

The Arch Campbell Memorial Scholarship

The Arch Campbell Memorial Scholarship, supported by the Christ Church Old Boys' Association Scholarship Trust, was first awarded in 2015. This general excellence scholarship, open to all students entering year 7 who fit the required criteria, covers 100 per cent of the school tuition fees. While subject to annual review, it is tenable for the duration of a boy's education at Christ Church.

Applicants are considered on their ability to benefit from a Christ Church education and must clearly demonstrate financial need. Applicants are required to sit the scholarship examination and parents or guardians are required to provide evidence of financial need by submission of a statutory declaration of family income and other requested documents.



Archibald Campbell was born in South Perth in 1916. One of seven children, he attended James Street School and Perth Boys' School. A keen sportsman, Arch played in the West Australian Football League (WAFL) for East Perth from 1935 to 1940, as well as East Perth Cricket Club. In 1940, he joined the Australian Imperial Force and after graduating with special forces training in 1941, became a section commander in the newly formed 2nd Independent Company, later known as the 2/2 Commando Squadron.

The 2/2 was deployed to East Timor in late 1941 when commando warfare was new and the unit was only the second of its kind in the world. Lieutenant Campbell, the officer in charge of 7 Section, was one of 270 commandos who used guerilla tactics to attack and frustrate some 9,000 Japanese troops over 10 months.

On 20 February 1942, 7 Section was camped at Three Spurs in the jungle outside Dili, unaware the Japanese had invaded Dili the day before. All of the section, apart from Lieutenant Campbell and an officer sick with malaria, were headed into Dili for a day off when the ration truck they were travelling in was ambushed. Of the 16 young men in 7 Section, for whom Lieutenant Campbell was responsible, 14 were killed.

The significance of the event and Arch's wartime experience, led him to devote much of his life to Legacy, a charity that assists the spouses and children of deceased service men and women. In the 1970s, Arch enabled two boys to receive the gift of a Christ Church education as the family's Legatee. Despite his busy working life, his dedication to Legacy spanned five decades.

Post-war, Arch maintained his interest in sport as a radio commentator; chief announcer for the British Empire and Commonwealth Games (Perth, 1962); President of the WA Gymnastics Association; and as member of the board of directors of East Perth Football Club until 1985.

Arch Campbell died on 2 October 1999.

