

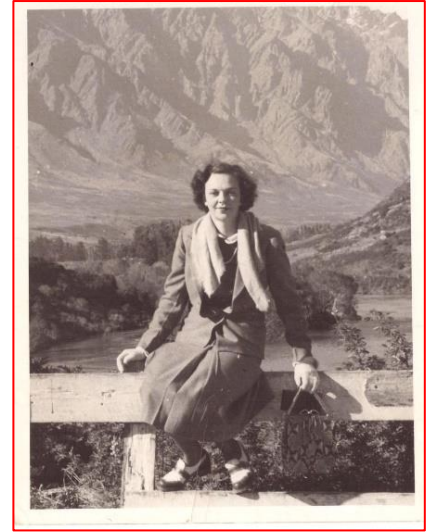
Jill Hutton Lesh 1928 – 2021

Teacher, Parent, Friend of Wellesley



Jill Hutton Lesh, née Stevens, was born 24 September 1928 and was the daughter of former Wellesley Headmaster (1933-65) William Hutton Stevens, and his wife Kitty.

Jill called Wellesley her home from 1940 (she was 12 years old when her father merged Wellesley College with Croydon School at the Days Bay location) until her marriage in 1952 and subsequent move to Australia. Jill and Rohan were married in St Martin's Church in Days Bay and held their wedding breakfast at Wellesley. Jill returned to NZ with her four children to stay with her parents at the College throughout the 1950s and 1960s whilst her husband was at sea. According to School records, Jill spent some time teaching at the College during the early 1950s. Her brother Bill Stevens attended Wellesley from 1932, as did her eldest son Richard, spending time in the much-loved teacher, Margaret Barn's class.



Jill kept closely in touch with the progress of Wellesley over the years and loved receiving the Wellesley magazine At the Bay. She remembered and related many happy stories throughout her life about the teaching staff, the boarding house staff and so many of the students taught by her father. She was delighted to attend the Wellesley Centenary celebrations in 2014 with her daughter, Margaret, and to meet up once again with some of the 'boys' who had known or been taught by her father and with whom she had been acquainted as a young woman. Her memories of the years spent at Wellesley remained intact long after other memories had faded.

Sadly, Jill passed away in Canberra on 6th April 2021, aged 92 years. The staff and boys at Wellesley will cherish the amazing legacy of the Stevens family, who were deeply admired and respected for their considerable contributions to Wellesley over four decades. Our most sincere thoughts are with Jill's family.



Images: Jill pictured in Queenstown, 1946, and at the Wellesley Centenary celebrations in 2014.

Sources: Dimity Smith (daughter) and Wellesley College archives