

INFORMATION EXCHANGE



MELBOURNE
GIRLS GRAMMAR

AUTUMN 2016





CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL



The MGGS community comprises all current and past students, parents and staff so if you are reading this magazine, then by definition you are part of our community.

In addition to the current staff and student body of over 1,300, we estimate that there are 10,800 Old Grammarians and several hundred past staff who stay connected to MGGS. Add to that thousands of current and past parents (both mothers and fathers) and the immensity of the task of defining who we are (and how to stay connected) is somewhat overwhelming. How is a sense of belonging created when members of our community incorporate such a wide spectrum of experiences – both in place and in time? Why do we care? What is the relevance of being connected to a school once students, parents and staff are Beyond the Gates?

As a faith-based school, MGGS believes strongly in developing our students as more than educational receptacles into which information is poured. The School has always aimed to develop rounded women with grounded values – currently articulated in our vision to produce “ethical women of action”. When our first headmistress, Edith Morris, wrote in 1907 that girls should be given the opportunity to take their place in contributing to the governing structures of society, she was providing a call to action that

women could and should “make a difference” in the world. How that is promulgated has changed dramatically over the last century of the School’s existence – particularly as there are changing expectations of what education can enable women to do. We can be justly proud of the many and varied contributions that our community has made and is making to the world. Our collective achievements are too many to list but contributions range from those from the societal perspective of contributing to diverse professions including (but not limited to) the law, medicine, teaching, engineering, business, science, the arts and politics right through to the very personal contribution of raising children. At MGGS we celebrate all of these contributions and are delighted to hear from past students, teachers and parents about what fuels their passion in life. But more than that, this amazing network of interesting and committed women provides an incredible resource for our girls to connect with as they journey through life. The few years that our students spend within the boundaries of the School are truly formative. But learning is a lifelong pursuit and staying connected to other women of like mind and similarly

formed values helps ensure that the legacy of an excellent education resonates ever onward.

With this in mind we are very proud to have launched the first stage of MGGS Connect, a web portal that connects Old Grammarians and provides them with an opportunity to keep in touch with both the school and old friends. But MGSS Connect is what we make of it. If you are an Old Grammarian, I urge you to get involved in whatever capacity you wish. For others in the School community we look forward to your ongoing engagement and support of the many School activities that you are invited to participate in – whether it is attending a community breakfast, coming to one of the many concerts or performances of our students at School or becoming involved in our tutoring/mentoring programs. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, “We must be the change we wish to see in the world.” It is up to each of us to help make our MGGS community what we want it to be.

Professor Katie Allen (Stephens, 1983)
Chairman of Council

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Several years ago, Melbourne Girls Grammar hosted the International Women's Day Breakfast at Parliament House, attended by some 300 students and staff from girls' schools across Melbourne. We provided the keynote speaker, and I was delighted that Vikki Koumis (OG, 1995) accepted our invitation.

Vikki is truly a unique graduate. She speaks proudly of her working class background and the determination of her parents to provide her an outstanding education. She shares her wonder at being so accepted by her student community that this "big, loud, Greek girl" was voted School Captain. She entrances you with her life journey to being the first woman to set up her own shipping line. Yes – Vikki worked her way from the "only woman" in a Greek shipping company learning this very male enterprise to buying her very own cargo ship, plus a very nice apartment in Singapore from which to oversee her fledgling company. Vikki has a big personality, a palpable vitality, and a great sense of humour.

On this particular occasion, though, what moved me most as I listened to her was her wisdom that the most important outcome in life is to create strong connections with others, and appreciate the communities in which you learn and grow – from the intimacy of your family to the wider worlds that school and work offer. Vikki had a very special story that illustrated this important life lesson.

Whilst working internationally her mother fell very ill. One call to her Old Grammarian

network and her mother was seeing the very best specialist, her mother was being visited and accompanied through a terribly anxious time. Vikki said that the incredible kindness and outreach was beyond words of appreciation. "It's a sisterhood you will always have, being an OG".

This edition of IE explores many expressions of "connections". Our fundamental need to belong, to develop relationships, to be appreciated plays out through our lifetime. As we see our students mature they increasingly lead their youngest peers to be connected: they are role models, they are mentors, they are coaches and, most importantly, they are encouraging and inclusive. Increasingly, over the past three years, newly graduated OGs are coming straight back into our environment as Boarding Staff, Sports Coaches, Academic Coaches. They join trips and camps as support staff. They are volunteering their time in any way that means they remain connected and are giving back. On the banks of the Barwon, a 2015 graduate said to me, "I miss MGGS more than I could have believed". To me, this reflects a strong student culture in which peer

connections are strong along the journey and are an authentic reason to come back and extend that experience.

It is also because we have extended the period of mentoring with the lively presence of our Wildfell girls, who first stepped onto the Merton Hall campus in 2011. By 2012, parents were saying to me, "I think the youngest girls are bringing out the best in our Seniors". At the Valedictory Assembly in 2014 a mother approached me, to share something that had so moved her and which mattered greatly to her Year 12 daughter. She told me that a Year 5 student had written a letter to her daughter, to let her know that every time she stopped to say hello to her, every time she encouraged her and gave advice, it made her life at Merton Hall so much happier, and had been the reason she had been brave in making new connections in her House and in Wildfell. I feel very proud when I recall this story, as it encapsulates the warmth and the compassion we encourage our girls to bring to their daily lives, that makes living and learning in our community that much more enjoyable and empowering.

**Catherine Misson
Principal**



CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISE

CEE

Professional Learning Offerings in 2016

Facilitated professional learning projects are underway for our teachers, with much energy and positivity. Many inquiries with an array of organisations are taking place to secure notable learning experiences for our teachers.

"I am excited to enhance my coaching skills and learn to use them more effectively in the classroom. I have Level 2 accreditation in Tennis and Level 1 accreditation in several sports. I never imagined I might effectively bring these skills into the classroom. It's going to be interesting to see how this new dynamic works for students and teachers. The new offerings of extended Professional Learning in my opinion provides a much more effective way of building skills and developing confidence. I am sure we are leading the way in providing this type of framework and pathways for teacher development within our own School environment." **Paul McNamara, Teacher**

"Design Thinking' with Tom Barrett gives us a space to truly inquire into our teaching. It is a luxury to sit in a room of colleagues questioning our practice and working towards school improvement. The Professional Learning makes us acutely aware of the learning process; in a sense, we are learning how to be learners and this makes us better teachers. Tom pushes us into a space where we think divergently to create positive change in the classroom." **Katherine Barton, Teacher**

We encourage members of our community to connect with our Centre for Educational Enterprise (CEE) Office should you be able to assist in the areas of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics).

CEE Events 2016

CEE was delighted to host the first of our Director's Lecture Series with Richard Gerver. Described as one of the most inspirational thought-leaders of his generation, Richard delivered an insightful address on *Tomorrow Belongs to Those Who Prepare for It*.

Attended by over 100 delegates from our community, local schools and universities, the lecture was received with great enthusiasm, giving our audience much to reflect on. Gerver's contention is that, given there is not one education system or syllabus which will work for all our students, educators have the responsibility to continually review their practices and "re-professionalise" their profession.

"Effecting this change isn't about working harder, it's about working differently."

Reflecting on the significant movement underway by global companies such as PricewaterhouseCoopers and Apple to not require their staff to have tertiary qualifications, Gerver stated that a university degree is no longer the only measure for success. *"Technical skills can be taught, soft skills – the cluster of personality traits, social graces, communication, language, personal habits, interpersonal skills, managing people, and leadership – are scarce skills."* Gerver particularly emphasised curiosity as a key attribute of successful people.

Richard's address certainly reinforced the journey we have embarked on as a community. Let's trust our girls, allow them to take risks, and become effective self-managers. Our focus on developing enterprising mindsets for girls and teachers is a trailblazing approach to contemporary educational practice. It emphasises our commitment to design teaching and learning environments and experiences that meet the needs of our girls for the world they will have to navigate and thrive within.

We encourage our community to support CEE in our upcoming events, particularly directing your interest to our next speaker, American author, former Dean of Stanford University and Harvard University graduate,

Julie Lythcott-Haims. Julie will reflect on the harms of over-parenting, and will set forth an alternative philosophy for raising self-sufficient young adults.

Julie will present *How to Raise an Adult* at Deakin Edge, Federation Square on Tuesday 24 May, followed by a panel of experts and facilitated by our very own Margie Warrell. This is a public event with limited seating. Circulating and promoting our event within your networks will assist CEE in raising opportunities to create critical partnerships with like-minded organisations.

SAVE THE DATE

DIRECTOR'S PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2016

24 MAY

Julie Lythcott-Haims
How to Raise an Adult

1 JUNE

Professor Yong Zhao
Cultivating Global Competencies

17 AUGUST

Dan Haesler
For Educators: Teaching Kids to Stretch
For Parents: Future Proofing Your Kids

19 OCTOBER

Rachel Connell
Building Sustainable Giving Relationships

For booking information and for updates on upcoming events, please visit cee.mggs.vic.edu.au or contact the CEE Office on 03 9862 9200.



CEE @
Melbourne
Girls Grammar
Centre for Educational Enterprise

"Just a quick email to voice a huge 'thank you' for the Richard Gerver session last night. He's a fantastic orator with real insights to share. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and really appreciate all the work that must have gone into securing him for a presentation."

Cleo Westhorpe, Teacher



ABOVE: Richard Gerver with Catherine Misson

"Wow – I just loved the first lecture series last night – he was excellent and so inspiring! I have ordered his book – 'Change: Learn to Love It, Learn to Lead It,' – online!

What a great start to the series – I can't wait for the others."

Rebecca Glenton, Teacher





EARLY LEARNING

Building a sense of belonging

The girls' positive self-identity and sense of belonging to our community are the outcomes of the fundamental principles that govern our practice within the Early Learning Centre. This focus is part of our deep understanding about how a child develops and learns through social and cultural interactions, rather than simply through the traditional notion that children learn through a series of developmental stages.

Psychologist Lev Vygotsky first described the foundations of the socio-cultural concept as 'the social needs of the child directing their want to learn'. Educator Barbara Rogoff however, later developed this concept further by describing the child's interactions through three interacting planes or 'lenses': *Intrapersonal*, *Interpersonal* and *Community*. Each lens plays a crucial role in providing an optimal learning environment for the child, although the predominant lens may change according to the situation.

The *Intrapersonal* lens refers to the child's belief about themselves: the skills they believe they have, who they are, where they have come from and whether they believe they are valued. Through this lens, the team at the ELC work to build a positive sense of identity within each of the girls. We do this by offering genuine praise and recognition for independent thinking, resilience and effort as the girls work through tasks rather than focusing on the final outcome or product produced. We listen with our whole being to the girls as they communicate to us. We respectfully use our eyes, body language, intuition, and ears as we listen to the whole child and value what they communicate to us.

The *Interpersonal* lens refers to the persona portrayed by the child: the way the child presents, interacts and communicates with those around them. Through this lens, the ELC team work to build the girls' listening skills and strengthen their voice to be heard, whilst still maintaining respect towards others and also themselves. Name games are played to help the girls learn and remember each other's name. Conversations are held about how to be included into play, or to include others into their play.

The overlap between these first two lenses is apparent as a positive self-identity is needed in order to establish these powerful and positive communication skills. These in turn build greater self-esteem, positive self-identities and a greater capacity to ultimately learn and build new skills.

The *Community* lens refers to the social situation, the rules of engagement and the environmental influences surrounding the child at any given time. Through this lens the ELC team focuses on building a sense of belonging within our centre. We achieve this by displaying photographs of the girls and their families, making books readily available and learning experiences created by the educators that reflect the girls' interests, recent events and their cultural identities.

We seek to identify and understand the cultural and unique qualities of each family and try to reflect these appreciations within our practice, program and learning spaces. We know this will help build, within both the girls and their families, positive identities and a greater sense of belonging to our ELC community.

Throughout the year, individual birthdays are celebrated, as are culturally significant events such as Chinese New Year, Christmas, Easter, and Mother's and Father's Day. Grandparents are always welcome and a special event is arranged for them with the girls during the year. Families are warmly invited to share knowledge with the girls through the art of storytelling, artist expression, culinary cuisines and professional explanations that can build on the girls' interests.

Once the sense of community has been established, the ability for the girls to further develop their intrapersonal and interpersonal skills are enhanced. When all three of these lenses are overlapping in a positive and rich manner, optimum learning can be achieved as the girls feel safe, respected, empowered and therefore engaged in their areas of interest and learning.

We track the girls' engagement, development and learning experiences over the year through observations and recordings of the girls at play, their words and the many other expressive languages children use to make meaning and convey understanding.

As the girls express, develop and learn together, the culture within each of our learning studios will evolve.

Nicole Stynes
Head of Early Learning





ABOVE: Building a sense of community



ABOVE: Offering help when needed



BELOW: Parents are welcomed to the ELC to share their knowledge with the girls





JUNIOR YEARS

Beyond the front gates

We are all part of the MGGS community which is a privilege and something that stays with us forever. Our girls thrive in all that we have to offer and our common connection makes our environment safe and special. Respectful and supportive relationships amongst students, teachers and parents are at the heart of our community and these values are immediately evident when stepping through the front gates.

Our girls embrace opportunities and when asked how they can help others in the wider community, their ideas never fail to impress. Last year, when asked to think of ways we could benefit our community, to make others smile or to make Melbourne a better place, the Morris Hall Year 4 girls spent time considering and reflecting on their thoughts. Their ideas ranged from increasing the number of homeless shelters to making the Botanical Gardens a 'No Smoking Zone'. This innovative thinking gave our girls a chance to lead by taking responsible actions: skills we hope they will foster as they grow into strong young women.

Preceding a visit from then Mayor, Councillor Melina Sehr, the Year 4 students were inspired to write to her with their plans of action. Many of the girls were delighted to receive a response from her, telling them their ideas were being considered. One suggestion was that the girls at Morris Hall and the Early Learning Centre make Christmas cards for the guests at the Prahran Mission Christmas Lunch. Many of the diners at the lunch would not receive cards or gifts for Christmas and this was considered to be an admirable initiative the Stonnington council fully supported and embraced. Demonstrating true self discipline, the girls set themselves a goal of making 400 cards, and they achieved it. They knew in their hearts that what they were doing was a true example of community involvement, something for the good of others.

Continuing to spread the Christmas cheer, the Year 4 students visited Benetas Broughton Hall Nursing Home to sing carols to the residents. Prior to the visit, the girls baked shortbread and designed cards for the residents to enjoy. Fun was had by all involved and the afternoon ended with a resident and student 'sing along'.

These first-hand experiences are invaluable to our girls. They help to develop relationships, empathy and improve social skills. Students establish their own sense of self and belonging, enabling them to connect with life outside of the learning environment. The Year 4 students fostered their identities by becoming engaged citizens, understanding that small actions and gestures can really make a difference to the lives of others.

We should never underestimate the strength of our students, who continue to show us that they live and breathe our School Values. It is quite evident that we are raising young women who not only lead with their head and heart, but who also lead with their hands by taking action to make a positive impact on those around them.

Becky Glenton
Year 4 Teacher

"I thought that singing for the elderly was a fun and enjoyable experience because I liked to see all of the residents happy and having a good time. When I was handing out the cookies that the class had made, one of the ladies stood up, hugged me and said, "Thank you." This made me feel really good about myself because I had brightened her day! After we handed out the cookies, we sang to the residents and they started to sing along. When it was time for me to sing a solo I was very nervous but as I was singing, I became more confident. I was really proud of myself at the end of the performance and the courage I demonstrated."

Lola Krief

"My Year 4 class at Morris Hall had a visit from the Mayor of Stonnington, and afterwards we had to write a letter to our local council with an idea that we thought could be good for the people in our area. I had a look on the council website and saw that the Mayor holds a Christmas day lunch for 400 local homeless people. This sounded like a very nice idea and I wanted to do something to make it even more special for the people attending."

I wrote a letter suggesting that local school children make a Christmas card that could be given to every person going to the lunch on Christmas day. I thought this could make people feel happy and special, and would let them know that other people are thinking of them on Christmas day. I know that not everybody gets a present at Christmas time, and I didn't want them to have nothing. The Mayor liked my idea and asked if the girls at Morris Hall could make all 400 cards! I was super excited about this and straight away we all started making lovely Christmas cards. We asked girls to make them at home, before school and at lunch time. Everybody put a lot of effort into creating beautiful cards, and writing a nice message in each card. It was a lot of fun and work, but it was totally worth it. We made 420 cards in total as we wanted to make sure there was enough for everyone."

I hope the girls at Morris Hall can continue with my idea, and keep making Christmas cards for people attending the lunch each year."

Riley Mair

"When the Mayor of Stonnington (Melina Sehr) visited Year 4, all the girls were very excited to meet her, and share their wonderful ideas on how to make Stonnington (and the world) better! Each of the girls got to ask a question, and their replies were detailed, interesting and all of the girls were fascinated. The excitement was taken over by hilarity as the Mayor told the girls some 'Top Secret' tales of life in council. All in all, this was an extremely fascinating, educational, fun and exciting day!"

Arabella Beeston



ABOVE: Year 4 girls at the Benetas Broughton Hall Nursing Home
 RIGHT: Baking cookies for the residents at Benetas Broughton Hall Nursing Home



ABOVE: Year 4 girls singing for the residents at Benetas Broughton Hall Nursing Home
 RIGHT: Year 4 girls with Mayor, Councillor Melina Sehr





MIDDLE YEARS

Inspiring and guiding our new generation

At Melbourne Girls Grammar we understand the significance of community within the life of our girls. On our journey through life, we encounter community in many different forms and as such, encourage our current community of girls to actively engage with those who have gone before them. Old Grammarians not only provide a vital link to the legacy of the School, but also play a pivotal role in the future of MGGS and our girls.

Increasingly, once graduated, many girls return to support our innovations early on in their adult lives. The Young Old Grammarians (YOGs) branch was launched in 2012 to provide opportunities for OGs from 1993 – 2015 to engage with the School.

As we launched the new Model United Nations Transition Week for Year 7 at the start of 2016, it was clear with such an exciting innovation we needed some additional expertise and support. We needed to look no further than our most recent cohort of YOGs. The class of 2015 provided us with professional public speakers of the highest calibre – Grace Joel, Rachel Dix and Lauren Mitchell. As veteran Model UN debaters, the newly graduated YOGs were able to support, guide and inspire our new generation of St Hilda's girls to reach their full potential.

Nikki Kirkup
Director of Middle Years

"As a YOG I'm so thrilled I had the opportunity to mentor and support the extraordinary Year 7 cohort in their Model UN Program. It was so rewarding to immerse myself back into the MGGS community and share in the amazing passion and knowledge these girls have. Although an undoubtedly challenging week, I was exceedingly impressed with how each girl applied themselves, eager to learn and stretch

their boundaries with unfamiliar content. I could see the connections within their cohort growing stronger throughout the program as they tackled each challenge together. At the end of the week I left feeling inspired by their creative ideas and I was so impressed with how the girls showed all the qualities of a compassionate and innovative leader, eagerly taking on responsibilities and delegating. If this was only their first week, I'm excited to watch what they can accomplish together in the future!"

Grace Joel (Class of 2015)

"It was good having the Young Old Grammarians (YOGs) helping us in our Model UN week at the start of Year 7. It was very helpful that they explained what we needed to do well, in a style that worked for us. By sharing their expertise in leadership, they also helped us to work collaboratively. We were encouraged to explore teamwork rather than working individually on our laptops. The YOGs furthered our knowledge because they had previous experience of participating in Model UN debates and so they were able to help us to write our speeches, in particular providing tips on writing techniques.

All in all it was a great experience and we all say a big thank you to our YOGs!"

Daisy Graham (Year 7)





ABOVE: Staff and YOGs: Jo Baker, Rachel Dix (2015), Grace Joel (2015), Lauren Mitchell (2015), Melissa Purcell and Katherine Barton





SENIOR YEARS

Positive self-esteem and successful academic outcomes have been linked to student engagement and to the level of emotional connectedness at school.

There is a lot to be learnt from an experiential journey to the Early Learning Centre! We are currently exploring the creative possibilities for both Year 12 students and ELC girls to build reciprocal relationships that add to the richness of school life and create a greater sense of school community belonging.

Year 12 students have already reported that time spent with the younger girls has resonated for them on many different levels. Some Year 12 students have said they have enjoyed connecting with younger girls around the familiarity of a shared language and culture. Others have appreciated the calm spaces in the Barbara Tolson Centre and expressed a wish to replicate these in their study areas at home. Most have simply had fun playing in the sandpit and doing something pleasurable and relaxing. These unstructured activities offer something quite different to the typical focus on assessment that is prevalent in the Senior Years. Playful learning develops imagination and creativity, and we know innovative problem solving skills are necessary student outcomes.

Lamia Rockwell
Director of Senior Years

Reflection by Siwen Cai, Year 12

In 2015 I had the pleasure of going down to the Early Learning Centre to assist a new Chinese student who had just enrolled at Melbourne Girls Grammar. At first it was just a small suggestion from Ms Rockwell and Alexis, but never did I think that it would become one of the most treasured experiences I will have had during my school years.

The Early Learning Centre has always been a space in the corner of the school that most girls walk past without noticing. Remembering the first time I walked into the ELC through the little gate, I found myself standing in a place that is familiar yet so far away from the rest of the school, with laughter and the joy of a relaxing atmosphere. It is like an undiscovered "neverland" that is hidden away on our busy school campus. It is fascinating; there is just one wall separating these two entirely different worlds.

I met Kathelyn for the first time that day at the ELC. She was quite unsettled with the new environment, new classmates and new language. As she was not very willing to talk, I had made some attempts in beginning a conversation with her. After asking her a few questions, we started to have a smooth flowing chat. We talked about the drawing, the toys, her favourite animal...I soon discovered she is in fact a very cheerful girl and smiles a lot. After weeks of interactions with Kathelyn at the ELC, she has become more cheerful and optimistic about starting her schooling life at Melbourne Girls Grammar.

These sessions not only helped her in adapting to the new environment, it was also extremely rewarding for me. Seeing Kathelyn reminded me of the first time I interacted with the Australian culture five years ago. I was able to relate to her on an emotional level as I was once an anxious girl who was afraid to talk and struggled to make new friends. So, I really want to make an attempt in helping her to have a smoother transition. Her improvement through this short period of time is really extraordinary and has given me a sense of achievement.

Going down to the ELC slowly became the time I looked forward to every week. By seeing the girls drawing with their wild imagination, singing with joyfulness, all the stress and pressure from school just magically disappears. It helped me in coping with one of the most stressful periods during Year 11 and I would recommend any girls to pay a visit to the ELC.





Year 12 students Siwen Cai and Linda Yu with
Early Learning Centre girls





BOARDING

In 2016 we have a full and happy house with nearly a third of the students new to MGS. To celebrate the New Year with our families, the Principal traditionally hosts a Family BBQ. This year, Catherine was disappointed to miss this event as she was in New York at an international conference focusing on the future of education for girls.

Our families are diverse, and the boarders are always represented by a mixture of parents, guardians, grandparents, godmothers and siblings.

This year we have eight sets of sisters residing in the Boarding House together. This is significant, as six of these sets of sisters are daughters of Old Grammarians. The strength of the connections creates its own language, identity and narrative. Each student has their own individual experience which the School supports the girls to create, share and contrast to their peers, sisters or mother. The Boarding

House program is designed to respond to the ever changing way with which the girls learn, the technology they have mastered, their goals, passions and broader life. A culture of trust is supported by a routine that rarely requires a rule book.

Boarding schools attract a romantic narrative and are often likened to a narrative that is portrayed in literature or film. The MGS Boarding House has many stories of connections, relationships and traditions which are always balanced with innovation and responding to change. The opportunity

for boarders to truly learn about themselves, develop their character, build their own relationships and learn to manage themselves as young women independently is valued highly by the girls. Boarders are proud of their achievements but are acutely aware of the privilege and responsibility they have to maximise this experience, especially in the Senior Years.

Tamara Maddrell
Director of Boarding

BELOW: Sisters in the Boarding House: Stephanie and Elizabeth Blyth (mother Jane Goddard (1975)), Ella and Hilary Porter (mother Susan Porter (Cox, 1981)), Phoebe and Claudia Calvert (mother Kate Calvert (Ramsden, 1989)), Isabelle and Emma Coughlan, Brigitte and Hannah Murphy (mother Shana Hetherington (1987)), Anna and Henrietta Roxburgh (mother Jen Roxburgh (Graham, 1985)), Jemma and Lily Turner. Absent: Lily Ward and Amelia Hickling (mother Alison Ward, 1985).





LEFT: Jenny McRobert
BELOW Elizabeth Blyth, Year 11



ABOVE: Boarders' Family BBQ
RIGHT: St Hilda's Boarders
FAR RIGHT: Isabella Hatty, Boarding House Captain
BELOW: Tamara Maddrell, Director of Boarding, and Jane Caldwell
BELOW RIGHT: Millie Dundon



ABOVE: Boarding House staff
LEFT: Laura Daley, Assistant Director of Boarding
FAR LEFT: Year 10 Boarders





INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

SHANGHAI COCKTAIL PARTY

On Saturday 23 January 2016, the Principal hosted a cocktail party at Le Royal Meridien in Shanghai.

The event was well attended with approximately 60 guests, including the agent representative in Shanghai, Old Grammarians, immediate graduates, current, incoming and potential students and their parents.

Guests happily mingled with the support of students who interpreted ably. Principal Catherine Misson gave a presentation (translated by Emily Chen, Old Grammarian, 2008) which covered the key benefits of an education at MGGS as well as providing detail about the Artemis Project.

Current student Crystal Quan, Year 12, spoke of the highs and lows of Boarding at MGGS, whilst Erin Qin, Year 11, translated. Past students and recent graduates of

Melbourne University, Sally Shen (2012) and Michelle Wang (2012), spoke of how MGGS had prepared them for a successful transition to university life.

Both Sally and Michelle spoke about the robustness of the MGGS environment and how it enabled them to thrive in their new independence. Parents and staff were highly complimentary of the students who were exemplary ambassadors.

The Shen family, donors of the Global Citizenship Award, generously chaperoned staff throughout the weekend. The Shen Family Global Citizenship Award is awarded at MGGS' prestigious Speech Night ceremony and recognises a Senior Years student who:

- Comes to MGGS from a different cultural background
- Embraces a variety of opportunities for immersion into MGGS life
- Achieves personal best in her academic studies

In 2015, Angela Wu, Year 11, was the recipient of this award.

We must never underestimate the courage it takes for our international students to make the transition to MGGS and life in Melbourne. It was a privilege and a joy to acknowledge and celebrate with our students and their families in their home country.

Kylie McBride (Enrolments Manager) and Rosetta Monaco (Director, Education 21)



ABOVE: Parents of Sally Shen with Catherine Misson

RIGHT: Students receiving their VCE subject results.
From Left to Right: Rosetta Monaco (EAL support); Angela Luo, Emily Tang, Crystal Zhu (all 2015 graduates), Erin Qin (current Year 11), Kristen Xia (current Year 11), and Catherine Misson



LEFT: Angela Wu at Speech Night, 2015

BELOW: Erin Qin (current Year 11) translating for Crystal Quan (current Year 12)



LEFT: From Left: Huihua Yin (mother of Kristen Xia, Year 11), Emily Chen (OG 2008 and current staff member) and Kristen Xia (Year 11)

BELOW: From Left to Right: Michelle Wang (OG 2012), Principal Catherine Misson and Sally Shen (OG 2012)





MORRIS HALL WELCOME BREAKFAST

TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY

The annual Morris Hall Welcome Breakfast is a much-loved event that sets the Morris Hall grounds buzzing with parents, staff and students.

It was a fantastic way to start the year with the dads in charge of the barbecue and cooking the hot breakfast food, lots of delicious bakery goods and fruit, and the ever-popular coffee cart.

Guests were welcomed by Principal Catherine Misson and Director of Early Learning and Junior Years Kellie Morgan. Parents had the opportunity to mingle and chat with staff members over coffee. A big thank you to the Class Reps for organising a wonderful event.





YEAR 12 FATHER DAUGHTER BREAKFAST

THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY



On Thursday 25 February at 6.30am, a group of Year 12 students and their fathers arrived at the Royce Hotel to come together, dine and celebrate. This is the first of many celebrations for Melbourne Girls Grammar Year 12s.

During the breakfast, fathers and their daughters celebrated the special bond that they share. Our School Captain, Alex Harding, commented that more often we focus on the relationship between mother and daughter, however the role that fathers play is just as important in raising young people.

The guest of honour was Father Bob Maguire, retired Catholic priest and founder of the Father Bob Maguire Foundation. Father Bob regaled the crowds with his humour and passed on his important message of the role a father plays in raising a child and the issues the homeless face in our country.

Many fathers travelled long distances to attend, from destinations such as Darwin and Hong Kong. Everyone had a fantastic morning and many families continued the festivities after the official function ended.

A special thank you to those who organised the event, the Parent Class Representatives – especially Emma Harrison, Di O'Sullivan and Anne Hargreaves.

The next celebration for the Year 12s will be the much-loved June Fowell Dinner on 16 June, when the girls are invited to bring their mothers to this annual event.

Michael Ware
Year 12 Co-ordinator



MUSIC HIGH TEA

THURSDAY 10 MARCH

The Music Department was delighted to host High Tea in Ross Hall on Thursday 10 March. It was a feast for the senses, the space transformed by beautiful blooms, fine food and magnificent music.

Held annually, High Tea is a wonderful showcase for our Chamber Music program, directed by Mary Johnston, and Pianists Plus, directed by Elizabeth Barwell. This year, the music ranged from a Baroque echo sonata for harpsichord and strings, to the minimalism of a string quartet performing a piece by Philip Glass. A touch of song was provided by the Merton Chamber Voices and the Merton Flute Ensemble.

The program took guests on a comprehensive musical journey, transported through time and place by the repertoire performed, from the swinging jazz of Duke Ellington to the stormy Romanticism of Brahms.

In their words of welcome, Music Captains Jenny Chen and Anisija Gillian described chamber music as a "conversation between friends". It was a pleasure to listen to those conversations at High Tea and we look forward to the musical chatter continuing in many and varied ways throughout the year.

Elizabeth du Blet
Director of Music





EYE ON MGGS ART

FAIRLIE YENCKEN



GATHERING FOR THE CORROBOREE (1999), Water colour over pencil

Presented to the School by Fairlie Yencken, Old Grammarians 2002. Fairlie Yencken passed away in January 2016.

Fairlie Yencken enrolled in a three year Commercial Art course at RMIT. Starting with poster colour, the artist progressed to oils before turning her attention to enamels, oil pastels and works on paper, of which this watercolour is a fine example. Exhibited at Rotary and Victorian Artists Society exhibitions, this work and several others were inspired by a corroboree watched in the Northern Territory.

Fairlie Yencken described her art as realistic and regarded it as a hobby. Lately, she concentrated on watercolour portraits and studies from nature. Her work is represented in private and corporate collections and the permanent collection of the Council of Adult Education.

Please see page 35 for her vale listing.



ARCHIVES

This article was written by Melanie Hollands (1975) who is the Branch Representative of the Old Grammarians in the United States. Melanie has a great interest in horses and has researched Violet Murrell's life.

Old Girl Violet Murrell (Farmer, 1920) was a woman ahead of her time. One of Australia's finest horsewomen and first female jockeys, Violet enjoyed a successful career in the racing world, despite the many hurdles she faced (both on horseback and off). She died tragically from burns sustained while trying to save her beloved dogs and horses, including champion show horse Garryowen, from a stable fire in Mentone in 1934.

Immediately after her death, the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria established the Garryowen Perpetual Trophy Equestrienne Turnout event to honour the memory of Violet and her horse.

Violet Murrell, born Violet Farmer in 1904, was a poor sleeper as a baby, and her father Harry, a Caulfield racehorse trainer, would put her on a horse's back to lull her to sleep. At the age of seven, she received her first mount, a black pony. Violet so adored the pony that he was frequently brought to the family kitchen for "horse snacks". By her early teens, she was working her father's horses on the track at the Caulfield Racecourse. At 14, she showed her mettle by winning a Red Cross sponsored open riding event against adult male jockeys, a victory that was unlikely to be well received among the men. During the First World War she was a member of the Purple Cross Society, an organisation raising money for animal welfare, particularly the horses on the battlefields of Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

By the time she was 16, Violet had decided to make a career of her passion. She left

MCEGGS to work as a full-time stable hand and began competing in country racing and gymkhanas. In 1921, she first rode against professional male jockeys at a Pakenham race meet and the following year, she rode home four winners and two second-placed horses at the Clyde Picnic Races. As a female, she was forced to obtain special permission to ride at these meetings and was allowed to ride only on the flat and not over hurdles. Frequently riding horses trained by her father, she was notably successful at country race meetings. During one season in the mid-1920s, Violet won 17 events from 19 starts. As a rider, she was considered to be daring and fearless.

Apart from racing, Violet participated in country shows and gymkhanas all over Victoria throughout the 1920s. At these events, she became recognised as one of Victoria's – indeed one of Australia's – finest horsewomen. She was a champion across disciplines including Show Jumping, Steeple Chase, Point to Point, Hunting and Hacking. Violet was acknowledged to be Victoria's top equestrienne (although this was not an official title) with a claim to the national championship as well as her success in NSW, especially at the Royal Sydney Show.

Even with such a record of success, Violet Farmer remained dissatisfied with her riding career, thwarted by the restrictions placed on women during that period. She believed (rightly!) that her skill as a jockey entitled her to compete at city race meetings, and in what are now called 'Group One' races. This level of racing was where the best horses and

champion jockeys did battle, and only here could Violet show the extent of her talent. But in the 1920s, Victoria Racing Club rules prohibited female riders from competing in 'metropolitan' race meetings – those at Flemington, Caulfield, Moonee Valley, Mentone, Epsom and Williamstown.

In her travels through the world of racing, Violet met well-known jump jockey Bill Murrell, who intended to move into a career as a trainer after his riding tapered off. Violet and Bill were married in 1927. She was lucky in her choice of husband, as Bill was remarkably ahead of the times in his support of Violet's campaign to become a professional female jockey at city meetings. He also acted as her coach and trainer, working with her over hurdles to improve her proficiency in show jumping events.

Eventually Bill set up business as a racehorse trainer in Mentone, Victoria, where he and Violet moved into a La Trobe Street house with adjacent stables. They quickly ascended to prominence in the local community, garnering considerable respect based on both Bill's racing successes as well as the continued press coverage of Violet's exploits as an intrepid and fearless equestrienne.

In 1929, family friend and veterinarian William Jones presented Violet with an incredible gift: a handsome bay thoroughbred gelding called Garryowen. Violet and Garryowen quickly developed a deep bond and, for the next five years, they won more than 200 prizes together at shows and gymkhanas,

including first place Champion Hack at the Melbourne Royal Show for three consecutive years (1931 to 1933).

Sadly, on Saturday March 24, 1934, came the tragedy that etched Violet and Garryowen's names in the annals of Victorian and Australian sporting history.

At about 2.00am the screams of Garryowen and Piquant, Violet's other horse, awakened her. She rushed outside to find the stable ablaze, and with no thought for her own safety dashed headlong into the inferno to save her beloved horses. Before she could reach them, her nightclothes caught fire and her husband dragged her from the burning stable. They both suffered terrible burns. Violet, aged 29, died two days later, with Bill following her to the grave in a week. Garryowen and Piquant perished in the fire.

Not long after the tragedy, a committee that included Garryowen's former owner, William Jones, proposed that the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria should award an annual trophy to women riders in memory of Violet and Garryowen. The society was strongly in favour of memorialising a great rider and a great horse. Sculptor Reinhold Kubart designed a bronze statuette of Garryowen, a replica of which is presented each year to the winner of the award. The first competition was held at the 1934 Royal Melbourne Show. In September 2016, the Garryowen will celebrate its 82nd year. Female riders aged 18 years and over are the only riders eligible in this demanding competition, which assesses both riders and horses. It has become Australia's most prestigious women's riding event.

During her short life, Violet Murrell was sadly unable to overcome the strictures that

society placed on women and never rode in a city race meeting or Group One race. Indeed, women jockeys would be accepted in all classes of racing as professionals only 42 years later. Horse racing in Victoria is peppered with beautiful examples of ardent feminism from the mid 19th century to late 20th century, including and especially Violet Murrell, yet few are publicly known.

Since the 1850s, women in the Victoria countryside had cared for and ridden horses alongside fathers and brothers at home, but were barred from riding professionally. Amateur "ladies-only" picnic races were women's only official opportunity to race in 1850s Victoria, and the infamous "white line" – a gender demarcation at Australian racing clubs – remained in place as late as 1982.

How Violet Murrell would have gloried in the strides women have made in horse racing, particularly Michelle Payne's victory in the 2015 Melbourne Cup. Today the boundaries between male and female jockeys have been significantly eroded – to the extent that horse racing is now one of a few sports in which men and women compete equally. As a pioneering female in the male-dominated world of horse racing, Violet was a trailblazer for the female riders who came after her.

There are a handful of marvellous books about Violet Murrell, including a handsome book produced by my friend Marion McKinnon, *Violet Murrell and Garryowen: Their Story*, 2001.



Violet Murrell: courtesy Mordialloc and District Historical Society Inc.



FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Ella Blanche Priestley
(Great Great Grandmother) 1903

Joan Neuendorf
(Great Grandmother) 1926 – 1933

Elizabeth Graeme Austin
(Great Aunt) 1945 – 1953

Valerie Graeme Austin
(Grandmother) 1947 – 1952

Georgina Scarborough
(Cousin) 1979 – 1983

Grace Elizabeth Valerie Bennetts
(Year 12)

Ella Catherine Blanche Bennetts
(Year 10)

Millicent Rose Florence Bennetts
(Year 8)

When Ella Priestley commenced her schooling at Melbourne Girls Grammar in 1903, the School was in its new building at Anderson Street. Merton Hall was built in 1901 and when Ella arrived, six classrooms had just been built behind the main building. Ella came in her last year of schooling, travelling each day from her home, Ormsby, in Moreland.

Joan Neuendorf, Ella's daughter, followed in her mother's footsteps and attended Melbourne Girls Grammar as a day girl from 1926 to 1933, a member of St Hilda's House. Joan was a sporty girl, playing in the School's hockey, swimming and baseball teams. She

was Captain of Baseball in her final year, taking her team to a remarkable victory against the Victorian Interstate Team in a match played on the hockey field. She had a very strong throw, hence her position in left outfield, and she won the baseball throwing contest at the School sports that year.

Elizabeth and Valerie Austin, Joan's daughters, boarded at Melbourne Girls Grammar just after the Second World War. Their father Graeme Austin was away at war for a few years and their mother Joan, was left to run the family farm "Humula" in Wagga Wagga.

Valerie began boarding at five years of age. This was a difficult time for her as during the war years many parents were either serving in the war or keeping home businesses going. Elizabeth and Valerie remember making friends with the other school girls with whom they boarded and who they still see today. Valerie remembers walking with her kindergarten class from the School to the Royal Botanic Gardens with her blanket to have a rest at lunchtime. She loved the large white collars on their school dresses, and the iconic "blue bags" the girls had to carry their books. She believes the Boarding House, except for the introduction of technology, has not changed that much since those times. Elizabeth remembers the teachers as being quite strict and usually unmarried, which at times made it difficult as some of the teachers did not have the requisite knowledge and experience in 'raising girls'. She remembers the teachers insisted the pupils use their right hand in writing (known as the "Marion Richardson" style of writing) and in sport, regardless of

whether they were left-handed or not. Miss Ross was the headmistress during these years and she was perceived as a modernist and visionary in girls' education.

Like her mother Elizabeth, Georgina Scarborough attended the boarding school from 1979 to 1983. In her first year, she won a prize for Music. She found boarding challenging at times, but has fond memories of House Drama and various sports.

Valerie's granddaughters, Grace, Ella and Millie are currently in Years 12, 10 and 8 respectively. They love school and all the opportunities it gives them to be involved. Grace is Vice Captain of Hensley and particularly enjoys supporting and encouraging the junior girls in finding their feet.

They believe the greatest change that has taken place even since Georgina's time, is the introduction of personal computers. The ability to create and submit their homework online, and the vast resources of information available at a click of a button, has substantially changed the way education is delivered and received. From the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program, Field Award Program, varied and specialised curriculum subjects, overseas cultural trips, rowing and other extensive sporting activities, and the Personal Dimensions Program, Melbourne Girls Grammar provides a broad, diverse and highly-developed level of education, which they believe will equip them for a career and life beyond school. The girls love being part of the MGGS community, a community that has been part of their family for generations.

RIGHT: Millie Bennetts
FAR RIGHT: Elizabeth Austin, far right



RIGHT: Elizabeth Austin in kindergarten
BELOW: Valerie Austin



ABOVE: Grace Bennetts
LEFT: Elizabeth Austin in her dormitory
FAR LEFT: Joan Neuendorf, second row from the top, third from right



ABOVE: Ella Bennetts
RIGHT: 1932 Baseball, back row: Rona Thistlethwaite, Betty Bowen, Joan Dunlop, Stephanie Mitchell, Kathleen Wilkinson, front row: Betty Sewell, Joan Neuendorf, Loma Dossetor, Marjorie Hedderwick



RIGHT: Georgina Scarborough





PARENTS ASSOCIATION

It was wonderful to see so many new and familiar faces at this year's Whole School Cocktail Party. To witness parents and teachers catching up on summer news, and to watch as new families were welcomed, filled me with a sense of contentment and excitement for the coming year.

As a relatively new parent to this community, I know firsthand the value of participation. I have watched and learned as my daughters threw themselves into life at school and said 'yes' to everything that came their way. Their sense of courage and adventure inspired me to find my place and I have seen that involvement in the Parents Association at Melbourne Girls Grammar has far-reaching benefits. Whether it is passing a plate at a cocktail party, cheering girls on at House events, or participating on a committee or auxiliary, there is a crucial role for each of us.

I am particularly nostalgic this year as my first child has moved beyond the red brick walls and I am aware of how quickly time flies. Connections at MGGS can last a lifetime, so I would encourage you to embrace all of the joys and challenges that 2016 will bring, and don't forget to tune in every so often to the Artemis Live cam!

Lisa Beaumont
President, Parents Association





OLD GRAMMARIANS SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome OG Committee 2016

At our second OG Committee meeting this year, we were very pleased to welcome Professor Katie Allen (Stephens, 1983), Chairman of Council, to speak to us. We also warmly welcomed new members to the Committee:

Polly Winterton is an Honorary Life Member of the Old Grammarians, and she is well known to many boarders over her 22 years as Director of Boarding, until her retirement in 2013.

Marina Davies (Kanis, 1976), who is a specialist art teacher in Morris Hall.

Margaret Swale (Evans, 1964), a long time senior maths teacher at MGS (now retired).

Anna Permezel (Johnson, 1981) who is the School Council representative on our committee.

Welcome to new Regional Representatives 2016

We are delighted that Honey Murphy (Helen Archer, 1965) and Sue Read (Purbrick, 1965) have agreed to represent the Old Grammarians Branch of North-East of Victoria and Southern Riverina. This position had been vacant for some years.

We also welcome Robyn Jerram (Callow, 1965) as our new representative for the Tasmanian Branch.

Sandy Edwards (Hayden, 1974) was elected as the new President for the South Australian branch in 2015.

The Committee thanks these Old Grammarians for their generosity and time in taking up these positions.



ABOVE: OG Committee 2016 – Top row L-R: Marina Davies (Kanis, 1976), Trudie Horsfall (1976), Anna Permezel (Johnson, 1981), Robyn Fergusson (1972), Polly Winterton, Judy Wilkinson (Rutty, 1965), Athena Kellis (Scotis, 1965), Katie Allen (Stephens, 1983). Middle row L-R: Venetia Patchett (Streeton, 1965), Pip O'Connor (Farrer, 1965). Front row L-R: Margaret Swale (Evans, 1964), Margaret McNaughton (Atkins, 1955) and Margaret Spring (1939)

Reunions

Reunions for the Classes of 2006 and 1986 were held on Friday 4 March, and the classes of 1976 and 1996 were held on Friday 18 March.

As usual, there was much excitement, laughter and fond reminiscing as the groups greeted each other and exchanged news and stories of their lives since leaving school.

Much of the success and enjoyment of these gatherings is due to the collection and display of photos from their school years, which are prepared by Pip O'Connor (Farrer, 1965), School Multimedia Historian. Both she and Helen Moylan, the School Archivist, are always searching for photos, objects, books, letters and clothing to add to the School archives. There is always intense interest in these treasures and photos at the reunions.

See pages 30-31 for photos.

Old Grammarian Golf Days

Golf Day change of venue

We are so pleased that Liz Johnston (Tronson, 1965) is organising the Golf Day this year. We have agreed with Liz's suggestion that a different venue would be fun. This year's event will be on Monday 12 September, at the Sorrento Golf Club, with an 8.30am shotgun start.

We think there might be many OGs who would enjoy the experience of a different green and that it would be ideal for encouraging the OGs who live around the Peninsula to be involved in the day. This could also be a lovely excuse for a weekend in the Sorrento area beforehand! Thank you, Liz.

Inter-School Challenge Cup

The Women's Inter-School Golf Challenge Cup is due to be held at the Metropolitan Golf Course on Monday 11 April. As this issue of IE was sent to print before this date, we wish our team of Sally Addison, Jane Murray, Vicki Lloyd, and Jane Kiel, with emergencies Jo Docker and Virginia Rehfish, the best of luck.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday 27 April 2016, 4.45pm
Old Grammarians AGM
Seminar Room
All OGs welcome



OLD GRAMMARIANS SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

International Women's Day Breakfast: Wednesday 9 March

We were fortunate to hear an address from Associate Professor Cassandra Szoeki (1991). Cassandra is a parent of two girls at the School – one in Prep and another in Year 3 at Morris Hall. She is the Consultant Neurologist and Director, Women's Healthy Ageing Project at the University of Melbourne. Her fascinating talk was titled "Healthy Ageing – Birth and Beyond". With the development of the Artemis Centre to encourage all members of the School community to a healthier lifestyle, this was a very appropriate topic. A buffet breakfast was available and the event was open to the whole School community. All profits were directed to the Old Grammarians Scholarship Funds.

This was our most successful breakfast to date with over 80 attendees.

South Australia Branch

To welcome 2016, the OGS South Australia Branch held New Year's Drinks with their partners in February at the home of Judy (Clements, 1953) and Ron Keltons, of St Peter's in Adelaide.

In the welcoming address by President Sandy Edwards (Hayden, 1974), it was acknowledged that the land they met on was the traditional lands of the Kaurana people, both past and present and that they respected the spiritual relationship the Kaurana people have with their country. Comparison was drawn to the similarity of the Anderson Street site and its indigenous heartland, where our heritage and cultural beliefs were nurtured and helped to shape us into the individuals we are today.

The South Australia Branch will be holding an Autumn Lunch at the Scenic Hotel, Norton Summit in the Adelaide Hills, on Thursday 28 April this year, and welcome all enquiries for participation.

RSVP by 14 April 2016 to Sandy Edwards: edwards2@internode.on.net

Future dates for SA OGs

Thursday 28 April, 12.00pm: Autumn Lunch, at the Scenic Hotel

Tuesday 26 July, 7.00pm: AGM and Dinner, Caledonian Hotel

Monday 5 December, 4.30pm: Christmas drinks, The Rotunda in Elder Park

Queensland Branch

Robyn Burgess (Tonkin, 1969), our OG representative in Queensland, organised a Sunshine Coast Lunch on Saturday 27 February. About 20 OGs attended the gathering at Peregrine Springs Golf Club, including a former Queensland member, Karina Gough, who was holidaying back in her "home country" at the time. As usual, all had great fun. Robyn sent the following report:

Queensland Old Grammarians met for lunch on the Sunshine Coast in February.

We welcomed three 'newbies': Rena Barnum (Jones, 1946), Sally Raven (1971) and Julie Sutherland (Twitt, 1988).

We took the opportunity to ask Rena to recall her memories of school in the 1940's. Due to the Second World War, Rena, (newly arrived from Wellington, New Zealand) attended MGGS in Doncaster. At that time the school in Anderson St had been requisitioned by the government and was occupied by the RAAF.

Rena spent many years in the USA after she left school. She and her family eventually moved to Sydney. Rena explained how knowing no one, she joined the Old Grammarians. Rena established her network of friends there, through the OGs.

Kaye Clarke (Robinson, 1962) came from the Gold Coast, Cathy Miller (Martin, 1979), Louise Vanrenen (1981) and Melissa Freeman (Collicot, 2000) from Brisbane. Sunshine Coast locals included our 'newbies', Rena, Sally and Julie, along with Barb Lee (Clark, 1975), Susie Evans (Adams, 1965), Sally Papworth (Osment, 1971) and Jenny Churven (Richards, 1967).

We concluded a thoroughly enjoyable day singing the School Anthem lead by Karina Gough (Ishak, 1977).

NSW Branch

Members Natalie Musgrave (Cohen, 1945) and Helen Janes (Reid, 1944) met Rosie Humphrey (Wilmot, 1959), NSW OG President, for lunch in Wahroonga.

Book donation

Robert Robertson has donated his book about his sister Shayne Stephens (Robertson, 1965) to the School's collection of books written by or about Old Grammarians. The collection is catalogued by the library and kept in the Archives next to the library. We thank Rob for this donation, which will be of great interest to Shayne's School friends who can borrow it from the library. To gain a personal copy of the book please contact Vickie of "Aunties and Uncles", the organisation that Shayne founded in NSW
vickie.mcgrouter@wesleymission.org.au

Judy Wilkinson (Rutty, 1965)
President, Old Grammarians Society



ABOVE: SA Branch New Year's Drinks, February, 2016, graciously hosted by the Keltons. From left: Ron Kelton, Lianne Bilson (1954, Vice President MGGS OGS SA Branch) and Judy Kelton (Clements, 1953).



International Women's Day Breakfast



ABOVE: QLD Branch – L-R: Karina Gough (Ishak, 1977), Sally Papworth (Osment, 1971), Sally Raven (1971), Rena Barnum (Jones, 1946), Kaye Clarke (Robinson, 1962) and Susie Evans (Adams, 1965)



ABOVE: QLD Branch – Sally Raven (1971) and Rena Barnum (Jones, 1946)

ABOVE: QLD Branch – L-R: Cathy Miller (Martin, 1979), Louise Vanrenen (1981), Karina Gough (Ishak, 1977), Rena Barnum (Jones, 1946), Kaye Clarke (Robinson, 1962), Jenny Churven (Richards, 1967), Barb Lee (Clark, 1975), Susie Evans (Adams, 1965), Julie Sutherland (Twitt, 1988), Melissa Freeman (Collicot, 2000) and Robyn Burgess (Tonkin, 1969).



RIGHT: NSW Branch: Natalie Musgrave (Cohen, 1945) and Helen Janes (Reid, 1944)



LEFT: SA Branch New Year's Drinks, February 2016. From top left: Lianne Bilson, Vice President (1954), Sharyn Lyford, Treasurer (Nash, 1987), Christine Briggs, Past Principal and Honorary Life Member, Sue Treloar (Francis, 1970), Elizabeth Smith (Anderson, 1955), Judy Kelton (Clements, 1953), Jan Pitman (Manning, 1953), Mary Brophy (Brooksbank, 1961), Amanda Gramp (1968). Bottom left: Judy Brumby (Newton, 1955), Sandy Edwards, President (Hayden, 1974), Rosemary McDonald (Crawford, 1962), Jo James, Management Committee (Earp, 1948)



OLD GRAMMARIANS SOCIETY

REUNIONS

**10 Year Reunion
Friday 4 March**



**20 Year Reunion
Friday 18 March**



**30 Year Reunion
Friday 4 March**



**40 Year Reunion
Friday 18 March**





OLD GRAMMARIANS SOCIETY

NEWS

Women in IT Awards

The 2016 *Women in IT Awards* in the United Kingdom were presented at the Grosvenor Ballroom in London during January.

Amy Wettenhall (Mungo, 1998), a Commercial Director with Ericsson, won Business Leader of the Year. The award recognises Amy's role as a director of the not-for-profit TeenTech, her role as a mentor for underprivileged girls as well as her global responsibilities at Ericsson.

TeenTech is an organisation that aims to help young people see the wide range of career possibilities in science, engineering and technology and works with technology-based organisations to provide hands-on experience for school students. In a recent speech to students in Mexico City, Amy placed great emphasis on students exploring everything new technologies had to offer especially given today's technology may be obsolete tomorrow.

With sister, Phoebe Wettenhall (Mungo, 2007), living in London and working at Atos Consulting, technology has become a driving force for these MGGS women.



MathsQuest

Over the past three or so years former Head of Mathematics Sue Michell and former Director of Academic Programmes, Margaret Swale (Evans, 1965) have been writing Mathematical Methods books for the new Australian Curriculum for Jacaranda Wiley.

As the states have decided to adopt their own versions of this curriculum, the authors have spent part of 2015 rewriting for the Victorian version of their books. These books were released at the beginning of December 2015. Sue Michell was the primary writer for the Year 11 Maths Quest and Margaret Swale was the primary writer for Year 12 Maths Quest. Both authors also contributed to the Specialist Maths, Maths Quest, books.

DJ Ross Oration

Wednesday 11 May 2016, 2.30pm

MGGS Seminar Room

Guest Speaker:

Professor Katie Allen (Stephens, 1983), Chairman of School Council

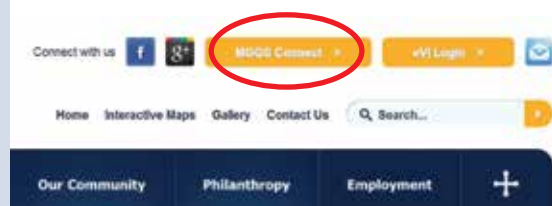
"Why can't we eat peanuts at School anymore?"

RSVP to Julia Hare: 0418 566 039 / juliahare@bigpond.net.au

Your donation to the DJ Ross Memorial Fund will be appreciated



MGGS CONNECT



In February Melbourne Girls Grammar launched MGGS Connect – a new networking platform designed to provide our Old Grammarian community with unprecedented engagement opportunities.

Connecting with MGGS Connect enables you to:

- Re-connect – Find and reminisce with fellow Old Grammarians, see what they have been up to and stay in touch.
- Give back – Introduce, employ and offer to act as a mentor to our Old Grammarians.
- Expand – Leverage your professional network to get introduced to people you should know.
- Get ahead – Advance your career through inside connections working in top companies.

One Old Grammarian who participated in an early trial shared:

“It’s fantastic – super easy to login and the transference of information directly from LinkedIn was slick and accurate which means it’s not cumbersome or an investment of time. I love that it builds on commonly used social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn and the ability to upload photos is really great and will only get more dynamic over time. I hope the professional linking is the one that takes off, as that is something that is currently missing for professional alumni.”
Tamara Maddrell, Class of 1995

Join this vibrant and dynamic online environment today and reconnect with hundreds of other OGs. The new platform is accessible via a link on the Melbourne Girls Grammar website.

We have already had interest in the software from other schools in the independent sector which demonstrates what a powerful and sought after tool this is.

This exciting opportunity to connect will be extended to the past parent and past staff community later in 2016. Stay tuned!

MELBOURNE GIRLS GRAMMAR

Sign in

Welcome to MGGS Connect

JOIN NOW

Connect with

in LinkedIn

f Facebook

Email

Why is it safe to register with LinkedIn / Facebook?

Re-connect
Find and reminisce with fellow Old Grammarians, see what they have been up to and stay in touch

Give back
Introduce, employ and offer to act as a mentor to our Old Grammarians

Expand
Leverage your professional network to get introduced to people you should know

Advance
Advance your career through inside connections working in top companies



OLD GRAMMARIANS SOCIETY

NEWS

Engagements

Amy Carlson (2001) and Jamie Hodgson announced their engagement on Thursday 11 February.

Weddings

Fiona Chalmers (Brown, 2000) married Shaun Chalmers at a ceremony in the Royal Botanical Gardens on 31 October 2015. Fiona's bridesmaids included Emily Brown (2001) and Bianca Alexander (Jilich, 2000) and ushers Helen Franz (Birrell, 2000) and Lucy Lloyd (2000), with many other "Old Girls" in attendance. Her ceremony was conducted by former MGGS Drama teacher Brenda Joyce and was next to the ornamental lake after which the bridal party celebrated in a marquee on Dog Flat Lawn in the gardens.



ABOVE: Fiona Chalmers (Brown, 2000) and Shaun Chalmers



ABOVE: Amy Carlson (2001) and Jamie Hodgson

Vale

Jacque Harris (Herbert, 1938)

Jacque started at the School in 1933, entering Year 7 and St Joan's House. She thoroughly enjoyed her school days and through her long life, she maintained a close interest in the School and its Old Grammarians. On leaving school, Jacque would like to have studied art but, after a short time, her parents decided she would be better equipped for life with a course at Invergowrie. She maintained her interest in art all her life, along with poetry, literature and film. Jacque was an involved member of the OG Committee for many years and was

the President in 1979. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Society, she was awarded Honorary Life Membership in 1996. Jacqui was a much-loved mother and grandmother and her two daughters, Andrea (1965) and Ros (1971) both attended the School.

Marjorie Holburn (Pizer, 1937)

Marjorie died early in January this year. She was the daughter of an Old Grammarian (Ruth Blashki, 1902) and started at the School in 1926 in Morris Hall, following in the footsteps of her much older sister Adelaide who had left in 1920. She completed her Matriculation in 1937. Marjorie went onto Melbourne University where she became active in student left wing politics and was co-editor of MUM, the literary annual. She met her husband, Tom Holburn, while working in the Department of War Organisation. They shared many interests: both were members of the Communist Party, interested in literature and both wrote poetry. They were very active in literary circles in Sydney. After the sudden death of her husband at the age of 40, Marjorie wrote a lot of poetry around the issues of grief and loss, which has been widely appreciated. Marjorie was a psychotherapist for more than fifty years. (With acknowledgement to Daniela Torsh's obituary in *The Age*, 1 March 2016)

Mary Lang (Redfearn, 1945)

Mary entered MCEGGS as a boarder in 1941 into Year 8 from 'Rosebank' Moulamein, after previous schooling by a governess and in Shepparton. She spent the evacuation years at Marysville and Doncaster. Mary trained as a nurse at the Royal Melbourne Hospital before spending two years abroad working and travelling. She married Max Lang on her return and settled at 'Narnoo' Tocumwal to raise four children. Mary's three daughters, Diana (1973), Janie (1975) and Libby (1981) all attended Merton Hall.

Written by her daughters Diana, Janie and Libby

Mary Ogg (Graves, 1943)

Mary entered Grade 4 at Morris Hall in 1934. She moved into the Senior School and became a part of St Joan's House. In her final year, 1942, she worked towards her Leaving Certificate with passes in English, French and German and was a member of the Prefects' Executive Committee. This final year was spent in evacuation at Doncaster.

Lee Perring (Masterton, 1946)

Lee Perring died on 29 December 2015 aged 87. She attended MGGS from 1942 to 1946 and during the 2nd world war went to school at Doncaster. After studying modern



RIGHT: Pauline Burren, Member of Staff 1960-1962
FAR RIGHT: Mary Lang (Redfearn, 1945)

history, English literature and biology in her final year she developed a keen interest in reading and collected many history books. After marrying she went to England where she lived for a while and then travelled through parts of Europe. She settled in Melbourne to bring up her family and care for her parents. She kept in touch with her school friends throughout the rest of her life and looked forward to celebrating birthdays and Christmas with them. A true loyal Old Grammarian. Her daughter Rebecca attended MGGS from 1971 to 1976. She is survived by her daughter and her son.

Written by her daughter, Rebecca

Jeanne Marsden (Ray, 1935)

Jeanne completed the last three years of her schooling at MCEGGS and was a member of St Cecilia's House. Her career had been chiefly dedicated to voluntary work, including Meals on Wheels with Sydney Old Grammarians and Citizens Advice Bureau in Melbourne, which was strongly supported by OGs. She is the mother of four children: Robin, Sam, John and Rosalind.

Jane Walters (Shannon, 1947)

Jane entered Year 7 in 1942 and completed her Leaving certificate in 1946. Her mother, Rahel Shannon (Hallenstein), was a student at the School from 1912 – 1918. Jane completed nursing training at the Alfred Hospital and Midwifery at Queen Victoria and Infant Welfare and a Diploma of Nursing Administration. Jane married Laurence Walters in 1963 and had two children, Gabrielle and Simon.

Fairlie Yencken (Mountford, 1943)

Fairlie started at the School in 1936, entering Grade 3 in Morris Hall. She completed her schooling in 1943 at the end of her leaving year. During 1942 - 1944, Fairlie was a weekly boarder at the Lodge while the senior school was in evacuation at Doncaster. Fairlie was a keen painter and donated one of her works to the School's collection in 2002. Please see page 21 for a profile of this artwork.

Vale Staff

Pauline Burren Member of Staff 1960 – 1962

Pauline Burren came to MGGS from Hobart in 1960 and she taught Domestic Science and Craft at the School from 1960 - 1962 and was much loved by the girls as Lieutenant in the School's Guide Troop under Marg Woodlock as Captain. She was an expert needlewoman and dressmaker. In recognition of her significant contributions in the field of education, Pauline was made a Life Member of the Australian Council of Educators in 2007.

(With acknowledgement to Sue McCarthy's obituary in *The Age*, 4 March 2016)

Sarah Tait Member of Staff 2008 – 2011

Sarah was a dedicated and much loved Rowing Development Coach (2008 – 2009) and Rowing Co-ordinator (2009 – 2011). She had two children, Leila and Luca, with her husband Bill.

Lesley Cunningham Member of Staff 1952 – 1958

Lesley died towards the end of 2015. She was appointed to the School by Miss Ross in the early 1950s. Her position was ground breaking as she was the first audio-visual technician. A qualified teacher, Lesley taught Social Studies but quickly became an invaluable resource for the School as she had a passion for film, cameras, projectors and audio-visual equipment. Miss Ross recognised this and supported her to undertake further training and become the School's first audio-visual technician. She managed, among many other items, the very large Bell and Howell film projector which was installed in the newly created Globe Theatre. At the end of 1958, Lesley was amongst the teachers who resigned after a clash with the new Headmistress, Miss Edith Mountain.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 27 April
MHHS Afternoon Tea
OG AGM

Friday 29 April
5 Year Reunion (held offsite)

Wednesday 11 May
DJ Ross Oration

Thursday 26 May
School Concert

Saturday 4 June
50 Year Reunion

Saturday 10 September
OG Anniversary Chapel,
Luncheon & 60 Year Reunion

Monday 12 September
OG Golf Day

Tuesday 13 September
MHHS Afternoon Tea

Wednesday 12 October
Art Exhibition Opening Night

Wednesday 23 November
Speech Night

Wednesday 30 November
Carol Service

Invitations will be sent approximately four weeks prior to each reunion. If you would like to organise a 'post-reunion' get-together or another OG event, please contact the MGGS Community Office on (03) 9862 9200.

Dates were correct at time of printing and may be subject to change. Please visit our website for all event details or contact the Community Office at community@mggs.vic.edu.au

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

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Mrs Catherine Misson

Senior Years**Middle Years**

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86 Anderson Street

South Yarra Victoria 3141 Australia

Junior Years

Morris Hall

100 Caroline Street

South Yarra Victoria 3141 Australia

Early Learning Centre**Barbara Tolson Centre**

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