



MELBOURNE
GIRLS GRAMMAR
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
Old Grammarians Society Committee AGM
(1 January – 31 December 2022)
Wednesday 10 May, 2023

2022 was an exciting year worldwide, as we witnessed a year of eased restrictions and a sense of togetherness after a long-awaited return. Melbourne Girls Grammar saw many doors of opportunity reopen throughout the year, in the third calendar year of the global COVID pandemic, the school lifted its gaze and moved to the international stage. Connecting with our sister schools of Godolphin, Salisbury, United Kingdom and The Bishop Strachan School, Toronto, Canada. We also witnessed connections take place with our international alumnae across the globe. We were able to make significant milestones with continuing to grow on our school's rich history, with the continued work on our own history book, unveiling portraits of past principals and therefore completing the collection. It has been an honour to have led the school in as Principal and to report on the year of 2022.

To commence the 2022 academic year, on Monday 21 February, we held the High Achievers' Assembly where we honoured our graduates of 2021 who achieved ATARs of over 95. We also celebrated the 80 Year Anniversary of Gilman Jones Scholars. This scholarship is in memory of Principal, Miss Kathleen Gilman Jones, and has been awarded since 1942 by the Gilman Jones Trustees. The school is grateful to the Old Grammarian Society and the Gilman Jones Trustees, past and present, for this scholarship. At this assembly, we were delighted to have the trustees of the Gilman Jones Scholarship Trust join our school community and the award was shared between two outstanding Old Grammarians:

- Angel He (ATAR 99.95)
- Grace Whitbourn (ATAR 99.80)

On Monday 21 February, we successfully launched the 2022 text, *Gilman Jones Scholarship: A Reflection on Lives of Service*. A special text that was first published in 2009 and republished in 2022. The book is a celebration of the 123 bright, capable, and courageous young women who have been supported in their further education by this scholarship, awarded by the Gilman Jones Trustees. It includes accounts of their lives and includes a unique and exceptional story of scholarliness.

On Friday 25 February, Melbourne Girls Grammar completed the collection of Principal Portraits, unveiling four portraits commissioned by the MGGGS School Council, completing the history of the school's leadership with a full suite of portraits dating back to 1893. The founding principals, Miss Emily Hensley (1893-1898) and Miss Alice Taylor (1893-1895) portraits were painted by Archibald short listed artist, Tsering Hannaford. Sisters, Miss Mary Morris (1898-1907) and Miss Edith Morris (1898-1912) portraits were painted by Archibald winning artist, Yvette Coppersmith, and the portrait of Miss Agnes Tunnicliffe (1914-1915) was painted by Dinny Birrell. All were unveiled with artists, students, historians, and alumnae present. The Phelia Grimwade drawing room walls now proudly display the complete set of 11 portraits of our remarkable courageous, and intelligent past principals.



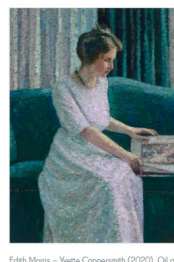
Emily Hensley – Taring Hannaford (2020), Oil on linen



Alice Taylor – Taring Hannaford (2020), Oil on linen



Mary Morris – Yvette Coppersmith (2021-22), Oil and sand on linen



Edith Morris – Yvette Coppersmith (2020), Oil and sand on linen



Miss Agnes Tunnicliffe – Dorey Buxell (2022), Oil on linen

On Thursday 10 March, we remembered a remarkable Old Grammarian, Mrs Margaret Spring (1939). Margaret was a pillar of the whole school community, who had served as a past President of both the Parents Association, the Old Grammarians Society and as their representative on the School Council. The memorial service was a special occasion honouring Margaret, by Old Grammarians, Staff and family members coming together to remember Margaret.

International Women's' Day events were held at the school and a Lunch at the Lyceum Club. The School hosted an International Women's Day Breakfast in the T-Bar Café early on Monday 7 March with guest speakers Ms Heidi Holmes and Ms Lucy Lloyd (2000). They spoke of their international company Mentorloop, the importance of entrepreneurship and the courage to believe in oneself. Heidi and Lucy also spoke at the Merton Hall IWD Assembly on the same day and challenged all Grammarians to think of how their passions were able to be used and encouraged them to be themselves. Finally, 100 members of our MGGs community celebrated at the IWD lunch. Hosted by the Old Grammarians Society, it was another stellar event celebrating the courage, compassion, integrity, and self-determination of MGGs women. Our 2021 Emily Hensley Award recipient, Dr Melissa Yang, gave an inspiring address as did our 2022 School Captain, Ms Ahelee Rahman.

For the duration of Term 2, The Principal completed 10 weeks of Sabbatical, which was spent pursuing education at The University of Cambridge, visiting the site of the original Merton Hall and Newnham College, walking in the footsteps of our School founders, Miss Emily Hensley and Miss Alice Taylor. The Principal hosted two successful alumnae events, the first in London, United Kingdom and the second in New York, USA. Connections were made with international alumnae, reengagement with our sister schools, Godolphin, Salisbury, UK and The Bishop Strachan, Toronto, Canada. The Principal also visited many other exemplary educational organisations and attended an Internal Conference on Girls' Education in Boston, USA.

2022 continued to be a busy year spent preparing for several events for the year ahead, where we would celebrate our 130th Anniversary and the launch of our book 'Lines of Flight' by Adjunct Professor McWilliam AM. As part of the 130th Anniversary, alumnae events were planned and the Principal scheduled regional visits to meet with Old Grammarians across the country.

There were a many Old Grammarian Reunions throughout the calendar, including some rescheduled reunions from 2020! 5-year (class of 2017), 10 year (class of 2012), 20 year (class of 2002), 30 year (class of 1992), 40 year (class of 1982), 50 year (class of 1972) and 60 year (class of 1962) reunions took place across the year. All events were well attended and a wonderful opportunity for our alumnae to come together!



On Tuesday 7 June, the DJ Ross Oration took place in the Melbourne Girls Grammar Long Room. Guest Speaker Dr Judith Harley (Deakin White 1947), spoke of her remarkable life and was interviewed by her granddaughters, Ms Theresa, and Ms Coco Harley (2021). These impressive young women illustrated and drew out the details of Judith's life in pre-war South Yarra in the 1930's, school under Miss D. J love,, love and marriage in Westminster Abbey and much more.

To conclude a busy 2022, we closed the year of with a spectacular Speech Night. On Wednesday 30 November, a mild Melbourne evening, we gathered as a community at the Town Hall to acknowledge the academic and service successes of the 2022 year. At the 2022 celebration of MGGs, the central themes of the evening were community, relationships, and resilience. We awarded Grammarian, Ms Eloise Bisley the Margaret McNaughton prize for Positive Influence in the Local and Wider Community. This award honours the contribution made to the school by Margaret McNaughton (Atkins, 1956). Margaret has served on the OGS Committee since 1957 assuming significant responsibility for the OG finances over the years. Margaret has been a loyal member of the School's community and has led her portfolios with distinction. We thank Margaret for her continued contribution of excellence to MGGs.

The Emily Hensley Award

Melbourne Girls Grammar, in partnership with the Old Grammarians Society presented the 2022 Emily Hensley Award in honour of one of our founding principals, Miss Emily Hensley to two recipients Ms Sarah Giles (2001) and Dr Francesca Valmorbida McSteen (2005). For Sarah, this was in recognition of her outstanding contribution and commitment to the fields of the Arts and Theatre. She is currently a director of theatre and opera, and her work has been seen by thousands of people across Australia. Sarah holds the belief that the theatre and opera are places where we can come together as one to look at some of the greatest problems we're experiencing as a society squarely in the face without feeling attacked or challenged, and where we can grow together and emerge better people. For Francesca it was in recognition of her outstanding achievements and service to community in the area of mental health. Francesca is currently working as a Psychiatrist at The Royal Melbourne Hospital and has made a profound impact in mental health in Victoria. She has dedicated herself to many years of study in the hope of improving the current health system more broadly in the future.

History projects

Following the commissioning by the MGGs School Council of the School's history, in preparation for our 130th Anniversary, Professor Erica McWilliam and Dr Mark Cryle were engaged write the cultural history of the School. This work continued throughout 2022 in preparation for publishing in 2023.

The Class of 2022

In acknowledging the Class of 2022, we recognise the breadth of their accomplishments. We are proud to have watched this cohort grow, and the Class of 2022 leaves us with much more than academic knowledge. We have been delighted with the way they have embraced the opportunities offered to them and have excelled on the sporting field (locally and internationally), on the stage, showcased their extensive talents in music and public speaking, and reached out to engage with the broader community. They have been united in all their endeavours this year,

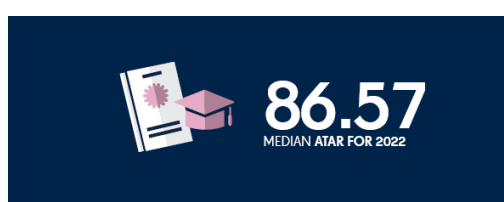
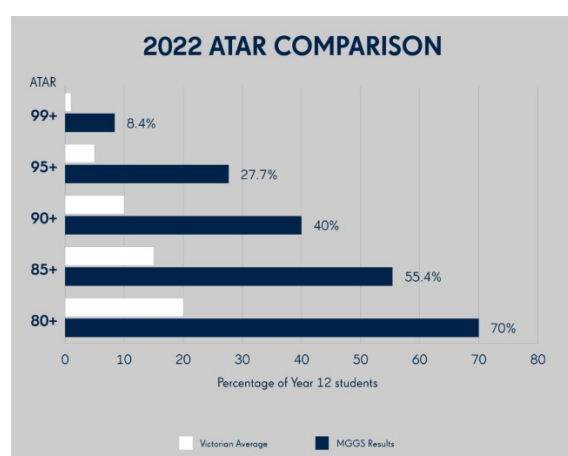


worked with their younger peers to bring all Grammarians together after the two years of separation, and built strong networks across the whole School.

We look forward to following their paths as they embark on the next chapter of their lives, as Young Old Grammarians, beyond the school's red brick walls.

We are so pleased that our students have received results that will open doors to further learning and opportunities. As a school community, we are so proud of all the times our students have tested themselves, shown intellectual courage, and strong leadership.

2022 VCE Results:



2022 School Duces

We congratulate our two 2022 School Duces: Louise Wang and Alexandra Zhang. Louise Wang receiving an ATAR of 99.80 and Alexandra Zhang receiving an ATAR of 99.80. We also congratulate our 2022 School Sux Secunda, Ms Maddinson Farrow on receiving an ATAR of 99.70.

School Council Professional Learning Fellowship Award 2022

In 2022, we were delighted to announce the Award recipients at Speech Night:

- Mr Rory McCaughey in support of his professional learning and development in instructional coaching theory and practice.

Melbourne Girls Grammar Strategic Plan

The school continues with 2020-2025 Strategic Plan with 2022 being the third year of this roadmap. At the conclusion of the 2022 academic year, each staff member was given the professional learning text – 'A life on our Planet' – by Sir David Attenborough. The text is well aligned with the 2023 focus of sustainability, as we look towards a positive future and ways in which we can minimise further negative impacts on nature.