



President's Report 2022

01 January to 31 December 2022

Annual General Meeting

Committee of the Old Grammarians Society for 2022:

Ex-Officio: MGGS Principal – Toni E Meath

President – Trudie Horsfall (1976)

Vice President – Emma Harrison (Gourlay 1982)

Secretary – Libby Jones (Davey 1964)

Treasurer - Rowena Mytton (Watson 1983)

Records Secretary – Libby Jones (Davey 1964)

Past President – Judy Wilkinson (Rutty 1965)

Gilman Jones Scholarship - Margaret McNaughton (Atkins 1956)

Old Grammarians Scholarship - Margaret McNaughton (Atkins 1956)

Merton Hall Foundation – Margaret McNaughton (Atkins 1956)

Endowment Management Committee – Rowena Mytton (Watson 1983)

Life Members Trust Fund - Margaret McNaughton (Atkins 1956)

DJ Ross Memorial Trust - Venetia Patchett (Streeton 1965)

OG Publications - Philippa O'Connor (Farrer 1965)

Arts – Polly Winterton (Honorary Life Member)

Events Co-ordinator - Athena Kellis (Scotis 1965)

Parents Association Rep – Emma Harrison (Gourlay 1982)

School Council Representative - Anna Permezel (Johnson 1981)

Merton Club – co-ordinated by past parent, Jane Rose

General Members – Lucy James (2012), Miranda Hoffman (2018)

OGS President's 2022 Report to the 2023 Annual General Meeting

This report is presented to the 2023 AGM, which is being held in conjunction with the School Company and Merton Hall Foundation AGMs and summarises 2022

OGS Mission Statement:

The Old Grammarians Society is committed to facilitating and actively encouraging the continued involvement and promotion of collegiality of all Old Grammarians in the wider community of MGGS with a view to ensuring the continued engagement with our School and its past students.

Finances:

The OGS remains financially sound. Our primary focus for fund raising is to generate income for designated special projects and contribute to the principal investments accruing interest for the Gilman Jones Scholarship, DJ Ross Memorial Fund and Old Grammarians Scholarship Fund. With the current investing climate, this is continuing to be challenging. Two of our scholarship funds are now being managed by the Endowment Committee of the Merton Hall Foundation who have engaged Crestone Wealth Management as Funds Manager. The OGS is represented by the Honorary Treasurer, Rowena Mytton (Watson 1983).

The DJ Ross Memorial Fund Trustees have decided to continue investing their funds under the Fund's name through term deposits.

International Women's Day Luncheon (IWD): 2022

Each year, we come together with others from the school's stakeholders i.e., Old Grammarians, parents, school staff and friends. IWD 2022 was acknowledged with a luncheon at The Alexandra Club. Melissa Yang (2000), a sleep and respiratory physician and 2021 Emily Hensley awardee was guest speaker.

Annual General Meeting: April 2022

The 2022 AGM was held in the 'The Hub' with some Old Grammarians attending via ZOOM.

- All reports required were presented and accepted
- The OGS remains fiscally sound enabling the committee to maintain its commitment and support to the School and contributions to the Gilman Jones Scholarship, DJ Ross Memorial Fund and the OG Scholarship award when appropriate.
- Audited special purpose financial report was presented and accepted
- Principal, Toni Meath tendered her report

Office bearers: No election was required for the Executive positions of the OGS committee this year.

DJ Ross Oration:

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Judith Harley (Deacon-White 1947) was this year's guest speaker. Judith was interviewed by her OG granddaughters reminiscing of a long life well lived including anecdotes of her time at school.

DJ Ross Trustees:

Louise Gourlay (Holmes 1954) has retired from the Trustee committee and Annita Robson (Brown 1965) has joined Meriel Clarke (1978) and Venetia Patchett (Streeton 1965) in managing the Trust and its funds.

Events in OGS Calendar:

Reunions: 2022 was a catch up for the reunions of 2020 and 2021 along with 2022 which were held both at school and offsite which were well attended. Maintaining an up-to-date database of contact details of Old Grammarian remains a challenge with OGs changing name, email addresses and engagement options of communications. We encourage any Old Grammarian to notify the Community Office with their contact details to ensure they are included in events relevant to their peer year. Contact details are kept by the school only. The OGS committee does not keep a contact database of their own.

- 70 Y+ Reunion and High Tea
- 50Y and 60Y reunions
- Golf: 89th Inter-School Golf Challenge Cup and Annual Golf Day
- Annual OGS luncheon

Details and photographs of the above reunions and events can be found in the June and December I.E and on MGGS Connect.

Gilman Jones Scholarship Award

The Scholarship for 2022, based on 2021 results, has been shared equally between two students, Grace Whitbourn and Angela He. Their achievements were acknowledged at the High Achievers school assembly early in the year.

Old Grammarian Scholarship

Ivy Richardson, a niece of an old Grammarian was awarded the Old Grammarian Scholarship in 2022 to commence at MGGS in 2023.

Emily Hensley Award 2022

The 2022 Emily Hensley Award recipients are Sarah Giles (2001) in recognition of her outstanding contribution and commitment to the fields of Art and Theatre and Francesca Valmorbida McSteen (2005) in recognition of her outstanding achievements and service to the community in the area of mental health. A detailed biography of both recipients can be found on the school website.

Honorary Life Membership:

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Honorary Life Membership was extended to and accepted by Lynn Broadway, Deputy Principal for her service to school and to the Old Grammarians, and Pip O'Connor (1965) for her service to school as School Historian, teacher and long serving OGS committee member as Publications Officer in 2021. Both were inducted at the 2022 annual OGS luncheon. There were no nominations to HLM in 2022

Merton Club:

The Merton Club has been reinvigorated by Past Parent, Jane Rose who has taken on the mentoring of committed Old Grammarians wishing to stay connected through sport. Rowing, AFLW and Netball are the current sports of interest with a good uptake. The Merton Club is open to all OGs of all ages. The Club's Instagram showcases the uptake and participation.

Year 12/2022 Valedictory

The OGS President along with Lucy James (2012) and Miranda Hoffman (2018) participated in the Y12 Valedictory Assembly at Hamer Hall presenting the 2022 cohort with their Old Grammarians Society badge. An invitation was extended to all OGs who were interested in attending. The President attended the Y12 Valedictory dinner in December.

COGA (Combined Old Grammarians Association)

The OGS committee hosted the 2022 annual meeting of alumnae representatives from 23 private girls schools in December with a good attendance. Alumnae presidents and school co-ordinators shared their experiences of engagement throughout 2020 and 2021 and how they are re engaging with their communities. The 2023 meeting will be hosted by Firbank.

OGS procedures, forms and archiving:

OGS procedures and supporting forms have been updated and are now stored on SharePoint on one of the school's servers accessible by the OGS committee and the Alumnae Manager only. Acknowledgement and grateful thanks to Libby Jones (Davey 1964) for her diligence and instruction to the committee. The committee also thanks Sam Rozek from the IT department.

All agendas, meeting minutes and AGM papers of 2022 have been sent to the School Archivist.

School Honour Boards

Return of the OGS sports leaders Honour Boards is now complete. The two sports domain boards, in digital form have been mounted in the Artemis Building café and rotate through the sports.

School Company – Old Grammarian Members

- Anne Williams (1955)
- Judy Wilkinson (Rutty 1964)
- Julia Hare (1971)
- Trudie Horsfall (1976)
- Rachel Trindade (1981)
- Emma Harrison (Gourlay 1983)

Meetings and Engagement by the President representing the OGS:

- Committee meetings
- Sub-committee meetings
- OGS AGM
- Term meetings with School Principal
- Fortnightly meetings with Alumnae Manager and Community Office
- Parents Association meetings
- Development and Engagement Committee
- Annual presentation to School Council (deferred)
- 130Y Anniversary Planning committee
- MGGS (COGA- combined old grammarians' association)
- OGS/School constitutions committee
- Emily Hensley Award selection committee
- Y12 Valedictory Assembly and Dinner
- Attendance at rural engagement events – Albury and Echuca
- Contributions to school publications, I.E. and the annual school magazine.

Strategic priorities:

Over the year, the Old Grammarians Committee has been reviewing our strategic priorities for 2022 and beyond. Our key priorities remain, creating a sense of pride, strengthening relationships and enriching engagement whilst respecting the changing interests of OGs during the various stages of life. Acknowledging this, our immediate focus as a committee is ongoing and includes:

- A review of reunion and engagement events that are purposeful, innovative and fun (ongoing across current OG events)
- Strengthening communication channels with our OG community and leveraging our alumnae networking site MGGS Connect
- Updating our Operational Handbook to support the governance and reporting associated with recent and future change. This is ongoing and I am grateful to Libby Jones (Davey 1964) for her meticulous attention to this document

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- Management of OGS funds and our scholarship funds.
- Recruitment of a wider age demographic onto the OGS committee

Capitalising on some of the virtual events that were successful last year, the following have been held over ZOOM. These have given OGs from across the country and globe the opportunity to participate in:

- OGS Book Club led by Alice Minns (2007) held each month during the school year. The OGS acknowledges and thanks Alice for leading with her love and extensive knowledge and joy of reading. Book Club details are normally published in the monthly OG newsletter. Alice is now a teacher of English at school.
- Committee meetings have been hybrid or ZOOM depending on committee members commitments and location.

We were saddened to say goodbye to Kaushini Fernando, our Alumnae and Event Co-ordinator at the end of the year and wished her well in her new job at Carey.

In recognition of service and support to the OGS Committee, I thank:

- Each and every committee member for giving their time, knowledge, expertise and generous donations to our fund raising
- Treasurer, Rowena Mytton for her financial acumen and management of the OGS funds and investments
- The Trustees of the Gilman Jones Scholarship Fund and the DJ Ross Memorial Fund in their commitment to adhering to their Trust deeds
- Kaushini Fernando, Alumnae and Engagement Co-ordinator for her professional guidance and truly passionate support toward the Old Grammarians Society
- Robyn McCutchan, Executive Director Marketing and Engagement for her support, counsel and generosity to the OGS
- The Community Office team who go above and beyond to get our events off the ground
- Pip O'Connor (Farrer 1965), school historian, for her dedication to providing both visual and written memories with photos and film at OG reunions, school events, OGS and school publications
- Tammy Read, President of the Parents Association
- Beck Wilkinson, parent and President of the School's Arts Auxilliary
- School Maintenance Team
- Toni E Meath, School Principal for her vision, counsel and generosity
- Mark Burgess, Chair of and School Council for his and their interest and support.

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Further to expanding our committee, and in support of the new OG engagement programs on the horizon, we encourage all alumnae to consider their time and expertise in joining the committee. We are looking for diversity and enthusiasm across the decades. If you have an interest in volunteering, in any capacity great or small, I encourage you to email me through the Community Office.

Trudie Horsfall (1976)
President, Old Grammarians Society
Melbourne Girls Grammar