Michael Prendeville Watt (1936-2015)

We wish to honour the passing of Michael earlier this year, who attended Wellesley from 1944-1948. The Watt family have a rich history at Wellesley, as not only did his younger brother David attend as well (1949-1954), but their father Charles also had before them from 1917 to the early 1920's. Moreover, two of Michael's and his wife Lesley's sons James (1985-1991) and Andrew (1990-1995) also attended.



After attending Wellesley Michael went to board at Scots College and then worked in office administration primarily with P & O Shipping for a significant portion of his life. However, it was his family, sport, reading and his Eastbourne community for which Michael had the greatest passion.

His friends remember him as a man of very dry wit, but above all a man of integrity and courtesy- "a true gentleman." His boys remember with fondness his involvement and enthusiasm in their sports- rugby, cricket, sailing and their introduction to the sport that he excelled in - small bore shooting.

Such was Michael's prowess on the range, that he fought hard against strong competition and succeeded in representing NZ at the Munich Olympics in 1972 as NZ's 50m small bore shooter. Although he performed with distinction, he came away without a medal, but his achievement of representing NZ and being reserve for the 1976 Montreal Olympics, was not lost on the shooting community. He was a shooting legend. He continued his deep involvement within the sport as an organiser and administrator at club and national level.

Michael is survived by his wife Lesley, sons Richard, Andrew and James, and their partners Jade and Emma and his grandchildren Charlie and Henry.