimism of normality on our events calendar. A productive and fruitful year. Sadly, three months into the year Covid started taking on a new face. This Virus has changed our perception of life as we knew it, challenging our core human values, creating division and fear amongst us. I pray that all Wesleyites will receive the strength, wisdom, and knowledge to endure and stay true to their hearts. It's time that we look beyond this polarising noise.

On to business, The EXCO had great plans for 2021. The AGM followed by the thanksgiving service, winter warmer, dance, and the senior's lunch was on the cards with enthusiasm, with halls, bands, and photographers booked in advance. Unfortunately, COVID took centre stage again, and we found ourselves having to park all our events all over again.

We made every effort to squeeze in the AGM on the 5th of June, followed by a Wesleyite fellowship that evening in the form of a Hopper Night. Our young members were looking forward to this evening and had purchased tickets well ahead of the date, prompting the committee to source a larger venue. But, unfortunately, the spectre of COVID 19 reared its ugly head in the form of a lockdown that weekend and the event had to be called off.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances that persisted, consequently, we were compelled to change the format of the AGM. The committee decided to seek approval from the general membership to appoint the committee and ratify the minutes\reports electronically as physical gatherings were restricted. All members were informed of this process, and we had an overwhelming response of acceptance. The new committee was elected, and the Secretaries Report and 2020 Audited Financial Report was mailed out to all members involved in the AGM process via the secretaries' desk. Following accepted procedures, these reports were adopted.

Other than administrative challenges this year, the association has not been able to add to our bank balance due to the absence of major fundraising events such as the Winter Warmer and Double Blue Ball. Nevertheless, we remain in a stable situation financially. We look forward to adding to our coffers to fund the nominated projects associated with our beloved Alma Mater.

Due to technical issues and circumstances beyond our control, the website and all of its data were lost. Sadly, nothing was retrievable. This gave rise to a new and contemporary site that is taking centre stage slowly but surely. Aqeel Rafique (2010 batch) has put us back on the web with a valiant effort, unselfishly donating his valued time. Besides numerous other features and more to come, the site now has a built-in DONATE NOW button that will make it so much easier for you the membership to support the OBUA and its various projects. Please be kind enough to visit this page and donate as your heart leads you.

The site is safe with the necessary security upgrades in place.

Donate NOW at - <https://wesleyobua.org.au/index.php/donate-now/#donate-now>

Our Golfers had a window of opportunity earlier this year to tee off with the Trinitarians on the 7th of March. They battled for the C.J. Oorloff Golf Trophy, and Wesley brought home the Gold once again. Well done to our boys, who also ran away with most of the individual awards. Video clips and photos of this event are to be found on our Facebook Page wesleyobua (Wesley College Colombo OBU Australia). If you haven't visited our FB page yet, I encourage you to do so and "LIKE" the page so that you can receive timely updates as they happen. We will be moving towards a 100% digital platform very soon.

The planned Wesley vs St. Benedict's friendly cricket encounter had to be postponed once again this year. There was hope for a date later this year, but it seems to have eluded us again due to the lingering COVID restrictions. I like to extend my thanks to the organising committee for their initiative in getting this off the ground. They have put in incredible effort, personal funds, and energy in organising this event, and we wait in anticipation to see this match take place soon.

The EXCO will continue to meet and work for our members in the best way possible.

Please look after yourselves. God's blessings are with all.

Ora Et Labora
Granville Norton

Meet your Committee



<< **Granville** left Wesley College in 1996, he's father of two and a husband to his high school sweetheart. Arriving with the the same to Melbourne in 2007. Granville is a business owner and tells us he's working hard to make it through the COVID-19 journey. The **President** lists his interests as sports, music, cars, gardening, and prides himself as a Handyman too!

>> **Rushan** completed his advanced level studies in 2004. He was very privileged to be the Head Prefect in 2003/2004. He was a school boarder for 6 years before and travelled from Moratuwa. Music is a big part of his life and conducts few choirs in Melbourne.

The **Vice President** lists one of his loves as travel (when it was allowed) overseas and also within Australia. Watching movies and crime TV shows keep him occupied these days.

Rushan has been very privileged to work in the health industry where they have been able to provide care to many Victorians.



<< **Azmaan** left Wesley in 1999, after which he completed his higher studies and worked in the IT industry in Sri Lanka & Dubai and subsequently moved to Australia in 2013. He enjoys camping, watching all sports (specially football and rugby) and hanging out with my wife and kids. The **Secretary** been keeping myself occupied during covid with long walks, trying out different types food and watching movies.

>> **Anupama** was from the 1997 batch and also college Rugby captain. Loves 4x Wheel driving, watching movies and spending time with his 2 kids. During COVID-19 has picked up cycling and has done few DIY carpentry projects too. The **Treasurer** loves his weekend whiskey and Sri Lankan spicy food to go with it.



<< **Ubeid** was also from the '96 advanced level batch, a local boy from Dematagoda. An avid movie fan with other interests include reading car reviews and tinkering with computers. The **Editor** is a big fan of driving holidays with family; camping whenever a long weekend comes around. During COVID-19 he has been keeping himself occupied by doing many little projects around the house and long walks.

Meet your Committee... Continued



<< **Adrian** is from Class of 97 also a local from Dematagoda good ol' Col-9! Enjoys spending quality time with his kids. This **Committee Member** has taken up cooking as a new hobby and says it is a good way to relieve stress. He sees COVID-19 as a blessing with plenty of time to spend with the family! But he's also missing the trips and long drives due to the lockdowns.



>> **Cornell** Left Wesley in 1991 and says he's residing happily with family in the most lockdown city in the world. Any sport draws his interest hence an avid sport enthusiast and armchair expert. This **Committee Member** still plays some sport but says he's not good at it! Cornell was working from home before the acronym WFH was coined as Business Manager running his own show and lockdowns gave him even more Netflix and chill than usual!



<< **Ridhwan** Aka Riddy Left college in 2015. A former Deputy Head Prefect Currently working as a Duty Manager in a resort in the Mornington Peninsula enjoying the coast during lockdown Also a Singer/songwriter This **Committee Member** performed at our last Double Blue Ball.



>> **Neomal** or Neo to his friends was from the 2003 advanced level batch. Ever the entrepreneur this **Committee Member** juggles many hats; he manages a Sports Center also runs company that provides maintenance and cleaning services such a necessity in these COVID-19 times. What does he do to relax? Pours himself a stiff drink and watches some Netflix of course!



What have we been up to?



How can you join in? We're glad you asked!

Social: Wesley OBUA on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wesleyobua/>

Website: <https://wesleyobua.org.au/>

WhatsApp: Please contact the Secretary at secretary@wesleyobua.org.au and provide your mobile number to be added to the private group

Sports Teams: Anyone keen to join our Rugby, Cricket, Golf or Badminton teams, please get in touch with the Secretary secretary@wesleyobua.org.au

DONATE : <https://wesleyobua.org.au/index.php/donate-now/#donate-now>

Have your Say...

If you've read through all of this and come this far Thank You.

Wesleyites this is your forum. Your committee would love to hear from you.

Whether it's a project you've been putting off or a new hobby you've just taken up. Please take this opportunity let us know what you've been keeping yourself occupied with during these testing times!